

ST. CLETUS CHURCH 600 W. 55TH ST. LA GRANGE, IL

JANUARY 19, 2020

Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

**I will make you a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the ends
of the earth.**
- Isaiah 49:6b



**NOW
I HAVE
SEEN
AND TESTIFIED
THAT
HE IS
THE SON
OF GOD**
JOHN 1:34

**JANUARY
19, 2020**

**SECOND
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY
TIME**

WELCOME

So glad you could join us!

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Mass Intentions for the Week of January 20 - 26, 2020

Day	Presider (subject to change)	Time	Intentions
Monday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Delphine Marciszewski
Tuesday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Giovanna Viecei
Wednesday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Virginia Rachford, Joseph & Kay Klemak
Thursday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Betty Verhoeven, Louis Viecei
Friday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Andrew F. Bultas, Jr.
Saturday	Fr. Baker Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	John Reglin Jim Deslauriers, Benjamin Patrick Hyink, Naum Radevski, Rhoda D. Smithy, Joe Palazolo, Frank Baggio
Sunday	Fr. Clark Fr. Baker Fr. Clark Fr. Baker Fr. Gamboa	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Arlene Donohue, George Duda, Rhoda D. Smithy Stacy Baker, Ricciardone & Calandriello Families Eugene Sorrentino, Lee Crispino, Rose Haddad Louise Callaghan, Bonnie Thies Eckmayer All Souls in Purgatory

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.

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY

The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 20 in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The office will reopen Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSE



Please join us Sunday, January 26, beginning at 10:30 a.m. for the St. Cletus School Open House. Take a tour, meet our faculty and staff, and learn more about our parish school.

We hope to see you next Sunday!

CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA COLLECTION

Next weekend there will be envelopes available in the pews for the collection for the Church in Latin America. For more information visit www.usccb.org/latin-america

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

Joseph Rivera, Jr.

Ted Buczek

May they 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.

January - Joan Clark, Joyce Arnold, Frank Colonna, John Gerdevich, Jeanie Hills, Mary Ramirez, Charles (Bud) Howe, Rose Serrano, Ludwig Stoiber, Joseph Gregory Stroude, Laura Terrazino, Grace Yamamoto, John Collingwood

December - Ed Kutcha, Hermelinda Nevarez, Linda Stoinski, Judy Halvorson, Emily Malec, Rachael Schopp

November - Joan Clark, Gerda E. Dorso, Kim and Tony Fox, Shirley Funk, Don King, Deborah Krueger, Patricia Rodey, Michael Stoinski, Robert Stoinski, John Duda, Stella Fabian, Dr. Max Scheyerer, Rosario Martinez, Edward J McNamara, Jose Perez, Margaret Pirman, Daniella DeRivera, Leo & Gloria Rivera, Ann Scheer, Virginia Skibbe, 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...

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Jews have always had mixed feelings about being God's Chosen People. The psalms reveal the depth and variety of exchange that took place between them and God. Every human emotion is displayed. Is God on our side? Why doesn't he show himself more? Why doesn't he get off our backs? What a good God he is! This flavor of intimacy and concern continues in modern Jewish writing, often in humor and wit. Two things remain clear in the Jewish vision down through the ages. One is that we cannot get away from God. The other is that God demands commitment. This is what being chosen by God means. Our modern western ideas of being chosen are wishy-washy by comparison. Advertising suggests it is a matter of luck or fate. "It could be you", proclaims the advertisements for the Power Ball and Lotteries. Many companies send out unsolicited but ornate envelopes informing us that we have been specially chosen to receive a prize. Keep in mind, there is usually some condition attached that lurks in the small print. Being chosen is linked to the idea of reward rather than responsibility. Unfortunately this expectation can affect the most important choices in our lives. Partners may choose to marry for what they expect to receive rather than for what they might give. Or, the commitment required to live with another person day after day, in sickness and health, proves too much of a demand, and they run away.

