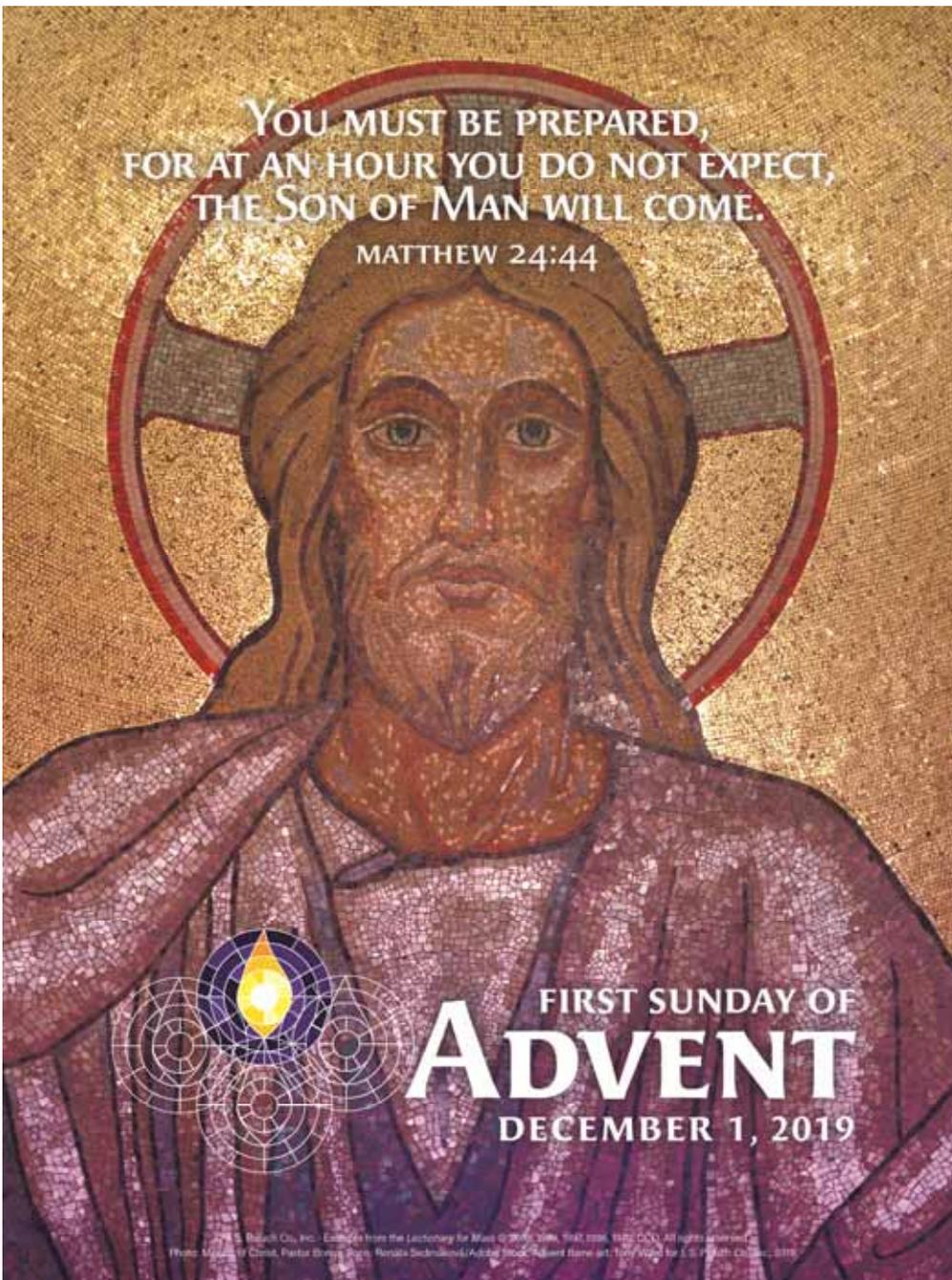


Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

**"It is the hour to cast off the dark
and clothe ourselves in the light."
- Romans 13:11-14**



WELCOME

- 2 Mass Intentions and Important Notes
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Mass Intentions for the Week of December 2 - 8, 2019

Day	Time	Intentions
Monday	8:00 a.m.	John Battistoni, Jim Deslauriers, Stanley Malec
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	John Bartolomei
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Virginia Rachford, Patrick O'Connell, Lynnette Martoccio
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Walter Johnston
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Louis Wolf, Dan Linklater, Special Intention - Hinton Family
Saturday	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Frank Wojcik, Joseph & Kay Klemak, Albert & Agnes Hinton Jim Deslauriers, John Brooks, Ken Kakareka, Bertha Zeno, Ann Drucker, Alberta Kwiatkowski, Frances & Albert Jachimek
Sunday	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Patrick O'Connell, John & Frances Kennedy, Patrick Mahoney, Wanda Zumpano, Sam & Maria Scopelliti, George Duda Stacy Baker, Ricciardone & Calandriello Families Wanda Kuchta, Mary Jasvalitis, Gladys Paikos BC Collins, Ardell Phelan, Dale Fisher, Tom Sorce St. Cletus Parishioners

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND



Give in thanksgiving. "The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need.

Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously next weekend. More information can be found at <https://retiredreligious.org>

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - DECEMBER 9, 2019

Patronal feast day of the United States of America (December 9, 2019) - Since December 8 falls on a Sunday this year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to December 9. It is normally a holyday of obligation, but it is not obligatory this year.

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

Edward Malysiak

May he rest in peace. Amen.

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.

November - Frank Colonna, Ed Kutcha, Hermelinda Nevarez, Linda Stoinski, Judy Halvorson, Emily Malec, Rachael Schopp

October - Joan Clark, Gerda E. Dorso, Kim and Tony Fox, Shirley Funk, Don King, Deborah Krueger, Patricia Rodey, Michael Stoinski, Robert Stoinski

September - John Duda, Chuck Foerster, Stella Fabian, Dr. Max Scheyerer, Rosario Martinez, Edward J McNamara, Jose Perez, Margaret Pirman, Daniella DeRivera, Leo & Gloria Rivera, Ann Scheer, Virginia Skibbe, Laura Terrazino, Carol Witkowski, Ted Buczek, Johnson Dy, Nancy Gibson, Norman Kwak, Kathryn McCord, Jackie Schickel, Nicole Will-Montemagni, Jean Weekley

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

Notes from Fr. Bob...

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Don’t you remember, dear, what day it is today?”
 “Well, yes” replies husband rather cautiously. “It’s, it’s ... the 28th of November”. “That’s right” says wife. “And what’s the 28th of November?” “Well, er, yes, oh yes, of course, it’s our wedding anniversary, isn’t it?” That kind of conversation, I suspect, takes place in many a household! But even a forgetful husband knows there’s something special about anniversaries.

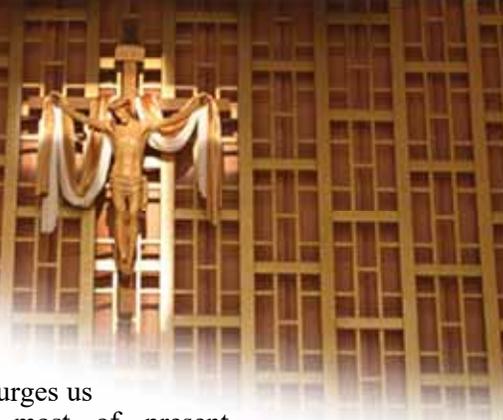
True, they come round year after year, and yet, ideally at any rate, they are never quite the same. Each time I celebrate my own priestly anniversary my great hope is that I will understand a little better what it means to be a priest and be filled with a corresponding gratitude for the gift I have received. I’m sure that on their wedding anniversary many a couple enjoy a similar kind of experience.

All this helps to explain why the Church’s ‘liturgical year’ is so important. It is a twelve-month’s cycle of anniversaries, memorials of the events by which God has won our salvation and opened for us the way to heaven. But God never repeats himself: just as each day is a new day, so each season of the liturgical year is a new season. Though we may have celebrated it many times before, we are invited to plumb its depths anew, to discover aspects we hadn’t perhaps noticed before.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the season which starts off a new liturgical year. It’s the time when we prepare to celebrate the astonishing truth that God became one of us. Our first reading reminded us that Jerusalem was dear to the Jews because it was, they believed, God’s own dwelling place. But never did God draw so near to us as when Jesus took our human nature and was born in Bethlehem. The idea of Advent is not that we should try and revive the emotional ‘Christmasy’ feelings of childhood days but rather that we should grow in appreciation of the startling truth of the Incarnation, God’s Son coming to dwell in our midst.

However, the readings we have heard make it clear that we are meant to have in mind not only the first coming of the Lord Jesus but also his second coming at the end of time. And, as Jesus makes clear in the gospel, since we cannot know the day or the hour of his coming, the only sensible thing is to be in a permanent state of readiness. With a touch of humor, he points out that no man in his right mind would fail to make suitable preparations, if he knew that a burglar was due to arrive at his house! How much more then should we prepare, we who know with certainty that the Lord himself is one day to be our visitor.

