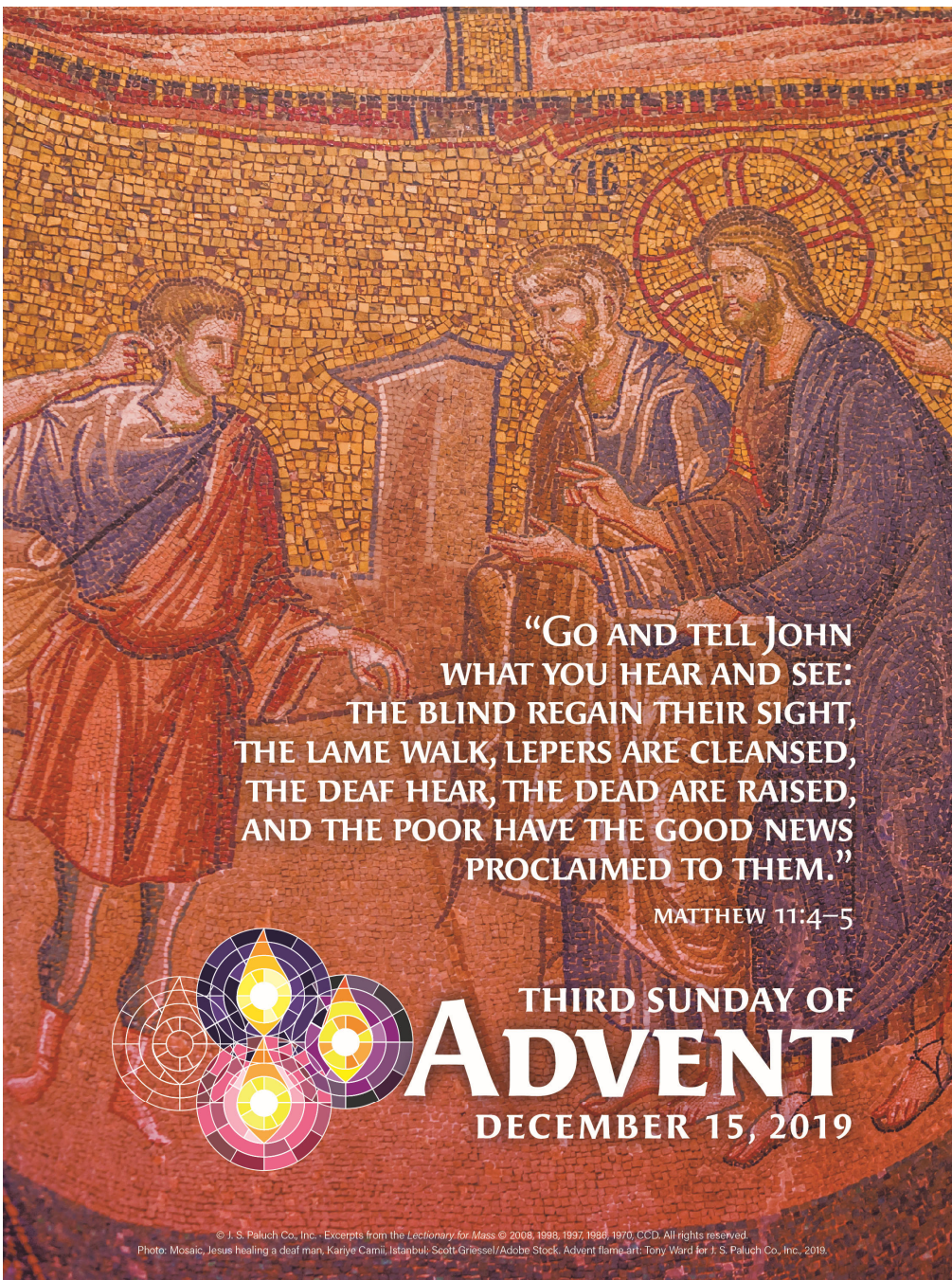


Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

Those whom the Lord has ransomed
will return and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy.
— Isaiah 35:10a



“GO AND TELL JOHN
WHAT YOU HEAR AND SEE:
THE BLIND REGAIN THEIR SIGHT,
THE LAME WALK, LEPERS ARE CLEANSED,
THE DEAF HEAR, THE DEAD ARE RAISED,
AND THE POOR HAVE THE GOOD NEWS
PROCLAIMED TO THEM.”

MATTHEW 11:4-5



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2019



WELCOME

- 2 Mass Intentions and Important Notes
- 3 Pastor's Note
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- 17 Stewardship Report Week at a Glance
- 18 Parish Information

