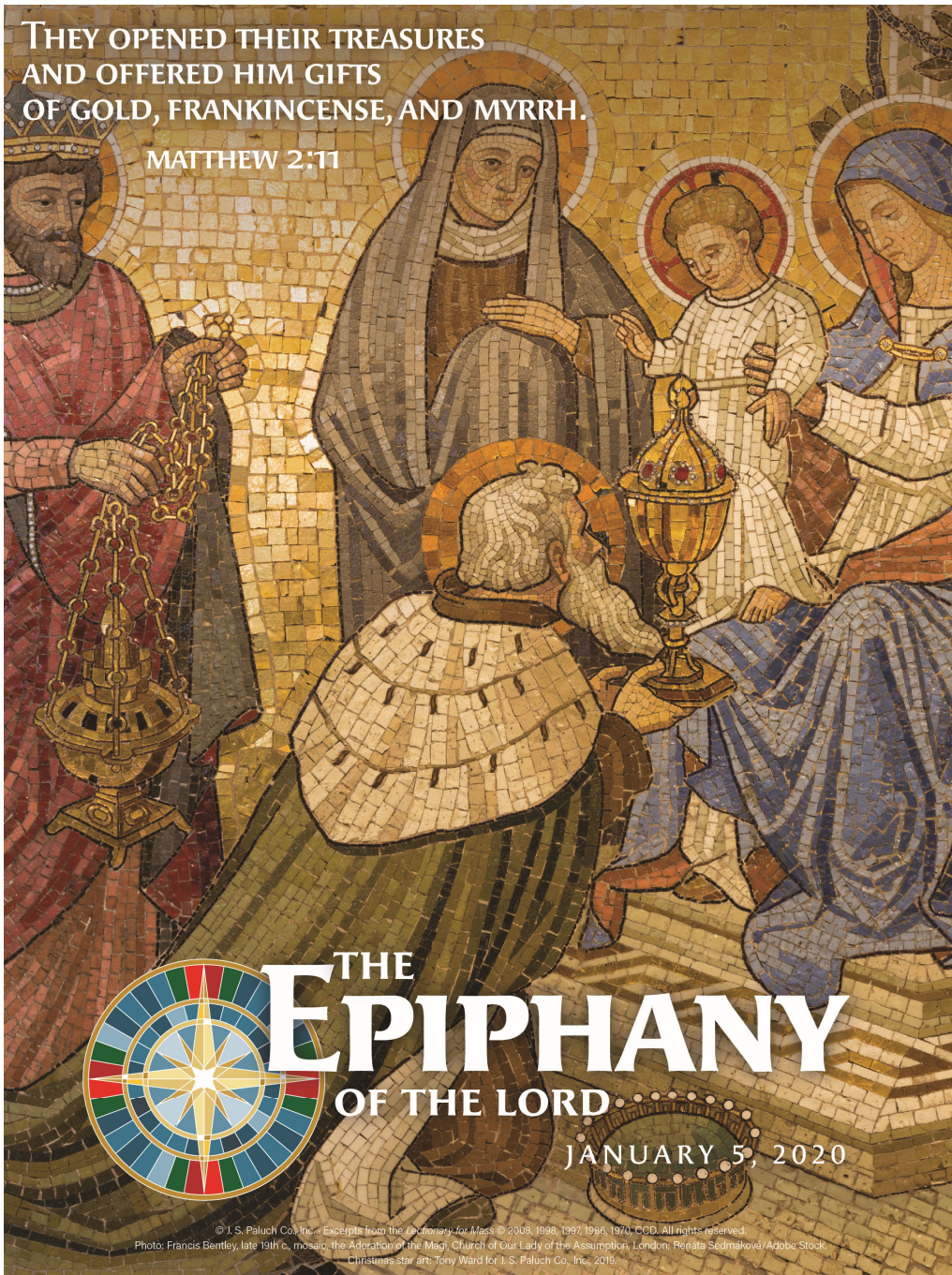


Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

**They opened their treasures
and offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**
— Matthew 2:11b

THEY OPENED THEIR TREASURES
AND OFFERED HIM GIFTS
OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH.

MATTHEW 2:11



WELCOME

So glad you could join us!

