

Saint Cletus Parish Canticle



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ADVENT

Daily Mass - 8:00 am

Sunday Liturgies

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm - Hispanic Liturgy

Confessions - 4:15-4:45 pm Saturdays (Except Dec. 24)

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec. 3 - Dec. 11 at 7:00 pm Novena

Dec. 12 - 5:00 am Las Mañanitas, 7:00pm Mass

Reconciliation Service

Dec. 13 - 7:00 pm Parish Sacramental Celebration

Wednesday Evening Masses

Dec. 14, & Dec. 21 - 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve Dec. 24 (Please note Mass Locations)

No 8:00 am Mass or Confessions

2:00 pm - Church

2:15 pm - Morrissey Hall

3:30 pm - Church

3:45 pm - Morrissey Hall

5:30 pm - Church

7:00 pm - Church - Spanish

10:00 pm - Sing Carols, 10:30 pm - Mass in Church

Christmas Day Dec. 25 (All Masses in Church)

7:00 am

8:00 am

9:30 am

11:00 am

12:30 pm Spanish

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Dec. 31 - 5:00 pm Vigil

Jan 1, 2017 - 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am, & 12:30 pm Spanish



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Mass Intentions for the Week of December 12 - December 18, 2016

Day	Presider (subject to change)	Time	Intentions
Monday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Dolores Wouk, Frank Wojcik, Lane Powell, Christopher Jackson
Tuesday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Mary Flannery, Stanley Nykiel, Eilleen Kenny
Wednesday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Delphine Marciszewski
Thursday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Monika Mataitis, Marie Bruno
Friday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Evelyn Prevenas, Erik Geyer, Nanci Makris, Joshua Swibel, Thomas Forkin
Saturday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	John Kurland
	Fr. Gamboa	5:00 p.m.	Benjamin Patrick Hyink, Diane Neihaus, Lee Chvatal, William Frey, Fred & Elsie Cemen, Sam & Maria Scopelliti, John & Dorothy Walsh, Rose Delaloye
Sunday	Fr. Clark	7:00 a.m.	Sharon Smith, Marco & Emilia Rattin, Dolores E. Kuchta, George Duda, Maria Wisniewska, Frank Miller
	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	St. Cletus Parishioners
	Fr. Gamboa	9:30 a.m.	Patsy Walsh, Kathy Tauber, Josephine Sorrentino, Betty Stange, Jean Shuld
	Fr. Baker	11:00 a.m.	Ken Herzog, Valerie Moskus, Nancy Candela, Amparo Silva, Gene Kennedy, Bill DePasquale
	Fr. Filbert	12:30 p.m.	Deceased St. Cletus Parishioners



Marriage Banns

Melissa VanWormer & Dan McCroy

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

Fred & Elsie Cemen

Parents of Bill and Ann Tortorello

May they rest in peace. Amen.

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE DEC. 13

Tuesday, Dec. 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an opportunity to be graced by God's peace and extend it to others through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Parish Forgiveness Service will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Advent is a time to mend quarrels, to forgive those who have hurt us, and to pray for peace.

BULLETIN ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Please note that all Canticle articles are to be sent to canticle@stcletusparish.com. Please send as text with pictures separate. All articles are due no later than 5 p.m. Friday a full week (nine days) before Sunday's publication.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Theresa Cimaglia, Donald Price, Eileen Peters, Kathy Zydel, Adriana Pecheo, Enrique Pecho, Armando Pecheco, Fernando Cabral, Maria Cabral, Jennifer Ochino, Don Wettstein, Robert Arbuckle, Rob Semsey, Johnny Sipek, Lonnie Rott, Fran Kruse, Nick Lodato, Jack Simpson, Anne Bermier, Evelyn Ulfing, Ginny Skibbe, Kim Zwolinski, Lane Powell, Dcn. Jim Cozzo, Mirna Cozzo, Daniella DeRivera, Peter DeRivera, Damien Johnson, Lesley Hansen, Kristen Gozdecki, Steve Gozdecki, Lane Powell, Kelly Cook, Frank Ciszek, Nino Scimone, Lee Ascencio, Jean Weekley, Laura Segel, Adrina Castillejo, Otto Stuckman, Patricia Pilleggi, Isaac Musser, Jean Takes, Robert William, Gene Wallace, John Eterno, Vivian Swibel, Jennifer Streit, Julianne Hausknecht, Cynthia Cozen, Eleanor Tolan, Carol Piccolo, Pat Harris, Eleanor Brousil, Allie DeRivera, Carmen Rodriguez, Christine Bell, Jenna Zimmerman, Rachel Lipman, Mauricio Aguilar, Patricia Krieger, Brian Cabral, Fernando Cabral, Enrique Pacheco, Steve Woynicki, Irina Fursman, Linda Mantey, Marshall Johnson, Diane Bridges, Catherine McCord, Nancy Gibson, Jean Weekly, Gerda E. Dorso, Judy Duque, Carolyn Sharpe, Joanne Stevens, Linda McMahon, Erin Lively, Ed Barnicle, Glen Peters, Emily Ann Dziedzic, LaVerne Gill, Sr., Joyce Arnold, Jackie Schickel, Loretta Johncola, Denise Rowalka, Sharon Mylan, Mary Jamrozik, Shellye Bolton, Emily Devine, and John Duda.

