



Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

The King of Israel, the LORD,
is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.
— Zephaniah 3:15b



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DECEMBER 16-23 7:00 p.m. Spanish Ministry Christmas Novena

DECEMBER 17 7:00 p.m. Advent Parish Reconciliation Service

Join us for an opportunity to be graced by God's peace and extend it to others through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

DECEMBER 18 8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration after 8:00 a.m. Mass
6:00 p.m. Holy Hour

All are encouraged to drop by anytime Tuesday for a few minutes of prayer and quiet adoration of our Lord who is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. A Holy Hour concludes the day of Eucharistic Adoration.

Prepare the Way
with **HOPE**
with **PEACE**
with **JOY**
with **LOVE**

Prepare the Way ...with Joy

*Please be sure to take a ribbon from our Prayer Ribbon Tree each Sunday of Advent.
A Prayer for Joy can be found on page 8.*



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Mass Intentions for the Week of December 17 - 23, 2018

Day	Presider (subject to change)	Time	Intentions
Monday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Pat Maley, John Vincent Hanahan
Tuesday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Patrick O'Connell
Wednesday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Virginia Rachford
Thursday	Fr. Fisher	8:00 a.m.	Richard Walsh
Friday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Kim Zwolinski, Laura Brooks
Saturday	Fr. Fisher	8:00 a.m.	Kathy Ahern, Amy Evans
	Fr. Clark	5:00 p.m.	Helen Andrews, Jill Ann Sowinis, Joseph Naponiello, Michael Malecek, Patricia Manno, Edward Stec, Chuck Smith, Ken Kakareka, Lynn Marie Shevlin
Sunday	Fr. Fisher	7:00 a.m.	Frank Miller, Antionette Walsh, Gaetano Scopelliti, Rocco Carlo, George Duda, Mother of Alicja Ghera, Marco & Emilia Rattin, Bill DePasquale, Marilyn Matesevac
	Fr. Fisher	8:00 a.m.	Angelo Cumbo, Stacy Baker, Eunice J. Fantasia
	Fr. Baker	9:30 a.m.	Edmund Pilarski, Florence Szot, Richard Walsh
	Fr. Baker	11:00 a.m.	Kadlec Family, Gene Kennedy, Ken Herzog, Valerie Moskus, Gail Saban, Buck Roderick, Patrick O'Connell
	Fr. Gamboa	12:30 p.m.	Juan Jose Lara



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 - Gerda E. Dorso, Gene Gajos, John Sheil, Michael Stoinski

November - Charles Fiipek, Virginia Gebka, Yesenia Guzman, Sharon Smilanich, Jean Weekley

October - Kimberly & Tony Fox, Susan Grace, John Duda, Dave Sipek, Laura Biesadecki, Frank Colonna, Lee Ascencio, Mary Benka, Paul DeRivera, Nikki Howell, Ada Medina, Leo Rivera, Bill Tortorello, Joan Clark, Rosario Martinez, Frank Niwa, Laura Terrazino, Rachael Schopp, Nicole Will Montemagni, Bonnie Boerste, Helen Brennan, Dr. Larry Bernstein

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

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND



Living Our Faith, Building Our Future
The Final Phase

This weekend there will be a second collection to support the Living our Faith, Building our Future Capital Campaign: Final Phase. Thank you for your continued generous support.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Religious give thanks. "This money is pure gift," writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. "It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters." Your gift to last week's collection helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Thank you for your generosity!

BULLETIN ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Please note that all Canticle articles are to be emailed to 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. There are early submission deadlines due to the holidays. Submissions for the 12/30 Canticle are due 12/17.

Notes from Fr. Bob...

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2018

A lone gunman stepped easily out of the car, rested his rifle on the car door and aimed it at the Church. Through the wide open doors, he could see right up the long aisle to his target, a priest who was just finishing his homily at mass that morning. A shot rang out and so ended the life of Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador. It was March 24, 1980.

For the previous three years Oscar Romero had preached the Gospel to all his people, and had denounced the sins and murders and tortures that were destroying his country. Using the Archdiocesan Radio Station he spoke to all the people and everyone listened to him. To the poor he was the “voice of those who have no voice”. To the rich and powerful he was a Communist and an enemy of the State, and he was publicly denounced as such.

“We have never preached violence,” Romero said, “except the violence of love, which left Christ nailed to a cross, the violence that we must each do to ourselves to overcome our selfishness and such cruel inequalities among us.”