God's choosing presents a much clearer picture. A special relationship is established with the chosen one, and it is that relationship which empowers the chosen to carry out the assignment that goes with the act of election. In Isaiah the nature of the relationship is defined first of all as that of a servant, but it is a special sort of servant. It is the servant who is honored in the eyes of his Lord and who has God himself as his strength. "Through the servant God is glorified" is a theme explored at length in John's gospel during the farewell discourse of Jesus to his disciples at the Last Supper. Thus energized by God, the servant will not only reconcile the people of Israel but will be a light for all nations so that salvation may be offered to all. Similarly, Paul, in the first line of his greeting to the church in Corinth, refers to the fact that he has been appointed by God to be an apostle. He too has been chosen, and his assignment is that of an apostle, to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Again, John's account of the beginning of Jesus' public life puts the accent on his special election through the descent of the Spirit. Just as the Spirit hovered over the waters in the first creation, so he now comes down upon Jesus, in instrument of God's new creation. He will take away the sins of the world and in his turn will baptize with the Spirit, his assignment as the chosen one of God.

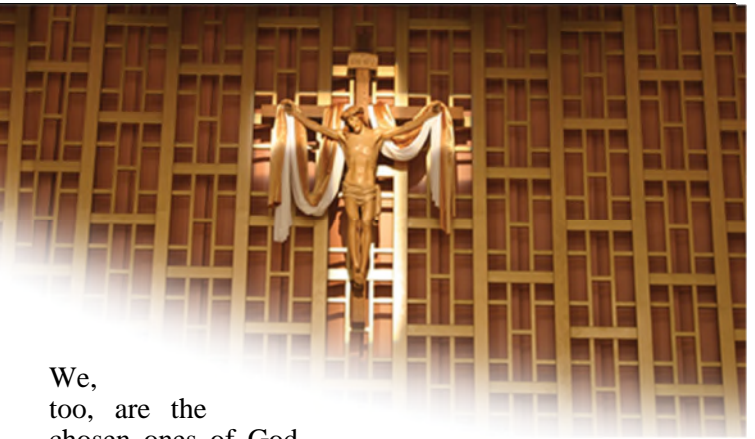
We,
too, are the
chosen ones of God.

In baptism the Holy Spirit descends on us and makes us the sharers in God's own life. Our responsibility as chosen ones is to take up the assignments we have just heard of in the life of Jesus, in the life of Paul and in the life of the servant disciple. We are called to take away the sins of the world, to be apostles and to be the light of the nations, bringing salvation to the ends of the earth: all daunting tasks. We may be forgiven for trying to flee them or off-load them on to those we consider to be especially trained for the purpose, the clergy and religious. But through our baptism, we are each called to make unique contributions to these assignments. It helps if we can see how in turn they have been communicated to us. As we have received, so shall we give. How have we been enlightened? What brings clear vision and understanding into our lives? What has our experience of forgiveness been? Have we really forgiven others or allowed ourselves to be truly forgiven? Finally, how have we received the good news? What words or images moved or still move us? It is through our own experience of God that God will communicate his presence to others.

Called, together, to be the present-day apostles,

Fr. Bob

Fr. Bob
Pastor



Parish School



St. Cletus School

FAITH FAMILY FUTURE

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

SEE OUR FAIRS: SCIENCE, HISTORY, CONSUMER, INVENTION, AND BIOGRAPHY

VISIT OUR NEW STATE OF THE ART CENTER FOR ATHLETICS AND FINE ARTS

MEET DOT AND DASH - OUR ROBOTS - IN OUR TECH LAB

HEAR OUR MUSICALLY TALENTED STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING

TOUR THE SCHOOL WITH OUR HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GREAT PROGRAMS AT ST. CLETUS SCHOOL:

- Before and After Care Availability
- Early Childhood Programs: 3-4 yr PreK, Jr. Kindergarten, and Kindergarten
- Technology integration across curriculum including 1:1 devices for grades 3-8
- No-cut sports programs encourage teamwork, sportsmanship, and fun regardless of skill level
- Volunteer opportunities including Athletic Association, Family School Association, Father's Club, School Board, Scouts, and more!



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St. Cletus School

700 W. 55th Street
La Grange, IL 60525

(708) 352-4820 phone
(708) 352-0788 fax
www.stcletusschool.com

January 2020

As fellow parents, we know how important choosing a school is for our children. That is why we hope you will consider St. Cletus Catholic School for your child's education.

