

# St. Cletus Faith Formation Newsletter

Friday, April 28, 2023



Dear St. Cletus Families,

This Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Easter. The fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Sunday's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader.

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord, Guide us in the path of discipleship, so that, as you have blessed us, we may be a blessing for others, bringing the promise of the kingdom by our words and deeds. AMEN.

## Altar Servers

St. Cletus is inviting children presently in grades 4 – 8 to consider being an Altar Server. Being an Altar Server is a special ministry of service that children can perform for their parish. Through active participation in the Mass as a server; children develop a better understanding and appreciation of the power of the Mass.

Please see the flyer inviting children to a special Information Session on June 17, 2023.

## Calendar

This week, April 30 & May 1; we reach the end of Faith Formation Program for this year. It has been a good year and I wish to thank all of our Catechists for their work and dedication during this year.

Our registration materials will be available following our First Communion. We will send out an email with the registration information for the 2023 – 2024 Faith Formation year.

### St. Cletus Food Pantry: BIG NEWS!

Remember, our hours for the food pantry have been expanded. Our new hours will be 4:00-8:00pm. Therefore, **we need more volunteers! We are adding a new volunteer session every Thursday from 3:15-5:15pm.** This is perfect for students' right after school, but we definitely need adults during this shift, as well! Volunteers must be 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up. This will double our Thursday night volunteer opportunities, we hope you can join us. Sign up is now available at: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094cacac2ea2fc1-stcletus#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094cacac2ea2fc1-stcletus#/)

### Mother's Day Baby Shower & Carnation Sale

Mother's Day Weekend (May 13-14) the Area Respect Life Ministry will be collecting donations for Women's Care Center in La Grange. Please see their Wish List for the most needed items and bring them to Mass with you!

### Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for volunteers to help sell flowers after all the Masses May 13-14. This opportunity is appropriate for middle school and up, adults welcome. Please sign up here: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094cacac2ea2fc1-mothers#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094cacac2ea2fc1-mothers#/)

### First Communion

We will celebrate the First Communion of our children on May 6 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p. m. And on Sunday, May 7 in Spanish at the 12:30 p.m. Mass. Please pray for our First Communicants and their families as they take this important step in their spiritual lives.

To help prepare there will be a practice on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for those celebrating at the 10:00 a.m. and on Friday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. for those celebrating at the 1:00 p.m. The practice for those celebrating at the 12:30 p.m. Spanish Mass on May 7, will take place at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5.

Please remember to turn your child's Communion Banner to the Faith Formation Office this week. We will be hanging them on the Family Pew.

Just a reminder, on the back of the banner, please put your child's last name.

## **Spiritual Resources**

A word about the resources, I include the resources weekly to assist you in your role as the primary Catechist. My hope is that you will find one or two of the activities useful in promoting discussion and faith sharing with your children.

### **Sunday Readings and Resources for our children:**

*Catholic Kids Media* - The Good Shepherd! A fun Catholic reflection for kids based on the readings for the fourth Sunday of Easter.

[The Good Shepard](#)

### **Fun with the Gospel:**

[Gospel Activity](#)

[Gospel Crossword Puzzle](#)

[Sunday Coloring Pages](#)

## *Note*

This year during our classes we have talked about the saints and the different patron saints. With our celebration of First Holy Communion next week, did you know there is a patron saint for First Communicants.

So, WHO IS THE PATRON SAINT OF FIRST COMMUNICANTS?

Blessed Imelda Lambertini had one lifelong desire: to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

Little Imelda was just five years old when, one day in 1327, she went to her parents and expressed her greatest desire: to receive her First Holy Communion immediately.

You can imagine the joy and surprise Imelda's parents felt upon hearing such a request from so young a child. But Imelda had to wait. At that time, laity received communion only on special occasions, and children made their First Communion after their twelfth birthday.

For the next few years, Imelda spent most of her time contemplating Jesus in the Eucharist and the joy of one day receiving Him into her soul. Periodically, she asked to make her First Communion. Even though the answer was always the same, she never stopped asking.

When Imelda was nine, she was permitted to enter the Dominican order as a postulant. Her thoughts and prayers still centered on Jesus' presence in the Eucharist.

Two years later, on the Feast of the Ascension, she made her request again. The answer came back the same: "No, Imelda, not yet. Soon, but not yet."

After Mass, all the sisters left the chapel. Soon they found that Imelda was not with them and hurried back to find her. There she was kneeling before the tabernacle and gazing with sparkling eyes upon a Eucharistic host miraculously suspended above her. Seeing this, the priest gave her, her First Holy Communion.

Imelda received Jesus with keen joy and adoration. Her communion with Him was so complete that He called her soul to be in heaven. (From Get Fed – Bite Sized Faith).

Have A Great Week!

God Bless,

Lawrence Manetti  
Director of Faith Formation

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