The authorities tried to jam his radio transmissions but he gave his sermons faithfully and the poor people of El Salvador hung onto his every word. What kind of a gospel would it be, Romero asked, that did not provoke a crisis in you? Nice, pious considerations that do not bother people, this is what many people would like. Such a gospel never hurts anyone, and never helps anyone, either. No, the Gospel is courageous, and it makes demands on us, even to the giving of our lives.

This was the message of John the Baptist to his own contemporaries. The Baptist, too, was regarded equally as a messenger from God and as a madman, a holy man and a troublemaker. The people asked John, “What shall we do to make ourselves ready to meet the Lord when he comes?” John gave them simple gospel answers. Share with those who have nothing. Do not exploit others either for money or power or position. He reminded the rich and the military that true wealth, true influence and true power are spiritual things, not matters of money and guns.

Twenty centuries later, in our time, Romero gave the same message to his people. “The Church says to the rich: Do not sin by misusing your money. It says to the powerful; do not misuse your political influence. Do not misuse your weaponry. Do not misuse your power.”

The abuse of power has brought great suffering to

millions of people. In every human life we are tempted to misuse our power over others. The Baptist tells us today, “The one who is coming is more powerful than I am.” He is the one we must face. And so a feeling of expectation grew among his people.

What must we do in our lives? If we have no sense of God, or no sense of justice, we will not be expecting anything. We will fall into lazy ways of living. Then the Gospel will be only a storybook. It will have no power over us, to touch us or move us or bring us life.

That is why we need Oscar Romero to shake us up, to be a Baptist for us today. For the Advent season of 1978 this is what Romero said. “Advent should admonish us to discover in each brother or sister that we greet, in each friend whose hand we shake, in each beggar who asks for bread, in each worker who wants to use the right to join a union, in each peasant who looks for work in the coffee groves, the face of Christ. Then it would not be possible to rob them, to cheat them, to deny them their rights. They are Christ, and whatever is done to them Christ will take as done to him. This is what Advent is: Christ living among us.”

A bullet stopped that brave heart beating, but it could not still the voice. Oscar Romero: a voice in the wilderness of worldly greed, a voice calling to us today.

A feeling of expectancy, of approaching life can come to you, if you will listen out for that voice. You will say, “What must I do?” A voice will answer, “Follow me.”

Advent Peace,



Fr. Bob
Pastor



Parish School



★ 2014 ★
BLUE RIBBON
RECIPIENT

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL DATES TO NOTE

December 17 Queen of Hearts Raffle
December 24-January 4 Christmas Break
March 30 Spring Auction

FOR INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

Tom Chinske, Principal

(708) 352-4820

tchinske@stcletusparish.com

Christy Schaefer, Asst. Principal

(708) 352-4820

cschaefer@stcletusparish.com

ST. CLETUS
Queen of Hearts
RAFFLE

**BUY TICKETS DAILY AT
KENNY'S IRISH PUB.**

**DRAWINGS MONDAYS AT
7PM AT KENNY'S.**



ST. CLETUS SCHOOL QUEEN OF HEARTS

The St. Cletus Queen of Hearts 50/50 Raffle continues with the roll over pot sitting at over **\$25,500!**

Visit Kenny's Irish Pub and buy your tickets today for the next drawing which will be 7pm on Monday, Dec. 17th.

Raffle Details: In cooperation with Kenny's Irish Pub, St. Cletus is running a 50/50 raffle to benefit St. Cletus School. Tickets can be purchased at Kenny's Irish Pub on 55th Street in Countryside for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The raffle draw will take place every Monday night at Kenny's until the Queen of Hearts is found. The tickets do not roll over week to week, but the Pot DOES!

Come on over to Kenny's any time during their normal business hours to purchase tickets (winner need not be present to win).



GIFT OF HOPE

St. Cletus students raised \$1,250 dollars to support Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network, an organization held dear by our long time kindergarten aide, Mrs. Leslie Mrazek, whose husband just celebrated his 10th anniversary of receiving a new liver. To register as a organ and tissue donor go to www.giftofhope.org. Photos courtesy of Sara Hodak Photography.

St. Cletus School 95th Anniversary
Style 95 BARBERSHOP

This Holiday Season
We Give Back to YOU!