Education- We are a Blue Ribbon Award winning school for overall academic excellence and achievement. Beginning as early as preschool, your child will begin to receive a well-rounded education, allowing them to grow both intellectually and socially, with the help of a dedicated and highly qualified group of teachers and staff.

Community- From the staff, to the teachers, to the families of St Cletus, we support, encourage, and help one another. We believe your child and your whole family will feel this welcoming community atmosphere.

Faith- Most importantly, we are a school that is rooted in our faith in Christ and His teachings. We believe it is essential to help shape character and build integrity in students. That is why we are committed to daily prayer and praise to God in the classrooms, reading Bible stories and applying God's teaching, going to church together as a class once a week, celebrating school-wide Masses at least once a month, as well as many community service opportunities for the students to give back and help those in need.

Please call **(708) 352-4820** or visit us online at stcletusschool.com to learn more about our wonderful school or to schedule a tour of the St. Cletus School.

Sincerely,
St. Cletus school board and staff



FAITH FAMILY FUTURE



Social Concerns Ministry



ST. CLETUS FOOD PANTRY THURSDAYS 6-8PM

Most needed at this time:

- Shelf stable milk (dry, canned, non-refrigerated)
- Kitchen wraps (foil, plastic, wax paper)
- Kitchen storage bags (zip lock, sandwich)
- Dish Soap
- Diapers size 5 & 6
- Baby Wipes

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

In 2019, we saw a 26% increase in individuals served compared to the year before. 9,394 in all.

We are grateful to all the volunteers and donors that step up to make this all possible. But we know this isn't an increase to celebrate. We know many of our neighbors are struggling to make ends meet and to stretch a dollar a little further. More than ever.

The pantry has reopened for the year on Thursdays from 6-8pm ready to greet people in a warm space, with delicious produce, reliable shelf staples, some household and hygiene items, a variety of fresh meats, tortillas, bagels, and even some frozen pizza.

Thank you for your support.

In 2019, the St. Cletus Food Pantry saw a

↑ 26%

increase in individuals served
9,394 total



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

MONTHLY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUP

If you or someone close to you is experiencing domestic violence this group may be very helpful. The objective of the group is to provide all a chance to talk about domestic violence and share questions, concerns and experiences with others who are facing - or who have faced - similar situations in confidence.

Please contact Kendall Grant more information.

In an emergency, dial 911, call the National Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline at 800-799-7233 or the local 24 hour hotline for Pillars, found in the box to the right.

You are not alone.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH
— ARCHDIOCESE of CHICAGO —
AWARENESS - SERVICES - PREVENTION

www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org



INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Does the new year have you interested in volunteer opportunities? Consider becoming a volunteer driver with ICP!

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 western suburbs west of Rt. 83. 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!

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PROGRAMS

DIVORCED AND SEPARATED SUPPORT

Weekly support group for those who have been through divorce or who are in the midst of the divorce process. Divorce and Beyond meetings are faith-based and designed to bring hope and healing to one of life's most difficult and painful experiences of loss. Topics include; dealing with stress, anger, loneliness, forgiveness, and healing. Experienced leaders create an open and confidential atmosphere conducive to judgement free sharing and discussion. Register online: <https://www.stjohnofthecross.org/divorceandbeyond> or contact Steve Weigand at the SJC Parish Office. (708) 246-4404 ext.137

SEASONS OF HOPE GRIEF

Support group for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. 'Seasons of Hope' is a six-session support ministry led by experienced, caring adults familiar with the grief process. Weekly sessions present a faith-based topic and include discussion, Scripture, and prayer. It is recommended that participants allow 3-6 mo. from time of loss before attending. Register online: www.stjohnofthecross.org/grief-ministry or contact Steve Weigand at the SJC Parish Office. (708) 246-4404

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

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 more information contact Betsy at wccmchgo@gmail.com or (708) 246-8315.

LOSS PROGRAM

Monthly support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one from suicide. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. L.O.S.S. (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) is a non-denominational program that provides a safe, judgement free environment intended to help survivors and family members share experience, and draw strength and hope within a loving community. Trained counselors are on hand at each meeting. Call LOSS at 312.655.7285 or SJC for more information.