Advent, then, highlights the truth that here and now we exist in an in-between stage – looking back to Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem and forward to his coming at the end of



time –
 and so, not
 surprisingly, it urges us
 to make the most of present
 opportunities. Paul promises that ‘it will be daylight soon’, his way of describing the second coming of Jesus; so now, he says, we must ‘stay awake’ (no slipping back into the night of sin); we must live like soldiers, always ready for the only contest which really matters, that one on which our eternal future depends. “Let your armor” he says “be the Lord Jesus Christ”, we’ve to “put him on” in the sense of enveloping ourselves in his teaching, allowing his standards and his sentiments to direct our lives. It’s not so much a question of undertaking a new way of life as of renewing our ordinary way of life so that more and more it will reflect a genuine love of God and of our fellow men and women. Paul, you remember, was able to say: ‘I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me’ (Galatians 2:20). If, in our own small way, we are to celebrate the anniversary of the greatest event in human history, the Incarnation; and at the same time making the ideal preparation for the greatest event in our own personal history, that meeting with the Lord when he comes again

Advent Blessings,



Fr. Bob Clark
 Pastor

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

In an effort to collaborate with our sister parishes – St. Francis Xavier and St. John of the Cross – the Advent Reconciliation Service will be at St. John of the Cross on Dec. 17th at 7:00pm. There will not be a service at St. Cletus. St. Francis Xavier’s clergy and our priests will assist at St. John of the Cross for this service.

We will continue to have our regular Saturday Confessions from 4:15-4:45pm.

Parish School



ST. CLETUS SCHOOL DATES TO NOTE

December 8.....HO HO Holiday Breakfast
 December 10.....D4D at McDonalds 5-7pm
 December 12.....Our Lady of Guadalupe School Mass

FOR INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

Gregory Porod, Principal
 (708) 352-4820
 gporod@stcletusparish.com

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



PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

On Wednesday, November 13, the Scholastic Bowl Team did a great job of representing St. Cletus at the Nazareth Academy 8th Grade Scholastic Bowl.

1ST ANNUAL CARDINAL RAFFLE WINNERS

Ticket #4249 won \$1000
 Ticket #2887 won \$750
 Ticket #6270 won \$250

Congratulations to the raffle winners as well as our student winners of the spirit wear, Target gift card, and air pods! A huge THANK YOU to every single person who participated in our first ever Cardinal Raffle! Our final total is \$31,760!!! GO CARDINALS!



THANK YOU MRS. BENTLEY AND MRS. GRIDELLI!

Mrs. Bentley and Mrs. Gridelli were tremendous representatives of St. Cletus at the Screenagers: The Next Chapter screening that took place at the Illinois College of Optometry. They were able to share real life daily issues that affect many of the students and families of St. Cletus which helped bring real issues to life for the students at the college.



SHOP WITH SCRIP

Holiday Cash and Carry Event

Date: Sunday, 12/8/2018
 Time: 7:30am - 12:30pm
 Where: Parish Center

The Shop with Scrip committee will be selling gift cards just in time for the holiday season! We will have a variety of popular vendors (e.g. AMC Theater, Starbucks, Amazon, Shell & Speedway, Dunkin n Donuts, etc)

Please stop by our table for your gift giving needs (we accept cash or check only).

Advent



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Advent begins the new liturgical year for the Church. The liturgical year revolves around the 3 synoptical Gospel writers : Matthew, Mark and Luke. (Synoptical meaning the gospels are similar.) The cycles are referred to as Years A, B & C. John's Gospel which is used sporadically throughout the year, but especially in the Easter season, is written with a different outline and approach. This is Year A and the Gospel of Matthew is the focus.

It is believed he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles and his audience was largely made up of Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians.

Advent prepares us through joyful waiting and hopeful expectation for Christ's coming – not as a baby but as the resurrected Christ. Part of waiting for the Lord's coming includes being ready. We wait with hope for the second coming of Christ and we wait with joy for the celebration of Christmas. The Gospel tells us to "Stay Awake". Our faith is not an hour on Sunday – a switch we turn on and off or a check mark on our "to do" list. Our lives are expected to be transformed by and reflections of the Gospel. The best way to be ready for God's coming is to live the message of the Gospel every moment.

Advent is the season of God's love made visible in Jesus, may we make visible our love for him and one another.

