

# St. Cletus Parish Canticle

Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ  
Through Worship, Education and Service

600 W. 55th St, La Grange, IL 60525



October 6, 2024 | Twenty - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

... and the two shall become

ONE

flesh.

Mark 10: 8



## Mission and Vision Statement

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Mt 28:19-20

### Parish Office

(708) 352-6209  
Monday - Friday  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



[stcletusparish.com](http://stcletusparish.com)



St. Cletus Parish



St. Cletus Church

### St. Cletus School

(708) 352-4820  
[stcletusschool.com](http://stcletusschool.com)  
700 W 55th St, La Grange, IL 60525



## Directory

### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Elmer Romero Pastor eromero@stcletusparish.com	Rev. Michael Novick Associate Pastor mnovick@stcletusparish.com
Rev. Javier Alexander Garcia Associate Pastor jgarcia@stcletusparish.com	Rev. John Lodge and Rev. Ron Kalas Senior Priest for Weekend Liturgies
Rev. Robert Clark Pastor Emeritus	Deacon Ramón Cazales rcazales@stcletusparish.com
Deacon Franco Foti ffoti@stcletusparish.com	Larry Manetti O.C.I.A lmanetti@stcletusparish.com
Norma Hernandez Coordinator of Faith Formation for Children and Teens nhernandez@stcletusparish.com	Kendall Grant Social Concerns kgrant@stcletusparish.com
Juanita Avila Hispanic Ministry javila@stcletusparish.com	Ryan Rump Music Ministry rrump@stcletusparish.com

### Operations Staff

Deacon Franco Foti Operations Director ffoti@stcletusparish.com	Jim Dion Business Manager jdion@stcletusparish.com
Giselle Rico Office Manager grico@stcletusparish.com	Olga Montalvo Assistant Office Manager omontalvo@stcletusparish.com
Luis Lopez IT Manager llopez@stcletusparish.com	Derek Sawicki Maintenance Supervisor dsawicki@stcletusparish.com

### School

Greg Porod Principal gporod@stcletusparish.com	Christy Schaefer Assistant Principal cschaefer@stcletusparish.com
Mary Lee Krieger Administrative Assistant mkrieger@stcletusparish.com	Kate Townsend Receptionist/Administrative Assistant ktownsend@stcletusparish.com
Frank Ochoa Dual Language Immersion Coordinator fochoa@stcletusparish.com	Sara Hodak Parish/School Life Coordinator shodak@stcletusparish.com

## Parish Information

### **Weekday Masses**

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. Mass

### **Sunday Masses**

Saturday Vigil, 5 p.m. (English)

Streamed live: <https://www.youtube.com/@stcletusparish/streams>

7:15 a.m. (English)

8:45 a.m. (English)

10:30 a.m. (English)

12:30 p.m. (Español)

### **Confessions**

Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

### **Baptisms / Bautizos**

Contact the parish office  
(708) 352 - 6209

### **Religious Education For Children Educación Religiosa Para Niños**

Contact / Comuníquese con  
Norma Hernandez (708) 968 - 6474

### **O.C.I.A**

Contact the parish office.

### **Weddings**

Please contact the parish office 6  
months prior to the wedding date.

### **Quinceañeras y Presentaciones**

Comuníquese con Juanita Avila al  
(708) 215 - 5441.

### **Funerals**

Contact the parish office.