RESPECT LIFE

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

This weekend we will have volunteers from our Area Respect Life Ministry with St. John of the Cross, St. Cletus and St. Francis Xavier, at a table in the Church Narthex to commemorate the anniversary of Roe v Wade.

We welcome you to stop by and learn more about this important ministry within our community.

WORD OF LIFE



"If someone shared with you she was pregnant and hadn't ruled out having an abortion, would you know how to respond? ... When a woman is facing a difficult pregnancy, the reaction of the first person she tells tends to set the tone for her decision-making. How do we respond to our friend in a loving way that is life-affirming for both her and her baby?"

Consider the four steps of the L.O.V.E. Approach™*: Listen and Learn, Open Options, Vision and Value, and Extend and Empower." Read more at www.respectlife.org/l-o-v-e.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion" (www.respectlife.org/l-o-v-e)

*The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is trademarked by Heartbeat International, Inc. and may not be adapted or modified. The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is used in "What to Do When a Friend Is Considering Abortion" with permission from Heartbeat International, Inc.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE



JANUARY 21-29, 2020

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today at www.9daysforlife.com!



4 WAYS TO JOIN



9DaysforLife.com

Image: A mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe decorates a side altar in the Church of Santa Maria della Famiglia at the Vatican, Dec. 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring.)

Sunday Notes



CALLED TO BE HOLY

With this Sunday we begin Ordinary Time. The readings tell us about God's relationship with Israel and John the Baptist's relationship with Jesus. Israel's relationship with God is so close, so intimate, that it is through Israel that God's "salvation [will] reach to the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6). But we know from John the Baptist that for Israel to accomplish God's will, it must also recognize that Jesus is the Son of God. During these weeks we also get to know Jesus. We begin to understand more deeply our relationship to Jesus and what that relationship means for us, who are "called to be holy" (1 Corinthians 1:2).

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The glory of the LORD shows through Israel, a light to all nations, that salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:3, 5-6).

Psalms — Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will (Psalm 40).

Second Reading — All those who call upon the name of the Lord are called to be holy (1 Corinthians 1:1-3).

Gospel — John the Baptist testifies: The one who comes after me, on whom the Spirit comes down and remains, is the Son of God (John 1:29-34).

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.

FORGIVENESS

The only true forgiveness is that which is offered and extended even before the offender has apologized and sought it.

—Søren Kierkegaard

BEND, DON'T BREAK

When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to break them, but bend them with gentleness and time.

—St. Francis de Sales

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time; Julian Calendar Theophany (Epiphany)
 Monday: St. Fabian; St. Sebastian; Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 Tuesday: St. Agnes
 Wednesday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
 Thursday: St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope
 Friday: St. Francis de Sales
 Saturday: The Conversion of St. Paul; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends; Chinese New Year 4718

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mk 2:18-22
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6, *or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer*
 Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-13; Mk 3:7-12
 Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19
 Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
 Sunday: Is 8:23 — 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23 [12-17]

SAINT AGNES (DIED 304)

January 21

Writing about Saint Agnes in the year 377, Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, declared: "This is a virgin's birthday into heaven: let us imitate her chastity! And a martyr's heavenly birthday: let us offer ourselves in sacrifice!" Chastity: mastery of oneself in order to give of oneself whether in the priestly, religious, married, or single state. Sacrifice: "to make holy," to set someone or something apart for service. Ambrose knew these virtues indispensable for discipleship, but challenging to practice in his world—or our own. Barely a teenager, Agnes faced gruesome tortures bravely and, when ordered to worship pagan gods, boldly made the Sign of the Cross instead. Thus, her youthful courage strengthened adult believers who wavered under persecution or grew indifferent when persecutions passed. To bestow on Agnes its highest honor and keep her witness fresh in believers' hearts, the Church inscribed her name at the heart of the Eucharistic liturgy, in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I), until Vatican II the Roman Church's only Eucharistic Prayer.

