

# Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.

— Mark 1:3



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ADVENT

**Daily Mass** 8:00am

#### Sunday Masses

1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays of Advent – Dec. 3, 10, 17

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm

7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am, 12:30pm Mass in Spanish

\*4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 23 (Please note the changes below)

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm

Dec. 24 7:00, 8:00, 9:30am, 11:00 Mass in Spanish  
no 12:30pm Mass

**Confessions** 4:15pm Saturdays (Except Dec. 23rd)  
Parish Reconciliation – Dec. 11 at 6:30pm

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (in Spanish)

Dec. 9, 10 7:00pm in Church

Dec. 11 8:00pm Novena after Reconciliation in Church

Dec. 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
5:00am Las Mañanitas in Church  
7:00pm Mass (in Spanish)

#### Parish Reconciliation

Dec. 11 6:30pm in Church

#### Taizé Prayer Service

Dec. 15 7:00pm Silent Reflection, Song, Scripture in Church

#### Christmas Novena (in Spanish)

Dec. 16-20 7:00pm in Church

Dec. 21-23 7:00pm in Rm. 201

#### Holy Hour & Adoration

Dec. 19 6:00-7:00pm

#### Christmas Masses

Begin Dec. 24 at 2:00pm.

Please see page 10 for a complete schedule.

## WELCOME



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## Mass Intentions for the Week of December 11 - December 17, 2017

Day	Presider (subject to change)	Time	Intentions
Monday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Joseph Viecele, Jay Wilkins, Ben Gatmaitan
Tuesday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Peter Kujawa
Wednesday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Bob Thomas, Stanley Nykiel
Thursday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Delphine Marciszewski
Friday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Erik Geyer, Joseph Weise Jr., Janina Bonczak
Saturday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Tommy Forkin, Joseph Naponiello, Nanci Makris, Evelyn Prevenas, John J. Kurland, Dick & Patsy Walsh, Mary Alice Cooke
	Fr. Gamboa	5:00 p.m.	St. Cletus Parishioners
Sunday	Fr. Clark	7:00 a.m.	Mike & Ann Callaghan, Thomas Wolac, George Duda, Frank Miller, Frank Lesh, Dolores E. Kuchta
	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Stacy Baker, Aurora Mangahas, Special Intention - Pat Kelly
	Fr. Clark	9:30 a.m.	Giles Nabor, Jack O'Donnell, Bill DePasquale, Marco & Emilia Rattin, Josephine Sorrentino, Juan Manuel, Guadalupe, Angel, Jose Miguel, Nenita, Teresa, Tony, and Elizabeth Montenegro Family
	Fr. Baker	11:00 a.m.	Benjamin Patrick Hyink, Gene Kennedy, Frances Grybas, Ken Herzog, Justice Lawrence Pusatera, Valerie Moskus, Edward LaPaille
	TBD	12:30 p.m.	St. Cletus Parishioners

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

**Shirley Sharkey**  
Mother of Jeannie Scalzitti

**Edmund Howard Grant**

**Leanette Martoccio**

**George Lathrop**

**May they rest in peace. Amen.**

### SECOND COLLECTION



Your gift to today's second collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

### PARISH RECONCILIATION DEC. 11 6:30PM

Join us for an opportunity to be graced by God's peace and extend it to others through the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Advent is a time to mend quarrels, to forgive those who have hurt us, and to pray for peace.



### PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

*We always welcome names for the sick. Please note that requests must only be made by the individual or an immediate family member. Names will remain in this prayer list for 3 months.*

**December** - Kyle Marsden

**November** - Anne Bermier, Chuck Harwood, Denise Hradecky, Peter May, Isabel McKeenan, Eileen R. Peters, Kay Petalick, Larry Schmitz, Chris Tosheff, Jean Weekley

**October** - Jenna Zimmerman, Evelyn Ulfig, Joy Wettstein, Nathaniel Scheyerer, Gerda E. Dorso, Connie Monzel, Maria Elena Serrano, Ginny Skibbe, Carol Wittowski, Frank Colonna, Jenna Zimmerman, Emily Devine, Catherine Troyner, Frank Colonna, Patricia Rodey, Alice Katzmarek, Baby William Eric Anderson, Otto Stuckman, Laura Terrazino, Gerda E. Dorso, Maryann Scalise, Kris Kahn, Peter May, Frank Niwa

*Also pray for our parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound unable to attend Mass.*

# Notes from Fr. Bob...

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

If genius is supposed to be 90% hard work, then success is 90% good preparation. When we are very young, we fondly imagine that we can do anything and everything. Children who have just been watching a film or a play are immediately lost in imitating what they have just seen. It doesn't even have to be a film. It can be driving a car, booting a football, attempting a pirouette or imagining the garden gate is a horse. Each of these skills seems easily attainable to the mind of the child, though their actual execution usually does not live up to the source of inspiration. On occasion a particular experience catches fire and becomes a passion that in turn leads to a lifetime's dedication. Succeeding in any vocation or profession takes time, energy and perseverance as well as that touch of natural skill and initial engagement. There can be gloomy stages on the journey when the vision is obscured, and the temptation is to despair or change tack. And we do not always achieve what we set out to do.

Sometimes our early obsessions are not meant to be fulfilled. With the wisdom of hindsight we may realize that our journey has still taught us much more than we imagined. The failures, the detours, the changed aims can be as important as final success in the original endeavor. The real art is to enjoy the unexpected fruits of the journey as well as the intended ones. People in the time of Jesus may have hoped and prayed for the Messiah. What they received moved even their dreams into a different dimension.

Mark begins his gospel with a bid for credibility. He has to combine the old and the new, for if Jesus fulfills expectations, he also transcends them. Mark prepares the ground for the telling of the good news very carefully. His task is to introduce us to the person of Jesus, who is Christ, the Son of God. What Mark means by these titles will be made clear as the story unfolds. His story's claim to authenticity rests to begin with on its foundations in the Scriptures. The first person to appear is John the Baptist, who fulfills the role foreseen by the prophet Isaiah, preparing the way for the Lord by proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John's authority is hinted at by his appearance and his habitat. He has the accoutrements of Elijah, the one who tradition believes will come as the forerunner of the Messiah, and he lives in the desert, the birthplace of the chosen people. His message is simple: repent and be forgiven.

It remains the same for us. If we wish to prepare for the Lord, we too need to change our hearts and accept

forgiveness.

The old ways of doing and seeing are not enough.

Preparation is, more than anything, learning to remove the objects that interfere with our vision and our openness to the Lord. John ends his announcement, like all good showmen, with the claim that we haven't seen anything yet. He just baptizes with water. The one who is coming after him will baptize with the Holy Spirit. The image recalls the life of God himself hovering over the waters at the creation of the world. We are left in a state of great suspense, wondering just who is to come. Who is this man whose arrival is couched in the language of a new creation?

We go through many processes of preparation. Our schooling prepares us for adult life. Special training prepares us for jobs and professions. In the Church we prepare carefully for the celebration of each sacrament. We also prepare for the special events of the Church's year, at this time of year, of course, for Christmas. Much of our preparation is making certain that we have what we need for what we are to do. No wonder our minds can be so overloaded. Have we remembered the presents, the cards, the tree, the food, the drink, the crackers, the invitations...and then what about the poor, the lonely, and the homeless? We all know the heart of the matter can get lost in the rush to get everything done.

Perhaps we should take a leaf out of John the Baptist's book. His preparation was not an overloading but a stripping down, a getting rid of the baggage we carry. John suggests we enter into a state of stillness and openness, so that we will then be ready to be filled. It is a paradox. How do we prepare for the unexpected? How do we get ready for the unknown? Our practice is often to try and out-give the great giver. We are asked instead to let go of everything so that we may be ready to receive. We cannot have open hands if they are full of shopping lists of carefully defined hopes and expectations. We have to give access to the unknown and the unexpected.

