

Saint Cletus Parish Canticle



God has commanded
that every lofty mountain
be made low.
— Baruch 5:7



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DECEMBER 12	5:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration "Mañanitas" (morning greetings) Mass celebrated by Bishop John Manz Reception to follow in Parish Center
DECEMBER 13	7:00 p.m.	St. Cletus School Christmas Play
DECEMBER 16-23	7:00 p.m.	Spanish Ministry Christmas Novena
DECEMBER 17	7:00 p.m.	Advent Parish Reconciliation Service
DECEMBER 18	9:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration after 8:00 a.m. Mass concluding with Holy Hour at 6:00 p.m.

(St. Cletus Christmas Mass Schedule can be found on page 10.)



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Prepare the Way
with HOPE
with PEACE
with JOY
with LOVE

Prepare the Way ...with PEACE
Please be sure to take a ribbon from our
Prayer Ribbon Tree each Sunday of Advent.
A Prayer for Peace can be found on page 9.

Mass Intentions for the Week of December 10 - 16, 2018

Day	Presider (subject to change)	Time	Intentions
Monday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	St. Cletus Parishioners
Tuesday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	John Richards
Wednesday	Fr. Clark Bishop Manz	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Virginia Rachford No Intentions - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Thursday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Charles Sparacino
Friday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Delphine Marciszewski, Erik Geyer, Joseph Weise Jr.
Saturday	Fr. Gamboa Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Gerald Loftus, Pat Maley Rosemary K Muldoon, Ken Kakareka, John Daniel McGrath, Lynn Marie Shevlin, Camilo and Anita Ferreira
Sunday	Fr. Clark Fr. Clark Fr. Gamboa Fr. Baker Fr. Gamboa	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Dolores E Kuchta, John & Frances Kennedy, Patrick Mahoney, George Duda, Marilyn Matesevac Evelyn Prevenas, Stacy Baker Tommy Forkin, Josephine Sorrentino, Maryann Scalise, Joshua Swibel Gene Kennedy, Mark Kennedy, Gayle Timbers, Christine Rose Villarino Juan Jose Lara

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

Dorothy Krueger

Richard A. Walsh

Brother of Kate Hennessey

Patrick O'Connell

Husband of Kim

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.

December - John Sheil, Michael Stoinski

November - Charles Fiipek, Virginia Gebka,
Yesenia Guzman, Sharon Smilanich, Jean Weekley

October - Kimberly & Tony Fox, Susan Grace,
John Duda, Dave Sipek, Laura Biesadecki, Frank
Colonna, Lee Ascencio, Mary Benka, Paul DeRivera,
Nikki Howell, Ada Medina, Leo Rivera, Bill Tortorello,
Joan Clark, Rosario Martinez, Frank Niwa, Laura
Terrazino, Rachael Schopp, Nicole Will Montemagni,
Bonnie Boerste, Helen Brennan, Dr. Larry Bernstein

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

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.



**Retirement
Fund for
Religious**

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

retiredreligious.org

Photo: Sister Clare Vandecoeveering, SSMO, 88.
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Notes from Fr. Bob...

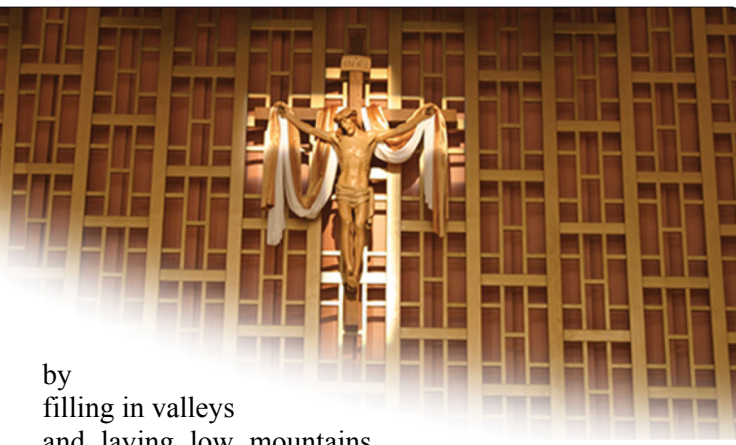
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2018

Fr. Raymond E. Brown was a great 20th century New Testament scholar, writer and lecturer, whose books include his commentary on the Gospel of John and important works on Jesus' birth, passion, and death. He once commented in a lecture that he had discovered that he shared with many of his New Testament colleagues a great passion for reading detective stories. He came to the conclusion, however, that this really meant he and his colleagues, when they thought they were relaxing with a good murder mystery, were taking their work home with them, because the art of New Testament study is a bit like the art of trying to find clues in a good "who done it" type story. We have a kind of example of this with today's first reading – not admittedly a New Testament text, but one that definitely needs a bit of unravelling.