JOIN US THIS ADVENT

Dec. 8 at 5:00pm - Taizé Prayer Service

Dec. 12 at 9:30am - School Mass Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec. 15 at 7:00pm - Advent Reconciliation Service at St. John of the Cross

St. Cletus Annual Giving Tree Dates to Remember

- Giving Tree Presents (purple and white tags) returned before or after Masses (Dec. 7-8) using the drop off on Stone Ave.
- Food Pantry items (green tags) returned any time before Dec. 8 to the food pantry bins in the narthex
- December 15 is gift distribution

St. Cletus Parish Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE

2:00 p.m.	Church
2:15 p.m.	Parish Center
3:30 p.m.	Church
3:45 p.m.	Parish Center
5:30 p.m.	Church
7:00 p.m.	Church (in Spanish)
10:30 p.m.	Church
(10-10:30pm Christmas Carols prior to Mass)	

CHRISTMAS DAY

7:00 a.m.	Church
8:00 a.m.	Church
9:30 a.m.	Church
11:00 a.m.	Church

Taizé Prayer Service

Sunday,
Dec. 8th
5:00pm



AN EVENING OF SCRIPTURE, SONG AND MEDITATION

Sunday Notes



1ST SUNDAY OF

Advent

HOPEFUL EXPECTATION

Our liturgical year begins with the season of Advent—a time of hopeful expectation of the coming of the Lord. On the First Sunday of Advent we look forward to the end of time when we will awaken to the dawn of Christ’s new day.

Today we hear Isaiah speak of a day when God’s power will have brought universal peace and God’s Word will have instructed all people, radiating God’s “light” (teachings) into all of human society. Only when humanity walks “in the light of the LORD” (Isaiah 2:5), when all people desire to be instructed “in [God’s] ways” (Isaiah 2:3), will the world be set aright and our deepest longings fulfilled. The reading from Romans calls us to “awake from sleep” for this final “day is at hand” (Romans 13:11, 12). Together this Sunday’s scriptures proclaim our Christian faith that Jesus is the One who will finally come to fulfill God’s plan of salvation.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — All the peoples shall stream toward the LORD’s house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

Psalm — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

Second Reading — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11–14).

Gospel — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:37-44).

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.

TIME OF PREPARATION

This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue for ever what we make them in this world.

—John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1
 Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent; World AIDS Awareness Day
 Tuesday: St. Francis Xavier
 Wednesday: St. John Damascene
 Friday: St. Nicholas; First Friday
 Saturday: St. Ambrose; First Saturday; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

SAINT JOHN OF DAMASCUS (C. 675-749)

December 4

From almost 1300 years ago, John’s message for the church’s spirituality and mission is surprisingly contemporary. Pope Benedict said that in our modern culture of images, sacred images often speak more eloquently than words. This “incarnational theology,” the concept that visible, tangible elements can give believers access to divine realities beyond, found an eloquent champion in John of Damascus. He challenged the Iconoclasts (image-breakers), whose misinterpretation of the biblical prohibition of idolatrous images (Exodus 20:4-5) led them to campaign for the destruction of all sacred art. Before this controversy, however, John bore witness to Christ in a way that provides a timely example for Christians in today’s pluralistic society. Succeeding his grandfather and father, John served as chief financial officer to the Muslim caliph, professing his Christian faith without compromise, while winning the esteem of his Islamic sovereign by his competence and integrity. No wonder John could eloquently defend icons as “windows into heaven”—he had already learned to see Christ in the living icons of people different from himself yet fashioned in the same divine image!

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

ADVENT

Let’s approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.

—Anonymous

Religious Education

WELCOME TO ADVENT!

Happy New Year! The first Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of our new liturgical year! The children in Religious Education will be busy this Advent season, preparing our hearts for the birth of our Savior, and serving as the Lord's hands and feet as we serve those in our communities through acts of service. Every grade is actively engaged in specific service projects for our home-bound parishioners or others in need in our extended community. Please support our efforts to put the needs of others first during this holy season!

Service Projects our children will be participating in include:

- Donating warm socks for the homeless in Chicago and the surrounding area
- Making soup in a jar for our Food Pantry clients
- Making fleece blankets for home-bound parishioners
- Making Christmas cards and ornaments
- Filling Christmas mugs with candy for disabled neighbors

UPCOMING RE EVENTS:

- December 1 & 2 Regular RE Class Schedule AND 3rd Grade Parents join us for Family Advent Day!
8th Grade Saint Reports Due!
- December 8 & 9 Regular RE Class Schedule – all classes engaged in Service Projects
- December 15 & 16 No Class due to Holidays
- December 22 & 23 No Class – Merry Christmas!
- January 5 & 6 No Class – Happy New Year!
- January 12 & 13 Regular RE Class Schedule. 8th Grade Red Service Books are due! First Grade Church tour for students and parents scheduled for Monday, January 13th from 6-7:30 p.m. in Church

Barb Campbell, Director of Religious Education
bcampbell@stcletusparish.com | (708) 352-2383 | re.stcletusparish.com

R.W.S. Landscaping & Lawncare
708-489-6333



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Jerry Mitchell, Real Estate Broker (630) 849-5857

Adolf Funeral Home & Cremation Services, LTD
Battistoni & Beam Orthodontics Ltd.
Friends of Countryside Mayor Sean McDermott

FCI Construction Inc.
Hallowell & James Funeral Home
Health Pic
Horizon Wealth Management

Jeffrey R. Tobolski Cook County Board Commissioner-16th District
LG Celtics Soccer Club
Unique Plumbing
WATRA Church Goods

Thank you to our 2019 St. Cletus Parish Fall Fest Major Sponsors. These businesses will be listed in our Parish Canticle for one year as preferred providers.