*Advent Prayers,*

*Fr. Bob, Pastor*





# Parish School



## DATES TO REMEMBER

State of the School Meeting ..... December 13  
 Christmas Program Gr. 1-4 ..... December 14  
 Christmas Break ..... December 23-January 7

## FOR INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

**Tom Chinske, Principal**      **Christy Schaefer, Asst. Principal**  
 (708) 352-4820      (708) 352-4820  
 tchinske@stcletusparish.com      cschaefer@stcletusparish.com



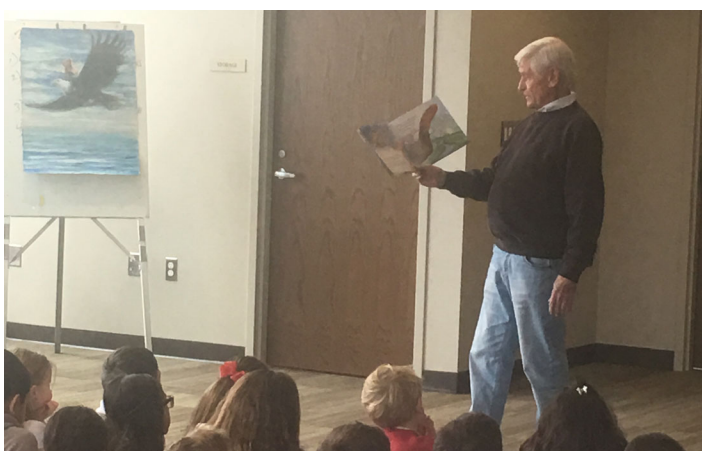
### An Interconnected World

In our dedicated Science Lab, fourth grade students visualized the interconnectedness of our world by designing food webs. Students divided into groups and chose their animals and plants. After making their webs, they counted the number of interactions each item had and graphed them to see the relationships.



### Testing Senses

Our third grade students recently visited the Science Lab to test the different senses of earthworms. Students worked in small groups to, gently yet systematically, test the earthworms' reactions to sound, heat, cold, touch, and light while recording detailed observations.



### Visit from an Author

3rd - 5th grade enjoyed an author's talk with author Joe Brown. Mr. Brown kept the kids attention by sharing stories and tales from his own personal experiences. Students asked good questions and all received a copy of Joe Brown's book called "Come on, Get On." This was a great way to kick off the Book Fair!



### Check out the St. Cletus Cardinal in DTLG

Our Cardinal sits proudly outside the Village Hall of La Grange sending good wishes of peace and kindness to all who happen by.



JOIN THE ST. CLETUS  
COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN & FSA FOR OUR

*HO HO Holiday*

*Breakfast  
with*

**Santa**



**Sunday, December 10  
8:00am - 12:30pm**

Our new St. Cletus Parish Center will be transformed into a holiday wonderland!

\$3 per person includes:  
Continental Breakfast, Crafts for Children,  
Special Appearance by Santa,  
Old-fashioned Cake Walk

RSVP Online  
[www.stcletusparish.com/hoho](http://www.stcletusparish.com/hoho)

For more information call Donna 708-246-5509



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**  
**8:00AM - 12:30PM**  
**ST. CLETUS PARISH CENTER**

## Social Concerns Ministry

### FOOD PANTRY

#### Most needed at this time:

- Pancake mix/syrup
- Baking mix
- Cooking oil
- Cookies
- Laundry detergent
- Personal Care Items
- \$25 Jewel Gift Cards

There will be no regular distribution in December because of the Giving Tree and Christmas food baskets. Donations are still needed and will continue to be collected though!



ARE YOU IN AN  
UNHEALTHY  
RELATIONSHIP  
OR ARE YOU  
AFRAID IN YOUR  
OWN HOME?