Mass Intentions for the Week of December 16 - 22, 2019

Day	Presider (subject to change)	Time	Intentions
Monday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Tom Forkin, Joshua Swibel, Evelyn Prevenas, Jim Deslauriers, Josephine Kinastowski
Tuesday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Ted Lihosit, Tom Lihosit, Edward Vonesh, Gene Gajos, Josephine Kinastowski
Wednesday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Virginia Rachford, Edward Grybas, Josephine Kinastowski, Special Intention
Thursday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Manuel Rodriguez, Josephine Kinastowski, Camilo & Anita Ferreira
Friday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Michael Thuma, Josephine Kinastowski, Special Intention - Laura Brooks
Saturday	Fr. Gamboa Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Josephine Kinastowski Beanie Stejkowski, Jim Deslauriers, Joseph Naponiello, Ken Kakareka, Alberta Kwiatkowski, Harry & Joan Brown
Sunday	Fr. Gamboa	7:00 a.m.	John & Dorothy Walsh, George Duda, Dorothy Dybas, Frank Miller, Frank Lesh, Mother of Alijca Ghera
	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Stacy Baker, Manuel Rodriguez, Josephine Kinastowski
	Fr. Baker	9:30 a.m.	Edmund Pilarski, Marco & Emilia Rattin, Bill DePasquale, Helen Finn, Anthony Saporito, Dan Rykaczewski, Jan McNamara
	Fr. Clark	11:00 a.m.	Ken Herzog, Valerie Moskus, Gail Saban, Buck Roderick, Susan Eastman, Sidney Seward, Henry Scaccia
	Fr. Gamboa	12:30 p.m.	Martin Morales Morales, Silvia Garcia Marquez

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

Abraham Correa-Pizano
Father of Gloria Pizano

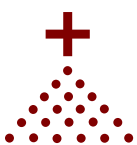
Benito Ayala

Donald Szczesniak
Husband of Ruth Ann

Cheryl Fisherkeller
Mother of Jack Fisherkeller

May they rest in peace. Amen.

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.

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 - Frank Colonna, Grace Yamamoto, Mary Ramirez, Charles (Bud) Howe, Joseph Gregory Stroude

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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Arak is a spirits drink, something akin to vodka, and made by the Arabs. As a body-warming and mind-numbing drink, it became the friend and companion of a young, Scottish soldier during the dark days of war in 1942. Fighting with the “Desert Rats” in North Africa, against the great German general, Erwin Rommel, that young soldier felt that his world was coming to an end. “The Africa Cores” of the German army had the Allies on the run, and victory for Britain looked very unlikely. News coming from home was equally bleak, as towns and cities suffered constant bombing from the raids of Goering’s Luftwaffe. It was a bad time, with no light or hope on earth’s horizon. The soldier sought refuge in the bottle. Arak became his comfort in sorrow.

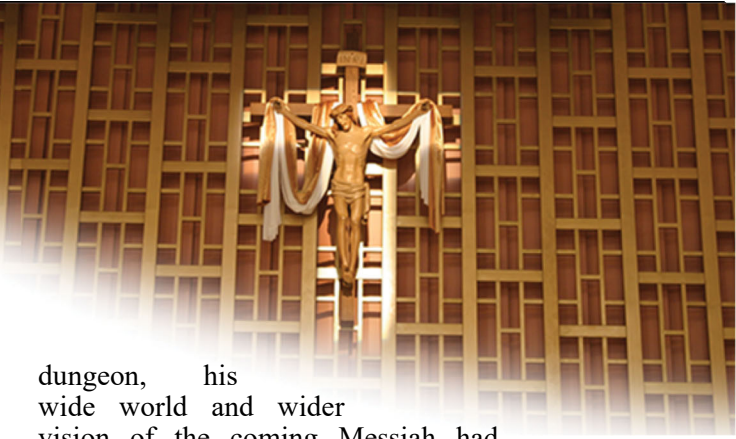
“That will kill you,” a fellow soldier warned him. He did not care. And kill him it did. One morning his fellow soldier woke up in his sleeping bag on the desert sand, and found the young Scot dead, beside him. He had found his exit from life, from a life too hard to live. The desert sand, the burning sun, the vast and empty sky, all spoke to him of the end of hope, and we cannot live without hope. And so he died. Yet his companion and many like him, lived to see a better day, and a change of fortune and the promise of peaceful times.

The words of Isaiah would have been very appropriate then. “Let the wilderness and the dry lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and boom.” Yes, a total transformation had occurred. The fortunes of Israel were changed when the exile to Babylon was over, and the people could return home: just as the tide of war also turned, and “desert rats” could go home. What had looked like disaster is now turned to glory, the glory of going home.

In the days of the early Church, James, “the brother of the Lord”, writes a letter to all the Jewish converts to Christ, to encourage them to persevere and to be patient in times of hardship. Think of the farmer, he says. He knows what he has planted in the ground. He knows what power is in the seed to emerge and flourish and bear fruit. But he has to wait for autumn rain and spring rain. For a long time there is no sign of life, it is buried in the earth. Then the miracle happens. The earth breaks open to reveal the new life and to give us food and fruit and flower.

Life is like that, says James. We must wait patiently and not lose hope. Rather, we must help each other to hope. So he goes on to give another example. Think of the prophets of old, how much they put their hope in God and were patient in times of trial. He did not need to think very far back. Think of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist in his prison was a man in chains and in confusion. His forceful preaching had been stopped in mid-shout, his career curtailed. Detained in Herod’s



dungeon, his wide world and wider vision of the coming Messiah had shrunk to the width of his prison cell. He is caught in the narrows, his drive diminished, his voice silenced. Then he hears of Jesus and of the voice reclaimed – for you cannot shut up God’s word. John sends the question so he can know, “Are you the one?” The answer is not a simple “yes”, because so short an answer leaves too much unsaid. We need to see. So Jesus sends John a vision, a picture of the truth. “Tell John what you see and hear.” Lives are being healed, and the word is being spoken. “Do not lose faith in me!”