The name "Baruch" heads the book from which today's reading is taken, and there is a reasonably well known Baruch in the Old Testament – the secretary to the prophet Jeremiah. It is highly unlikely, however, that this Baruch wrote this entire very short book. Perhaps this Baruch wrote part of the book, but it looks as if today's first reading came from a different source. Today's passage shows every sign of having been written a considerable time after the exile, because the author refers to, but does not directly quote, a famous passage from the part of the book of Isaiah that was written towards the end of the Israelites' time in exile. This is, of course, the passage applied to John the Baptist in today's Gospel.

Like's Gospel introduces John the Baptist's ministry in much the same way as it introduced Jesus' birth. It provides a brief historical and political context, thereby rooting John's activity (as it did with Jesus' birth in the earlier episode) in the real situations of his time. Therefore, we are told that John began his prophetic ministry when Tiberius was in his fifteenth year as Roman Emperor, and Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea – there is a chilling warning at an early stage, if ever there was one! Not only are we told when John got down to work, but also we are given advance warning of Jesus' passion and death.

This is the first appearance of John the Baptist in this Advent season. He will reappear in next Sunday's Gospel as well. Next week, we will hear details of how he exercised his ministry and of what he said. This week, we read how he fulfilled prophetic words spoken six hundred years earlier: about preparing a way for the Lord, removing barriers between people and God, symbolized



by
filling in valleys
and laying low mountains
and hills. John is a prophet who urges his hearers to remove whatever distances them from God.

Baruch used similar imagery in the first reading, writing hundreds of years after the exile, but recalling the words of the prophet of the exile. Baruch's words are aimed at Jerusalem's citizens, to get rid of all sadness and mourning – presumably when this part of Baruch was being written, yet another disaster had fallen Jerusalem. Therefore, we have a two-part strategy here. In Baruch's words, this requires us to remove whatever is the opposite of the Good News of God's presence. Therefore, we are to do away with anything that prevents us recognizing the approaching Lord – spiritual "mountains", as it were, that block our view – and fill in the great gulfs that keep us at a distance from the Lord even if we are aware of his closeness.

The beauty of prophetic, poetic images in the Bible is that they allow us to apply our own understanding of what they mean to our lives. It would be helpful to offer a detailed list of all the ways in which we could apply the references to mountains and valleys to our lives. We can say this much, however, those mountains of Baruch, Isaiah and John the Baptist could represent anything that blocks our awareness of God in our lives. We have to identify these for ourselves. Likewise, the valleys might represent the gulf that exists either between ourselves and God, or between ourselves and other people. Mountains and valleys might be a good way of expressing what we need to get rid of, if we are to love God with all our energy, and our neighbor as ourselves.

Advent Blessings,



Fr. Bob, Pastor

Parish School



ST. CLETUS SCHOOL DATES TO NOTE

December 10 Queen of Hearts Raffle
 December 24-January 4 Christmas Break
 March 30 Spring Auction

FOR INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

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

ST. CLETUS
Queen of Hearts
RAFFLE

**BUY TICKETS DAILY AT
 KENNY'S IRISH PUB.**

**DRAWINGS MONDAYS AT
 7PM AT KENNY'S.**



ST. CLETUS SCHOOL QUEEN OF HEARTS

The St. Cletus Queen of Hearts 50/50 Raffle continues with the roll over pot sitting at over **\$24,300!**

Visit Kenny's Irish Pub and buy your tickets today for the next drawing which will be 7pm on Monday, Dec. 10th.

Raffle Details: In cooperation with Kenny's Irish Pub, St. Cletus is running a 50/50 raffle to benefit St. Cletus School. Tickets can be purchased at Kenny's Irish Pub on 55th Street in Countryside for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The raffle draw will take place every Monday night at Kenny's until the Queen of Hearts is found. The tickets do not roll over week to week, but the Pot DOES!

Come on over to Kenny's any time during their normal business hours to purchase tickets (winner need not be present to win).



PARISH YOUTH CHOIRS PERFORM AT THE LA GRANGE HOLIDAY WALK

Our youth choir filled downtown La Grange with their beautiful voices this past weekend at the La Grange Holiday Walk. Thank you to these wonderful musicians for sharing their talents.



LEARNING TO RELAX

Our third graders have been receiving instruction from a massage therapist regarding stress reduction and relaxation techniques. As we enter this busy time of year, let's all take a cue from these students and remember to breath and enjoy.



AWAITING THE SALVATION OF GOD

The world does not seem big enough to contain the jubilation of the first reading. In the Gospel reading, the Roman empire isn't big enough, either. The great powers of Rome are named and made to stand waiting for the arrival of God's salvation. And we find Paul meditating joyfully on what really matters.

According to Baruch, the city of Jerusalem is like a person standing on tiptoe looking for God's salvation, which is coming from the east. Those who were led away on foot, heads down, now come back, a proud people. Why, the very way is smoothed out. The path is lined with fragrant, lush trees.

It can't get any better than this, can it? Well, yes, it can. For a voice calls out in the desert. Here is the beginning of the salvation of God.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God (Baruch 5:1-9).

Psalm — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading — I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel — The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth (Luke 3:1-6).