- 2 Mass Intentions and Important Notes
- 3 Pastor's Note
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- 11 Note from Deacon Stuart
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- 13 Stewardship Report Week at a Glance
- 14 Parish Information

Mass Intentions for the Week of January 6 - 12, 2019

Day	Presider (subject to change)	Time	Intentions
Monday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	William Maune
Tuesday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Louise Callaghan, Renee Saban, Monica Mataitis
Wednesday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Virginia Rachford, B.C. Collins, Richard Gomez
Thursday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Louise Callaghan, J.J. Farrell, Marie T. Martirano, Joseph Vieceli
Friday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Barb McDonnell, Heidi Dods, Anton Mataitis, Marjorie Cullen
Saturday	Fr. Baker Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Helen Lesh, Mike Kinastowski Jim Deslauriers, Stella & Felix Gembala
Sunday	Fr. Gamboa Fr. Clark Fr. Baker Fr. Baker Fr. Gamboa	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	George Duda, Maryanne Eck Stacy Baker Rosanna Mol, Marjorie Cullen, Dennis Lyle B.C. Collins, Nenita Bengua, Special Intention - Solecki Family St. Cletus Parishioners

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS



Welcome to all St. Cletus newcomers. Registration is available this weekend, January 4 & 5, after the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass and the 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Please stop by the back of church, say hello, and become members of St. Cletus Parish.

We encourage everyone who regularly attends mass at St. Cletus to consider the commitment of a parish membership.

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

Edward Fitzpatrick

Robert W. Lezak

Rhoda Smithy

Carol Carbray
Wife of George

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 - Joan Clark, Joyce Arnold, Frank Colonna, Jeanie Hills, Mary Ramirez, Charles (Bud) Howe, Rose Serrano, Ludwig Stoiber, Joseph Gregory Stroude, Grace Yamamoto

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, 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...

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

There has been no time in the recorded history of the world which has been free from armed conflict of one kind or another. Individuals are at war with individuals, nations fighting nations. Human history can seem like the history of conflict. But from time to time the perpetrator of violence in word or in deed can become a powerful agent for peace. One such notable story is that of Saul of Tarsus, who became an apostle of the Gospel of Christ.

Saint Paul practiced deep hostility towards Christians before his conversion. A zealous persecutor, he witnessed and approved the stoning to death of Stephen, the first martyr. Christians feared him. After being told of his conversion, Ananias was still hesitant and suspicious to meet him. Later St. Paul preached that both pagan and Jew share a common inheritance in the plan and promise of God. The Messiah, who was longed for by the Jews, appeared but scandalously proclaimed a universal message to all people.

Although the prophet Isaiah looked forward to the day when all peoples would worship in Jerusalem, Isaiah's hope contrasts with the pictures of Bethlehem and Jerusalem that we see today. Both are heavily fortified and attitudes are characterized by suspicion and hostility.

The hope of Epiphany is a vulnerable and innocent child. Jesus is born into poverty and tenderly cared for by Mary and Joseph. They cannot find shelter at the inn but take refuge and security in the stalls with the animals. Vulnerable and weak, dependent on mother and father, the child grows in wisdom and stature. The child is also the one who is worshipped with the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh: gold for a king, frankincense for the worship of God, myrrh, a sign of the anointing at death, which will mark the climax of Jesus' life.

As Mary and Joseph looked into the eyes of their child, could they ever have imagined that he would die at thirty-three on a cross as a criminal? Could they ever have imagined that two thousand years later, people would celebrate his memory? The paradox of the cross is shown in the contrasts; vulnerability but power, human but divine, Jew but universal.

Religious conflict has a long and tragic history; we think of the Crusades, persecution at the time of the Reformation, conflict between Jew and Christian, violence and bloodshed between Hindu and Muslim. These conflicts indicate the deeper conflict within the human heart; pride, the desire for and power and wealth, the need for superiority and identity over others. Often this leads to a person of a different color or creed being treated as a scapegoat. The insecurity of the human heart needs external supports and earthly victories.



Jesus reveals a different meaning for human life. The hope of the message of peace, which is proclaimed to the shepherds, may seem distant and ideal. However, the disciple is called to the life described in the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. It is a call to accept the distinctiveness of other people, to respect them. The disciple is called to love, which goes beyond liking, but demands treating the other with respect and dignity. The poor in spirit, the meek, the humble and those who hunger and thirst for what is right will share in the Kingdom of God.

Peace can come only through self-sacrifice, through living the cross. Peace will demand treating the other as an equal and with respect. This is difficult and requires a change of attitude. Only in the cross, in the mystery of death and resurrection, can this occur. To hear the plea of the other person, to try and understand their viewpoint, can be the beginning of a journey of reconciliation. Although we might despair that peace is unachievable, St. Paul's life shows how the power of God is active in human weakness.