John can persevere, right to the end. His life is not in vain. His patience is not pointless. They point to the power of goodness and love, for which he is prepared to suffer for the sake of others. Sin and selfishness have no such powers. They witness to nothing, they merely fade away.

We are not immune to the troubles of this world, or to the agonies that cause people to despair. But the seed of hope has been planted in us, and hope is bright. Then let us give to others what God has given to us – a reason to rejoice.

Advent Hope, Peace and Love,

Fr. Bob

**Fr. Bob
Pastor**

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

In an effort to collaborate with our sister parishes – St. Francis Xavier and St. John of the Cross – the Advent Reconciliation Service will be at St. John of the Cross on Dec. 17th at 7:00pm. There will not be a service at St. Cletus. St. Francis Xavier’s clergy and our priests will assist at St. John of the Cross for this service.

We will continue to have our regular Saturday Confessions from 4:15-4:45pm.

Parish School



ST. CLETUS SCHOOL DATES TO NOTE

December 20.....School Mass
 December 23..... Christmas Break Begins

FOR INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

Gregory Porod, Principal
 (708) 352-4820
 gporod@stcletusparish.com

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



YOUTH CHOIR PERFORMANCE

At La Grange's Hometown Holiday the St. Cletus youth choir put on a wonderful performance of Christmas songs for everyone to enjoy! They attracted quite the crowd and everyone had a wonderful time listening, as well as singing along with them! A wonderful evening filled with fun festivities!



7TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

7th grade students visited the Chicago History Museum and participated in the Facing Freedom workshop. They became historians as they analyzed artifacts and curated their own exhibition.



CELEBRATING THE SEASON

St. Nicholas visited St. Cletus School to celebrate Saint Nick's Day, giving Candy Canes to all of our Cardinals!

SHOP WITH SCRIP

Holiday Cash and Carry Events

Dates: Saturday, Dec. 14, after 5pm Mass
 Sunday, Dec. 15, after Masses

Where: Church Narthex

The Shop with Scrip committee will be selling gift cards just in time for the holiday season! We will have a variety of popular vendors (e.g. AMC Theater, Starbucks, Amazon, Shell & Speedway, Dunkin n Donuts, etc.)

This is a great fundraiser for the school and a convenient way to purchase your Christmas presents.

Please stop by our table for your gift giving needs (we accept cash or check only).

Religious Education

HAPPY GAUDETE SUNDAY!

During this third week of Advent, we are reminded of the joy that a child feels as Christmas comes near. Joy has been abounding in the Religious Education program this month. We got to share in the excitement with the children during two different Christmas Pageants – one from our Special Needs Adaptive class, and the other from our Early Childhood Education program. What a gift they are to our program! Please enjoy some of our photos from their pageants!

Our older students also participated in acts of service last week, in order to bring joy to the recipients of our hard work. The service gifts will be distributed to our home bound parishioners, Giving Tree clients, homeless community that is serviced through Beds Plus, and disabled adults through the Ray Graham Association. We are so happy to spread the joy in our community!

Keep in mind that Religious Education is off for the winter break, returning to classes on January 12 and 13. Enjoy this special week in Advent!

UPCOMING RE EVENTS:

December 15 & 16 No Class due to Holidays

December 22 & 23 No Class – Merry Christmas!

January 5 & 6 No Class – Happy New Year!

January 12 & 13 Regular RE Class Schedule.

8th Grade Red Service Books are due!

First Grade Church tour for students and parents scheduled for Monday, January 13th from 6-7:30 p.m. in Church



Social Concerns Ministry



ST. CLETUS FOOD PANTRY

THURSDAYS 6-8PM

Most needed at this time:

- Hot chocolate
- Coffee
- Baking goods
- Canned fruit
- Paper and plastic bags

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

 ARE YOU IN AN UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP OR ARE YOU AFRAID IN YOUR OWN HOME?

CALL THE 24-HOUR PHONE FOR HELP: 708.485.5254

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

Today (Sunday) we will be distributing the Christmas gifts, meat, and grocery gift cards to our local recipients.

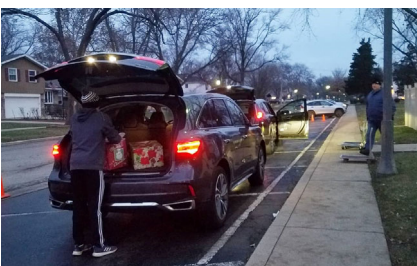
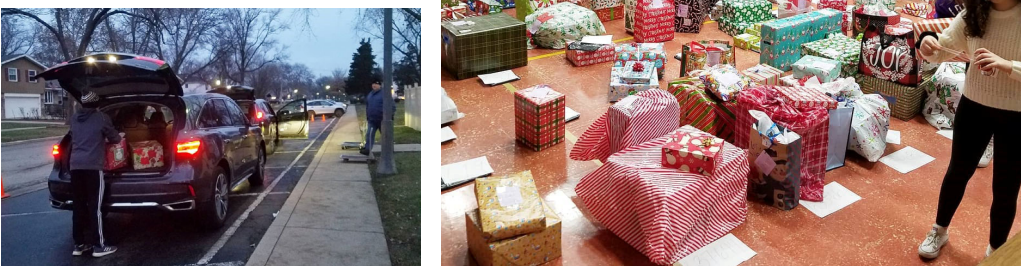
A HUGE thank you to our volunteers last weekend! We had about 100 different volunteers move and organize (literally) over a thousand gifts donated by generous St. Cletus families! Thank you for your donations!