CALL THE  
24-HOUR PHONE  
FOR HELP:  
**708.485.5254**

*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



Gifts are due this weekend! Please remember, each tag represents a real person. When you took a tag from the tree, you made a commitment to that person, and to returning your gift(s) on time.

**\*\*NEW THIS YEAR\*\***

**Gifts will be returned to Morrissey Hall using the convenient  
drop off lane on Stone Ave.**

**Volunteers will help unload your car!  
Please DO NOT drop gifts off at the Church.**

♥ **PURPLE TAGS** (gifts): **Gifts are to be returned before/after Masses this weekend.** Be sure the gift tag is securely attached to the packages. If you have more than one package for the same person, please attach a gift tag on each package indicating his/her name and family number, to make sure all gifts go to the correct person. If you have more than one package for Family Request, please mark 1 of 2, 2 of 2, etc.

♥ **RED TAGS** (food baskets): Tags include a suggested list for the contents of a Christmas season food basket for the families using our food pantry and others struggling in our community. **Food baskets are needed on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-11:00am in Morrissey Hall.**

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](http://www.stcletusparish.com/socialconcerns). For further details you can also contact Kendall Grant.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FOR ALL GIVING TREE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE USE THE SIGN UP GENUIS LINK AT: <http://stcletusparish.com/ministries/social-concerns/>

**Sunday, December 17th shifts between 6:30am-6:30pm:** Help with hospitality, directing traffic, carrying in food basket donations, organizing food baskets, distributing gifts, assisting clients to their vehicles, clean up, etc.

Please use the Sign Up Genius to volunteer and read the notes on age requirements. Contact Kendall Grant with any questions. Thanks!

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH  
—ARCHDIOCESE of CHICAGO—  
AWARENESS · SERVICES · PREVENTION  
[www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org](http://www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org)

## WORD OF LIFE

"If you know someone who has had an abortion, express your sympathy for her loss. Assure her of God's unconditional love, and encourage her to seek healing and forgiveness."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
"Bridges of Mercy for Post-Abortion Healing"



## 9 DAYS FOR LIFE



*Living out Christmas in the New Year How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments?*

Each year the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous "yes" to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance.

One way to live out the message of Christmas and follow Our Lady's example is to join 9 Days for Life, a digital pilgrimage of prayer and charitable action from January 18 – 26. Join today at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!

## IMMIGRATION MINISTRY

Friday, December 15, 7 - 9 a.m. at 101 West Congress, Route: From Correctional Center (71 West Van Buren), DePaul (1 East Jackson), Federal Plaza, and St. Peter's (110 West Madison)

Join the Immigration Ministry in the 12th Annual Posada Seeking Immigration Reform to walk and pray in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers who—as the Holy Family sought a place to stay—are seeking legislative shelter, "Posada." Let us show support for DACA families!

For more information, please contact Elena Segura, [esegura@archchicago.org](mailto:esegura@archchicago.org), 312.534.533.

## HOMELESS PERSONS MEMORIAL

Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30pm

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

On the longest night of the year, please join us as we again remember our homeless brothers and sisters who have died in the last year. The memorial will be held on December 19th at Old St. Patrick's Church. Music again will be provided by Harmony, Hope, and Healing, which 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.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer? Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago is looking for volunteers to serve throughout our more than 150 locations helping improve the lives of the people we serve.

For more info, visit us at [www.volunteerbridge.com](http://www.volunteerbridge.com), email [volunteer@catholiccharities.net](mailto:volunteer@catholiccharities.net) or call the Volunteer Relations department at (312) 655-7322.

## END GUN VIOLENCE PRAYER VIGIL

### 2017 Nationwide Vigils & Events to #EndGunViolence

Come together to remember half a million Americans killed or injured by guns since the Sandy Hook shooting tragedy.

Join The Newtown Foundation, Newtown Action Alliance, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Everytown Survivor Network, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Organizing for Action, States United to Prevent Gun Violence, St Marks Episcopal Church and Women's March

and attend a prayer vigil  
Congregation of St. Joseph Chapel  
1515 W Ogden Ave. LaGrange Park, IL  
Monday, Dec. 11 at 7:00 P.M.