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

Notes from Fr. Bob...

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

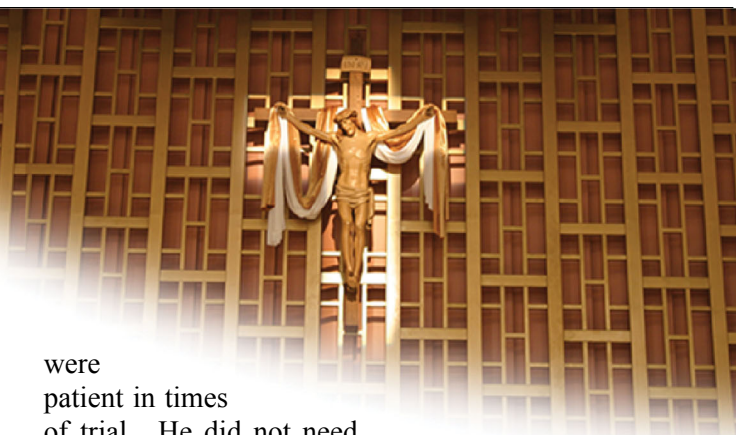
Arak is a spirits drink, something akin to vodka, and made by the Arabs. As a body-warming and mind-numbing drink, it became the friend and companion of a young, Scottish soldier during the dark days of war in 1942. Fighting with the “Desert Rats” in North Africa, against the great German general, Erwin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

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

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

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

Life is like that, says James. We must wait patiently and not lose hope. Rather, we must help each other to hope. So he goes on to give another example. Think of the prophets of old, how much they put their hope in God and



were patient in times of trial. He did not need to think very far back. Think of John the Baptist.

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

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

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

Advent Hope, Peace and Love,

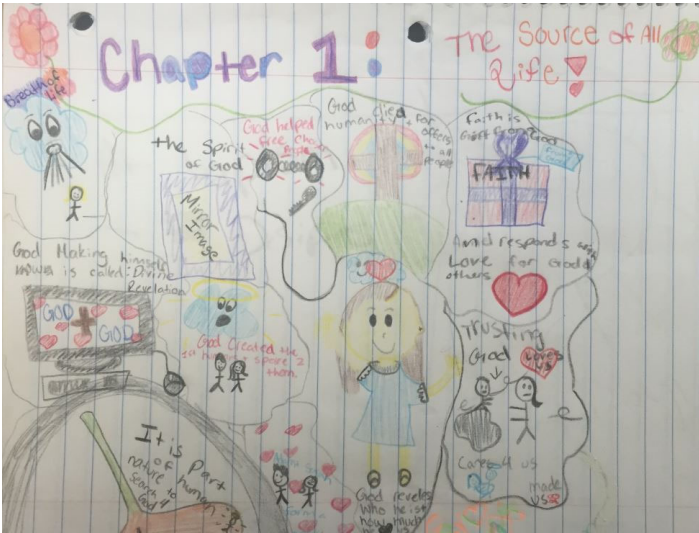


Fr. Bob
Pastor

Parish School



<p>DATES TO REMEMBER</p> <p>FSA Vendor FairDec. 10</p> <p>Christmas Break BeginsDec. 23</p> <p>School Resumes.....Jan. 9</p>	<p>FOR INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR</p> <p>Tom Chinske, Principal (708) 352-4820 tchinske@stcletusparish.com</p> <p>Christy Schaefer, Asst. Principal (708) 352-4820 cschaefer@stcletusparish.com</p>
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Learning through Doodles

Our sixth and seventh grade religion students are taking an artistic approach to learning the materials while they work through their Sadlier religion books. Using the sketch note method students take notes by drawing pictures to highlight and emphasize important information which helps them conceptualize ideas. The benefits are a richer understanding of what they are learning and fun notes for studying.