This year we again had a special donation of a moving truck from **Del's Moving & Storage**. Parishioner Randy Balla helped us carefully transport gifts down to our sharing parish St. Agatha's to distribute to 200 individuals. Thank you!!! (www.delsmovers.com)

Thank you for your continuing generosity to the less fortunate in our community.

The Giving Tree Committee

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



INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Interfaith Community Partners is looking for a part-time Volunteer Coordinator to arrange for transportation for clients 60 and better within our community. Hours are Thursday and Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. Computer skills necessary, pleasant phone communication plus love of working with older adults. Please submit your resume to Janet Garreau at jgarreauicp@gmail.com or call our office for further assistance at 708-354-9328.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS LOSS PROGRAM

St. John of the Cross parish will begin hosting a 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 (708) 246-4404 for more information.

RESPECT LIFE



WORD OF LIFE

“Those who die in God's grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Heaven is not an abstract idea, but a true and lasting relationship with God that is beyond all earthly description and understanding. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead and everlasting life by preparing now, in hope, for our passage from this life into eternal life.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing”

ADVENT

The season of Advent is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to preparing for the celebration of the Lord's birth on Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time. During this time of preparation and expectant waiting, we also remember expectant mothers who are preparing for the birth of their children.

GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY



**GREATER
CHICAGO
- FOOD -
DEPOSITORY.**

On the 4th Wednesday of each month, 10-15 volunteers work to earn \$15.00 each toward our GCFD food purchase. This is a great financial help since the Food Pantry purchases quality items at low prices each month to supplement donations from our parishioners and friends in the community. Our money goes much further at the food depository!

If you are interested in joining our group on one or more of the upcoming 4th Wednesdays, please e-mail Jerry Mitchell, jerryconverses@gmail.com, or contact Kendall at kgrant@stcletusparish.com, (708)214-5418. See below for answers to some common questions about this service opportunity.

How old do I have to be to volunteer?

Volunteers need to be 11 years old to volunteer at the Food Depository during regular sessions. Ages 16 and older can volunteer self-supervised. Ages 11-15 need to have one adult supervisor per 10 youths.

What should I wear?

Volunteers must wear long pants and close-toed shoes. You will not be permitted to work in the warehouse if you are wearing sandals or shorts/ short skirt. Depending on the project you are assigned to, you may be asked to remove jewelry above the waist (including piercings, but rings are acceptable).

Where is the GCFD located?

4100 W. Ann Lurie Place, Chicago, IL 60632, which is a few blocks from I-55 and Pulaski.

AGING CARE CONNECTIONS

CONGREGATE MEALS PROGRAM CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, Dec. 19 10am-1pm at Salerno's Pizza, 9301 W. 63rd St. Hodgkins, IL

Cost: \$2.50 suggested donation

Registration: RSVP required. Call 708-354-1323 to RSVP or cancel a reservation the day before attendance at noon.

CONGREGATE MEALS PROGRAM NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Tuesday, Dec. 31 10am-12:45pm at Salerno's Pizza, 9301 W. 63rd St. Hodgkins, IL

Cost: \$2.50 suggested donation

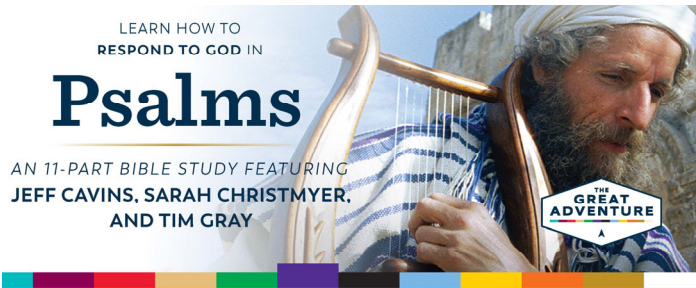
Registration: RSVP required. Call 708-354-1323 to RSVP or cancel a reservation the day before attendance at noon.

PRAY FOR HEALING MINISTRY

St. Cletus has a ministry to pray for healing in the church – healing from the wounds resulting from the sexual abuse scandal. The ministry is open to all, and all are encouraged to join. You will receive an email once or twice a month, encouraging you to prayer. Each email will contain a suitable prayer for those of us who find words harder to come by. The parish website has a form you need to complete to join – under the 'Ministries & Groups' tab on the home page. Questions? Please contact Jerry Mitchell (630 849 5857) at prayforhealing@stcletusparish.com

Other Ministry News

CREDO



The Holy Spirit inspired them. Israel sang them. Christ himself prayed them, as did our Blessed Mother. At the heart of the Bible are the psalms, prayers from God that help us to pray. In *Psalms: The School of Prayer*, discover how these sacred hymns become our heartfelt response to God's loving and wondrous deeds.

Learn how to meditate fruitfully on the captivating words of the psalms using *lectio divina*, and study the many ways the psalms foretell the life and mission of Jesus.

DATES – TIMES – LOCATION

Monday nights for 12 sessions
starting January 6th, 2020
St. Cletus Parish Center
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

COST – REGISTRATION

Class is free! Book cost \$30.
If you want CREDO to order a book for you, you must register and pay for the book by December 15th.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See our registration table in the narthex after all masses on Dec 14th and 15th, or call Deb Wroblewski at 815-474-6237.