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

Deacon Stuart's Homily January 11-12

BAPTISM OF THE LORD HOMILY CYCLE A JAN. 11-12, 2020

I love telling jokes and when I hear a good one I tell it often - and with the repeated telling it gets embellished, and in my opinion - better. However, Marlene who likely has heard the joke several times before usually rolls her eyes and says "Just get to the punch line will you?" The reason I mention this is that in Advent we started Cycle A of the church's three year Sunday liturgy and we're hearing Matthew's Gospel. Now both Matthew and Luke had the great advantage of having Mark's available to them as they wrote theirs. So we will hear or read Matthew referencing Prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures which Jesus along - with his Mother Mary and Joseph - fulfil. He adds to events written in Mark, embellishing and providing evidence and connections to those Hebrew Scriptures which we now refer to as the Old Testament.

For example: Last week for Epiphany he quotes "And you, Bethlehem... from you shall come a ruler and shepherd to my people Israel." Or the Prior week, Feast of the Holy Family, "Out of Egypt I called my son - He shall be called a Nazarene." For this reason, the Gospel of Matthew is often called "The Gospel of the Church!" It is the only Gospel that uses the word "Church" in its narrative, three times actually. Matthew brings together the Old and the New to make the story of Christ's life so compelling that we may believe and never doubt that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. So you see a worthy embellishment of a story (or a joke) is a good thing!!

Now getting back to the Gospel according to Matthew today! Matthew tells us that at Christ's Baptism - by John, the Heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and a voice came from the Heavens proclaiming: "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, WITH WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED." But John was "Baptizing for repentance and the forgiveness of sins." This seems very odd because Jesus was sinless! Indeed we heard about the exchange between John and Jesus - John telling Jesus he should be baptizing him. But you see God's purpose was to reveal Christ's identity to John and the crowds - in a way that would leave no doubt in their minds who Jesus was, is and ever will be. THE SON OF GOD! Matthew writes that Jesus response was "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for US to fulfill all righteousness" - meaning - what had indeed been prophesied in the Hebrew scriptures was fulfilled with Christ's baptism.

Here again we have Matthew connecting Jewish Scriptural prophecy with the events in the life of Jesus. In this moment as Jesus was Baptized by John, God sanctifies the very act of Baptism - With Water and the Holy Spirit. The early definition of Baptism, when translated from the Latin is; "The Gateway to Spiritual Life." It is a dying of a former way of life, now living for

God and in the ways His Son taught us.

In the Second reading today, from Acts, we heard that Peter preached how after God had anointed Jesus at his Baptism - he went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil - **for God was with him!!**

And as a side note - while not included in today's reading from Acts - God has revealed to Peter - thru Jesus - that baptism is for all and being the first equal opportunist he Baptizes Cornelius - a Roman Centurion - the first Gentile to be baptized!!