God's plan is greater than any human plan; we can take hope in Paul's life and conversion. Epiphany gives an impetus to the journey of reconciliation because Christ is revealed as a light for all peoples.

Peace Always,

**Fr. Bob
Pastor**

Parish School



ST. CLETUS SCHOOL DATES TO NOTE

January 6..... School Resumes
 January 26..... Catholic Schools Week Open House
 March 28..... Spring Auction

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

8TH GRADE HIGH HONOR ROLL

Christian Arias*	Emily Lathrop
Molly Banos *	Julia Ludden *
Juliet Becker	Amelia Mariano
Robert Capiak*	Michael McGuire *
Thomas Chopp*	Sophia Olano *
Shannon Cranny *	Alenka Rus *
Annaliese Dorchinecz *	Brandon Scanlon *
June Foley *	Abby Schuler *
Kaj Grzybicki	
Gabriela Kapusta *	* indicates 4.0 or higher
Clare Kelliher *	
JoLi Klancir *	

7TH GRADE HIGH HONOR ROLL

Kyle Alpe *	Michael Pister
Aiden Decker *	Matthew Rife *
Saylor Episcopo *	Keira Sloan *
Gabriel Feltman *	Jon Spansail
Robert Gallegos	Abigail Traverso *
Sofia Garcia - Lugo *	Julia Van Wyck *
Samantha Garza	Charles Wangard *
Elsa Hernandez	Nina Wasz
Tabitha Kelliher	Lindsey Wiemelt *
Cooper Komsthoeft *	
Nisha McGahey	* indicates 4.0 or higher

8TH GRADE HONOR ROLL

Adrian Llerenas	Matthew Shanley
Quinn Mulcrone	Brianna Wolongiewicz
Colleen Ramicone	

Mark your calendars and join us Sunday, January 26th for our Catholic Schools Week

Open House

Join us to talk with teachers and administrators, and discover why St. Cletus School is the right choice for your family!



ANNUAL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The 1st through 4th grade shared their talents with the St. Cletus community as they told the story of "Carriers of the Light." Their beautiful voices reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you Sara Hodak Photograph for the beautiful photos.



St. Cletus School

700 W. 55th Street
La Grange, IL 60525


(708) 352-4820 phone
(708) 352-0788 fax
www.stcletusschool.com

St. Cletus School is a national Blue Ribbon school, recognized by the U. S. Department of Education in 2014. St. Cletus School is also a Red Ribbon school, recognized by the Nationwide Red Ribbon Certified Schools Program in 2018 for our efforts to keep our students safe, healthy, and drug-free. Its elementary program offers a strong educational curriculum guided by the Common Core State Standards in English, language arts, and math, the State of Illinois Learning Standards, and benchmarks established by the Archdiocese of Chicago. In addition to our 1st-8th grade program with an average classroom size of 21 students, St. Cletus offers 3- and 4-year-old half and full-day preschool, full day junior kindergarten, and half and full-day kindergarten classes. Our well-rounded academic program offers Spanish, art, music, physical education, library, and computer technology classes. Daily religion classes, service hours, and regular school Masses also help our students develop into mature, responsible young adults. Other opportunities available at St. Cletus School are Student Council, scouting (for boys and girls), athletic programs, band, choir, and before-and after-care programs. If your child is just beginning his/her education, or if you are considering a change, please call the school to make an appointment to visit or to register.

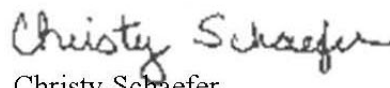
- ◆ Applications are now being accepted for new students for the 2020-21 school year.
- ◆ Catholic Schools Week Open House is Sunday, January 26, 2020. Interested families are welcome to attend our 9:30 a.m. family Mass at St. Cletus Church, followed by our Open House in the education building next door to Church from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please join us to tour the school and meet our faculty, staff, and school families!

Feel free to call the school office Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. at (708) 352-4820 if you have questions or would like to schedule an appointment to tour our school. St. Cletus School is a great place to be—stop by to learn more!

Sincerely,



Gregory N. Porod
Principal



Christy Schaefer
Assistant Principal



FAITH FAMILY FUTURE



Social Concerns Ministry



ST. CLETUS FOOD PANTRY

THURSDAYS 6-8PM

Please note the Food Pantry will be closed on January 2. Happy New Year!