At hundreds of locations nationwide, we will give voice to all victims and survivors of gun violence and together help #EndGunViolence in America. For more info, contact Kathy Sherman, [ksherman@csjoseph.org](mailto:ksherman@csjoseph.org).





## Youth Ministry

### JOIN US TODAY AS WE ASSIST WITH THE GIVING TREE!

All High School students are welcome to join us as we volunteer together to assist with the Giving Tree today! We will meet in the Parish Center at 12 noon, and work until 2 p.m.

*There are also a few other volunteer opportunities for Teens with the Giving Tree:*

Baked Cookies/Treats needed! Please make some cookies, brownies or other holiday treats for the Giving Tree clients! Drop them off at the Parish School Office or Parish Center Office on Thursday, December 14th or Friday, December 15th. They will be served to our clients as they wait to receive their gifts!

Volunteer your time to be an Elf at the gift distribution! Santa will be present on December 17th and he's looking for a few helper Elves to assist him! Go to the sign up genius on the social concerns page of the St. Cletus website to volunteer for this fun activity on Dec. 17th!

### FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE FRETUS IDENTITY RETREAT JANUARY 12-14

Calling all Freshman and Sophomore students in the Parish! Please join us on January 12-14, 2018 for the annual Fretus Identity Retreat! This awesome retreat will give you the opportunity to look at and reflect on the many choices, transitions and relationships you are experiencing at this time in your life. There will be plenty of free time to enjoy outdoor activities too! Please grab a friend and plan on joining us for this fun-filled weekend! Please see the parish website for additional information and for the registration form. Hurry! Spaces are filling up!

### JUNIOR/SENIOR KAIROS RETREAT

Registration for the March Kairos Retreat for Juniors and Seniors will open in January. Watch for more details!

*Email [bcampbell@stcletusparish.com](mailto:bcampbell@stcletusparish.com) with questions.*

## Religious Education

### FAMILY ADVENT DAY

#### How exciting to be in the Second Week of Advent!

The Religious Education students have been super busy preparing their hearts and lives for the coming of the Lord. As a community, we gathered together to pray an Advent Wreath prayer service, and we welcomed our 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Families in for our Family Advent Day! This weekend, every student will be involved with service projects benefitting our home-bound parishioners, our

clients of the St. Cletus Food Pantry, Giving Tree clients, and the homeless that are served through Beds Plus. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders are excited to buddy up with our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders this week, as they share their knowledge about this holy season and assist their younger buddies in making "Soup in a Jar" for the Food Pantry. Our challenge each week in Advent is to find a way to bring hope, peace, joy and love to those around us each week. Watch for acts of kindness around these themes from our students during this holy season!





## Other Ministry News

### KOLBE HOUSE JAIL MINISTRY



#### THE DEACON'S WIFE IS COLLECTING STAMPS AGAIN!

Once again I'm collecting stamps for the Kolbe House Catholic Jail Ministry. These are to be used for the Christmas Card mailings from Detainees to their families. 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. This annual effort this year is looking to collect 7,000 first class stamps. 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**". Thank You on behalf of the detainees at Cook and Lake county jails and the staff and ministers of Kolbe House.

*-God Bless You all - Marlene*

### BOOK DISCUSSION



The next book discussion will be at 7 p.m. on December 12 in Room 102 of the education building. The book that will be discussed is **The Good Girl** by Mary Kubica. All are welcome. For those who like to plan ahead, here is the book list for the next few months:

February 13 – *The Lilac Girls* by Martha Kelly

April 10 – *Colony* by Anne R. Siddons

Questions – call Denise at 708.712.8294.

### MARY AND MARTHA DONATIONS

We are approaching *Holiday Time* once again. We hope you have been saving little items for the Briar Place residents Christmas packages. 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 by December 18th. Thank you for your kindness.