So Christ's Baptism was the start of his very public profile and earthly ministry! And so as we end the Christmas season this weekend and begin ordinary time on Monday we are meant to absorb the importance of Baptism - The gateway to Spiritual Life and the subsequent Sacraments.

~~~~~  
Since I was ordained some 7 ½ years ago I've been privileged to baptize over 300 infants here at St Cletus. I tell the parents that these precious little ones are being baptized into the Catholic faith which brings with it an awesome responsibility for them.

Firstly, I explain its called faith because it means believing what we cannot see, touch, prove, experience and we are expected by virtue of our own Baptism to live by the teachings of Christ and His Church and raise these little ones accordingly.

Secondly, Baptism is a great start to their children's lives BUT it's only the start, because it will then be up to the parents and family to affirm this faith by their example.

I don't actually say "That means regular attendance at Mass because I hope they can make that connection" but such attendance is critical for the child's well being!!

Why Critical? Well - Let me summarize an article in the Wall Street Journal about a month ago entitled "DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD? LIE TO YOUR CHILDREN."

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/dont-believe-in-god-lie-to-your-children-11575591658>

It was written by Erica Komisar, a therapist dealing with children and young adults suffering from depression and anxiety. She explained one of the most important explanations for the incidence of mental health issues among this age group today - and perhaps the most neglected - is the declining interest in religion, which has already proved disastrous for millions of vulnerable young people. She quoted a 2018 study by Harvard University which looked at how being raised in a family with religious or spiritual beliefs affects children's mental health. The result, children or teens who reported

## Deacon Stuart's Homily (continued)

attending a religious service once a week scored higher on psychological well being tests and had lower risks for mental illness. Additionally they had higher rates of volunteering, a sense of mission, forgiveness and lower probabilities of drug use and early sexual initiation.

Sadly as we know attendance at formal religious services continues to decline and indeed a recent American Family survey found almost 50% of adults under age 30 don't identify with any religion!

Such nihilism is the fodder for anxiety and depression.

And so to the title of the article!

Erica notes that when asked by parents how they should talk to their children about death when they don't believe in God - She tells them - Lie!

Yes break the 9th Commandment! Why?

Because, she notes, a belief in Heaven and life after death helps them grapple with tremendous and incomprehensible loss - and in an age of broken families, distracted parents, school violence, the latest TV news - such imagination helps them cope.

I encourage you to get this message out to your families and friends with young children whose attendance at a religious service has lapsed - and if their children have been baptized it's actually what they signed up for after all. And they don't need to take my word for it - tell them to read the science.

In conclusion:

- 1) Children and young people benefit greatly, both emotionally and spiritually from being a part of a family that regularly attends a religious service.
- 2) Just as Baptism began Christ's ministerial life and journey on earth, so it begins our spiritual life and journey towards the sacraments.
- 3) Embellishing a story (or joke) can be a very good thing as Matthew clearly demonstrates with his Gospel writings.

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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.



## Other Ministry News

### ALPHA FOR TEENS

A faith formation opportunity offered collaboratively through Saint Cletus and Saint John of the Cross Youth Ministries for teens in our community.

All High School teens are invited to attend our weekly Alpha for Teen Series, on Sundays in the Saint John of the Cross Parish Center. All are invited to come to share a meal, watch a short video, and talk about questions and topics from the video. Through the next 9 weeks, the Alpha Teen Series explores timeless questions about life, faith and God for a new generation.

Registration can be found on the Youth Ministry page on the Saint Cletus Parish Website, as well as on the Saint John of the Cross Parish Website.

MaryClaire Zurowski, Youth Ministry Coordinator  
mzurowski@stcletusparish.com  
youth.stcletusparish.com