\$10 Child Haircut (12 & under)
\$15 Adult Haircut
10% of Haircut Given Back To Your Organization Through January

Join Us Through January for Our Holiday Haircut Special!

Valid through Jan 2019. Must Mention Organization to Barber to Get 10% Back. No appointment necessary.

1040 S. La Grange Rd., La Grange, IL 60525



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17;
Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;
Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,
16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;
Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, “Gaudete Sunday,” is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for “Rejoice!” This year’s Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary’s visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary’s presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it’s all because of the clams!

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

IMPRESSIONABLE

A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark.

—Ancient Chinese proverb

WITNESSES

Our actions are the best witnesses of our thoughts.

—Anonymous

REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called “Gaudete Sunday.” The Latin tag is derived from Paul’s appeal in the second reading to “rejoice always in the Lord,” and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God’s work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is “the season of joy.” Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6).

Second Reading — Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise (Luke 3:10-18).

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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent;
Las Posadas begins

Tuesday: International Migrants Day

Friday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

Social Concerns Ministry



ST. CLETUS FOOD PANTRY

Most needed at this time:

- Chili
- Baby cereal, formula, food
- Baking Items
- Cooking Oil
- Snacks (crackers, chips, cookies, etc.)

Donations can be dropped off before or after Masses or anytime daily between 7:45am-4pm in Food Pantry bins in the Narthex (at the back of church).

FOOD PANTRY THANKS

Thanks to Lyons Township High School and Pleasantdale School District for the food donations this week!

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

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

Today (Sunday) we will be distributing the Christmas gifts, meat, and grocery gift cards to our local recipients.

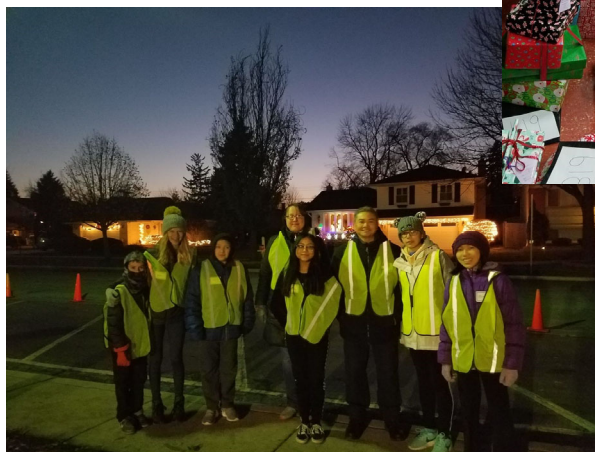
A HUGE thank you to our volunteers last weekend! We had about 100 different volunteers move and organize (literally) over a thousand gifts donated by generous St. Cletus families! Thank you for your donations!

This year we again had a special donation of a moving truck from **Del's Moving & Storage**. Parishioner Randy Balla helped us carefully transport gifts down to our sharing parish St. Agatha's to distribute to 200 individuals. Thank you!!! (www.delsmovers.com)

We also want to thank all of you for supporting the change in our Christmas food basket program. We know that changing a holiday tradition can be difficult but we got great feedback from our clients and from many of our donors. All the white envelopes were taken from the tree first this year. We had a great response! Thank you!

Thank you for your continuing generosity to the less fortunate in our community.

The Giving Tree Committee



HOMELESS PERSONS MEMORIAL

**Tuesday, December 18
at 6:30pm
Old St. Pat's
700 W Adams St. Chicago**



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 18th 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.

WORD OF LIFE



"In 1531, when the indigenous peoples of Mexico were subjugated and the practice of human sacrifice was still a recent memory, the Mother of God appeared to St. Juan Diego as a pregnant native woman, now known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. She sent him with miraculous flowers in his cloak to tell the bishop to build a church where people could receive her Son and her loving, tender care. When St. Juan Diego opened the cloak before the bishop, an image of Our Lady was revealed that remains to this day. The chapel was quickly built, millions

embraced Christianity, and the Church increased its protection of the indigenous peoples."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities 2018-19 Respect Life Reflection, www.usccb.org/respect-life-reflection

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior that seeks power and control over an intimate person. It can be physical, verbal or emotional, economic or sexual abuse. The U.S. Catholic Bishops say: "***We emphasize that no one is expected to stay in an abusive marriage.***" Please join us in praying for an end to this epidemic.