CREDO

(Continuing Religious EDucation Opportunities)

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 parish center office 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

YOUTH MINISTRY

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.

What is Alpha for Teens?

Alpha for Teens is a 9-week course that creates a space where teens can be excited to bring their friends for a conversation about Jesus. The series offers compelling stories, images, questions, and discussion topics well spread throughout each episode to better engage youth, helping them think about how these issues relate to their lives as they discuss with their friends and leaders. In each session, we'll eat food, watch a talk, and discuss questions in small groups.

Food has a way of bringing people together and building community. So whether it's a light snack, sweets or a full meal, Alpha always starts with food.

The talks tackle core questions about life and faith from a Christian perspective. Each episode averages 23 minutes in length.

Throughout each episode, there are three discussion breaks. These breaks give everyone a chance to share thoughts and ideas in small groups without fear of being corrected or judged.

Along the way, there are opportunities to experience worship through music and moments for prayer.

All of this is done in a fun environment where everyone is welcome.

All High School teens are invited to attend our weekly Alpha for Teen Series, beginning Sunday, January 12, 6:15-7:30 PM, 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.

How do I sign up?

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.

Alpha for Teens needs Adult Volunteers!

VIRTUS-compliant adults feeling called to assist in the preparation and implementation of Alpha for Teens, please contact MaryClaire Zurowski, mzurowski@stcletusparish.com.

HO HO HOLIDAY BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Thank you to all the St. Cletus Council of Catholic Women and Family School Association volunteers who made the Ho Ho Holiday Breakfast with Santa a success. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful food, crafts, cake walk, photo booth and the big man himself! (Photos to the right.)



Ed Ward Fine Arts Series at St. Cletus - Free Concert

bending
TOWARDS
the Light
a Jazz Nativity



Ed Ward
FINE ARTS SERIES
AT ST. CLETUS LA GRANGE, IL

DECEMBER 15TH 4:00 P.M
ST. CLETUS CHURCH

FREE ADMISSION, DONATIONS ACCEPTED
WWW.EDWARDFAS.COM

We are excited to welcome back to St. Cletus, Bending Towards the Light, a Jazz Nativity. This concert will feature jazz arrangements of traditional Christmas carols along with original compositions tell the story of Mary, Jesus, Joseph, the Angels, the Shepherds, and the three Wise Men in a staged production. Filled with a sense of grace and humor, the cast will include a tap dancing king, a Latin percussion king and a trumpet king, as well as vocal soloists, a vocal jazz quartet, an eight piece jazz band, and the St. Cletus Choir.



Sunday Notes



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE (REJOICE) SUNDAY

O Giver of all gifts, we rejoice in the gift of Advent's call to reform our hearts. We are grateful for this season that calls us to pause and examine our behavior and renew our prayer. Help us to be your living gifts of hope, peace and joy to family, friends and strangers. We rejoice knowing Jesus lives in us, serves through us and loves the world through each of our deeds of compassion. Help us to be people of joy in our world Amen.

ACTIONS

- Wrap each gift we give with love
- Attend a school play or go to a concert
- Be patient and prudent in your shopping
- Discuss with someone how music, the environment, parties, & shopping connect us to our faith and the meaning of Advent
- Attend parish Reconciliation Service – Dec.17
- Participate with your family at the weekly Eucharist
- Spend some time in silence on Tues., Dec. 18, at the all day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy hour at 6:00pm

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

Psalm — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

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: Third Sunday of Advent
Monday: Las Posadas begins
Saturday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

THE JESSE TREE

- Dec. 16 – Solomon's Wisdom
Dec. 17 – God takes Elijah to Heaven
Dec. 18 – Daniel in the Lion's Den
Dec. 19 – Jonah in the Whale
Dec. 20 - virgin Mary, Jesus' Mother
Dec. 21 – Gabriel Appears to Mary
Dec. 22 – St. Joseph, the Carpenter, Stepfather
Dec. 23 – Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem
Dec. 24 – Wise Men Follow the Star
Dec. 25 – Jesus' Birth

THE O ANTIPHONS

In the last week before Christmas, the Church assigns a special antiphon to each day. They come from the Liturgy of the Hours (ancient prayer of the monks), and they are sung/prayed before and after the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) during evening prayer. Each antiphon this week prays for the coming of Christ under a particular title and each addresses him with the word "O" a more formal and polite way of saying, "Hey". These antiphons can be heard in the familiar hymn- "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".

- Dec. 17 – O Wisdom
Dec. 18 – O Sacred Lord of Israel
Dec. 19 – O Flower of Jesse's Stem
Dec. 20 - O Key of David
Dec. 21 – O Radiant Dawn
Dec. 22 – O King of All the Nations
Dec. 23 - O Emmanuel, King and Lawgiver

THE LOOK OF LOVE

What does love look like?
It has feet to go to the poor and needy.
It has eyes to see misery and want.
It has ears to hear
the sighs and sorrows of others.

—St. Augustine

CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

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

2:00pm	Church	Chamber Ensemble
2:15pm	PC-Fr. Clark Hall	Cantor/Piano
3:30pm	Church	Combined Youth Choirs
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 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:00am	Church	Organ/Congregational Caroling
8:00am	Church	Cantor/Piano
9:30am	Church	Chancel Choir
11:00am	Church	Contemporary Choir

VIGIL OF SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD TUESDAY, 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 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00am ONLY (Holy Day of Obligation)



PLEASE NOTE: There is no 8am Mass on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, January 1st (9am only).