### ST. CLETUS HEALTH, WELLNESS, FITNESS & SAFETY FAIR

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, February 9th, 7:30 am - 2:30 pm. St. Cletus Health, Wellness, Fitness & Safety Fair Do you know your numbers? Take the first steps to better health. Come enjoy 7 fun, interactive stations. IT'S ALL FREE!

### BOOK DISCUSSION



The next book discussion will be at 7 P.M. on February 11<sup>th</sup> in the Father Gallagher Room in the Parish Center. We will discuss **The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane** by Lisa See. For

those who want to look ahead...

April 14, 2020:

**Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens

June 9, 2020:

**The Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver

All are welcome. Questions – call Denise at 708.712.8294

### UPCOMING RELIGIOUS ED. DATES

January 19/20 No classes due to MLK holiday weekend  
January 22 Teen Seekers meets  
January 25 Religious Education Family Catechetical Event – Incredible Families of Faith!  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Parish Center  
January 26/27 No classes due to Catholic Schools Week  
February 2/3 Regular classes resume

### ST. CLETUS COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN BUNCO BASH

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

The CCW Fundraiser Bunco Bash to benefit our scholarship fund

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 to 4 pm.



For just \$20 per person you'll receive snacks & beverages, prizes and a fun-filled afternoon! Don't know how to play Bunco?

No problem; it's easy and we will offer on the spot tutorials!

Put together your own four-some or come solo and we'll set you up with partners. Tickets will be on sale after all masses the weekends of January 25/26 and February 1/2. More details in next week's Canticle. Looking forward to seeing you there!

### ST CLETUS SCHOOL SPRING AUCTION



Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Cletus Parish Center. \$50 per person includes: drinks, music, food, silent and live auction.

### ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES

Join us on Friday, Feb. 7th in the St. Cletus Parish Center. Tony and Andrew will be back on Dueling Pianos for our Annual Fine Art Series Fundraiser.

Doors open at 7:30, Entertainment begins at 8pm. \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door includes beer, wine, snacks, and entertainment.

Check out our table in the Narthex next weekend, Feb. 1-2 for more information and tickets. You can also RSVP or purchase tickets on our website at [www.edwardfas.com](http://www.edwardfas.com)



## Community Bulletin Board

### 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.

Upcoming Retreats:

March 14 & 15 \*Our Lady of the Angels, Hse. of Prayer, (Mt. Assisi Center Bldg.) 13820 Main St., Lemont, IL (Near Cog Hill)

June 27 & 28 St. Julie's Parish, Tinley Pk., IL (near Harlem Ave. and 159th St.) No overnight available

For more information contact us at 708-354-7211, joyfulagain7211@gmail.com, www.joyfulagain.org.

### THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER

#### Singing Bowls

**Thursdays Jan. 23, Mar. 19, May 21, 7-8:30 PM**

Experience deep relaxation and internal healing as Jalima Cuesta uses breathing techniques, guided meditation, and intuitive playing of various alchemy crystal bowls to bring a sense of calm and peace to participants. Cost: \$25

#### Film: True Justice

**Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 PM**

This HBO feature documentary focuses on lawyer Bryan Stevenson's life and career – particularly his indictment of the criminal justice system for codifying modern systemic racism. (Stevenson is in the air- his life is also portrayed in the narrative film Just Mercy currently in theaters.) Discussion will follow the film. Cost: free will offering



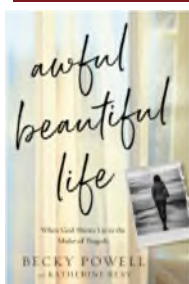
The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park, IL. A Member of the Congregation of St. Joseph Mission. Network. www.csjthewell.org 708-482-5048

### TOWNSHIP OF LYONS

The Township of Lyons 6404 Joliet Rd Countryside Board of Trustees in conjunction with Jessie White, Secretary of State and Michael Frerichs, State Treasurer will hold Mobile ID and I-Cash on Thursday, February 6, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Renew your driver's license, obtain a state ID card, get your license plate renewal sticker, search for lost & forgotten cash. No reservations necessary...

Call Mike Porfirio, Clerk or George Pach, Deputy Clerk @ 708-482-8300 x 221 for more information.

### BOOK SIGNING



**Awful Beautiful Life** book signing with authors Becky Powell and Katherine Reay on Wednesday, January 22 | 7:00 PM at Anderson's Bookshop, 26 La Grange Rd | La Grange, IL 60525

A gripping story of grace, faith, and triumph for a woman whose world shattered hours after her husband's suicide.

### BEDS PLUS SOUP AND BREAD EVENT

**JANUARY 26, 2020**  
3-7 pm • \$25 per person

Holiday Inn  
William Tell Banquets  
