

St. Cletus Faith Formation Newsletter



Friday, January 27, 2023

Dear Parents,

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time. Sunday's Gospel reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

In this reading we note that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people that we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. Following is a reflection on this week's readings.

[Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time.](#)

Confirmation Retreat



On Saturday, January 21st our eighth grade Confirmation Class participated in their Confirmation Retreat.

The theme of the day was *Reflecting on the Call to Becoming Disciples*. The day began with lunch at 12:00 noon with our program beginning at 12:45 p.m.

Our Keynote Speakers for the day were: Ms. Elizabeth White, the Director of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Chicago and Mr. Rick Moreno, the Director of Parish Vitality for Vicariate IV and a former youth minister. There were several activities our students were involved in as well as hearing "Witness Talks," by Mrs. Ziembra, Christine Martinez, and Viviana Tellez who spoke about their Faith Journey. The day ended with our students and families attending the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Our students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, February 11 at 1:00 p.m. I ask that you pray the following prayer for Confirmandi.

God of all ages,
You send out your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people,
Look kindly on our candidates for Confirmation as they seek to hear your voice.

We pray that you send your Spirit to enlighten, guide, strengthen, console, and open their hearts as they continue to seek a closer relationship with you.

Help them to truly know the deep and abiding love you have for each of them and fill them with the joy of your presence. We pray this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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., we will be meeting in the School Building in room 201. Please enter through door 3.

Remember, this group is our children in grades 3–7 who have not yet received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

We will have a meeting of parents for this group at 11:00 a.m. in the school building.

Family Catechetical Event

Tomorrow, Saturday, January 28, we are hosting our Family Catechetical Event for our Faith Formation families and children. The theme of our event is PRAYER, and we will have two talks for parents on *Ways of Prayer: Enhancing Our Faith Life. AND Fostering Prayers with Children*. Along with activities and crafts for our children.

Families are invited to attend anytime between 10:30 and 1:00 p.m. While this is an optional event, if it fits in your schedule we hope you will stop by.

Remember, because of our school's Open House, there are no Faith Formation Classes on Sunday, January 29 or Monday, January 30.

Lenten Outreach Volunteer Opportunity

As we prepare for Lent, we partner with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to reach out and serve others through the Rice Bowl program. Please help distribute Rice Bowls after Masses **February 25-26**. All ages are welcome.

Visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094cacac2ea2fc1-rice#/> to view slots and sign up.

Below you will find a second service opportunity for our Food Pantry.

Food Pantry: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094cacac2ea2fc1-stcletus#/>

For Our Kids!

Sunday Readings and Resources for our children and families.

Catholic Kid's Media –The Beatitudes! A fun Catholic reflection for kids based on the readings for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A. To view, click on the link below.

[**A Children's Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time**](#)

Fun Activity

[**Gospel Activity for the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time**](#)

In the last newsletter I spoke of the Eucharistic Miracle that occurred in the 8th century at St. Legontian Church in Lanciano, Italy. This week I am sharing the story of a Modern-Day Eucharistic Miracle.

A MODERN-DAY EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE

The pastor serving the town of Stich was sick. He couldn't offer Mass for the people, so a visiting Swiss priest assisted him and offered Mass at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 1970.

But something unusual happened after the Consecration. The priest noticed a red spot on the corporal next to the chalice, a spot that grew to the size of a coin. At the elevation of the chalice, another spot appeared in the place where the chalice had stood. The priest ensured that the chalice was not leaking, and after Mass, he examined the corporal and the cloths underneath it. No cause could be found for the appearance of the spots.

The stained cloths were sent to the Polyclinical Institute of the University of Zurich for analysis. The examiners, who had been told nothing of the origin of the stains, concluded that the stains were caused by human blood, and according to the letter written to the priests informing them of the results: *the director of the clinical laboratory said that in his considered judgment the blood was most certainly that of a man in agony.*

Five weeks later, at 8 o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, July 14th, the Swiss priest was scheduled to celebrate another Mass in Stich. He carefully examined the altar stone, the altar cloths, the corporal and the chalice prior to Mass and made sure they were completely clean and undamaged. Shortly after the Consecration, the red spots appeared again on the corporal. The priest invited the congregation to inspect the stains after Mass, and they later testified to what they saw. The cloths were again sent for analysis, this time to the District Hospital of Cercee, and again, the scientists concluded that they were caused by human blood.

The 60s and 70s were a time of tremendous upheaval in the world, and in Germany, the Iron Curtain had divided the country in two since the end of World War II. At such times it is easy for us to sideline our faith and allow the events of the world to take priority in our minds. But on two nights, in an insignificant town in a place far from the newspaper headlines, Our Lord sent a miraculous reminder that—no matter how tumultuous the world becomes—He is the center of everything and His Presence is real. (From Get Fed).

Let us constantly remind ourselves that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist and through Communion, He has given us the great gift of Himself.

God Bless,

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