### SCCCW - ST. CLETUS COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

#### 1st Anniversary Celebration!

Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> GENERAL MEETING 7:00 pm

Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate friendships made and our many accomplishments! All women ages 18 - 118 are invited!

### MISSION LADIES

Our 2017 year is ending with a good feeling of giving out a total of 987 items to 7 local charities. Our thanks & appreciation goes out to all those who donated & worked on different items to meet this total.

We are a small mighty and dedicated Mission Group of ladies. We enjoy socializing each other's Company. We are looking for more young & not so young ladies to join our Mission — no special talent is required to participate. We meet every Wed 9am to 11am. We do not meet during June, July, August and December.

Also work can be done at home.. Come join us. We are still in need of 4 ply & baby yarn. We can also use crosses for the Baby Bibs ... at least 1 inch high or smaller.

When leaving any donations in the Ushers room please mark it for "Mission Ladies." For more info call Dolores Scaletta (708-839-9605). Again THANK YOU ALL. So much.

### ST. CLETUS YOUTH CHOIR NEWS



Several members of the St. Cletus Choir sang for the WGN Radio Broadcast Friday morning. This live radio program was broadcast at Hortons Home Lighting. What a great way to start the Holiday season!

On Saturday night, the St. Cletus Youth Choir performed at the La Grange Holiday Walk. After their performance, they stopped to pose with our Cardinal Ice Sculpture. Good tidings were shared with all. Merry Christmas!



# St. Cletus Parish Christmas Mass Schedule

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 23/ 24\*

Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am,  
and 11:00am (Spanish Mass)

*Please note there is no 12:30pm Mass on Dec. 24*

## CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

2:00pm Church Chamber Ensemble

2:15pm PC-Fr. Clark Hall Cantor/Piano

3:30pm Church Children's Choir

3:45pm PC-Fr. Clark Hall Cantor/Piano

5:30pm Church Chamber Ensemble

7:00pm Church (Spanish) Hispanic Choir

10:30pm Church Chancel Choir  
(10:00-10:30pm Christmas Carols prior to Mass)

## CHRISTMAS DAY MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:00am Church Organ/Congregational Caroling

8:00am Church Cantor/Piano

9:30am Church Chancel Choir

11:00am Church Contemporary Choir  
*Please note there is no 12:30pm Mass*

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 30/31

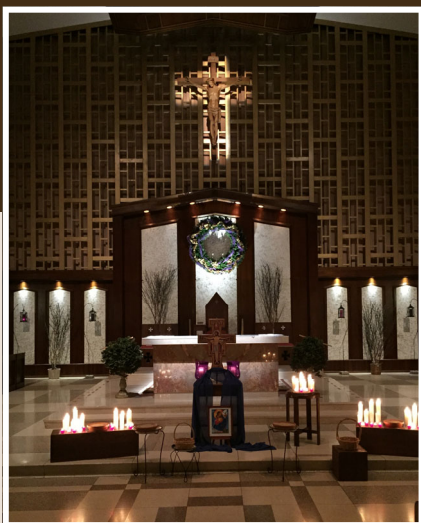
Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am,  
and 12:30pm (Spanish)

## FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MONDAY, JANUARY 1

8:00am ONLY (not a holy day of obligation)

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Masses do not substitute for attendance at the Christmas Eve/Day Masses. It just happens that Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> is the 4th Sunday of Advent, followed by Christmas Eve. Even though, this year, they fall on the same calendar date, they are different liturgies. By the same token, attendance at the Christmas Eve/Day Masses does not fulfill the Sunday obligation for attendance at the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Mass.



## Taizé Prayer Service Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

**Mark your calendar for 45 minutes of peace and calm-filled moments  
to renew your heart for the miracle of Christmas.**

*Ample Parking - Beautiful Music*

*Words of Hope and Joyful Anticipation of Emmanuel-God-with-Us*

**WHAT IS TAIZE?** The Taizé community explain the service: "This is meditative common prayer. Gathered in the presence of Christ, we sing uncomplicated repetitive songs, uncluttered by too many words, allowing the mystery of God to become tangible through the beauty of simplicity."



