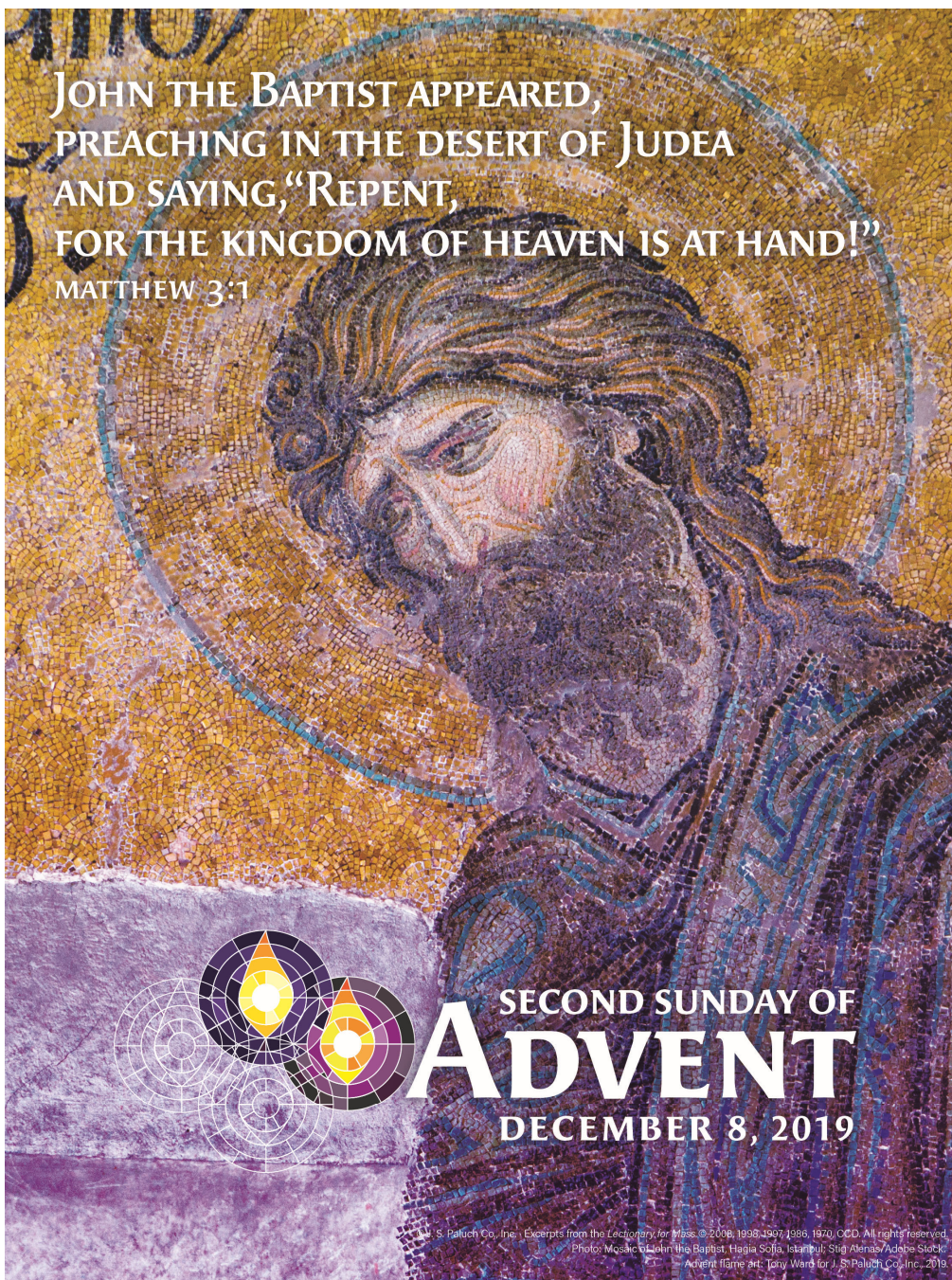


Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

**The earth shall be filled with knowledge
of the Lord, as water covers the sea.**
— Isaiah 11:9



JOHN THE BAPTIST APPEARED,
PREACHING IN THE DESERT OF JUDEA
AND SAYING, "REPENT,
FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!"
MATTHEW 3:1

**SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**
DECEMBER 8, 2019

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Advent flame art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.