Stewardship of Treasure

St. Cletus Parish Balance Sheets June 30, 2019 and 2018

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Assets		
Parish Checking/Payroll Bank Accounts	\$ 174,190	\$ 305,752
Parish Savings Accounts at Archdiocesan Bank	135,397	125,429
Auxiliary Group Bank Accounts	152,488	136,495
Prepaid Deposit/Prepaid Expenses	10,349	13,797
Restricted School Endowment investments (1) (2)	378,903	386,119
Unrestricted Parish investments at market value (3)	314,042	388,445
Restricted Building Campaign Fund Bank Accounts (1) (4)	<u>31,474</u>	<u>76,526</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,196,843</u>	<u>\$ 1,432,563</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 174,150	\$ 161,711
Tuition deposits	44,039	66,552
Parish Center Capital Loan Payable (5)	<u>249,636</u>	<u>488,189</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 467,825</u>	<u>\$ 716,452</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$729,018</u>	<u>\$716,111</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,196,843</u>	<u>\$ 1,432,563</u>

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

(2) - 2019 change in balance from 2018 column includes \$7,217 loss in endowment investment

(3) - 2019 change in balance from 2018 column includes \$597 gain in parish investments and a (\$75,000) withdrawal to pay TTWCI Campaign to the Archdiocese.

(4) - 2019 change in balance from 2018 column includes pledge and interest deposits \$222,001; distributions of (\$12,952) towards the credit card fees, security cameras, refrigerator and freezer; (\$15,548) loan interest; (\$238,553) payment toward principal on the Parish Center Capital Loan.

(5) - As of June 30, 2019 the outstanding loan amount for the Parish Center Building is (\$249,636). Payments of (\$238,553) have been made to pay down the principal on the Parish Center Loan.

**St. Cletus Parish Statement of Revenue and Expenses
Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2019 and 2018**

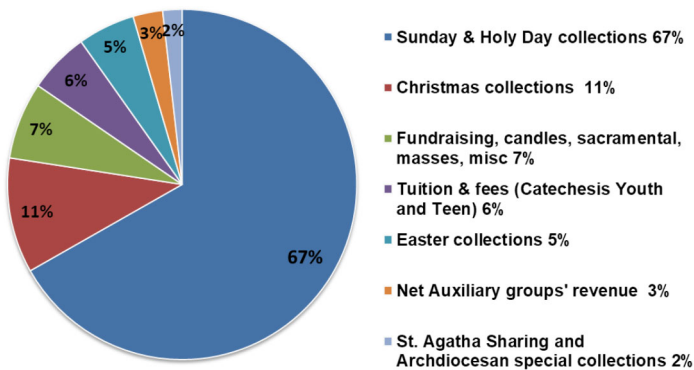
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<u>Church Revenue</u>		
Sunday & Holy Day collections	\$ 1,262,962	\$ 1,301,647
Christmas collections	201,002	204,942
Easter collections	100,054	101,504
Tuition & fees (Catechesis and youth)	106,369	76,538
Net Auxiliary groups' revenue	51,965	21,303
St. Agatha Sharing and Archdiocesan Special Collection	33,804	40,357
Other Revenue -Fundraising, candles, sacramental, masses, misc	134,488	168,466
Total Church Revenue	\$ 1,890,644	\$ 1,914,757
<u>Church Expenses</u>		
Salaries & benefits	\$ 970,355	\$ 893,002
Religious Ed Books/supplies/liturgical materials	91,479	93,564
Administrative/office/professional services/technology	65,450	83,650
Utilities	62,169	62,838
Building Maintenance repairs & supplies	156,003	151,690
Archdiocesan assessments/property insurance	277,194	280,218
St. Agatha Sharing and Archdiocesan Special Collection	104,093	38,098
Other Expenses- hospitality, donations, formation, social concerns	163,107	178,657
Total Church Expenses	\$ 1,889,850	\$ 1,781,717
Church Net Surplus	\$ 794	\$ 133,040
<u>School Revenue</u>		
Tuition & fees	\$ 2,231,862	\$ 2,257,290
Fundraising events, Annual Fund, Fall Fest, Spring Auction, etc.	195,339	161,449
Total School Revenue	\$ 2,427,201	\$ 2,418,739
<u>School Expenses</u>		
Salaries & benefits	\$ 2,085,986	\$ 2,011,918
Materials, books. Instructional, technology, admin	165,378	183,927
Maintenance & repairs	132,084	143,569
Utilities	110,041	100,562
Insurance / OCS Assessment	67,852	67,689
Other Expenses- Athletics, FSA, fees, meetings, marketing	42,201	54,903
Total School Expense	\$ 2,603,542	\$ 2,562,568
Parish Support to School	\$ (176,341)	\$ (143,829)
PARISH OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	\$ (175,547)	\$ (10,789)
<u>Other Revenue</u>		
Building Fund Campaign Revenue Collections and interest earned	\$ 222,001	\$ 607,337
Interest Income	1,571	1,571
Unrealized gains from school endowment investment	(7,217)	27,482
Unrealized gains from parish investment	597	20,824
Total Other Revenue	\$ 216,953	\$ 657,214
<u>Other Expenses</u>		
Building Fund Expense (Contractor, furnishings and equipment)	\$ 12,952	\$ 483,505
Parish Center Capital Loan interest expense	15,548	29,222
Total Other Expenses	\$ 28,500	\$ 512,727
Net Other Income	\$ 188,453	\$ 144,487
NET PARISH INCOME	\$ 12,906	\$ 133,698