Most needed at this time:

- Shelf stable milk (dry, canned, non-refrigerated)
- Kitchen wraps (foil, plastic, wax paper)
- Kitchen storage bags (zip lock, sandwich)
- Dish Soap
- Diapers size 5 & 6
- Baby Wipes

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

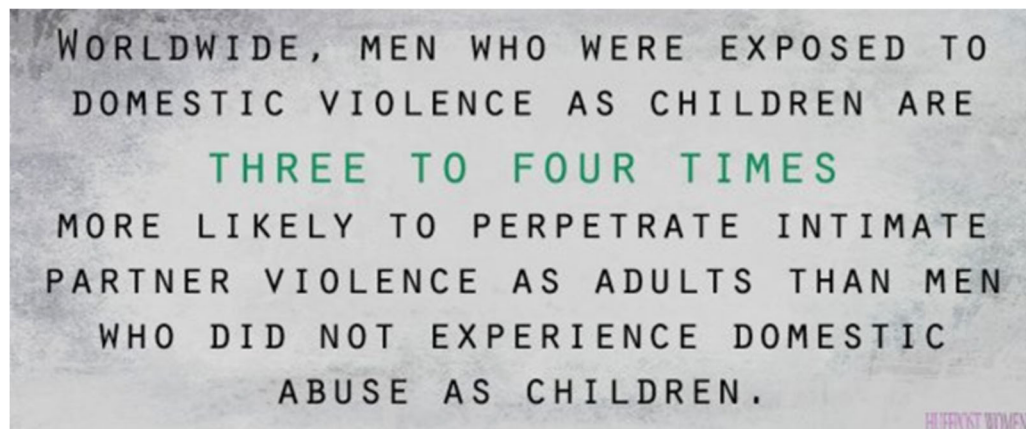
If you have questions or would like to volunteer with the Social Concerns Ministry contact Kendall Grant (708)215-5418 kgrant@stcletusparish.com

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER OPENINGS

Volunteer slots are now available for January-February at Food Pantry Distribution nights. Volunteers are needed from 5:30-8:30pm in the Rectory Basement to help clients shop, distribute items, and assist in carrying items to vehicles. These opportunities are generally geared towards middle school-adult. To view openings and sign up visit: <http://bit.ly/2GrgAWt>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Monthly Domestic Violence Support Group



If you or someone close to you is experiencing domestic violence this group may be very helpful.

The objective of the group is to provide all a chance to talk about domestic violence and share questions, concerns and experiences with others who are facing - or who have faced - similar situations in confidence.

Please contact Kendall Grant (kgrant@stcletusparish.com) or 708.215.5418 for more information.

In an emergency, dial 911, call the National Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline at 800-799-7233 or the local 24 hour hotline for Pillars, found in the box to the right. You are not alone.



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

CALL THE 24-HOUR PHONE FOR HELP: 708.485.5254


RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

MARCH FOR LIFE CHICAGO

January 11
1:00-3:00
Daley Plaza
More information:
<https://www.marchforlifechicagoconvention.org/march-rally>



WORD OF LIFE



“When I meet another parent of a child with Down syndrome, there is usually a moment of instant recognition and understanding. Our eyes meet, and we smile conspiratorially, as if we’re in on the same secret: the fundamental truth that every life is a good and perfect gift. ...Our love for our children has nothing to do with their abilities. We love them simply because of who they are, and understanding this teaches us how to truly love everyone.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
 “A Perfect Gift” (www.respectlife.org/a-perfect-gift)

INTERFAITH CAREER NETWORK

Leverage the Power of LinkedIn

For our January speaker we have a LinkedIn Account Manager coming to speak to our group. LinkedIn provides you with opportunities to reach company execs, find contacts that can open doors into companies you are interested in, and helps recruiters find you. Want to learn how to target employers? Want to know what employers look for in their candidates? Join us on January 16 from 7-9 pm and get answers to these and other questions related to LinkedIn. Our speaker, Lisa Rudisel is an Account Manager at LinkedIn. Her insights will be informative and important to everyone in a job search. Start the New Year with ICN at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 S. Wolf Road, Western Springs. This meeting is open to everyone and there is no cost to attend.