6201 Joliet Road, Countryside

Live Music • Craft Beer  
Great Local Food • Kids under 12 free

**BEDS PLUS**

**beds-plus.org • 708-354-0858**

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES



#### First Look for Charity – February 7

Cruise on over to First Look for Charity, the exclusive preview night of the Chicago Auto Show, at McCormick Place in **Chicago** on Friday, February 7. Join Catholic Charities private, pre-event reception at 5:30 p.m and enjoy cocktails, gourmet food, musical entertainment, private coat check, and raffle. The Auto Show floor opens from 7 to 11 p.m. with live entertainment, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, an all-access pass to the premier display of vehicles and a chance to win a new car.

Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities Maternity and Parenting programs and Neighbors in Need Fund. Tickets are \$275 per person. Be sure to select Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago when purchasing your ticket. The dress code is black-tie, and tuxedo attire is mandatory for men. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.catholiccharities.net/firstlook](http://www.catholiccharities.net/firstlook).

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Don't miss out on the upcoming marriage enrichments during February 2020 that starts with a private weekend experience and never ends! For more information and to apply, go to [wwme-chicagoland.org](http://wwme-chicagoland.org)

### ENROLL IN ELECTRONIC GIVING



**Do you want to transition away from writing checks and contribute electronically? It is SO EASY!** Visit the St. Cletus Parish website at [www.stcletusparish.com](http://www.stcletusparish.com) and click the "DONATE" BUTTON. Click Sunday donations. We accept checks (ACH), debit and credit cards. If you have questions or need help, call Mary Zwolinski 708.352.6209

### BULLETIN ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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.

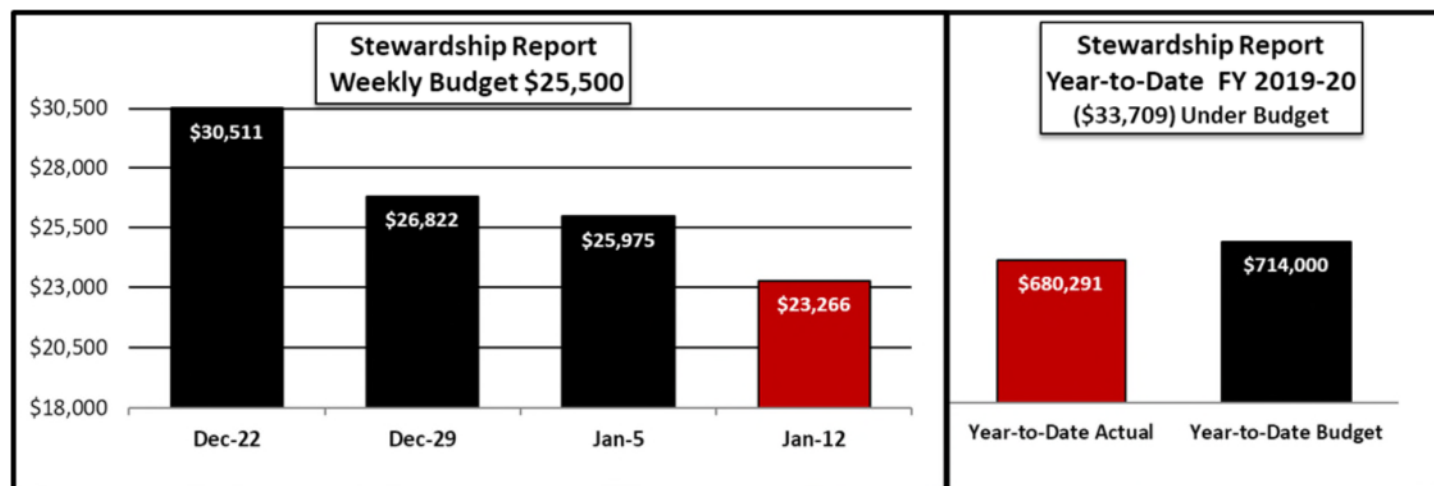


## Week at a Glance

| DAY/DATE              | TIME                                 | LOCATION                                                                        | EVENT                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, January 19    | 7:00am                               | Narthex                                                                         | Respect Life Committee                                                                                  |
| Monday, January 20    |                                      |                                                                                 | Facilities Closed after 8am Mass                                                                        |
| Tuesday, January 21   | 4:00pm<br>7:00pm<br>7:00pm           | Rectory Basement<br>Rectory<br>Church                                           | Respect Life Committee<br>RCIA<br>Spanish Holy Hour                                                     |
| Wednesday, January 22 | 9:00am<br>7:00pm<br>7:00pm           | Parish Center Mtg Room<br>Parish Center Gym<br>School Room 117                  | Mission Ladies<br>Boys Church League<br>Teen Seekers                                                    |
| Thursday, January 23  | 5:00pm<br>6:00pm<br>7:00pm<br>7:30pm | School Music Room<br>Rectory Basement<br>Parish Center Gym<br>School Music Room | Children's Choir Rehearsal<br>Food Pantry Distribution<br>Boys Church League<br>Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday, January 24    |                                      |                                                                                 |                                                                                                         |
| Saturday, January 25  |                                      |                                                                                 |                                                                                                         |
| Sunday, January 26    | 10:30am                              | School                                                                          | Catholic Schools Week Open House                                                                        |

## Stewardship Report

Thank you for your generous contributions for Christmas of \$202,000. Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year.  
- Fr. Bob



### YEAR-END STATEMENT BY REQUEST ONLY

As tax time approaches, we ask everyone who would like a year-end statement of their Year 2019 financial offering to the parish to fill out the form below and return it or simply call the office @ (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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Jack Fisherkeller  
Helen McMahon  
Henry Morlock