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.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
 Monday: International Human Rights Day
 Tuesday: St. Damasus I
 Wednesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Thursday: St. Lucy
 Friday: St. John of the Cross

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Look around most Catholic churches, and you will discover an image of John the Baptist, often in the old baptistery, or in a window near where the font is or was located. He has two feast days in the calendar: one commemorating his birth, and the other his death. There are only three nativities in our calendar: for Jesus, for Mary, and for the Baptist. John's birthday is reckoned according to the schedule given in Luke's Gospel of the angel's announcement to Mary. The angel tells her that her cousin Elizabeth is in the sixth month of pregnancy, and so Mary hastens to help her. Reckoning Christmas as December 25, we count backwards nine months to March 25 for the Feast of the Annunciation. Then we count forward three months to June 24 for John the Baptist's birth. Halfway to Christmas, his nativity gives ample reason for rejoicing in the summer, and his symbols of fire and water are used playfully in bonfires and dives into the sea. Even at the polar opposite of Christmas in the calendar, the energy of Christ's birth in the Incarnation provides cause for rejoicing.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

RICHES

Riches are the instrument of all vices, because they render us capable of putting even our worst desires into execution.

—St. Ambrose

YET TO DO

One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done.

—Marie Curie

Social Concerns Ministry



ST. CLETUS FOOD PANTRY

Most needed at this time:

- Chili
- Baby cereal, formula, food
- Baking Items
- Cooking Oil
- Snacks (crackers, chips, cookies, etc.)

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).



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

GIVING TREE TAG REMINDER

TAG REMINDER

Don't forget that EVERYTHING is due back TODAY!

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.

GIVING TREE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FOR ALL GIVING TREE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE USE THE SIGN UP GENUIS LINK AT: <http://stcletusparish.com/ministries/social-concerns/>

Sunday, December 16th shifts between 8:30am-4:30pm: 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. Thanks!

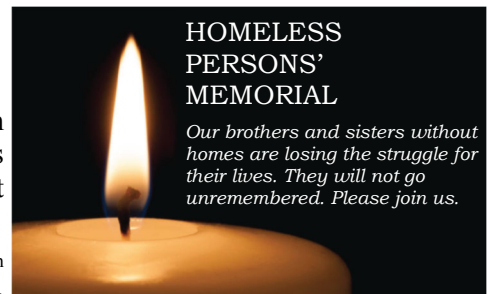
For further details, you can also contact: Kendall Grant, (708)215-5418, kgrant@stcletusparish.com

HOMELESS PERSONS MEMORIAL

**Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30pm
Old St. Pat's (700 W Adams St, Chicago)**

On the longest night of the year, please join us as we again remember our homeless brothers and sisters who have died in the last year.

The memorial will be held on December 18th at Old St. Patrick's Church. Music again will be provided by Harmony, Hope, and Healing, which puts on this service along with the Ignatian Spirituality Project, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Old St. Pat's, New Moms, Cornerstone Community Outreach, and the Night Ministry.



WORD OF LIFE

“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother. Not sure how to help or what to say? Learn ten tips at www.usccb.org/support-her.”

“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities



Youth Ministry

FRESHMEN/SOPHOMORE RETREAT

Registration for this year’s Freshmen/Sophomore Retreat is officially open!

January 4th - 6th, 2019
Dickson Valley Retreat Center, Newark IL

High School Freshmen and Sophomores are invited to join St. Cletus, St. John of the Cross and St. Francis Xavier youth ministries for a fun weekend packed with outdoor activities, teambuilding, and growing in relationship with God.

The link to register can be found on our website, youth.stcletusparish.com



MaryClaire Zurowski, Youth Ministry Coordinator
mzurowski@stcletusparish.com
Follow us on Instagram! [@stcletus.youthministry](https://www.instagram.com/stcletus.youthministry)

Hispanic Ministry



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

On December 12, 7:00 pm come and join us to celebrate the 487th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego. Bishop John Manz will be the main celebrant of this Mass. After Mass there will be a festive gathering with food and entertainment in the Parish Center gym.

Blessings,
Fr. Lorenzo Gamboa

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

- 5:00 a.m. “Mañanitas” (morning greetings)
- 7:00 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop John Manz
- 8:00 p.m. Reception to follow in Parish Center



Advent Ribbon Tree

Week 2 - Peace

ADVENT PRAYER FOR PEACE

Father of Jesus,

You who sent angels to herald your Son's coming with cries of peace, hear our cry now that your peace may touch all corners of our world.

Peace to the smallest child, to the elderly and the most vulnerable, to the migrant, and those touched by violence and disaster.

You who called all peacemakers blessed, help us to build peace in your name.

Peace among nations, peace among neighbors, peace among families.

May we recall this as a time we all heard the angels cry and worked together to reveal your peace to all. A peace worthy of God born into the world.