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 PROGRAMS

DIVORCED AND SEPARATED SUPPORT

St. John of the Cross Parish is hosting a weekly support group for those who have been through divorce or who are in the midst of the divorce process. Divorce and Beyond meetings are faith-based and designed to bring hope and healing to one of life's most difficult and painful experiences of loss. Topics include; dealing with stress, anger, loneliness, forgiveness, and healing. Experienced leaders create an open and confidential atmosphere conducive to judgement free sharing and discussion.

Begins Thursday, January 16 (7:00 p.m.)

Register online: <https://www.stjohnofthecross.org/divorceandbeyond> or contact Steve Weigand at the SJC Parish Office. (708) 246-4404 ext.137

SEASONS OF HOPE GRIEF SUPPORT

St. John of the Cross Parish is hosting ‘Seasons of Hope’ support group for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. ‘Seasons of Hope’ is a six-session support ministry led by experienced, caring adults familiar with the grief process. Weekly sessions present a faith-based topic and include

discussion, Scripture, and prayer. It is recommended that participants allow 3-6 mo. from time of loss before attending. Register online: www.stjohnofthecross.org/grief-ministry or contact Steve Weigand at the SJC Parish Office. (708) 246-4404

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

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 more information contact Betsy at wccmchgo@gmail.com or 708-246-8315.

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.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE



JANUARY 21-29, 2020

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today at www.9daysforlife.com!



4 WAYS TO JOIN



9DaysforLife.com

Image: A mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe decorates a side altar in the Church of Santa Maria della Famiglia at the Vatican, Dec. 15, ICNS photo/Paul Haring.

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.



Religious Education

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF!

We wish all of our families and parishioners a very happy and blessed New Year! Looking back on the first half of our academic year, we had a lot of fun encountering God through prayer, activities and games, and service experiences. We look forward to our next six months that will include more family events and planned prayer services, as well as integrated service experiences and plenty of opportunities to experience and encounter Jesus through games, object lessons, and planned events. We look forward to sacramental celebrations as well, with our 8th Graders preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in February and our 2nd Graders preparing for the Sacrament of Eucharist in May. What a great way to start a new decade!

Our next classes will be held on January 12 and 13, with our annual 1st Grade Church Tour planned for Monday, January 13th. We are also excited for our annual Family Catechetical Event scheduled for Saturday, January 25th from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Our theme this year is Incredible Families of Faith. Come and put your superpowers to work to strengthen faith in your family! More details to come!

Enjoy a few photos of some of our events from September – December of 2019. We look forward to seeing everyone back after Winter Break!



Barb Campbell, Director of Religious Education
 bcampbell@stcletusparish.com | (708) 352-2383
 re.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.
 Class is free! Book cost \$30.
 Registrations were due 12/15. Call Deb Wroblewski at 815-474-6237 for space availability.

CREDO

(Continuing Religious Education Opportunities)

ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES

GABARET
 FUNDRAISER FOR THE ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES

DUELING PIANOS IN THE PARISH CENTER
FRIDAY, FEB. 7
8:00 PM
 DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM

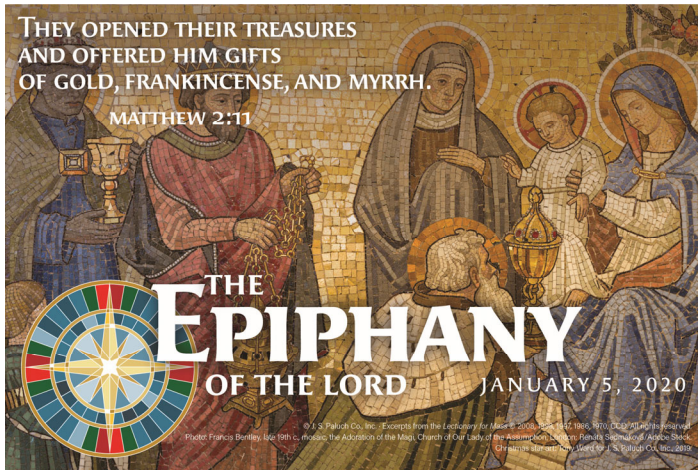
RSVP ON ONLINE:
 www.edwardfas.com

FEATURING:
 TONY KIDONAKIS

TICKETS:
 \$40 IN ADVANCE
 \$45 AT THE DOOR

ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES
 AT ST. CLETUS LA GRANGE, IL

Sunday Notes



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
- Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON (1774-1821)