- 2 Mass Intentions and Important Notes
- 3 Pastor's Note
- 4 Parish School
- 5 Religious Education
- 6 Social Concerns
- 7 Sunday Notes
- 8 Advent
- 10 Ministry News
- 11 Ministry News
- 12 Community Bulletin Board
- 13 Stewardship Report Week at a Glance
- 14 Parish Information

Mass Intentions for the Week of December 9 - 15, 2019

Day	Presider (subject to change)	Time	Intentions
Monday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Jim Deslauriers, Special Intention - Sally Baker
Tuesday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Joseph Viececi, Ola & Walter Maveety
Wednesday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Virginia Rachford, Julio Battistoni, John Battistoni, Estela Reyes
Thursday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	James Vonesh, Gene Gajos
Friday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Stanley Nykiel
Saturday	Fr. Baker Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Delphine Marciszewski Jim Deslauriers, Stella & Felix Gembala, Delphine Marciszewski, Ken Kakareka, Alberta Kwiatkowski, Fran & Frank Shevlin
Sunday	Fr. Clark Fr. Clark Fr. Gamboa Fr. Baker Fr. Gamboa	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	George Duda Stacy Baker, Zaczek Family, Adeline Kulikowski, Kathleen Koza Anthony Perkovich, Sam Colonna, Josephine Sorrentino, Jan McNamara BC Collins, John Joyce, Christine & John Joyce, Zenaida Nabo, Pito & Maria Martinez St. Cletus Parishioners

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Please give to those who
have given a lifetime.

Retirement Fund for Religious



Support aging religious. Our second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

More information can be found at <https://retiredreligious.org>

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - DECEMBER 9, 2019

Patronal feast day of the United States of America (December 9, 2019) - Since December 8 falls on a Sunday this year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to December 9. It is normally a holyday of obligation, but it is not obligatory this year.

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

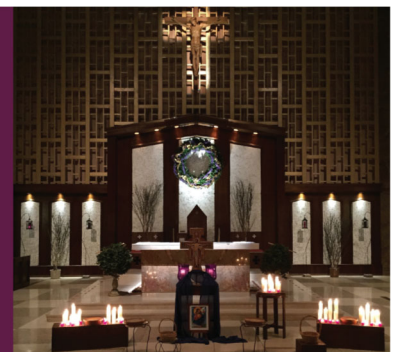
November - Ed Kutcha, Hermelinda Nevarez, Linda Stoinski, Judy Halvorson, Emily Malec, Rachael Schopp

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.

Taizé Prayer Service

Sunday,
Dec. 8th
5:00pm



Notes from Fr. Bob...

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT


“A teacher once asked her class of ten-year olds: “What would you do if one day there was a ring at your front door and when you opened it you found our Lord standing on the doorstep?” One little boy knew what he would do. “I’d run upstairs,” he said, “and I’d get the big bible from my Mom’s room and I’d hand it over to our Lord and I’d say: ‘Jesus, this is your life!’”

The boy was closer to the mark than his teacher may have realized. Of course something like three-quarters of the Bible was written before Jesus was born – it’s the part we call the Old Testament, the part which usually provides the first of our Sunday readings. Naturally, the Old Testament can’t speak directly of Jesus’ life and teachings, and yet without it our understanding of him would be impoverished; without it, his life’s story would have no context, it would seem to have been parachuted in from nowhere. We’d be meeting him in two dimensions rather than three, so to say, in black and white rather than in color. St. Paul says that “everything that was written long ago in the scriptures’ – he’s thinking, of course, of the Old Testament – “was meant to teach us.” It has not lost its significance. The point is perfectly illustrated in the readings we’ve heard today.

In the first, Isaiah, who lived eight centuries before the birth of Christ, looks towards a time when God’s people will rejoice in a ruler on whom the Spirit of the Lord will rest, who will rule with justice, who will bring peace, who will fill the country with knowledge of the Lord. The responsorial psalm, also from the Old Testament of course, takes up the same theme – a coming king who will rule “from sea to sea”, who “will save the poor...and the needy” and “have pity on the weak” and in whose days “justice shall flourish”.

When we turn to the gospel, there is John the Baptist crying out: “Repent, the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.” And if the kingdom is close at hand, so too is its king, the king that was promised long ago and the promises of the old are about to be fulfilled in Jesus. And so the call goes out: Make ready for the coming of the King! Without the Old Testament we would never have known how perfectly Jesus fulfills the hopes and yearnings of men and women who lived long before him. It would be like hearing the climax of the story of our salvation without hearing the lead-in to the final chapter first.

In Advent we are invited to share in the longings and yearnings of Old Testament times so that we may celebrate worthily the birth of the King at Christmas. The infant of the stable is the fulfillment of the whole of the Old Testament, the realization of everyone’s hopes and dreams, and he is also destined to come again in glory at the end of time. We are to repent, says John the Baptist:



that means that we’re to have a change of heart. It may well result in our finding a little extra time for prayer and scripture reading during these days before Christmas, but the main part of the preparation will be the way we lead our daily lives. After insisting that “everything written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us,” Paul sets before his readers some very practical consequences of listening to the scriptures; you must live together in harmony, he says, striving “to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you” – apparently squabbles were not unknown among the early Christians! A similar appeal is made to us today: how can we be ready to receive the Prince of Peace if we are not at peace with our brothers and sisters?

But there is something more. Paul speaks of the immense hope that the scriptures bring, for they are centered upon Jesus who is the God of hope in our midst. And so Paul concludes with a prayer – which unfortunately is not included in today’s reading – a beautiful prayer which includes in it such wonderful Christian key words as hope, joy, peace, faith, and the power of the Spirit. It’s a prayer that we might make our own on this Advent Sunday. ‘May the God of hope fill (us) with all joy and peace in (our) faith, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit we may be rich in hope’ (Romans 15:13). Amen.

Advent Peace,



Fr. Bob Clark

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 8.....HO HO Holiday Breakfast
 December 10.....D4D at McDonalds 5-7pm
 December 12.....Our Lady of Guadalupe School Mass

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



GIVE THANKS TO GOD

St. Cletus School third grade students put together a beautiful Thanksgiving prayer service. It was a wonderful way to kick off this week of Thanksgiving. The prayers, readings, and music all encouraged us to always have grateful and giving hearts. To encourage this season of giving the students brought food pantry items and placed them on the altar before the service began.



GIRLS ON THE RUN

Congratulations to all the girls who were part of "Girls on the Run" 5K downtown on Nov. 23! Such a great program that encourages girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through, interactive lessons and running games, culminating in the big 5K event!



HONORING OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

In honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a shrine has been created near the school entrance. This beautiful tribute to Our Lady will be on display until December 13th. Students and families are welcome to visit and spend time in prayer with our Blessed Mother. Furthermore, all are invited to attend an all-school Mass in honor of Our Lady on December 12th at 9:30am.



SHOP WITH SCRIP

Holiday Cash and Carry Events

Date: Sunday, Dec. 8, 7:30am - 12:30pm
 Where: Parish Center

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)

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

Religious Education

WELCOME TO ADVENT!

How exciting to be in the Second Week of Advent! The Religious Education students have super busy preparing their hearts and lives for the coming of the Lord.

As a community, we gathered together to pray an Advent Wreath prayer service, and we welcomed our 3rd Grade Families in for our Family Advent Day!

This weekend, every student will be involved with service projects benefitting our home-bound parishioners, our clients of the St. Cletus Food Pantry, Giving Tree clients, and the homeless that are served through Beds Plus.

Our 7th and 8th Graders are excited to buddy up with our 1st and 2nd Graders this week, as they share their knowledge about this holy season and assist their younger buddies in making “Soup in a Jar” and “Cookies in a Jar” for the Food Pantry.

Our challenge each week in Advent is to find a way to bring hope, peace, joy and love to those around us each

week. Watch for acts of kindness around these themes from our students during this holy season!

UPCOMING RE EVENTS:

December 8 & 9 Regular RE Class Schedule – all classes engaged in Service Projects

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

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

We are thankful for the many extra collections that were donated to the pantry this week!

Pleasant Dale Park District free throw contest raised \$125 + collected boxes of food!

St. Cletus Cub Scouts Pack 83 and Brownie Troop 55458 stopped by south canned goods!

Core Pilates Studio hosted a drive at their studio as well.

St Cletus School Thanksgiving Prayer Service collected donations for the food pantry.

The Holy Name Society donated 32 turkeys!

Our neighbor Jewel-Osco donated 40 Thanksgiving meals through the Turkey Bucks program!

Thanks to all who helped collect Turkey Bucks and who donated to the meals.



GIVING TREE

TAG REMINDER

Don't forget that **EVERYTHING is due back TODAY by 12:30pm!** That includes all gifts (purple tags), food pantry items (green tags) and grocery gift cards (white envelopes).

Please remember, each tag represents a real person. When you took a tag from the tree, you made a commitment to that person, and to returning your gift(s) on time.

Gifts/Envelopes will be returned to Morrissey Hall using the convenient drop off lane on Stone Ave.!

Volunteers will help unload your car!

Please DO NOT drop gifts off at the Church

For further details, you can also contact: Kendall Grant.

GIVING TREE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer slots are now available for our Giving Tree collection and Distribution. View slots, availability, age requirements and more at: <http://bit.ly/2PSkRXP>

Sunday, December 15th shifts between 8:30am-3:30pm: Help with hospitality, directing traffic, distributing gifts, assisting clients to their vehicles, clean up, etc.

Please use the Sign Up Genius link above to volunteer and read the notes on age requirements. Contact Kendall Grant with any questions. Thanks!

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Volunteer drivers needed to transport older adults - Can you spare an hour or more a week to drive an older adult? Interfaith Community Partners is a non-profit organization that works together with volunteers to provide rides to older adults in the Lyons, Proviso, and Riverside Townships and is expanding to the suburbs west of these townships. Volunteers provide accompanied transportation to medical appointments, and life-enhancing errands such as the grocery store, bank, hairdresser, and church. There is no cost to clients and donations are accepted, if able. Contact ICP at 708-354-9328 for a volunteer application and visit them on the web at InterfaithCommunityPartners.org. They provide training and work around your busy life!

AARP TAX-AIDE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2020 TAX FILING SEASON



The AARP Tax-Aide Program is now seeking volunteers for the upcoming 2020 tax filing season. It's not necessary for you to be an AARP member or to have a tax or an accounting background to volunteer. However, some knowledge of your own personal tax matters is very helpful. All returns are prepared on computers; thus, volunteers should be somewhat computer literate. Training classes will be held in January, 2020. Minimum time commitment during the filing season is 4 to 5 hours one day per week from early February to mid-April. This income tax preparation and assistance service is offered to low and middle income individuals with special attention to those 60 years and older. Won't you help?

For further information about the program and to sign up as a volunteer, please visit: https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/ or contact St. Cletus parishioner John Wagner at 708-352-0170 for further details.

RESPECT LIFE



WORD OF LIFE

“When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“How to Build a Culture of Life”

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.

PRAY FOR HEALING MINISTRY

St. Cletus has started 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. No computer? No worries – please give your name and address to the parish center and we will send you each offering via the US postal service. Questions? Please contact Jerry Mitchell (630 849 5857) at prayforhealing@stcletusparish.com

Sunday Notes



2ND SUNDAY OF

Advent

THE LONG-AWAITED ONE

As the Sundays of Advent unfold the scriptures shift focus from the final coming of the Lord to his historical birth. Today's scriptures blend the two. Isaiah's disillusionment with the kings of his own day led him to envision an ideal king who would rule with divine approval and be led by divine wisdom. For centuries the Jewish people anticipated the arrival of that Messiah, who would usher in a blessed age when the whole world would finally dwell in justice and peace.

After centuries of such growing expectation, the preaching of John the Baptist about the imminent arrival of the Messiah could not help but provoke intense interest. The Baptist's message about preparation for "the one who is coming" (Matthew 3:11) makes clear that Jesus is, in fact, the long-awaited one who is ushering in the new age foretold by Isaiah and all the prophets.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-10).

Psalm — Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:4-9).

Gospel — Produce good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (Matthew 3:1-12).

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.

JUSTICE AND OBEDIENCE

Justice is the insurance we have on our lives, and obedience is the premium we pay for it.

—William Penn, English Quaker

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38
or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
- Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
- Monday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Tuesday: International Human Rights Day
- Wednesday: St. Damasus I
- Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Friday: St. Lucy
- Saturday: St. John of the Cross

SAINT JUAN DIEGO (1474-1548)

December 9

How well Mary's own words describe Juan Diego: "God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly" (Luke 1:52). Through him, for the diverse peoples of the Americas, indigenous and immigrant, the Mother of God became known as their Mother, too. Cuauhtlatzin, his given name, means "One Who Speaks Like an Eagle," and Juan Diego faithfully delivered the Virgin's request that a church be built at Tepeyac where she had appeared to him. To the skeptical bishop's request for a sign, Our Lady showed Juan Diego roses blooming through stony ground, despite winter's cold. When he unfolded his tilma to present them to the bishop, imprinted there was Mary's image! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a mestiza, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus to peoples too easily prone to a "clash of cultures," Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son.
—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

POSSIBILITIES

Nothing is impossible for God and his Blessed Mother.

—Don Bosco

Advent



WELCOME TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

As we begin this new liturgical year, we will be hearing the Gospel of Matthew.

Each of the gospels is unique and in some of its content. Each gospel is shaped by the needs, the problems, and the trials and challenges of the community for which the gospel was written. Matthew's gospel was written for the Jewish followers of Jesus who had continued to attend the synagogue regularly. Matthew presents Jesus as the new Moses by having him do "Moses-like" things: he gives the people new rules of behavior-the Beatitudes; he has miraculous powers (healing, curing, forgiving); brought hope to many people. The main theme of his gospel is that "the kingdom of God is like..." a reign of peace and love, of harmony and serenity, of forgiveness and mercy.

THE JESSE TREE

"A SHOOT SHALL COME OUT FROM THE STUMP OF JESSE, AND A BRANCH SHALL GROW OUT OF HIS ROOTS. " ISAIAH 11:1

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

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

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

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

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

JOIN US THIS ADVENT

8:00am - Daily mass

Saturdays at 4:15pm - Confession

Dec. 8 at 5:00pm - Taizé Prayer Service

Dec. 12 at 9:30am - School Mass Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec. 17 at 7:00pm - Advent Reconciliation Service at St. John of the Cross

St. Cletus Annual Giving Tree Dates to Remember

- Giving Tree Presents (purple and white tags) returned before or after Masses (Dec. 7-8) using the drop off on Stone Ave.
- Food Pantry items (green tags) returned any time before Dec. 8 to the food pantry bins in the narthex
- December 15 is gift distribution

St. Cletus Parish Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE

2:00 p.m.	Church
2:15 p.m.	Parish Center
3:30 p.m.	Church
3:45 p.m.	Parish Center
5:30 p.m.	Church
7:00 p.m.	Church (in Spanish)
10:30 p.m.	Church (10-10:30pm Christmas Carols prior to Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY

7:00 a.m.	Church
8:00 a.m.	Church
9:30 a.m.	Church
11:00 a.m.	Church

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

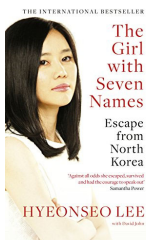
families. This annual effort this year is looking to collect 7,000 first class stamps.

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

BOOK DISCUSSION



The next book discussion will be at 7 P.M. on December 10th in the Parish Center. We will discuss The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee.

For those who want to look ahead:

- On February 11, 2020: The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See
- On April 14, 2020: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
- On June 9, 2020: The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

All are welcome. Questions – call Denise at 708.712.8294

ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES AT ST. CLETUS

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.

Plan to join us on Sunday, December 15 at 4pm. This free concert will be held in St. Cletus Church. A freewill offering will be taken.



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).

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

Village Vocal Chords Concert, Sneak Peek, and Yuletide Cheer. Sunday, December 8, Sneak Peek of The Well 2 PM, Concert 3 PM - We loved them last year, and they're coming back! The Village Vocal Chords, an all-women's choir, has won awards both in the U.S. and abroad. Come early to get a look at The Well's new digs. After the concert, stick around for some delicious Yuletide treats, and a Christmas fair. Cost: \$10
Healing Gong, Thursday, December 12, 7-8:30 PM
This unique sound therapy and mindfulness meditation event helps one reach a higher state of conscious awareness, to relax, and re-balance the core of one's being. Facilitated by Marian and Gabriela Kraus. Cost: \$35



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

SPIRITO! SINGERS CONCERT

Celebrate the Christmas Season at the SPIRITO! SINGERS Winter Concert "Balulalow ~ Cradle Lullabies"

Join Spirito!'s three choral ensembles as they perform their 2019 Holiday repertoire at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church (149 W. Brush Hill Rd., Elmhurst) on Sunday, December 8th at 3pm. To order tickets please go to: <https://www.spiritosingers.org/winter-concerts> or call 630.581.5440.

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 wccmchgo@gmail.com or 708-246-8315.

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.

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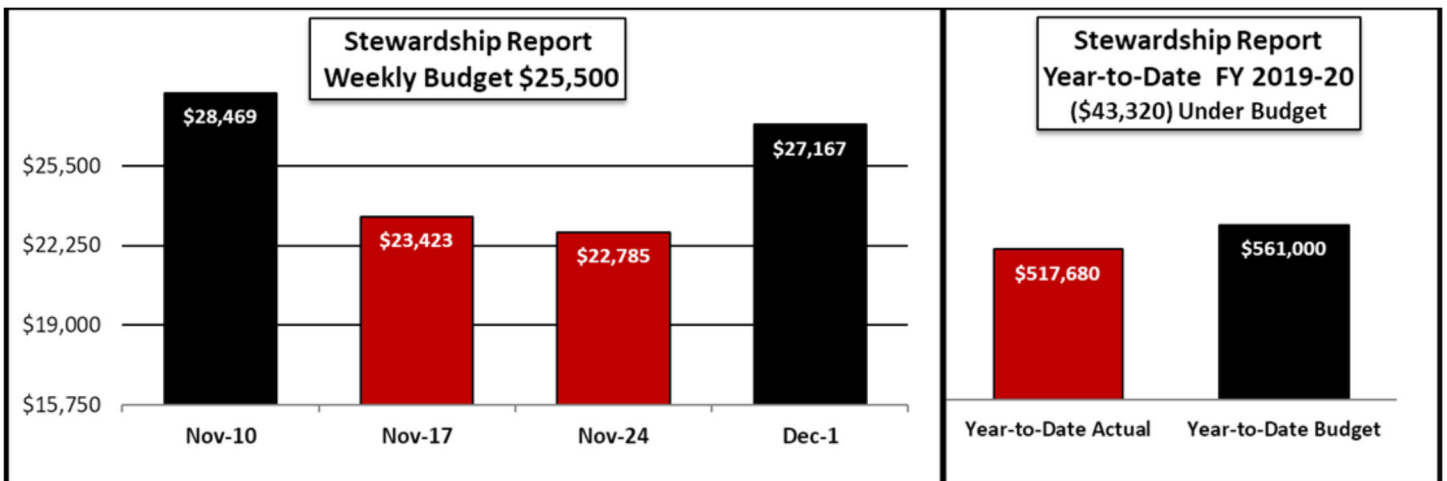
Jeffrey R. Tobolski Cook County Board Commissioner-16th District
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WATRA Church Goods

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 8	7:00am 7:45am 12:00pm 5:00pm 7:00pm	Morrissey Hall Parish Center School Room 102 Church Church	Giving Tree Collection HO HO Holiday Breakfast with Santa RCIA Teens Taize Prayer Service OLG Novena
Monday, December 9	6:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm	School School Music Room Church Parish Center Gym	RE Classes in Session Junior Choir Rehearsal OLG Novena Men's Basketball
Tuesday, December 10	7:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Rectory Church Parish Center Mtg Room	RCIA OLG Novena Book Club
Wednesday, December 11	7:00pm 7:00pm	Church School Rm 217	OLG Novena Teen Seekers
Thursday, December 12	5:00am 9:30am 7:00pm	Church Church Morrissey Hall	Las Mañanitas School Mass OLG Mass and Celebration
Friday, December 13			
Saturday, December 14	9:30am 10:00am 5:00pm 5:00pm 7:00pm	Church Parish Center Narthex Narthex Church	Mass for Spanish Advent Retreat Spanish Advent Retreat CREDO Table Shop with Scrip Table Extended Adoration
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

Stewardship Report



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

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 Vice-Chairperson Chuck Luna
 Recording Secretary..... Maggie Kensek
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 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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