General Contact Information - *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 below. You are not alone.*



Youth Ministry

FRESHMEN/SOPHOMORE RETREAT

Registration for this year's Freshmen/Sophomore Retreat is officially open!

**January 4th - 6th, 2019
Dickson Valley Retreat Center, Newark IL**

High School Freshmen and Sophomores are invited to join St. Cletus, St. John of the Cross and St. Francis Xavier youth ministries for a fun weekend packed with outdoor activities, teambuilding, and growing in relationship with God.

The link to register can be found on our website, youth.stcletusparish.com

MaryClaire Zurowski, Youth Ministry Coordinator
mzurowski@stcletusparish.com

Follow us on Instagram! [@stcletus.youthministry](https://www.instagram.com/stcletus.youthministry)





Advent Ribbon Tree

Week 3 - Joy

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE (REJOICE) SUNDAY ADVENT PRAYER FOR JOY

O Giver of all gifts, we rejoice in the gift of Advent's call to reform our hearts. We are grateful for this season that calls us to pause and examine our behavior and renew our prayer. Help us to be your living gifts of hope, peace and joy to family, friends and strangers. We rejoice knowing Jesus lives in us, serves through us and loves the world through each of our deeds of compassion. Help us to be people of joy in our world.

Amen.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

- Wrap each gift we give with love
- Attend a school play or go to a concert
- Be patient and prudent in your shopping
- Discuss with someone how music, the environment, parties, & shopping connect us to our faith and the meaning of Advent
- Attend Parish Reconciliation Service – Dec.17
- Participate with your family at the weekly Eucharist
- Spend some time in silence on Tues., Dec. 18, at the all day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Hour at 6:00pm

St. Cletus Parish Christmas and New Years Mass Schedules

CHRISTMAS EVE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

There will be no 8:00 a.m. Mass on Monday, December 24

2:00pm	Church	Chamber Ensemble
2:15pm	PC-Fr. Clark Hall	Cantor/Piano
3:30pm	Church	Combined Youth Choirs
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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:00am	Church	Organ/Congregational Caroling
8:00am	Church	Cantor/Piano
9:30am	Church	Chancel Choir
11:00am	Church	Cantor/Piano
12:30pm	Church (Spanish)	Hispanic Choir

VIGIL OF SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00pm Vigil Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)

7:00pm Vigil Mass in Spanish (Holy Day of Obligation)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00am ONLY (Holy Day of Obligation)



PLEASE NOTE: There is no 8am Mass on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, January 1st.

Note from Deacon Stuart Heyes

Dear friends - I had quite a number of requests to publish my homily from last week. Some wanted to read it over and think on it some more, others wished to pass it on and still others didn't get to hear it all due to my accent, their hearing and/or church acoustics. Whatever your reason, I was humbled and gratified by the many affirming comments at the end of the masses and am pleased to offer it here. I should also add my thanks to Marlene for her constructive critique as I prepare my homilies. She always helps me make them the best I can offer.

Advent Blessings - Deacon Stuart

In the opening paragraph of today's gospel according to LUKE - he provides quite a list of characters which include: Pontius Pilate, Herod, Annas & Caiaphas - It is a rather disconcerting passage to hear proclaimed as we prepare for Christ's birth because these individuals all conspired to crucify Our Lord! So what is Luke's purpose in listing these people? Well - he sets the historical stage with undisputed facts of timing - future historians and theologians would be able to verify when these men lived and thus confirm and believe that indeed among all this treachery and evil "The Word of God came to John the Baptist, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth - in the desert", soon followed by the birth of Jesus Christ.

And what does the "word of God" as relayed by John call us to? Level off mountains and valleys, Straighten winding roads, Smooth out rough ways! For whom you might ask? How about the old lady fumbling for change at the head of the grocery store line? How often have we mumbled to ourselves about "always picking the wrong line?" Perhaps we could use the time to pray for her instead of mumbling. How about the young parent who is coping with difficult children - at the same grocery store or dare I say right here at mass. Perhaps a kind word and offer to help? What about someone we know for whom this will be their first Christmas without a long time partner. An empathetic word or note of encouragement would be in order. What about those Christs who come and take your place in the pew - the place you sit every other week of the year! What if we considered that just getting here, coming through those doors was a challenge, who knows what trials in life they are dealing with! Suppose we see them less of a nuisance but more like "The Christ" for whom we wait? It is for these people and these situations that John cries out - "level the mountains and valleys, straighten the roads and smooth the rough ways".