Social Concerns Ministry



ST. CLETUS FOOD PANTRY

THURSDAYS 6-8PM

Most needed at this time:

- pancake syrup
- dish soap
- crackers
- snack items
- laundry detergent
- cereal
- paper and plastic bags

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).

Follow us on facebook: @StCletusFoodPantry

Now on Instagram: @St.CletusFoodPantry



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

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

A heartfelt thank you to all those who helped collect Turkey Bucks at Jewel, those who donated to the program, and the volunteers who helped distribute meals. You all helped make Thanksgiving a little brighter to families in need. Thank you!



GIVING TREE

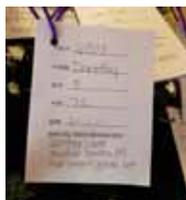
Don't forget that EVERYTHING is due back next weekend! That includes all gifts (purple tags), food pantry items (green tags) and grocery gift cards (white envelopes). Please remember, each tag represents a real person. When you took a tag from the tree, you made a commitment to that person, and to returning your gift(s) on time.

Gifts/Envelopes 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)



Choose the gifts you wish to purchase, keeping in mind that the items listed on the tag are part of a "wish list." You need not purchase every item on the list. **Gifts are to be returned before/after Masses the weekend of Dec. 7-8.**

•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.

WHITE ENVELOPES (grocery gift cards)



These can be dropped in the collection basket, at the Parish Center or using the Stone Ave. drop off lane December 7-8 when delivering gifts.

Envelopes need to be returned by Sunday, December 8.

GREEN TAGS (food pantry donations)



Please drop these off in the food pantry bins in the Church Narthex by Sunday, December 8.

We invite you to stop in the narthex this weekend to take a tag or two from one of the Giving Trees. We are thankful for your past generosity in purchasing many gifts for the individual(s) you choose.

Thank you! Your generosity will provide hope and make a difference in someone's life. God bless you on your Advent Journey! Answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the parish website: www.stcletusparish.com/socialconcerns. You can also contact Kendall Grant.

GIVING TREE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer slots are now available for our Giving Tree collection and Distribution. View slots, availability, age requirements and more at: <http://bit.ly/2PSkRXP>

Friday, December 6th 3:15-5:15pm: Help set up Morrissey Hall.

Saturday, December 7th shifts between 3:30-6:30pm: Help direct traffic, carry in donations from donor's cars, sort and organize gifts in Morrissey Hall.

Sunday, December 8th shifts between 6:30am-2:30pm: Help with hospitality, direct traffic, carry in donations from donor's cars, sort and organize gifts in Morrissey Hall, load gifts to bring to St. Agatha's.

Sunday, December 15th shifts between 8:30am-3:30pm: Help with hospitality, directing traffic, 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!

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Volunteer drivers needed to transport older adults - Can you spare an hour or more a week to drive an older adult? Interfaith Community Partners is a non-profit organization

that works together with volunteers to provide rides to older adults in the Lyons, Proviso, and Riverside Townships and is expanding to the suburbs west of these townships. Volunteers provide accompanied transportation to medical appointments, and life-enhancing errands such as the grocery store, bank, hairdresser, and church. There is no cost to clients and donations are accepted, if able. Contact ICP at 708-354-9328 for a volunteer application and visit them on the web at InterfaithCommunityPartners.org. They provide training and work around your busy life!

AARP TAX-AIDE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2020 TAX FILING SEASON

AARP™ *Looking for a rewarding opportunity to make a difference Tax-Aide™ in your community?*

The AARP Tax-Aide Program is now seeking volunteers for the upcoming 2020 tax filing season. It's not necessary for you to be an AARP member or to have a tax or an accounting background to volunteer. However, some knowledge of your own personal tax matters is very helpful. All returns are prepared on computers; thus, volunteers should be somewhat computer literate. Training classes will be held in January, 2020. Minimum

time commitment during the filing season is 4 to 5 hours one day per week from early February to mid-April. This income tax preparation and assistance service is offered to low and middle income individuals with special attention to those 60 years and older. Won't you help?

For further information about the program and to sign up as a volunteer, please visit: https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/ or contact St. Cletus parishioner John Wagner at 708-352-0170 for further details.

RESPECT LIFE

WORD OF LIFE

"When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"How to Build a Culture of Life"



ADVENT

The season of Advent is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to preparing for the celebration of the Lord's birth on Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time. During this time of preparation and expectant waiting, we also remember expectant mothers who are preparing for the birth of their children.