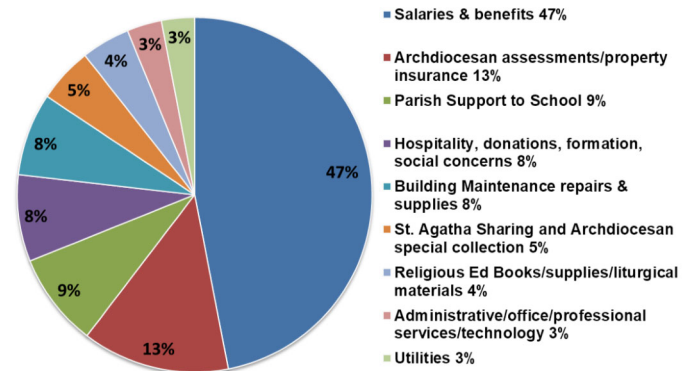
Stewardship of Treasure

Sources and Uses of Parish Operating Funds

Sources of Parish Operating Funds
Fiscal Year 2019
\$1,890,644

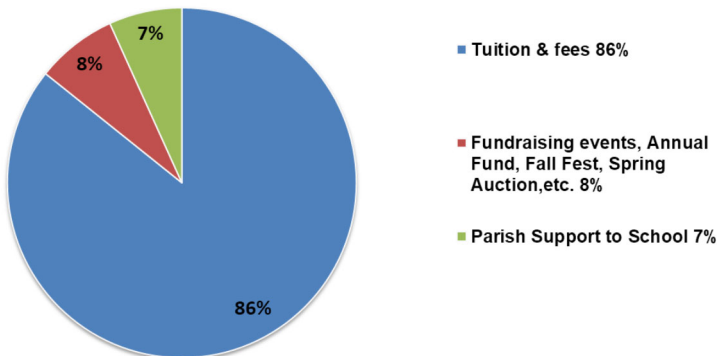


Uses of Parish Operating Funds
Fiscal Year 2019
\$2,066,191

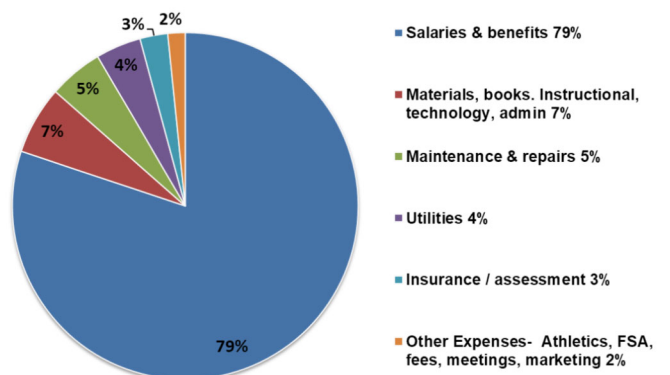


Sources and Uses of School Operating Funds

Sources of School Operating Funds
Fiscal Year 2019
\$2,603,542



Uses of School Operating Funds
Fiscal Year 2019
\$2,603,542





Stewardship of Treasure

Summary of the Parish Financial Report Year Ended June 30, 2019

- The parish has combined Sunday; Christmas and Easter collections for the year decreased by a total of \$38,685 from the prior year. 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 15% of donations are made electronically; giving electronically provides a convenient option to donate on a regular basis. Thank you for your continued generosity.
- The Fall Fest/Carnival was a huge success netting a profit of over \$100,000. With entertainment, food, rides, raffles, this was a great event where the community can gather. The Fall Fest will return in 2020.
- The Religious Education for youth and teen ministry programs receive approximately \$83,000 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 2019 was \$176,341, due to increased maintenance/utility costs, tuition assistance, a 3- 5% salary increase and a rise in benefit costs.
- The parish finished the June 30, 2019 fiscal year with an operating loss (the shaded line of the Statement of Revenue and Expense) of \$175,547.
- Parish and school family participation contributed toward \$184,739 of school fundraising revenue in 2019. The school hosted a Spring Auction raising approximately \$76,563. The remaining funds are from the Golf Outing, Dance-a-thon, Fall Fest and Annual Fund donations. Thank you for attending and supporting your school. Also, Loyola University awarded the school with a \$10,600 grant for iPads.
- Ordinary maintenance and repairs for the church, school, rectory and parish center, decreased slightly due to less repairs to the a/c and boiler. Snow removal, landscaping improvements, facility repairs and supplies remained relatively the same as prior year.
- In June of 2017 the original loan amount for the Parish Center was \$788,189, thanks to the generous pledge commitments and donations. The parish has since paid \$538,553 toward the principal balance, of which \$238,553 has been paid this year. An outstanding balance of \$249,636 still remains as of June 30, 2019. 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. 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 \$597. The school's investment account had a net unrealized loss of \$7,217. 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: 2,647
Baptisms: 99
Marriages: 9
Funerals: 53