In two words - "Be Christ-like." - but not just at Advent and Christmas! Advent 2018 is a particularly difficult time for our Church, our Archdiocese and we the faithful, who have been bombarded over the last few months with a maelstrom of Clergy Sexual abuse reports. We feel pain, shame, sorrow, outrage. We are quite rightly angered by our leadership and their complicity in these scandals. They have failed us but they have greatly failed the countless victims of this evil. But what can we do? Writing in the Wall Street Journal in September, George Weigel commented that Catholics don't or shouldn't come to Mass because they love the Pope, the Bishop or Pastor - BUT to hear what we believe to be the Word of God and to enter into communion with God because of Jesus Christ AND our trust in him. He further added that when Jesus said he was the bread of life on which they must feed - many disciples left him because this was a "hard saying" BUT then Jesus asks the twelve if they want to leave him also! Peter's answer which EVERY Catholic today should Pause and Ponder "Master to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life!" We must keep the faith - literally - and be a part of the solution.

Additionally in this Archdiocese we are in early stages of "Renew My Church" - a Cardinal Cupich led initiative to address the declining numbers of the faithful, the shortage of priests and the fiscal realities many parishes and schools face. The solutions are painful but with empathetic and strong leadership we must press on with the realignment of our church, school and parish structures. What worked well for those of you with gray hair when you were in grade school

does not work today. The Cardinal, his team and all the affected schools and parishes need our prayers and understanding as the changes are made.

Which brings me to the crisis of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The recent scandals cannot take the entire blame for this because it has been an issue for many decades as young men and women in increasing numbers did not see vocations as worthy of pursuit in an increasingly secular and materialistic society. Right now it takes special men and women to consider vocations to the priesthood, religious life or indeed the permanent diaconate, but the paradox is that right now we need them more than ever. We need to speak to our children & grandchildren about the importance of our faith, the value of discipleship measured against the values the world measures. Is this a challenge in the world in which we live - you'd better believe it is - But the future of the Catholic church in the Western world depends on such conversations and I ask you to have them. It's a challenge because of how the world evaluates success: A person's job, wealth, status, *qualifications and from where they received them*, their homes, their cars, their vacations? How often we hear parents boast about their children as honor roll students, or that they are doctors and lawyers or that they graduated from a prestigious college. Now that's not to say we shouldn't be proud of our children's achievements BUT, When was the last time you heard a parent boast about their child renouncing worldly things to enter the seminary or convent? When did you see a bumper sticker saying "My son's a Catholic priest, a Holy man and I'm proud of him" or "My daughter is a missionary sister in Africa - Pray for her" You see my point! Jesus tells us that while the world values and measures people by their status, - He does so by the quality and quantity of their relationship with Him. Quality - The strength and intimacy of the relationship we have with Him. Quantity - The measure of what we do for the least of His children, be they in the grocery store line, sitting in our usual place at mass at Christmas, or coping with the recent loss of a loved one.

As we use Advent to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth - let us also use it to practice some Christ-like behaviors at a time when commercialism threatens to submerge the **real reason for the season**. But also to pray for our church, our Archdiocese, Pope Francis, Cardinal Cupich, Priests, Religious, Deacons and vocations. We need them, Our Church Needs them: After all "to whom shall we go - Christ has the words of everlasting life!"

Finally on the topic of the chronic need for vocations I would like to note that this W/E we have a second collection for "The Religious" - Those who gave so much to our Church, yet took so little" - now in their twilight years they need our financial support. Many of you may have been taught by religious sisters or brothers or nursed by them. Whatever your personal experiences of them there is no doubt **Our Church** has greatly benefited from their sacrifices.

We should therefore be most grateful and I ask - most generous in today's second collection. In closing I would ask any religious Sisters or Brothers to please stand and be recognized. On behalf of the Universal Church - Thank You

Holy Mary Mother of God - Pray for us

Other Ministry Notes

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE



Monday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an opportunity to be graced by God's peace and extend it to others through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Parish Forgiveness Service will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Dec. 17 at 7p.m. in church.

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 parish center office 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

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. We will be putting our gift bags together in the Parish Center Fr. Gallagher Room on Dec. 18, at 9:00 a.m. Small items e.g. lotions, shampoo, combs, tooth brushes, toothpaste, denture cleaner, deodorant, playing cards, small books, and jewelry are needed. We usually assemble 70 bags. Please drop off your donations at the Parish Center Office during regular business hours. Thank you.