10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting

Read the full version at respectlifeprogram.org/support-her.

As a mom who had my first baby in college, I know that an unexpected pregnancy can sometimes bring fear, shame, and doubt. Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. I encourage you to support her in her new journey of being a mother.

Your support may be the only support she receives.

It's okay if you don't know the perfect words to say. Let her know you are there for her, and ask how you can support her. Assist her in lining up practical help. She may not feel she "deserves" to show happiness; reassure her it's okay (*and good*) to be happy. Your support might be the only support she receives. You can make a difference in her life. Will you?

**Name changed for privacy. This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2019, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.*

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



HO HO Holiday Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 8
7:45am - 12:30pm

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

\$5 per person includes:
Continental Breakfast, Crafts for Children,
Special Appearance by Santa,
Old-fashioned Cake Walk

RSVP Online by December 4th
www.stcletusparish.com/hoho

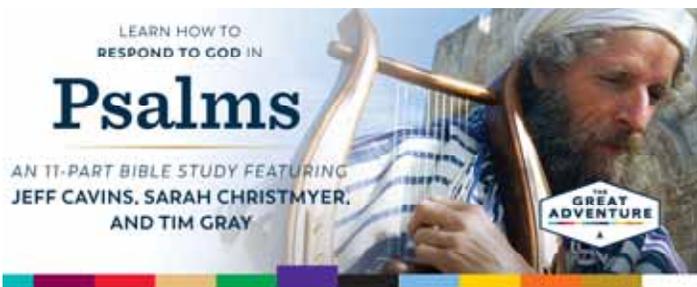
For more information email ccw@stcletusparish.com



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
7:45^{AM} - 12:30^{PM}
ST. CLETUS PARISH CENTER

Other Ministry News

CREDO



The Holy Spirit inspired them. Israel sang them. Christ himself prayed them, as did our Blessed Mother. At the heart of the Bible are the psalms, prayers from God that help us to pray. In *Psalms: The School of Prayer*, discover how these sacred hymns become our heartfelt response to God's loving and wondrous deeds.

Learn how to meditate fruitfully on the captivating words of the psalms using *lectio divina*, and study the many ways the psalms foretell the life and mission of Jesus.

DATES – TIMES – LOCATION

Monday nights for 12 sessions
starting January 6th, 2020
St. Cletus Parish Center
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

COST – REGISTRATION

Class is free! Book cost \$30.

If you want CREDO to order a book for you, you must register and pay for the book by December 15th.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See our registration table in the narthex after all masses on Dec 14th and 15th, or call Deb Wroblewski at 815-474-6237.

CREDO

(Continuing Religious Education Opportunities)

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

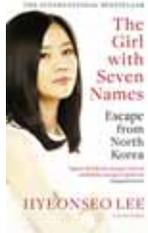
families. This annual effort this year is looking to collect 7,000 first class stamps.

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

BOOK DISCUSSION



The next book discussion will be at 7 P.M. on December 10th in the Parish Center. We will discuss The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee.

For those who want to look ahead:

- On February 11, 2020: The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See
- On April 14, 2020: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
- On June 9, 2020: The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

All are welcome. Questions – call Denise at 708.712.8294

ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES AT ST. CLETUS

We are excited to welcome back to St. Cletus, "Bending Towards the Light, a Jazz Nativity." This concert will feature jazz arrangements of traditional Christmas carols along with original compositions tell the story of Mary, Jesus, Joseph, the Angels, the Shepherds, and the three Wise Men in a staged production. Filled with a sense of grace and humor, the cast will include a tap dancing king, a Latin percussion king and a trumpet king, as well as vocal soloists, a vocal jazz quartet, an eight piece jazz band, and the St. Cletus Choir.

Plan to join us on Sunday, December 15 at 4pm. This free concert will be held in St. Cletus Church. A freewill offering will be taken.



Community Bulletin Board

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM

The Catholic High School Entrance Exam will be administered on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 8 a.m. Consult the Catholic High School where the student wishes to enroll for the 2020/2021 school year for more information.

JOYFUL AGAIN! WIDOWED MINISTRY



“I knew I needed something.” “I wanted things to get better.” “This helped a lot.” (What they say about us.) We understand. We’ve been there. For more information contact us at 708-354-7211, joyfulagain7211@gmail.com, www.joyfulagain.org.

THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Where is the House of God? And how do We Live when We Find It? Monday, December 2, 7 - 8:30 PM , repeated Tues, Dec. 3, 10-11:30 AM - Wouldn't it be great to live in God's House? Christmas celebrates the indwelling of God within all of creation. We think God is far away – but God's house is all around us. Facilitated by Pat Bergen, CSJ. Cost: \$15

Village Vocal Chords Concert, Sneak Peek, and Yuletide Cheer. Sunday, December 8, Sneak Peek of The Well 2 PM, Concert 3 PM - We loved them last year, and they're coming back! The Village Vocal Chords, an all-women's choir, has won awards both in the U.S. and abroad. Come early to get a look at The Well's new digs. After the concert, stick around for some delicious Yuletide treats, and a Christmas fair. Cost: \$10
Healing Gong, Thursday, December 12, 7-8:30 PM This unique sound therapy and mindfulness meditation event helps one reach a higher state of conscious awareness, to relax, and re-balance the core of one's being. Facilitated by Marian and Gabriela Kraus. Cost: \$35



The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park, IL. A Member of the Congregation of St. Joseph Mission. Network. www.csjthewell.org 708-482-5048

TOWNSHIP OF LYONS DEFENSIVE DRIVING

SAVE THE DATE! Township of Lyons (6404 Joliet Rd Countryside) Clerk Mike Porfirio & AARP present Defensive Driving for 50 & Over Wednesday, December 4 & Thursday, December 5, 2019 from 10:00 am. – 2:00 p.m. Class Completion earns auto insurance discount. Cost: AARP member \$15, non-member \$20. Class size limited to 35. Sign up with George Pach, Deputy Clerk 708-482-8300 x 221.

SPIRITO! SINGERS CONCERT

Celebrate the Christmas Season at the SPIRITO! SINGERS Winter Concert “Balulalow ~ Cradle Lullabies”

Join Spirito!'s three choral ensembles as they perform their 2019 Holiday repertoire at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church (149 W. Brush Hill Rd., Elmhurst) on Saturday, December 7th at 4pm and Sunday, December 8th at 3pm.

To order tickets please go to: <https://www.spiritosingers.org/winter-concerts> or call 630.581.5440.

LTHS HOLIDAY WRITE NIGHT 12/10

Kindergarten through 3rd Graders are invited to the LTHS annual Holiday Write-Night “A Frozen Christmas” on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 4:00-6:30pm at Lyons Township High School South Campus Discovery Center.

RSVP by Friday, December 6 at: [http:// www.lths.net/HolidayWriteNight](http://www.lths.net/HolidayWriteNight). Please include last name, how many children and how many adults will be attending. Cost: Please bring one can of food per participant which will be donated to a local food pantry.

LTHS FANFARES AND CAROLS 12/5



St. Cletus Parish will once again host the LTHS Fanfares and Carols Concert. Join us on Thursday, December 5 at 6:30pm or 8:00pm for this wonderful concert.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT SJC

All are welcome to any of the 4 weekly groups for Christian Meditation in the St. John of the Cross Parish Center, room 7. Meetings last 45 to 55 minutes, and no experience is necessary.
 Tuesdays, 7:30 pm
 Wednesdays, 2:30 pm
 Saturdays, 8:00 am
 Mondays, 10:30am - Christian Meditation as an 11th Step Practice
 For further information contact Betsy at wccmchgo@gmail.com or 708-246-8315.

VOCATIONS OFFICE EVENTS

The Vocation Office is hosting quarterly Quigley Days events throughout Chicagoland for all high school young men. This free-event will be held at Mary, Seat of Wisdom at 9 a.m. and then we will transport all at noon for an activity of laser tag at Icombat. We encourage all to invite at least one young man in high school open to discern the Call. There is no commitment. Only one day of Mass, prayer, discussion, fellowship, activity and food. For more information, visit our website <https://vocations.archchicago.org/events/quigley-discerners>.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES EVENT

SPIRIT OF ST. NICHOLAS BALL
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019 @ 6:30 PM - 12:00 AM
 Join more than 1,300 guests as we celebrate the 30th Annual Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball with a reception, gourmet dinner and wine, live entertainment, cocktails, dancing and late night “sweets and treats” at this black-tie celebration of the Christmas season. All proceeds benefit Catholic Charities Children's Programs which serve more than 115,000 children in Cook and Lake counties each year. More information on our website <https://catholiccharities.net/Events.aspx>

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.

Week at a Glance

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, December 1	7:00am 8:00am 9:15am 12:00pm 2:00pm	Narthex Parish Center Mtg Room School School Room 102 Morrissey Hall	Giving Trees RE Special Needs Class RE Classes in Session RCIA Teens Girl Scout Tree Trimming
Monday, December 2	2:00pm 6:00pm 4:00pm 8:00pm	Church School School Music Room Parish Center Gym	School Reconciliation RE Classes in Session Junior Choir Rehearsal Men's Basketball
Tuesday, December 3	7:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Parish Center Mtg Room Church School Music Room	School Board Meeting OLG Novena Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 4	7:00pm	Church	OLG Novena
Thursday, December 5	8:30am 3:00pm 5:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 8:00pm	Church Rectory Basement School Music Room Parish Center Gym Church Morrissey Hall Church	LTHS Fanfares & Carols Rehearsal Respect Life Committee Children's Choir Rehearsal Boys Church League LTHS Fanfares & Carols Concert OLG Novena LTHS Fanfares & Carols Concert
Friday, December 6	7:00pm	Church Parish Center Mtg Room	OLG Novena Holy Name Society Christmas Dinner
Saturday, December 7	3:30pm 5:00pm 7:00pm	Parish Center Gym Morrissey Hall Church	Boys Church League Giving Tree Collection OLG Novena
Sunday, December 8	7:00am 7:45am 12:00pm 5:00pm 7:00pm	Morrissey Hall Parish Center School Room 102 Church Church	Giving Tree Collection HO HO Holiday Breakfast with Santa RCIA Teens Taize Prayer Service OLG Novena

Stewardship Report

WEEKLY GIVING REPORT

Due to the early printing of the bulletin, the weekly giving report for November 23 will be printed in the December 8 Canticle.

ENROLL IN ELECTRONIC GIVING



Do you want to transition away from writing checks and contribute electronically?

Visit www.stcletusparish.com and click the "DONATE" button. Click Sunday donations.

We accept checks (ACH), debit and credit cards.

Questions? Call Mary Zwolinski at 708.352.6209.

ST. CLETUS PARISH FALL FEST UPDATE



Our 6th Annual Fall Fest made \$102,000.00. Thanks to everyone for their continued support, we couldn't do it without you.

Save the Dates for our 7th Annual Fall Fest, September 10-13, 2020.

St. Cletus Parish Information

CONTACT US

Parish Center.....(708) 352-6209
 Español(708) 215-5440
 School(708) 352-4820
 www.stcletusparish.com.....  stcletuschurch

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Please note that all deliveries and inquiries should be made to the parish center office. Food pantry will remain in the rectory.

Monday-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 most months at 11:00 a.m.
 Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation class. Please make arrangements by calling the Parish office. Contact Bobbie Kallal (708) 352-6209.

WEDDINGS

Dates and times are reserved for registered parishioners. Initial arrangements must be completed five months in advance of the wedding date. Contact Bobbie Kallal (708) 352-6209.

HOME/HOSPITAL VISITATION AND COMMUNION CALLS

Please contact the Ministry of Care Office (708) 215-5407

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. Mr. Stuart & Marlene Heyes, Deacon Couple

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Baker/Paulette Bolton, Worship.... (708) 215-5422
Karen Ziemba, Music Ministry (708) 215-5423
MaryClaire Zurowski, Youth Ministry(708) 215-5419
Kendall Grant, Social Concerns (708) 215-5418
Deacon Stuart Heyes, Pastoral Care .. (708) 215-5407
Debbie Lestarczyk, Business Manager (708) 215-5405
Christopher Wagner, Technology (708) 215-5420

HISPANIC MINISTRY STAFF..... (708) 215-5440

Rev. Lorenzo Gamboa, Head of Hispanic Ministry

SCHOOL STAFF (708) 352-4820

Gregory Porod, Principal
Christy Schaefer, Assistant Principal
Mary Lee Krieger, Administrative Assistant
Jeannie Scalzitti, Receptionist/Office Assistant

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF..... (708) 352-2383

Barb Campbell, Director of Religious Education
Deborah Pusinelli, Assistant
Paulette Bolton, Director of Adult Faith Formation and Assistant Director of Worship

PARISH OFFICE STAFF (708) 352-6209

Bobbie Kallal, Human Resources/Records
Mary Zwolinski, Parish Accounting
Elizabeth Goellner-McLean, Bulletin Editor
Carol Scatena, Parish Assistant
Kadie Lestarczyk, Parish Assistant

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

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 Chairperson Bob Wasik
 Vice Chairperson Patrick O'Toole
 Secretary

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Kevin Hogan	Bob Malham
Mike Napleton	Shanta McGahey
Paula Struwing	

LIAISONS

FSA President Nikki Gorman
 Athletic Association President Michele Kulovic

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 Chairperson..... Mary Ann Doornbos
 Vice-Chairperson..... Chuck Luna
 Recording Secretary..... Maggie Kensek
 School Representative.....
 Director of Parish Catechesis..... Paulette Bolton
 Staff Representative..... Debbie Lestarczyk

MEMBERS

Jack Fisherkeller	Susan Hurley
Helen McMahon	Robbie O'Shea
Henry Morlock	

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

St. Cletus Church #9238
600 W. 55th Street
La Grange, IL 60525

TELEPHONE

708-352-6209

CONTACT PERSON

Elizabeth Goellner/
Debbie Lestarczyk (Bus Mgr)

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