School Enrollment: 401 Pre-K- 8th Grade
Religious Education: 428 Pre-K- 8th Grade, Special Needs
First Communion: 114
Confirmation: 128

Fr. Bob Clark
Pastor

Fr. Ken Baker
Associate Pastor

Fr. Lorenzo Gamboa
Associate Pastor

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

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

THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Mary Southard Paint Your Soul Retreat
9 AM Thurs., Jan. 16 – 3 PM Sunday, Jan. 19

Mary Southard, CSJ is a celebrated artist, experienced educator and retreat director in love with Life and with the Creator/Creation. In this retreat, for artists and non-artists alike, we will engage with the energies and images from within our own abundant and beautiful souls. Cost: \$475 (includes overnight accommodations and meals)



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

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.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT SJC

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 further information contact Betsy at wcmchgo@gmail.com or 708-246-8315.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE



ADVENT RECONCILIATION
SERVICE AT ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH 7:00P.M.

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FCI Construction Inc.
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Health Pic
Horizon Wealth Management

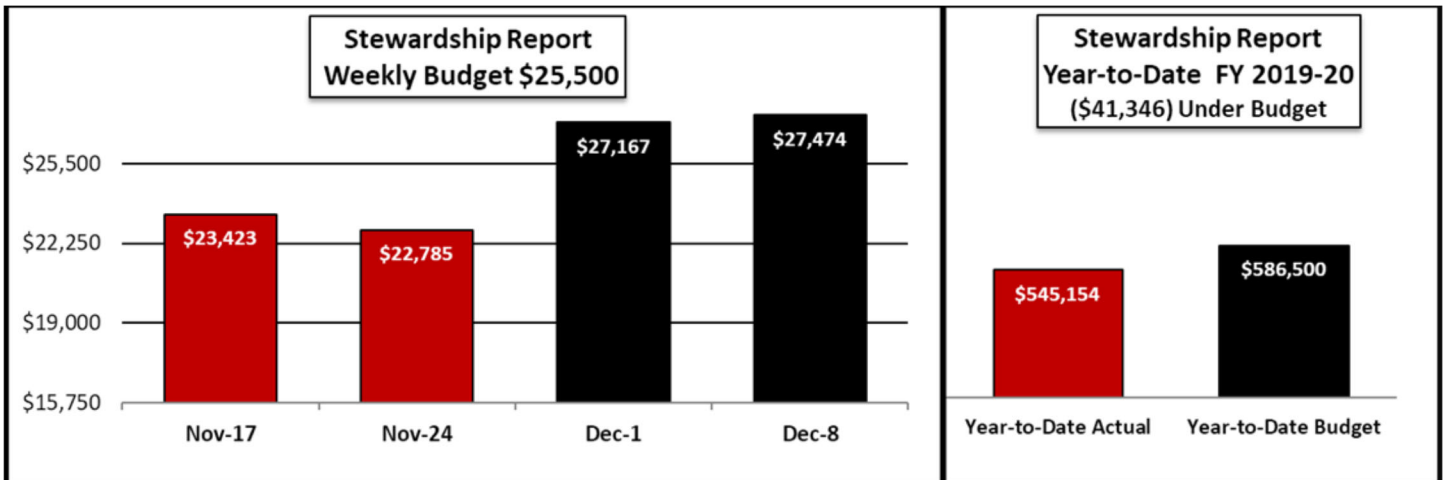
Jeffrey R. Tobolski Cook County Board Commissioner-16th District
LG Celtics Soccer Club
Unique Plumbing
WATRA Church Goods

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.

Week at a Glance

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, December 15	7:00am 7:00am 9:00am 12:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm	Narthex Narthex Morrissey Hall School Room 102 Church Church	CREDO Table Shop with Scrip Table Giving Tree Distribution RCIA Teens Bending Towards the Light: A Jazz Nativity Christmas Novena
Monday, December 16	4:00pm 7:00pm	School Music Room Church	Junior Choir Rehearsal Christmas Novena
Tuesday, December 17	7:00pm 7:00pm	Church School Music Room	Christmas Novena Combined Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 18	7:00pm 7:00pm	Church School Music Room	Christmas Novena Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 19	6:00pm 7:00pm	Morrissey Hall Church	Boys Church League Christmas Novena
Friday, December 20	9:30am 7:00pm	Church Church	School Mass Christmas Novena
Saturday, December 21	7:00pm	Church	Christmas Novena
Sunday, December 22	7:00pm	Morrissey Hall	Christmas Novena

Stewardship Report



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.

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 all deliveries and inquiries should be made to the parish center office. Food pantry will remain in the rectory.

Monday-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 most months at 11:00 a.m.
 Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation class. Please make arrangements by calling the Parish office. Contact Bobbie Kallal (708) 352-6209.

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

Gregory Porod, 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
Kadie Lestarczyk, Parish Assistant

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

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 Chairperson Bob Wasik
 Vice Chairperson
 Secretary

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Bob Havelka
 Kevin Hogan
 Mike Napleton
 Paula Struwing
 Karla Martinez
 Bob Malham
 Shanta McGahey

LIAISONS

FSA President Nikki Gorman
 Athletic Association President Michele Kulovic

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

MEMBERS

Jack Fisherkeller
 Helen McMahon
 Henry Morlock
 Susan Hurley
 Robbie O'Shea

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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