January 4

Though her liturgical designation is “Religious,” Elizabeth Seton, her feast-day prayer reminds us, was also wife, mother, educator, foundress. Born into a wealthy Episcopalian family, Elizabeth married William Seton, whose untimely death in Italy where the young family sought healing for William’s tuberculosis, left her, at twenty-nine, a widow with five children. Inspired by the faith and charity of the Italian family with whom they stayed, Elizabeth embraced Catholicism despite her family’s disowning her and ceasing financial support. This woman of many firsts (and several vocations!) opened the first free Catholic school, beginning the American Catholic educational system, and founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. The tuberculosis that claimed her husband took also her oldest and youngest daughters and, finally, at just forty-seven, Elizabeth herself. Another first: in 1975 she was canonized the first native-born American saint. Once asked to summarize her spirituality, she replied: “Faith lifts the staggering soul on one side, hope supports it on the other, experience says it must be, and love says let it be!”

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

ILLNESS

They are as sick,
that surfeit with too much,
as they that starve with nothing.

—William Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice*

HEROD AND THE EPIPHANY

Why impious Herod, vainly fear
That Christ the Savior cometh here?
He takes no earthly realms away
Who gives the crown that lasts for aye.

—*Crudelis Herodes Deum*, Tr. by J. M. Neale

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Epiphany can be understood as an extension of the Nativity of the Lord that we celebrate on December 25. While at Christmas we celebrate Jesus’ coming as the long-awaited king and Messiah of the Jewish people, on Epiphany we celebrate the revelation that Jesus is the Savior and Light of all nations—Jews, Gentiles, and all people.

The star shines so brightly that it attracts magi who come from far distant countries to worship Jesus. They are not Jews, yet they are drawn to the Light of the world. The letter to the Ephesians reveals that the Light of the world was for the Gentiles as well as the Jews—Christ gathers all people into the light of his love. The reading from Isaiah also describes a gathering of diverse peoples, but this time it is to the light that emanates from the people of God.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The LORD shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalms — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The mystery has been made known that the Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:1-12).

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: The Epiphany of the Lord;
National Migration Week
- Monday: St. André Bessette
- Tuesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort;
Julian Calendar Christmas

A Note from Deacon Stuart

A few weeks ago Marlene & I went on a trip to England & Ireland, the highlight of which was a pilgrimage to the “Knock Shrine” – Full title being “The Shine of Our Lady of Knock, The Queen of Ireland”

Marlene had, for sometime, felt drawn to visit this Marian Apparition site but wasn't sure why, however, the pull was irresistible and so we went. It would be fair to say that “Our Lady of Knock” is a lesser known Apparition relative to Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe (see later) but nonetheless of very great significant, especially to the people of Ireland.

A brief history of the Apparition at Knock Co. Mayo, Ireland

On the evening of Thursday August 21, 1879, at around 8.00pm,(it was raining heavily – imagine that in Ireland !!), when Mary Byrne and Mary MCloughlin, who were walking home came upon an amazing sight, it stopped them in their tracks. Mary Byrne ran home to tell others who also gathered to view the miraculous site on the gable end of the parish church. It was the Apparition of Our Lady together with St. Joseph and St John the Evangelist and a Lamb on an altar suspended by angels behind which was a large cross.

Various accounts, 15 individuals in total, were recorded by a Commission of Enquiry which concluded that the testimonies were valid. It is recorded that this small group of people knelt in prayer, in the pouring rain for two hours.

They individually told the commission that Mary, who stood a few feet above the ground as with the whole apparition, was wearing a white cloak fastened to the neck and a brightly lit crown with a single rose.

More details are available but suffice to say that all witnesses noted in spite of the weather, the area of the apparition remained completely dry.and bathed in golden light.

A few interesting facts about this apparition

- The only one in which Mary was accompanied.
- Mary did not speak or communicate a message
- Mary appeared at a terrible time in Ireland's history – failed potato crops, famine and starvation.
- As with other apparitions she appeared to poor and suffering.

Why ???

The reason seems obvious – she wanted to encourage the people of Ireland, predominantly Catholic, in their struggles. At this time Ireland was part of Great Britain and much of the country was owned by absentee “British” landowners. Most cared little for their Irish tenants, only that they paid the rent in a timely fashion, regardless of the impact of the seasons on their crops. This led to the truly miserable conditions eloquently described by Tom Neary in Chapters 1 & 2 of his book “I Saw Our Lady”.