## Second Sunday of Advent



### NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, “Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God” (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

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### TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

**Psalm** — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

**Second Reading** — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

**Gospel** — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

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### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Damasus I  
 Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 Wednesday: St. Lucy  
 Thursday: St. John of the Cross  
 Saturday: *Las Posadas* begins

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26  
 Tuesday: 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  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15  
 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 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### THE JESSE TREE

“Advent reminds us that to ‘wait well’ is not an easy thing to master. We are often driven by deadlines with demands and distractions that draw us away from the focus of the season.

How do we “wait well”? Advent traditions- lighting the Advent Wreath, candle by candle, opening a tab each day on the Advent calendar, or leaving the manger cradle until Christmas Eve – present profound opportunities to revisit the full meaning of Christian anticipation. It takes courage to wait in joyful hope, and it requires that we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ – not as an infant – but as the resurrected Lord. this season promise yourself to take up one Advent tradition with new fervor. Investigate its origin and meaning. Allow the Holy Spirit to refresh your imagination and share it with those around you. Christmas is coming. We will see goodness, the goodness of the Lord.”



### THE SECOND WEEK:

God Gives Moses his Laws – Tablets of the 10 Commandments  
 Exodus 19, 20:1-21

Joshua and the Wall of Jericho Falls – Ram’s Horn Trumpet  
 Joshua 6:1-20

Ruth Helps Naomi – Grain  
 Ruth 1-4

God Calls Samuel – Crown Sleeping Samuel  
 1 Samuel 3:1-21

David Slays Goliath – Stone and Sling-shot  
 1 Samuel:1-54

Solomon’s Wisdom – Women and Child  
 1 Kings 3:3-28

## Community Bulletin Board

### ROSARY HILL HOME

The conflicts of the early Christians in Corinth are in many ways similar to our struggles today as Christians. They, too, witnessed division, scandal, immorality, persecution and other trials. In response, St. Paul taught the Corinthians about the Church as the Body of Christ, introducing them to the most powerful gift of all: the Eucharist. You are invited to join Rosary Hill Home for this study!

Rosary Hill Home will be hosting First Corinthians: The Church and the Christian Community Bible study in Activity Room beginning Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. and continuing every Monday, except January 29th, for 10 weeks. Last session Monday March 19, 2018. Cost of study pack includes group meetings and on-line additional lesson viewing options is \$30.00.

For more information or to register for the study, call Sharon at (708) 458-3040 or via email: [sharon@rosaryhill.com](mailto:sharon@rosaryhill.com). Please register by December 4, 2017!

Rosary Hill is located at 9000 W. 81st Street Justice, IL 60458.

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### ABBEY FARMS CHRISTMAS TREES

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### OPLATKI AVAILABLE



Oplatki is available at the St. Cletus Parish Center office during regular business hours. A donation of \$2 is requested.

Traditionally at midnight the head of the household takes the white oplatki and shares it with family and friends and then the pink oplatki with the animals on his farm or at his home. This custom brings us back to that

Holy Night when even animals were able to speak, and to remind us that we are all God's creatures.

### BELLARMINE JESUIT RETREATS

"The Beatitudes: A Faith for Head, Heart, & Hands" an Ignatian, Silent Retreat for Women. February 2-4, 2018 with Carol Ackels.

Four Shepherds Retreat: "Who am I? Where am I going? How do I get there?" an Ignatian, Silent Retreat for Men. January 5-7, 2018 with Fr. Doug Leonhardt, SJ

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### ST. CLETUS PARISH ONLINE GIVING



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### BULLETIN ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Please note that all Canticle articles are to be emailed to [canticle@stcletusparish.com](mailto:canticle@stcletusparish.com) as text with pictures attached separately. All articles are due 5p.m. Friday a full week (9 days) before Sunday's publication. Thank you!