### **St. Cletus School**

(708) 352 - 4820  
stcletusschool.com  
700 W 55th St,  
La Grange, IL 60525

## Mass Intentions

Saturday October 5	Rev. Elmer Romero	5 p.m.	† Robert Hoffman † Ellen Benrus † Eugene Bender	† Eugene Copp Janet Boyer (For her health)
Sunday October 6	Rev. Elmer Romero	7:15 a.m.	† John and Frances Kennedy † Carl Bangora	† Patrick Mahoney
	Rev. Elmer Romero	8:45 a.m.	Health Blessing for John Prusko, Sr. (Living)	
	Rev. Alexander Garcia	10:30 a.m.	† Louis Berger † Sammy Colonna † Marco, Emilia Rattin & Bill De Pasquale	† Nancy Sarallo Alan And Kathy Gress (50th Wedding Aniversary)
	Rev. Michael Novick Dcn. Ramon Cazales	12:30 p.m.	† Jose Salgado & Mariana Marti † Jose Juan Martinez Mendoza	Viviana Quintero Camacho (Por su Salud) Angel Alvarez and Jose Alonzo Carrillo (Birthday)
Monday October 7	Rev. Michael Novick	8 a.m.	† St. Cletus Purgatorial Society	
Tuesday October 8	Rev. Ron Kalas	8 a.m.	† Joe Klemak † Irene Wisniewski	† Ildefonso Araiza Macias † Bernerdina Ochoa Martinez
Wednesday October 9	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	† B.C. & Rip Collins † Christine Jaskenski	† Kriho Family
Thursday October 10	Rev. Michael Novick	8 a.m.	For the St. Cletus Parishioners	
Friday October 11	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	† Louie Marasovic	† Joseph Viecei
Saturday October 12	Rev. Alexander Garcia	5 p.m.	† Kurt Klecan † Ellen Benrus † Hunter Richards	† Lydia Danielewicz † James Chiostri Janet Boyer (Special Intention)
Sunday October 13	Rev. Michael Novick	7:15 a.m.	† Matt Wilson	† Rose Hammer
	Rev. Ron Kalas	8:45 a.m.	Health Blessing for John Prusko, Sr. (Living) † Phyllis Prevenas	† Gerald Dudek † James Moles † C. Rodger Brown
	Rev. John Lodge	10:30 a.m.	† Sylvia Pesut † Harold and Margaret Mau † Annette Marie Penrod	† Julio and Agustina Medrano † Kenneth "Ken" Raymond Hickey † Eleanor Maday
	Rev. Elmer Romero	12:30 p.m.	† Lupe Padilla † Francisco Parra	† Consuelo Parra † Jesus Parra † Jose Luis Parra

### Please remember our sick in your prayers:

Caroline Mhley | Diana McHale | Dr. George Schein  
 Claire Caueney | Rose Hammer | Ann Kuchta  
 Cynthia Gosse | Denise & Rich Jandura  
 George & Barb Zycan | June Matasic  
 Richard Madsen | Asis Gonzalez

### Please remember our dead in your prayers:

† Mary Anne Matthews, Wife of Jim Matthews  
 † Allan Barski, Father of Dawn Pearente  
 † Charles T. Westerlund, Father of Erick Westerlund  
 † James Fernandez  
 † Lois Love

## A Note from the Pastor's Desk

*"If we love one another, God remain in us  
and his love is brought to perfection in us."*

1 John 4:12

Dear Friends,

The readings this weekend brought me back to the heart of the family that conceived and raised me. My parents through their mutual self-giving love conceived thirteen children. Growing up, I remember hearing my father telling his friends with conviction, *"every child is a blessing from God."* I like to believe that my father's conviction was the fruit of his complete trust and surrender to the will of God. He let God fill his heart with his love. Daily I give thanks to God for giving me the parents he gave me. I love them. I love my siblings. I love my nieces and nephews. To this day, my parents continue to radiate love to all of us.

How about you? What is your story of your parents? How many siblings do you have? What are some of the blessings and highlights that you remember and share with joy? What are the one or two most important things you remember learning from them? Faith, respect, honesty, education, hard work, and love of family are some of the things that my siblings and I inherited from our parents. I am happy that my nieces and nephews are also being raised by and exposed to the same values.

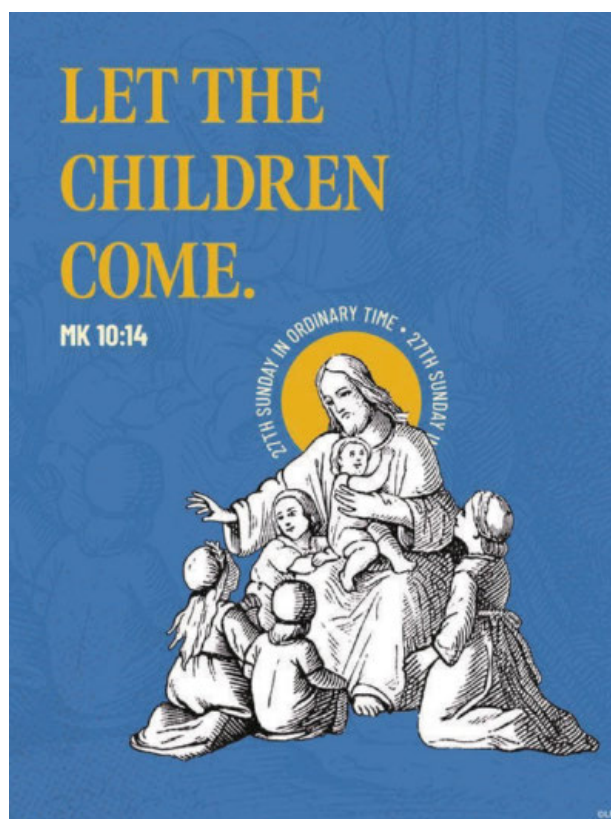
From my limited knowledge of the history of the human civilization, it seems likely that society in the past has spontaneously seen children as a blessing, and a joy. How does our current society see them? How do you see them? What is your perspective on procreation?

Petter Kreeft, professor of philosophy at Boston College, regarding procreation says, *"We have devalued what is literally the most creative thing we can do, procreation. Creating children is more creative than creating any art or science or culture or civilization, because its product is the only thing in the universe that will outlive the universe itself."* I encourage you to ponder, reflect, and share your own point of view of procreation with someone you love.

Acknowledging and celebrating our blessings, our parish will be hosting a few important communal and spiritual celebrations this month. Mass with the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 AM in our beautiful church. A light lunch will be shared in the Parish Center after Mass. All are welcome. The Parish Potluck will be taking place on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the Parish Center. This important communal event is sponsored and led by the generous Council of Catholic Women of our parish. Let us offer them our support, prayers, and gratitude. On Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at 7:00 PM, we will be praying the rosary as a parish community in our beautiful church. Leaders of different parish ministries and parish/school staff are working together in this effort. I hope you can consider joining us.

May our love for one another, family, and God continue to grow.

Fr. Elmer Romero





## A letter from the Associate Pastor's Desk

"I came so that they might have life." (John 10:10b)

Every year, the Church celebrates October as Respect Life Month. This year is no exception. Recently, Cardinal Cupich sent a thought-provoking letter to the priests of the Archdiocese, stating that Pope Francis has chosen the above quotation from St. John's gospel as this year's theme -- "I came so that they might have life." (John 10:10b) The actual end to that quotation is also important "...and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10c) Not to criticize the Pope by any stretch. I'm just stating a fact.

When October rolls around, the churches around the world light up with images of babies in the womb. Yes, babies. Children that, if they are allowed to be born into the world and experience things that you and I have throughout our lives, have gifts from God and may turn out to be the most intelligent human being who develops a cure for certain cancers that have not yet been explored or discovered. Yet, we are all aware that, sadly, abortion continues to happen. But babies are not the only group of people affected by the principles of Respect Life.

Each day, somewhere in the world, a hospitalized person who is terminally ill, is taken off of life support without their permission. Someone else decides that their quality of life will never improve and they still suffer. So, that someone else decides to "pull the plug" (using a colloquialism). It's what the Church has referred to as euthanasia. And no matter what the

situation, without proper documentation (i.e. a legally signed "Do Not Resuscitate" order by a competent authority), no one has that right.

The most controversial life issue is probably Capital Punishment (i.e. the Death Penalty). Someone on the proverbial "death row" is still a human being. Does someone who has committed heinous crimes against another human being deserve to die at the hands of yet another human being? While emotions in many cases like these run high, it still doesn't constitute the right of even a legal authority to make that decision to end another's life. It's gone on for decades and centuries. "An eye for an eye," right? Nope. "Thou shall not kill" still applies in this instance.

Yet, these issues are not the end of the story. Probably one of the newest issues in the media is human trafficking. While trafficking doesn't tend to necessarily END someone's life, it still diminishes a person to a simple object "undeserving" of respect for being human. Deportation is another example of how others are treated for being no less human, yet "undeserving" of the respect every person is given being made in the image and likeness of God. Go back in your studies to The Story of Creation in the book of Genesis. Yep. It's THAT old and THAT fundamental.

Respect Life. It's not supposed to be limited to the month of October. It's every day. It's the reason Jesus came – to restore our original dignity with God.

Fr. Mike

Respect Life  
Month



October 2024  
[respectlife.org/celebrate](https://respectlife.org/celebrate)

## Parish Life

Date	Time	Events	Location
Monday, October 7	6p.m.	Faith Formation	School
Tuesday, October 8	10 a.m. 6 p.m.	St. Cletus Book Club Pilot Alpha (English)	Gallagher Room Room 213
Wednesday, October 9	9 a.m. 1 p.m. 7 p.m. 7 p.m. 7 p.m. 7 p.m.	Mission Ladies Living Rosary CCW Board Meeting O.C.I.A FSA Meeting Faith Formation: Teen Seekers	Gallagher Room Church Gallagher Room Rectory Basement Room 201 Room 213
Thursday, October 10	4 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Food Pantry Music Room
Friday, October 11	7:00 p.m.	Alpha Piloto (Spanish)	Gallagher Room
Saturday, October 12	10 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12:45 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Mass of the Anointing of the Sick Spanish Baptisms Altar Server Training Quinceañera Mass- Clarisbel Cázales Our Lady of Guadalupe Devotion Nocturnal Adoration Mass (Spanish)	Church Church Church Church Church Church

### Readings of the week

**Sunday:** Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 (see 5)/  
Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

**Monday:** Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c/  
Lk 10:25-37

**Tuesday:** Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-  
15/Lk 10:38-42

**Wednesday:** Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Lk 11:1  
-4

**Thursday:** Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk  
11:5-13

**Friday:** Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 11:15-  
26

**Saturday:** Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk  
11:27-28

**Next Sunday:** Wis 7:7-11/Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-  
17 (14)/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

### Saints and Special Observances

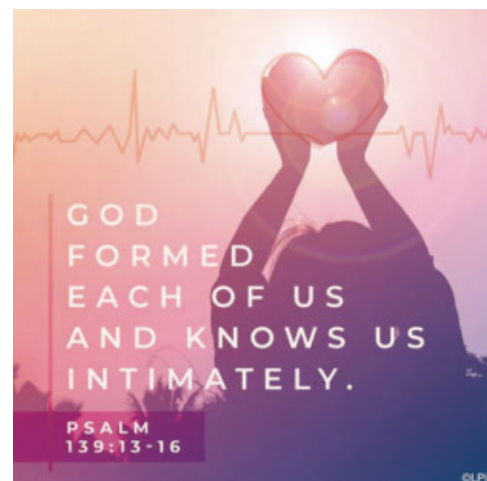
**Sunday:** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect  
Life Sunday

**Monday:** Our Lady of the Rosary

**Wednesday:** St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions,  
Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest

**Friday:** St. John XXIII, Pope

**Next Sunday:** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time





Electronic Giving: Good bye, GiveCentral. Welcome, Pushpay!

If you give electronically regularly, you may have already received an e-mail message from **Pushpay** inviting you to close your account with GiveCentral and open a new one with them. As we have been anticipating, **Pushpay** is our provider of choice for e-giving. They offer a platform that is not only very user-friendly but also comes with several applications that are incredibly useful for the Parish

Office and ministries. We are now introducing the e-giving solution with **Pushpay**, a platform designed to make your giving experience as smooth and easy as possible. We will eventually share how we all benefit from the many available features.

Our website has been updated to process your electronic donation with **Pushpay**. GiveCentral will eventually be completely phased out. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at 708-352-6209. We will be happy to assist you.

*Come to this hour of adoration because we want you to encounter Jesus. Your heart is made for him and will be restless until it knows him.*



600 W. 55TH STREET  
LA GRANGE

# SOLEMN EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

+ OCTOBER 9TH  
+ 7:00PM



SCAN ME   
TO REGISTER

## ST. CLETUS PARISH FAMILY POTLUCK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 6:00 P.M.

PARISH CENTER

RESERVATION REQUESTED

PICK UP CARD IN THE NARTHEX OR SIGN UP ONLINE

FOR QUESTIONS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:  
CCW@STCLETUSPARISH.COM OR CALL 708.710.0644

Sponsored By:

ST. CLETUS COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC  WOMEN



Potluck



# Social Concerns



## St. Cletus Food Pantry

Thursdays  
4-8 p.m.

### Wish List:

- Diapers
- Cereal
- Baby Wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Hand Soap
- Boxed Potatoes
- Crackers

Follow us on

### Facebook:

@StCletusFoodPantry

### Instagram:

@St.CletusFoodPantry

If you have questions or would like to volunteer  
Kendall Grant  
(708)215-5418  
kgrant@stcletusparish.com



## Domestic Violence Outreach

### How do I know if My Relationship is Unhealthy?

You are in an *unhealthy relationship* if you...

- Feel pressure to change to meet your partner's standards
- Are afraid to disagree
- Constantly must justify what you do, where you go
- Find yourself making excuses for your partner
- Feel isolated from friends and family
- Care for only your partner and neglect yourself.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH  
AWARENESS - SERVICES - PREVENTION

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For more information, please visit [www.dvrc-or.org](http://www.dvrc-or.org)

You are also in an unhealthy relationship if these signs apply to your partner...

- Constantly criticizes you and your ideas and actions
- Makes all the decisions
- Controls everything
- Never listens to you
- Blames you for bad things or events in his/her life
- Calls you names or yells at you
- Shoves, pinches, hits, punches, kicks or otherwise hurts you
- Does not respect sexual boundaries and physical space

## Respect Life Ministry

October is Respect Life Month. Baby Bottle envelopes will be available in the Narthex this weekend. Envelopes are due back at the end of October and can be dropped in the collection basket or at the Parish Center. All proceeds go to Women's Care Center here in La Grange. Make sure to stop by the Respect Life table to learn more. Thank you!



## Laudato Sí Program

Join St John of the Cross CARES group in a new series on Laudato Si. This program will run weekly on Mondays from October 14-November 18 at 7:00pm in the St. John of the Cross Parish Center. Each week we will watch two short videos and discuss questions in large and small groups. Registration available at (708) 246-4404.



## Ministerio Hispano

Fecha	Hora	Evento	Lugar
Domingo, 29 de septiembre	12:30 p.m.	Misa en Español <i>Spanish Mass</i>	Iglesia
Martes, 1 de octubre	7:00 p.m.	Adoración al Santísimo <i>Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament</i>	Iglesia
Segundo sábado de cada mes	8 p.m. - 5 a.m.	Misa, Confesiones, Adoración Nocturna <i>Mass, Confessions, Nocturnal Adoration</i>	Iglesia
Sábados	8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	Confesiones	Iglesia
Cada 12 del mes	7:00 p.m.	Devoción Guadalupeana / Guadalupe Devotion	Iglesia