Some forty years later Ireland would be divided into Catholic South and Protestant North and I would suggest that the Mary's Apparition gave the Irish Catholics the impetus to separate from mainland Britain, and although this is my personal view – t it seems consistent with facts and circumstances of the events in Knock, Co Mayo, Ireland some 140 years ago.

The opening lines of the “Prayer of our Lady of Knock” are:

**Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland,
you gave hope to your people in a time of distress
and comforted them in sorrow**

As Marlene & I reflected on our visit, Marlene said she believed she felt now she understood that she was drawn to Knock and given a mission to tell the story which is so little known (outside Ireland).

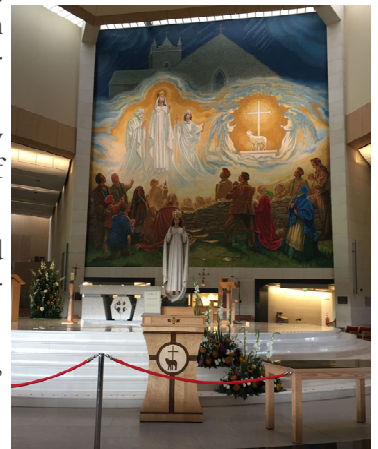
So this is the first part of that mission – enjoy.

Second Part – We are considering taking a group to Ireland for a week or so next September, the highlight of which will be a pilgrimage to Knock Shrine. If you are interested please email me at sheyes@stcletusparish.com or call my cell phone 630 842 3967.

Blessings – Dcn Stuart & Marlene



The apparition site with actual size figures and arrangement as described by the 15 witnesses.



The Basilica at Knock

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

Conscious Conversations

Sundays, Jan. 12 and 26 – 11 AM - 1 PM (continues through May, every other Sunday)

Three minute Parker Palmer videos will spark conversations where each of us listens to the other with openness and respect, and uses our own voice with clarity. Facilitators: Barbara Clevenger and Diane Pfahler, SND Cost: \$10-15

Emotional Bypassing

Monday, Jan. 13, 7-8:30 PM

As we gather and explore our thoughts, emotions, and motivations, we will touch the edges of our consciousness and listen for the Divine within. This lively introductory session is open to all, and if there is further interest, we will continue to meet every other week. Facilitator: Marv Baldwin Cost: \$20/session

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.

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

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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, January 5	7:00am	Narthex	Welcome Committee
Monday, January 6	6:00pm 8:00pm	Parish Center Mtg Room Parish Center Gym	CREDO Men's Basketball
Tuesday, January 7	7:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Rectory Church Parish Center Mtg Room	RCIA Spanish Holy Hour Social Concerns Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 8	9:00am 7:00pm 7:00pm	Parish Center Mtg Room Parish Center Gym Parish Center Mtg Room School Room 117 School Room 213	Mission Ladies Boys Church League Baptism Preparation Class Teen Seekers FSA Meeting
Thursday, January 9	5:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	School Music Room Parish Center Gym School Music Room	Children's Choir Rehearsal Boys Church League Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, January 10	9:30am 7:00pm	Church Morrissey Hall	School Mass Cardinal Pursuit Trivia Night
Saturday, January 11	9:00am 3:30pm 7:00pm	Parish Center Mtg Room Parish Center Gym Church	Pre-Cana Boys Church League Extended Adoration
Sunday, January 12	9:15am 12:00pm 12:15pm	School School Room 102 Parish Center Mtg Room	RE Classes in Session RCIA Teens Living Rosary Group

Stewardship Report

WEEKLY GIVING REPORT

Due to early printing deadlines, the December 22 and 29 Giving Reports will appear in the January 12th Canticle.



YEAR-END STATEMENT BY REQUEST ONLY


As tax time approaches, we ask everyone who would like a year-end statement of their Year 2019 financial offering to the parish to fill out the form below and return it or simply call the office @ (708) 352-6209 with your request. You may also email bkallal@stcletusparish.com and submit your request electronically. Rather than mail statements to everyone in the parish, it seems more prudent and conservative to only mail them to those who need them for tax returns. Of course, your statement is available anytime a need for it may arise. Thank you.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Envelope # _____

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
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 Paula Struwing
 Karla Martinez
 Bob Malham
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 Vice-Chairperson Chuck Luna
 Recording Secretary..... Maggie Kensek
 School Representative.....
 Director of Parish Catechesis..... Paulette Bolton
 Staff Representative..... Debbie Lestarczyk

MEMBERS

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 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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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS