

St. Cletus Faith Formation Newsletter



Friday, January 13, 2023

Dear Parents,

This Sunday we celebrate the Second Sunday in Ordinary time. We hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels, because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John affirms John the Baptist's announcement that he knows Jesus is the Son of God. To hear a reflection on the readings for this weekend, click on the following link: [Reflection for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time](#).

Welcome Back!

The second semester of our Faith Formation Program begins with classes on Sunday, January 22, and Monday, January 23. We look forward to welcoming our children and catechists back for what promises to be an exciting completion of our year.

On next Saturday, January 21, our Confirmation class will participate in our Confirmation Retreat. The theme of our day is *Discipleship*, and we welcome our main speakers, Ms. Elizabeth White, Director of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Chicago, and Mr. Rick Moreno, Parish Vitality Coordinator, for our vicariate.

I ask you this week to pray for our Confirmation candidates as they spend time in the Retreat. Let us pray:

*Lord God, send Your Spirit to our young people.
Let your light dawn on earth among humankind.
Reveal Your power and let Your reign begin.
May Your will be done.
AMEN.*

Sacramental Preparation

First Communion Parent Meeting: We will be holding a Parent Meeting to help you prepare your child for the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We will briefly discuss the Theology of the Eucharist and share information about our retreat and other information pertaining to the reception of the Sacrament.

Special Sacraments Group – Families with children enrolled in our Special Sacraments Group should attend the meeting on Saturday, February 4, from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. Remember, this group is our children in grades 3–7 who have not yet received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Help Wanted! If you have been following the church bulletin, the parish is looking for families to bring up the gifts at the Offertory. We have been asked to invite our Faith Formation Families to participate in the Offertory procession. We will be looking for volunteer families for the weekend of January 21–22. At the 5:00 p.m. Mass, our Confirmation Class will bring up the gifts.

We are looking for families to help at the 7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Masses. Please consider answering the invitation. Please contact the Faith Formation office if your family is willing to participate. E-mail lmanetti@stcletusparish.com or call (708) 352-2383.

Catechetical Event: Mark your calendar! On Saturday, January 28, we will be hosting a Catechetical Event for our Faith Formation families and children. We are looking for parents to help in the organization of the event along with our teens to help run activities. If you are willing to attend a meeting to help in the planning, please e-mail Lawrence Manetti at lmanetti@stcletusparish.com. We will be sending (via e-mail) all families a short agenda for the day next week.

January Parish Events: On Sunday, January 22, at 2:00 p.m. and Monday, January, 23, at 7:00 p.m. Deacon Keith Strohm, author and speaker, will be coming to St. Cletus for two talks. His Sunday talk will be “*Called to be Sons & Daughters*” and on Monday, “*Walking in the Path of Discipleship*.”

On Wednesday, January 25, we will be holding the *Celebration and Sharing of Holy Moments* at our parish on Wednesday, January 25, at 7:00 p.m. in Church. It should be an inspirational event. We are planning to have three to five members of our parish community share from the ambo their holy moments with us. If you have not yet begun reading the book, you should start—it can be life-changing.

For Our Kids!

Sunday Readings and Resources for our children and families.

Catholic Kid's Media – What do the Christmas season and the Baptism of the Lord teach us about Jesus? A fun Catholic reflection for kids based on the readings for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A. To view, click on the link below.

[Children Reflection for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time](#)

Fun Activities:

[Gospel Word Search.](#)

[Gospel Coloring Sheets.](#)

Do You Know About the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano?

A monk celebrant was experiencing some doubtful thoughts about the real presence of the Eucharist, and God sent him a powerful response. In the 8th century, as this monk prepared to celebrate the Mass, his heart was heavy as he ascended the altar, recited the prayers, and went through the motions.

Was Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament that he was celebrating? Did His words “*My flesh is meat indeed: and my blood is drink indeed*” (Jn 6:56) really mean that the bread and wine become His actual Body and Blood?

God knew the monk’s thoughts before he even formulated them in his mind. A divine answer was immediate. The monk had hardly spoken the last words of consecration before the white Host transformed into soft flesh and the ruby wine into bright blood.

For 1,300 years, this flesh and blood have remained real and intact in the Lanciano cathedral. In 1971, a scientific analysis was performed, and it revealed that the flesh was cardiac (heart) tissue and the blood fresh as from a living person!

Thank you for your continued support.

God Bless,

Lawrence Manetti
Director of Faith Formation

Hector Obregon-Luna
Associate Director of Faith Formation