May we be a people of peace in our world. Amen.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

- Pick up a Blue Advent book from the Narthex.
- Wish your spouse/children/co-workers a "peace-filled" day each morning.
- Place candles in the window, a sign that all are welcome, and that Christ is the light of the world.
- How will you decorate your home this year? What will you choose to highlight –does it reflect the reason for the season?
- Pray each night and celebrate the Sunday Eucharist.
- Mark your calendar to attend Advent Reconciliation Service Dec. 17.
- Support & learn about Hispanic community's devotion to Mary by attending Dec. 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass.

Advent

Prepare the Way

with **HOPE**

with **PEACE**

with **JOY**

with **LOVE**

“A SHOOT SHALL COME OUT FROM THE STUMP OF JESSE, AND A BRANCH SHALL GROW OUT OF HIS ROOTS. “

ISAIAH 11:1

THE JESSE TREE

The passage above is the basis for the Jesse Tree, which has become a symbol of Christ’s heritage, or roots, and God’s covenant with the Jewish people. The stump symbolizes the family of the Jews; the shoot, Mary; and the branch, Jesus.

In the Old Testament, Jesse, the son of Obed, was a poor farmer in Bethlehem. He had 8 sons, the youngest of whom was David. As a boy, David was anointed by Samuel to succeed Saul as king of the Israelites. Christ was to be born of the house of David in Bethlehem.

Today the Jesse Tree is used to trace God’s promise of the Savior and Christ’s ancestry.

There are some variations of the symbols but primarily the same intent.

Our Jesse Tree is near the ambo. Each day, simple paper ornaments will be added with a symbol on one side and Scripture passage on the other side. Please come up and take a look.

WEEK 2 - ADVENT

- Dec. 9 God Feeds His People
- Dec. 10 God Gives Moses His Laws
- Dec. 11 Wall of Jericho Falls
- Dec. 12 Ruth Helps Naomi
- Dec. 13 God Calls Samuel
- Dec. 14 Jesse’s Family is Chosen
- Dec. 15 David Kills Goliath



St. Cletus Parish Christmas and New Years Mass Schedules

CHRISTMAS EVE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

There will be no 8:00 a.m. Mass on Monday, December 24

2:00pm	Church	Chamber Ensemble
2:15pm	PC-Fr. Clark Hall	Cantor/Piano
3:30pm	Church	Children's Choir
3:45pm	PC-Fr. Clark Hall	Cantor/Piano
5:30pm	Church	Chamber Ensemble
7:00pm	Church (Spanish)	Hispanic Choir
10:30pm	Church	Chancel Choir

(10:00-10:30pm Christmas Carols prior to Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:00am	Church	Organ/Congregational Caroling
8:00am	Church	Cantor/Piano
9:30am	Church	Chancel Choir
11:00am	Church	Cantor
12:30pm	Church (Spanish)	Hispanic Choir

VIGIL OF SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00pm Vigil Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)

7:00pm Vigil Mass in Spanish (Holy Day of Obligation)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00am ONLY (Holy Day of Obligation)



PLEASE NOTE: There is no 8am Mass on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, January 1st.

Other Ministry Notes

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE



Monday, Dec. 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an opportunity to be graced by God’s peace and extend it to others through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Parish Forgiveness Service will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Advent is a time to mend quarrels, to forgive those who have hurt us, and to pray for peace.

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 rectory 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

MARY AND MARTHA DONATIONS

We are approaching Holiday Time once again. We hope you have been saving little items for the Briar Place residents Christmas packages.

We will be putting our gift bags together in the Parish Center Fr. Gallagher Room on Dec. 18, at 9:00 a.m. Small items e.g. lotions, shampoo, combs, tooth brushes, toothpaste, denture cleaner, deodorant, playing cards, small books, and jewelry are needed. We usually assemble 70 bags. Please drop off your donations at the Parish Center Office. Thank you.

BOOK DISCUSSION



The next book discussion will be at 7 P.M. on December 11th in the Father Gallagher Room in the Parish Center. The book that will be discussed is **The View from Penthouse B** by **Elinor Lipman**. All are welcome.

Questions – call Denise at 708.712.8294

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 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.

OPLATKI AVAILABLE



Oplatki is available at the St. Cletus Parish Center office during regular business hours. A donation of \$2 is requested.

Traditionally at midnight the head of the household takes the white oplatki and shares it with family and friends and then the pink oplatki with the animals on his farm or at his home. This custom brings us back to that Holy Night when even animals were able to speak, and to remind us that we are all God's creatures.

ADVENT RIBBON TREE

To help us prepare for Christ’s coming through joyful waiting and hopeful expectation, we have placed an Advent Ribbon Tree in the narthex with colorful ribbons focusing each week on one of the themes of Advent. We invite you to take a ribbon and place it on your tree or table. We include a prayer below and action suggestions as reminders to prepare for Jesus: with HOPE (week 1), with PEACE (week 2), with JOY (week 3), and with LOVE (week 4).