HO HO HOLIDAY BREAKFAST THANK YOU

The St. Cletus CCW and FSA would like to thank all those who attended the Ho Ho Breakfast, and all the volunteers who helped make it a success. Merry Christmas!

THE JESSE TREE

Dec. 16 – Solomon's Wisdom
 Dec. 17 – God takes Elijah to Heaven
 Dec. 18 – Daniel in the Lion's Den
 Dec. 19 – Jonah in the Whale
 Dec. 20 - virgin Mary, Jesus' Mother
 Dec. 21 – Gabriel Appears to Mary
 Dec. 22 – St. Joseph, the Carpenter, Stepfather
 Dec. 23 – Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem
 Dec. 24 – Wise Men Follow the Star
 Dec. 25 – Jesus' Birth

THE O ANTIPHONS

In the last week before Christmas, the Church assigns a special antiphon to each day. They come from the Liturgy of the Hours (ancient prayer of the monks), and they are sung/prayed before and after the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) during evening prayer. Each antiphon this week prays for the coming of Christ under a particular title and each addresses him with the word "O" a more formal and polite way of saying, "Hey". These antiphons can be heard in the familiar hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".

Dec. 17 – O Wisdom
 Dec. 18 – O Sacred Lord of Israel
 Dec. 19 – O Flower of Jesse's Stem
 Dec. 20 - O Key of David
 Dec. 21 – O Radiant Dawn
 Dec. 22 – O King of All the Nations
 Dec. 23 - O Emmanuel, King and Lawgiver

ADVENT RIBBON TREE

To help us prepare for Christ's coming through joyful waiting and hopeful expectation, we have placed an Advent Ribbon Tree in the narthex with colorful ribbons focusing each week on one of the themes of Advent. We invite you to take a ribbon and place it on your tree or table. We include a prayer below and action suggestions as reminders to prepare for Jesus: with HOPE (week 1), with PEACE (week 2), with JOY (week 3), and with LOVE (week 4). Ribbons from past weeks are available in the parish center office.

Community Bulletin Board

JOYFUL AGAIN



Widowed and feeling stuck? Come and find ways to move toward inner peace and new hope in life. Joyful Again! Widowed Ministry Program presents a Retreat/workshop for men & women March 9-10. (Incl. overnight) at the Mt. Assisi Center in Lemont. Call: 708-354-7211, E-mail joyfulagain7211@gmail.com. Website: www.joyfulagain.org (incls.video)

THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER



The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park, IL. To register online and see complete list of programs: www.csjthewell.org or call 708-482-5048

Something Wonderful and New is Happening - Tuesday, December 18th 9:30-11am and repeated 7-8:30pm. Facilitator Pat Bergen, CSJ. We know it is difficult to perceive, but something wonderful is happening in our time; a newness is emerging in ourselves and our culture. Are you seeing, hearing and experiencing it? During this final week of Advent, prepare to proclaim to the world that the unseen God of Love is making a new breakthrough in our time. Cost: \$15

CHICAGO CATHOLIC SCRIPTURE SCHOOL

Join us at nearby St. John of the Cross in Western Springs! **Accepting NEW students!** Classes meet Wednesdays, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm OR 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, **January 9 through March 13!** Please join us as we study the **Acts of the Apostles** and the **Letters of St. Paul!** For more information, contact Director Kevin Pease at kpease@luc.edu or 312-915-7485. Register before the first day of class at www.luc.edu/ips/ccss

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Don't miss out on the upcoming enrichment for married couples and religious on February 8-10, 2019 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Elk Grove Village, IL. For information on applying, please go to wwme-chicagoland.org.

SUPPORT ST. CLETUS WITH AMAZON SMILE



Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We hope you will choose St. Cletus Church. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

JANUARY NOVENA TO ST. RITA OF CASCIA

The St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel (7740 S. Western Ave. - Chicago, IL 60620) will be celebrating its January St. Rita of Cascia Novena Mass on Thursday, January 3rd at 7:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered starting at 6:00 p.m. January's celebrant will be Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A. Ample, secure parking is available. For more information please contact Josh at (773) 925-6600 or shrine@stritahs.com.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS MEDITATION

Give yourself the gift of silence. Come to an Advent Morning of Meditation on Saturday, December 22 from 9-11:30am. Hospitality at 8:30am at the St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 Wolf Road, Western Springs. The Gift of Love, God's Gift of Self in Jesus - Our morning will include an audio teaching from Laurence Freeman, OSB, Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation, sharing by a member of the SJC Meditation Group, periods of meditation, and lectio divina. All are invited; those who meditate as well as those who want to know more about meditation. Sponsored by the Christian Meditation Groups (wccm.org). Reservations requested, but not required. Contact Betsy at 708-246-8315 or wccmchgo@gmail.com. Free will offering appreciated.