### Junta del Comité Guadalupeano

El pasado jueves 26 de septiembre de 2024 se reunió el Comité Guadalupe para continuar con la planificación de los eventos guadalupeanos. La Novena Guadalupeana se llevará a cabo del **3 al 11 de diciembre a las 7:00 p.m. En la iglesia.** Estaremos realizando rifas como en años anteriores y tomaremos tres colectas en la Misa 12:30 p.m. para ayudarnos con los gastos de la fiesta de Guadalupeana, **la primera colecta se tomará en el mes de octubre**, la segunda en el mes de noviembre y la tercera en diciembre. Se notificará un domingo antes. Pedimos su apoyo. ¡Muchas gracias!



### Guadalupe Committee Meeting

Last Thursday, September 26, 2024, the Guadalupe Committee met to continue planning Our Lady of Guadalupe events. The Novena Guadalupeana will take place from **December 3 to 11 at 7:00 p.m. In the church.** We will be holding raffles as in previous years and we will take three collections at Mass 12:30 p.m. to help us with the expenses of the Guadalupe Feast, **the first collection will be taken in the month of October**, the second in the month of November and the third in December. You will be notified the Sunday before. We ask for your support. Thank you.



# CENA FAMILIAR DE LA PARROQUIA DE SAN CLETO

SÁBADO, 19 DE OCTUBRE, 6:00 P.M.

CENTRO PARROQUIAL

SE RECOMIENDA RESERVA

**RECOJA SU TARJETA EN LA PARROQUIA O INSCRÍBASE ONLINE**

SI TIENE PREGUNTAS O DESEA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, PÓNGASE EN CONTACTO  
CON: CCW@STCLETUSPARISH.COM O LLAME AL 708.710.0644

Para registrarse, escane el código QR

**Patrocinado por:**

ST. CLETUS COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC WOMEN



## School News

### Meet one of our School Board Members: Julio Quintero

Julio joined the school board in the fall of 2021.

Julio has served as coach for St. Cletus Athletics, Cub Master for the St. Cletus Cub Scouts Pack 83, Charter Committee Chairperson for Pack 83, and Vice President for the St. Cletus Father's Club. Julio's professional experience includes teaching for 20 years at various school settings as a history teacher and cross country coach.



He has been married for 18 years, has one St. Cletus graduate ('23), and one son entering 7th grade at St. Cletus School. Both have taken part in the St. Cletus Band, Cub Scouts, chess team, athletics, and serve as altar servers.

Julio and his family have been parishioners since 2014 and attend Mass on Saturdays at 5:00 pm or on Sundays at 10:30 am or 12:30 pm according to their family's schedule.

### Fr. Brian and the Compassionate Franciscan Sisters of the Poor

#### Principal Porod's Perspective

Father Brian Kerr and the Sisters of the Poor representing Jamaica, Philippines, and Kenya visited St. Cletus Parish School. Father Brian shared the story of Jesus's miracles through role playing and singing of songs with students. The Franciscan Sisters of the Poor are a group of women and volunteers from varying backgrounds and countries who glorify and praise God by helping the poor in places and situations which they are called where the needs of the destitute, abandoned and abused are the greatest. "Come Follow Me" was the overall theme of their presentation. A bongo drum, tambourine, and guitar were musical instruments used by the visiting religious to help motivate students to answer the "call" that God is leading students to in their lives. The final activity included a song students were singing that required them to participate in rowing a make belief boat as well as swimming in the ocean. Father Brian stood by the altar rowing and swimming on the journey with Jesus while students enjoyed rowing from their church pews. Students were encouraged to keep on going and rowing even faster in life to help those in most need. All of the students and staff received a special blessing from Father Brian as they exited the church. Their visit included a tour of our school and Parish Center of which they were very impressed.





# How will you Pray the Rosary this Month?



Pray a decade each day for peace in our families and the world.



Join us every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in church to pray the Rosary.



Pray the entire Rosary on Oct. 20th in the Parish Center with the Living Rosary. This is a very moving walk with Mary through her life and the fulfillment of God's Plan.



**Come to the Parish wide Rosary on Wednesday, Oct 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**



## Kairos 43

November 14-17, 2024

St. Mary's Retreat House, Lemont, IL



This 4-day retreat, specifically designed for high school Juniors and Seniors will help you retreat, reset, and reaffirm your relationship with God and your peers. Give yourself the gift of retreat!

The cost is \$300. Registration opens on September 27 and closes on October 25, or when we've reached capacity.

Click [here](#) to register or scan the QR Code.



If you were unable attend our first session, but are still interested in learning about the program, our next session will be held on **Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory Basement.**

Our discussion will center on Faith and its sources. Please contact Lawrence Manetti, 708.352.2383 or email [lmanetti@stcletusparish.com](mailto:lmanetti@stcletusparish.com) for more information.

Si usted no pudo asistir a nuestra primera sesión, pero todavía está interesado en aprender sobre el programa, nuestra próxima sesión se llevará a cabo el **miércoles 9 de octubre a las 7:00 p.m. en el Sótano de la Rectoría.**

Nuestro debate se centrará en la fe y sus fuentes. Por favor, póngase en contacto con el P. Alex, llamando a la oficina parroquial, 708.968.6135.



# Mass With The Anointing of the Sick

October 12th at 10am

*Light Lunch to Follow in the Gallagher Room*



**St. Cletus Parish**  
600 W. 55th Street  
La Grange

*"May You Be Wrapped in God's Love..."*

## October is the Month of the Rosary

*Please join us and fellow parishioners in praying the rosary.*

✦ *October 23rd*

✦ *7:00pm*



*"To pray the rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and His mother."*

*St. Cletus Parish* 600 W. 55th Street  
La Grange



## Veteran's Day Photo Request

Please send a photo of a veteran in your life to [shodak@stcletusparish.com](mailto:shodak@stcletusparish.com) by October 30th to be included on a special banner for our veterans day mass



**And Remember To Join Us For Our Veteran's Day Mass**

**• November 11th at 9:30am**

## XXVII Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) Reflection

By Deacon Franco Foti

*“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”  
(Mk 10:14)*

The above pericope comes from today’s Gospel, which the Order of Baptism of Children also suggests as a reading. I proclaim it often, as it reminds me of how precious our children are and how they are a wonderful gift from God. Jesus invites us to model our lives after children, valuing their innocence and purity.

There is a long-standing Mexican tradition of “presenting” a child to the temple. It is an act of thanksgiving for a child who is 40 days old or three years old. The Presentation of a Child is a ritual in honor of the Virgin Mary’s presentation at the temple at the age of three and the Presentation of the Baby Jesus in the temple 40 days after Christmas. The child is dressed in a gown or elegant suit and is accompanied by parents and godparents. At this ceremony, we remember the baptism of the child (if already baptized) and the commitment parents and godparents made at the time, who are encouraged to move forward as the child grows in mind, body, and spirit. It is also a celebration of the child’s innocence and purity, which Jesus tells us to imitate.

Our responsibility to bring children to Jesus is not limited to specific occasions. As we reflect on this passage from Mark, we should consider how we are all part of the lives of children. Perhaps children were a top priority at some point in our lives, but now that they are grown, they are not so much. However, we should always be prepared to treat all children with respect and kindness, showing them the love of Christ in the way we interact with them. If we’re going to be people who bring children to Jesus, then we need to be prepared for the unexpected. Children will often surprise us when it comes to matters of faith. They may ask tough questions we never had to answer before. Or they may show maturity in faith that we had not expected. We should be ready to support and guide them through these moments. When the unexpected happens, we would do well to remember this story in Mark. It serves as a guiding principle, reminding us that we’ll never be too far off if we’re seeking to bring children to Jesus.



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARISHIONERS  
TO HELP US LIVE STREAM!**

**ARE YOU 8TH GRADE AGE AND UP  
AND LOOKING TO GET MORE  
INVOLVED IN OUR PARISH?**

**▶▶ Training will be provided!**  
17 and under must be accompanied by an adult

**CONTACT SHODAK@STCLETUSPARISH.COM  
TO LEARN MORE!**

**\*A \$25 stipend will be provided per mass streamed\***





## PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE OF FATIMA PARISH VISITATION

The month of October is dedicated to the Blessed Mary and the Holy Rosary. At St. Francis Xavier Parish we have a Rosary Group praying rosary every Thursday at 8:15am in the Church or outside at the Blessed Mother Statue. We pray for our Parish and School, and for people's different intentions. We invite all of you to join us. This year we will have a special occasion to honor our Mother at St. Francis Xavier Parish Family.

**WHERE:**

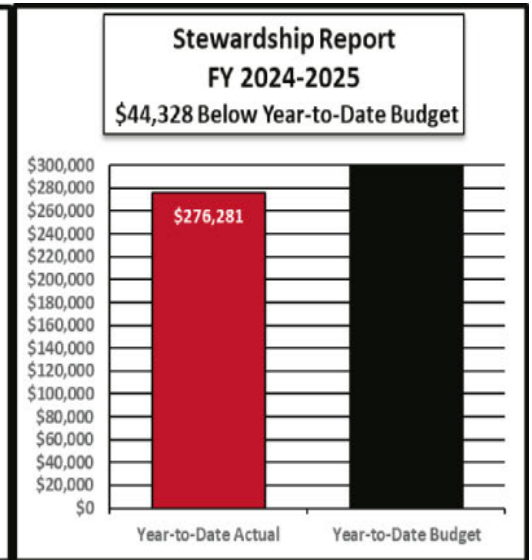
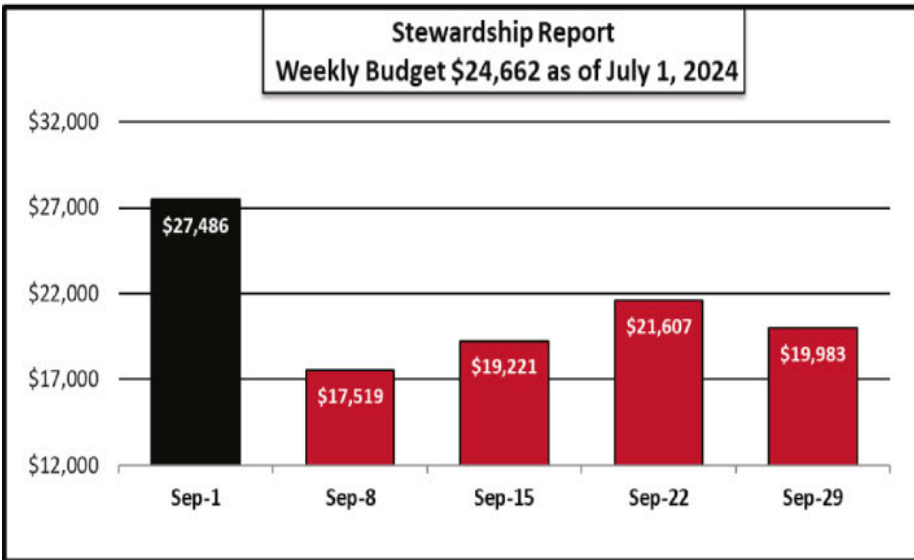
St. Francis Xavier Church  
124 North Spring Avenue, LaGrange, IL 60525

**WHEN:**

Thursday, October 10, 2024  
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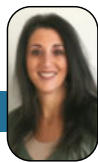
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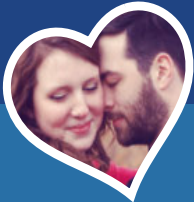
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