Stewardship of Treasure

St. Cletus Parish Balance Sheets June 30, 2018 and 2017

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Assets		
Parish Checking/Payroll Bank Accounts	\$ 305,752	\$ 440,545
Parish Savings Accounts at Archdiocesan Bank	125,429	121,404
Auxiliary Group Bank Accounts	136,495	175,658
Prepaid Deposit/Prepaid Expenses	13,797	8,984
Restricted School Endowment investments (1) (2)	386,119	408,638
Unrestricted Parish investments at market value (3)	388,445	417,621
Restricted Building Campaign Fund Bank Accounts (1) (4)	<u>76,526</u>	<u>46,882</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,432,563</u>	<u>\$ 1,619,732</u>
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 161,711	\$ 203,568
Tuition deposits	66,552	102,059
Parish Center Capital Loan Payable (5)	<u>488,189</u>	<u>704,474</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 716,452</u>	<u>\$ 1,010,101</u>
 Total Net Assets	 <u>\$716,111</u>	 <u>\$609,631</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	 <u>\$ 1,432,563</u>	 <u>\$ 1,619,732</u>

(1) - Restricted funds are not available for general parish operations.

(2) - 2018 change in balance from 2017 column includes \$27,481 gain in endowment investment and a (\$50,000) withdrawal to pay down the principal on the Parish Center Capital Loan.

(3) - 2018 change in balance from 2017 column includes \$20,824 gain in parish investments and a (\$50,000) withdrawal to pay down the principal on the Parish Center Capital Loan.

(4) - 2018 change in balance from 2017 column includes pledge and interest deposits \$607,338; distributions of (\$348,472) towards the construction, stage lighting, sound, and other furnishings and equipment; (\$29,222) loan interest paid and in May, a (\$200,000) payment toward principal on the Parish Center Capital Loan.

(5) - As of June 30, 2018 the outstanding loan amount for the Parish Center Building is (\$488,189). A \$216,285 change in balance from 2017 includes an additional loan amount of (\$83,715) towards the final payout of the building construction and a payment of \$300,000 in May to pay down the principal on the Parish Center Loan.

St. Cletus Parish
Statement of Revenue and Expense
Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2018 and 2017

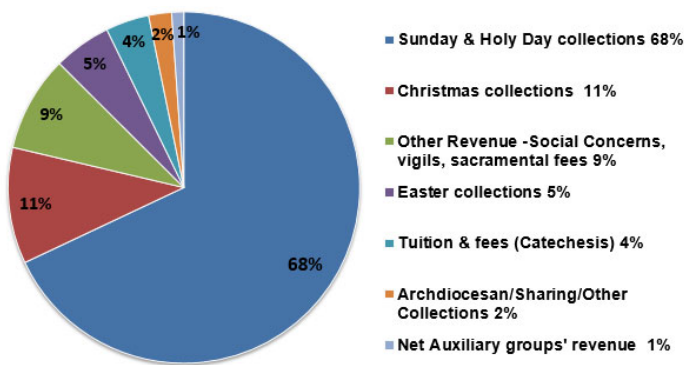
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<u>Church Revenue</u>		
Sunday & Holy Day collections	\$ 1,301,647	\$ 1,302,721
Christmas collections	204,942	204,360
Easter collections	101,504	109,445
Tuition & fees (Catechesis and youth)	76,538	83,784
Net Auxiliary groups' revenue	21,303	35,111
Archdiocesan/Sharing/Other Collections	40,357	43,352
Other Revenue - i.e., Fundraising, vigils, sacramental, masses, misc	<u>168,466</u>	<u>131,531</u>
Total Church Revenue	<u>1,914,757</u>	<u>1,910,304</u>
<u>Church Expenses</u>		
Salaries & benefits	893,002	943,875
Books/supplies/liturgical	93,564	90,100
Administrative/office/professional services/technology	83,650	96,240
Utilities	62,838	52,482
Building Maintenance repairs & supplies	151,690	87,047
Used Truck Purchase	-	20,383
Archdiocesan assessments/insurance	280,218	283,658
Archdiocesan/Sharing/Other Collections	38,098	40,192
Other Expenses- i.e. hospitality, donations, formation, social concerns	<u>178,657</u>	<u>168,854</u>
Total Church Expenses	<u>1,781,717</u>	<u>1,782,831</u>
Church Net Surplus	<u>\$ 133,040</u>	<u>\$ 127,473</u>
<u>School Revenue</u>		
Tuition & fees	\$ 2,257,290	\$ 2,246,731
Fundraising events, Annual Fund, Fall Fest, Spring Auction, etc.	<u>161,449</u>	<u>175,775</u>
Total School Revenue	<u>2,418,739</u>	<u>2,422,506</u>
<u>School Expenses</u>		
Salaries & benefits	2,011,918	1,993,334
Books / instructional / technology / admin	183,927	181,633
Maintenance & repairs	143,569	135,240
Utilities	100,562	83,355
Insurance / assessment	67,689	69,450
Other Expenses- i.e. fees, meetings, marketing	<u>54,903</u>	<u>55,426</u>
Total School Expense	<u>2,562,568</u>	<u>2,518,438</u>
Parish Support to School	<u>(143,829)</u>	<u>(95,932)</u>
PARISH OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	\$ (10,789)	\$ 31,541
<u>Other Revenue and Other Expenses</u>		
Building Fund Campaign Revenue Collections and interest earned	607,337	398,118
Building Fund Expense (Contractor, architect, furnishings and equipment)	(483,505)	(4,189,601)
Parish Center Capital Loan interest expense	(29,222)	-
School Building Capital Improvements	-	(29,973)
Interest Income	1,571	1,927
Unrealized gains from school endowment investment	27,482	52,748
Unrealized gains from parish investment	<u>20,824</u>	<u>56,264</u>
NET PARISH INCOME	<u>\$ 133,698</u>	<u>\$ (3,678,976)</u>



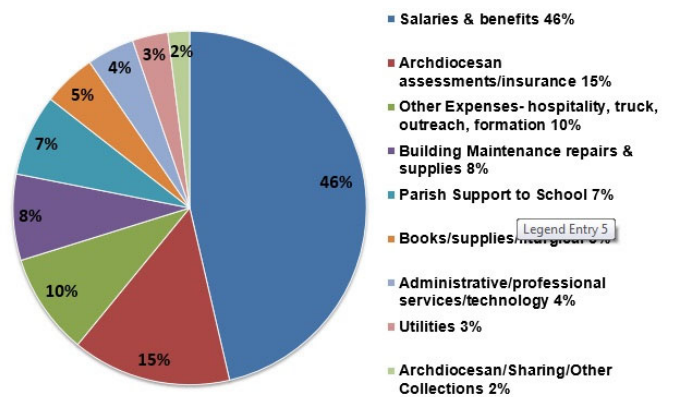
Stewardship of Treasure

Sources and Uses of Parish Operating Funds

Sources of Parish Operating Funds
Fiscal Year 2018
\$1,914,757

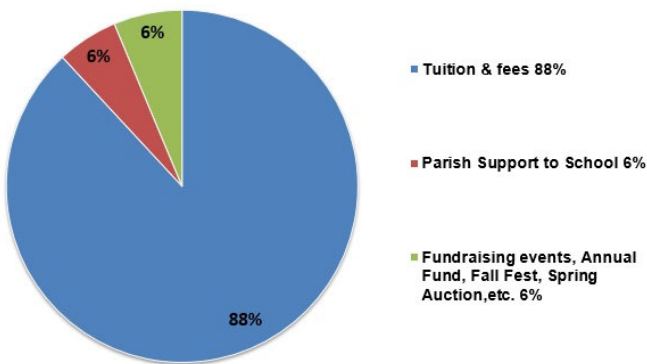


Uses of Parish Operating Funds
Fiscal Year 2018
\$1,925,546

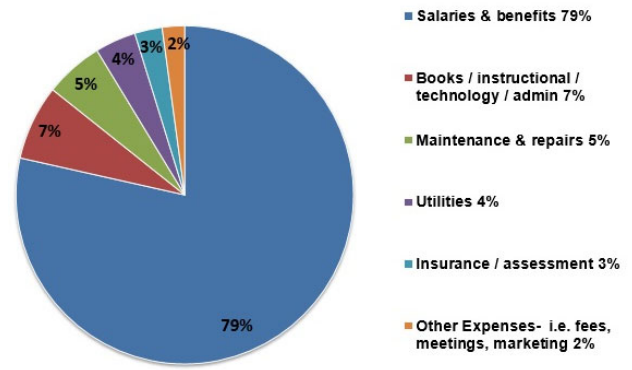


Sources and Uses of School Operating Funds

Sources of School Operating Funds
Fiscal Year 2018
\$2,562,568



Uses of School Operating Funds
Fiscal Year 2018
\$2,562,568





Stewardship of Treasure

Summary of the Parish Financial Report Year Ended June 30, 2018

- The parish finished the June 30, 2018 fiscal year with an operating loss (the shaded line of the Statement of Revenue and Expense) of \$10,789.
- The parish has combined Sunday; Christmas and Easter collections for the year decreased by a total of \$8,433 from the prior year ended June 30, 2017. As regular operating and ministry costs, utilities, supplies, and benefits will continue to increase, we are asking Parishioners to prayerfully consider a slight increase in their offerings. Also, please consider changing to electronic giving, currently 13% of donations are made electronically; giving electronically provides a convenient option to donate on a regular basis. Thank you for any amount you can give.
- The Fall Fest/Carnival was a huge success netting a profit of over \$109,000. With entertainment, food, rides, raffles, this was a great event where the community can gather. The Fall Fest will return in 2019.
- The Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs receives approximately \$85,000 in parish support to provide catechesis and formation to our Youth through your regular Sunday donations.
- The required parish support to the school in fiscal year 2018 was \$143,829, due to increased maintenance/utility costs, tuition assistance, a 3% salary increase and a rise in benefit costs.
- Parish and school family participation contributed toward \$161,449 of school fundraising revenue in 2018. The school hosted a Spring Auction raising approximately \$80,000 of which \$16,650 will be used toward next year's STREAM (science, religion, engineering, art, math) program. The remaining funds are from the Golf Outing, Dance-a-thon, Fall Fest and Annual Fund donations. Thank you.
- Parish salaries and benefits decreased \$50,873 due to staff changes, and the school's expense increased \$18,584 due to salary increases and benefit costs.
- Ordinary maintenance and repairs for the church, school, rectory and parish center, increased by \$72,972 due to snow removal, landscaping improvements, painting/repairs in the church, a/c and boiler.
- The total loan for the Parish Center was \$788,189, thanks to the generous pledge commitments and donations; the parish was able to pay \$300,000 towards the principal balance this year. The building is providing a wonderful space for the children as well as the adults to utilize for the school, religious education, sports, social gathering events and worship. The loan balance at year-end is \$488,189. We still need your continued support to pay down the debt and maintain the building. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.
- The Parish's investment accounts had a net unrealized gain of \$20,824. The school's investment account had a net unrealized gain of \$27,482. Because investment gains and losses are not part of the parish's/ school's normal operations, they are not considered in determining the parish's/school's operating income but rather considered Other Revenue.

Parish Census Data

Registered Families:	2,628	School Enrollment:	413 Pre-K- 8 th Grade
Baptisms:	84	Religious Education:	425 Pre-K- 8 th Grade, Special Needs
Marriages:	19	First Communion:	112
Funerals:	75	Confirmation:	115

Fr. Bob Clark
Pastor

Fr. Ken Baker
Associate Pastor

Fr. Lorenzo Gamoba
Associate Pastor

Please use this email finance@stcletusparish.com or call the parish office at 708-352-6209 with any questions.

Community Bulletin Board

JOYFUL AGAIN



Widowed and feeling stuck? Come and find ways to move toward inner peace and new hope in life.

Joyful Again! Widowed Ministry Program presents a Retreat/workshop for men & women March 9-10, 2019 (Incl. overnight) at the Mt. Assisi Center in Lemont.

To register call: 708-354-7211. E-mail us at joyfulagain7211@gmail.com. Website: www.joyfulagain.org (incls.video)

ADOLF FUNERAL HOME

You are cordially invited to our Holiday Memorial Candle Lighting Service on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 2:00p.m.

Adolf Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Ltd.
2921 S. Harlem Ave. Berwyn, IL 60402

RSVP to Donna: 630-325-2300.

THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER



The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park, IL. To register online and see complete list of programs: www.csjthewell.org or call 708-482-5048

Something Wonderful and New is Happening

Tuesday, December 18 9:30 AM – 11 AM and repeated at 7 PM – 8:30 PM please note: the program date has been modified from the original schedule. **Facilitator Pat Bergen, CSJ.** We know it is difficult to perceive, but something wonderful is happening in our time; a newness is emerging in ourselves and our culture. Are you seeing, hearing and experiencing it? During this final week of Advent, prepare to proclaim to the world that the unseen God of Love is making a new breakthrough in our time. Cost: \$15

48TH ANNUAL INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES “TOOTSIE ROLL” DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus La Grange Council 6483 thanks St. Cletus volunteers, donors and well wishers for their generous support of the Intellectual Disabilities Drive on September 21-23. This successful fundraising event is the largest Knight of Columbus fundraiser of the year. Also known as the “Tootsie Roll Drive,” Knights, family, friends and many volunteers donned bright yellow vests to collect any funds offered into special collection cans. Seen on many street corners and at supportive local businesses, signature Tootsie Rolls were handed out. Over \$14,000 was collected for local organizations who help people and families coping with intellectual disabilities. Recipients are Helping Hands, Aspire, Special Olympics, SPRED educational programs at local churches. Additionally, 10% of proceeds went to similar charities in other

parts of Illinois without local support of Knights of Columbus councils.

CHICAGO CATHOLIC SCRIPTURE SCHOOL

Join us at nearby St. John of the Cross in Western Springs! **Accepting NEW students!** Classes meet Wednesdays, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm OR 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, **January 9 through March 13!** Please join us as we study the **Acts of the Apostles** and the **Letters of St. Paul!** For more information, contact Director Kevin Pease at kpease@luc.edu or 312-915-7485. Register before the first day of class at www.luc.edu/ips/ccss

AGING CARE CONNECTIONS

Aging Care Connections and Hope Lutheran Church invite guests to join them for a FREE Senior Lunch. A nutritious meal of Turkey w/gravy, Mashed sweet potatoes, Stuffing, Green beans, Whole wheat bread, Cranberry sauce, and Milk will be provided by Salerno's Pizzeria & Sports Bar. Hope Lutheran Church is sponsoring the lunch.

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

11:15am - Bible Study 12pm - Luncheon

Hope Lutheran Church 6455 Joliet Rd, Countryside

RSVP: Call Aging Care Connections at 708-354-1323*

Seating is limited. 80 Max. *Please call 708-354-1323. Reservations will be taken through 12 Noon on Dec. 11th as space permits. Indicate that you are reserving a space at Hope Lutheran Church.

SUPPORT ST. CLETUS WITH AMAZON SMILE



Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We hope you will choose St. Cletus Church. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

BULLETIN ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

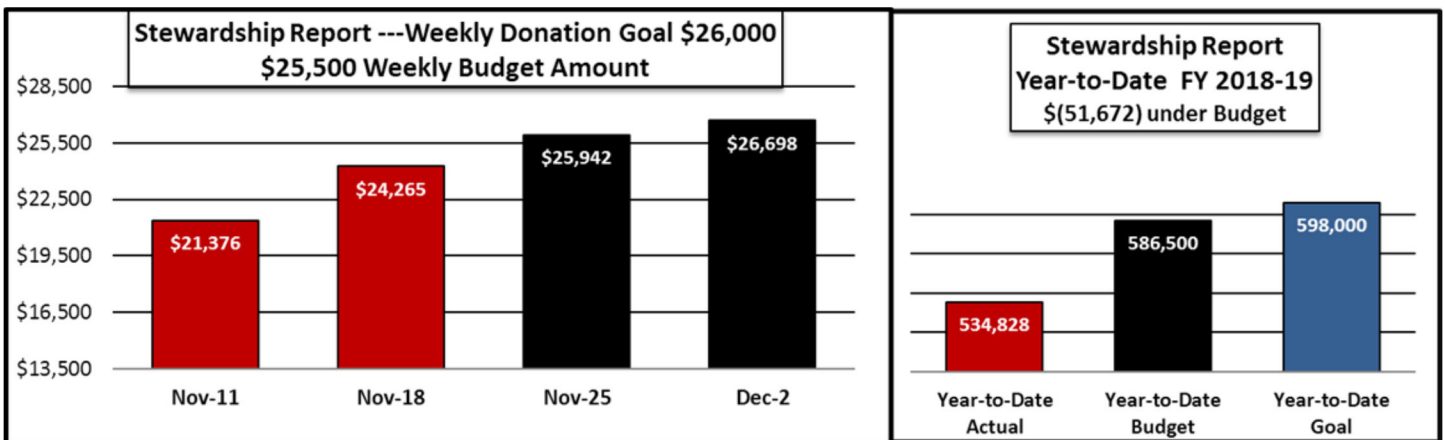
Please note that all Canticle articles are to be emailed to canticle@stcletusparish.com as text with pictures attached separately. All articles are due 5p.m. Friday a full week (9 days) before Sunday's publication. Please note that the early submission deadlines during holidays:

- Dec 23 Canticle - Submissions Due 12/11
- Dec 30 Canticle - Submissions Due 12/17

Week at a Glance

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, December 9	7:00am 7:00pm	Morrissey Hall Church	Return Giving Tree Gifts Spanish Novena
Monday, December 10	4:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm	School Music Room Church Parish Center Gym	Junior Choir Rehearsal Spanish Novena Men's Basketball
Tuesday, December 11	7:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Church PC Meeting Room Rectory	Spanish Novena Book Club RCIA
Wednesday, December 12	7:00pm	Church	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Reception
Thursday, December 13	5:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	School Music Room Parish Center Gym School Music Room	Children's Choir Rehearsal School Christmas Play Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 14			
Saturday, December 15			
Sunday, December 16	7:00am 7:00pm	Morrissey Hall Church	Giving Tree Gift Distribution Spanish Christmas Novena

Stewardship Report



5th Annual Fall Fest - St. Cletus Parish Preferred Providers

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




Thank you to all of our 2018 Fall Fest Sponsors!

Those at the \$2,500 level and above will be featured in the St. Cletus Canticle as Preferred Providers.

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 the parish offices have moved to our new location in the parish center. All deliveries and inquiries should be made to the new office. Food pantry will remain in the rectory.

Monday thru 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 the month at 11:00 a.m.
 Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation class. Please make arrangements by calling the Rectory office.

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

Tom Chinske, 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

Email addresses are first letter of first name, last name @stcletusparish.com

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

Pastor Fr. Bob Clark
 Chairperson Ron Skrip
 Vice Chairperson Patrick O'Toole
 Secretary.....

Members

Eileen Dorchinecz	Colleen Mhley
Bob Havelka	Valerie Sosne
Kevin Hogan	Paula Struwing
Shanta McGahey	Patrick Townsend
Nicholas McKeehan	Bob Wasik

Liaisons

FSA President.....Guadalupe McKeehan
 Athletic Association President.....Brendan Foley

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pastor..... Fr. Bob Clark
 Chairperson Mary Ann Doornbos
 Vice-Chairperson Chuck Luna
 Recording Secretary Maggie Kensek
 School Representative Tom Chinske
 Director of Parish Catechesis Paulette Bolton
 Staff RepresentativeDebbie Lestarczyk

Members

Susan Hurley	Jack Fisherkeller
Robbie O'Shea	Helen McMahon
	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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