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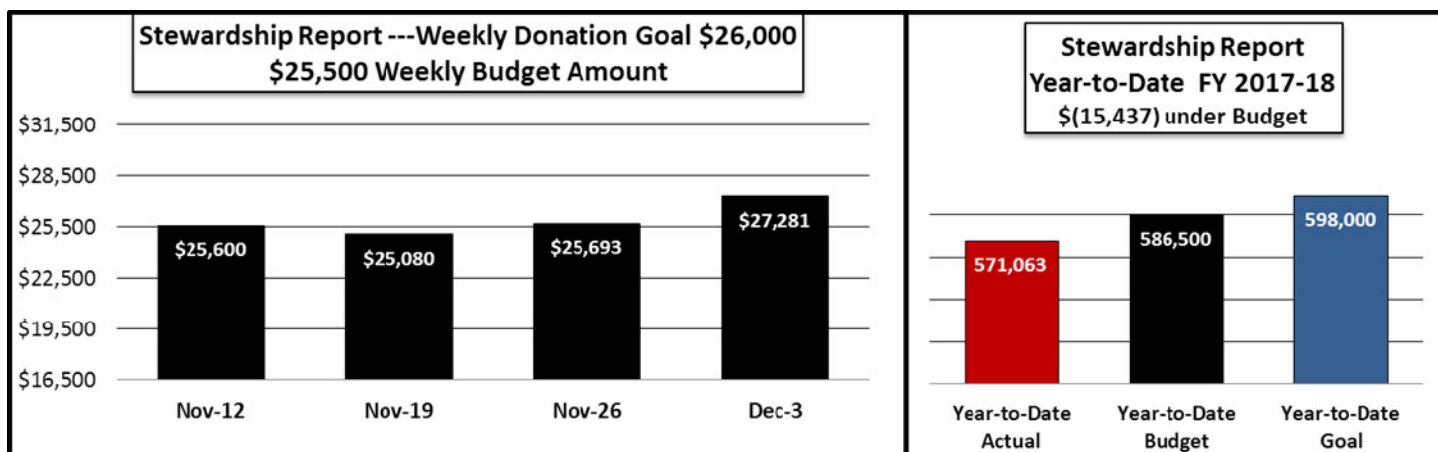
*Thank you to all of our 2017 Fall Fest Sponsors! Those at the \$2,500 and above will be featured in the Canticle as Preferred Providers.*



## Week at a Glance

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, December 10	8:00am 7:00pm	Parish Center Church	Ho Ho Holiday Breakfast with Santa Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena
Monday, December 11	4:00pm 6:30pm 8:00pm 8:30pm	School Music Room Church Church Parish Center Gym	Junior Choir Parish Reconciliation Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Men's Basketball
Tuesday, December 12	5:00am 6:30pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Church Rectory Church School Rm 102	Las Mañanitas RCIA Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass (in Spanish) Book Club
Wednesday, December 13	7:00pm 9:00pm	Parish Center Rm 1 Parish Center Gym	Baptism Preparation Class Boys Church League
Thursday, December 14	7:00pm	Parish Center Gym	School Christmas Program
Friday, December 15	7:00pm	Church	Taizé Prayer Service
Saturday, December 16	7:00am 7:00pm	Morrissey Hall Church	Giving Tree Food Baskets Return (Red Tags) Christmas Novena
Sunday, December 17	7:00pm	Church	Christmas Novena

## Stewardship Report



### YEAR-END STATEMENT BY REQUEST ONLY

As tax time approaches, we ask everyone who would like a year-end statement of their Year 2017 financial offering to the parish to fill out the form below and return it or simply call the rectory @ (708) 352-6209 with your request. You may also email [bkallal@stcletusparish.com](mailto:bkallal@stcletusparish.com) and submit your request electronically. Rather than mail statements to everyone in the parish, it seems more prudent and conservative to only mail them to those who need them for tax returns. Of course, your statement is available anytime a need for it may arise. Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

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