5th Annual Fall Fest - St. Cletus Parish Preferred Providers

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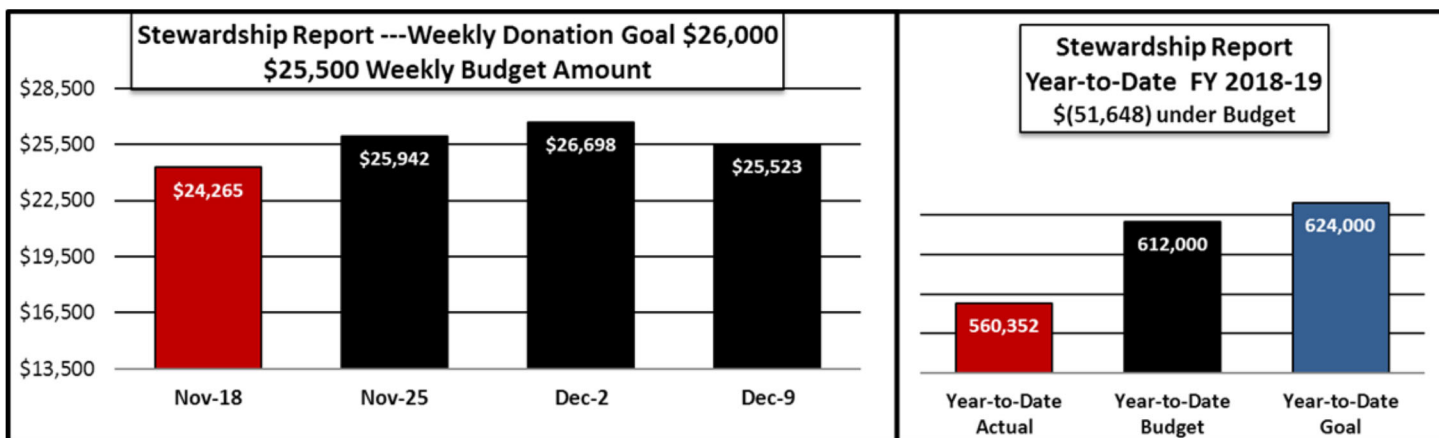
Thank you to all of our 2018 Fall Fest Sponsors!

Those at the \$2,500 level and above will be featured in the St. Cletus Canticle as Preferred Providers.

Week at a Glance

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, December 16	1:00pm 7:00pm	Morrissey Hall Church	Giving Tree Gift Distribution Spanish Christmas Novena
Monday, December 17	4:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm	School Music Room Church PC Meeting Room Parish Center Gym	Junior Choir Rehearsal Parish Reconciliation Service Spanish Novena Men's Basketball
Tuesday, December 18	9:00am 8:30am 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	PC Meeting Room Church Church Church Rectory	Martha and Mary Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour Spanish Novena RCIA
Wednesday, December 19	7:00pm 7:00pm	Church Parish Center Gym	Spanish Novena St. Cletus School Band Concert
Thursday, December 20	5:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	School Music Room Rectory Basement Church School Music Room	Children's Choir Rehearsal Food Pantry Distribution Spanish Novena Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 21	7:00pm	Church	Spanish Novena
Saturday, December 22	7:00pm	Church	Spanish Novena
Sunday, December 23	7:00pm	Morrissey Hall	Spanish Novena and Posada

Stewardship Report



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St. Cletus Parish website at www.stcletusparish.com and click the "DONATE" BUTTON. Click Sunday donations. We accept checks (ACH), debit and credit cards. If you have questions call Mary Zwolinski 708.352.6209.

ST. CLETUS PARISH FALL FEST



Save the date for the 2019 Fall Fest September 5-8, 2019.

We're looking forward to another year of fun and community at this 4 day parish event.

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