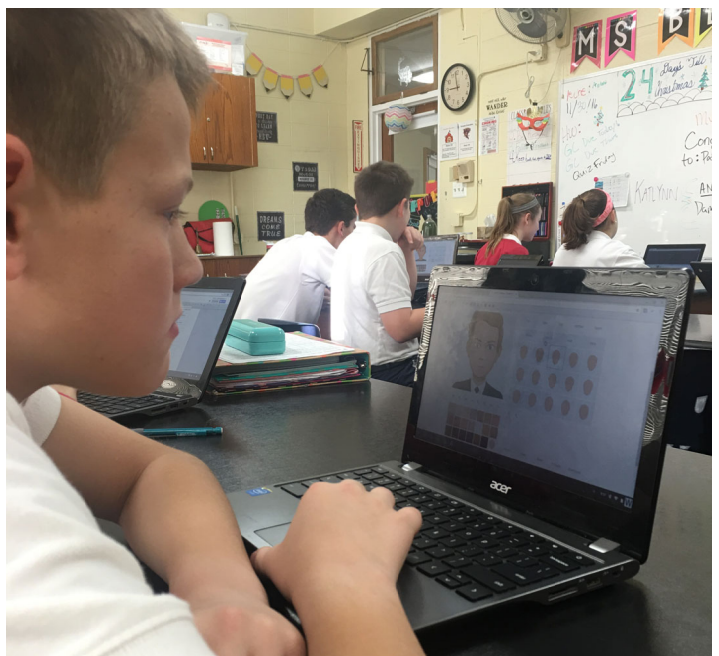
Girls on the Run 5K

We are so proud of our Girls on the Run club! Despite some chilly weather, all their training paid off when they showed up ready to run and have fun. The GOTR program is focused on helping the next generation of women grow up strong, confident, and empowered.



Cub Scout and Girl Scout Tree Trimming

Thank you to Fuller's for donating the trees for our Scout Tree Trimming. The trees can be found by the main entrance to St. Cletus School.



Using Technology to Enhance Science Lessons

Recently our Junior High Science classes used their Chromebooks to study genetics by manipulating traits in real-time. Using an application our students were able to create different genetic scenarios and then see what the possible outcomes would be. The pictured student is using the application to cross a famous person's traits with his own.

Second Collection This Weekend



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

www.retiredreligious.org

“Be faithful to your prayer life and have a sense of humor,” says Sister Rita Polchin (*foreground*), 87, a member of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. This philosophy has served her well during nearly 70 years of religious life, especially as a teacher and principal in Catholic schools.

Like Sister Rita, the senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests shown here— and nearly 33,000 more across the nation— have offered their lives in service and prayer. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide nursing care, medications, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Roughly 95 percent of donations aid senior religious.

Please give generously to today’s second collection.

To donate:
National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194
Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.
Or give at your local parish.

Photos: (*foreground*) Sister Rita Polchin, SSCM, 87; (*background*) visit retiredreligious.org/2016photos for a list of names. ©2016 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Photographer: Jim Judkis.

Social Concerns Ministry

Food Pantry

Most needed at this time:

- Canned/dry milk
- Tuna
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Coffee
- Hot Chocolate

Donations can be dropped off before or after masses or anytime daily between 7:45am-4pm in Food Pantry bins in the Narthex.

Please note, due to the Christmas trees in the Narthex, the bin has been moved to the "Brides Room" on the West side of the Narthex.

GIVING TREE

Gifts are due this weekend! 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 **PURPLE TAGS** (gifts): please remember to place your Giving Tree gifts in the Madonna della Strada chapel in the **church narthex this weekend** with the tag securely attached to the package. If you have more than one package for the same person, please attach a gift tag indicating his/her name and family number, to make sure all gifts go to the correct person. The gifts will be organized for distribution after the 12:30 PM Mass on Sunday, December 11.

FOOD BASKETS **RED TAGS** (food baskets): Bring your **Food Baskets** to **Morrissey Hall on December 18 from 7:30 AM-11:00 AM**. There will be volunteers curbside to help carry in your baskets. We ask that you securely attach the food basket tag to your package. If your food is in more than one container, if possible please mark the containers 1 of 2, 2 of 2, etc. This will be a big help in our organization process.

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

THE GIVING TREE COMMITTEE

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the parish website: stcletusparish.com/socialconcerns. For further details you can also contact Kendall Grant.

Giving Tree Volunteer Opportunities...Please contact Kendall to sign up.

We are still in need of volunteers for all of our Giving Tree opportunities.

Please spread the word and sign up!

- **TODAY! Sunday, December 11 - 2:00-6:30pm:** Sorting gifts in church, loading truck for delivery to St. Agatha's and storing local community gifts in Room 201. 7th & 8th graders can come *with an adult as a partner*.

- **Sunday, December 18** (Morrissey Hall):
6:30am-1:00pm Giving Tree accepting and organizing food baskets and gifts.
1:00pm-7:00pm Distribution of food baskets, gifts, and clean up.

*7th & 8th graders must come with an adult, or if in a group, 1 adult to every 5 students.

**Please Note-it is not necessary to work an entire morning/afternoon shift, but at least 2 hour shifts please.

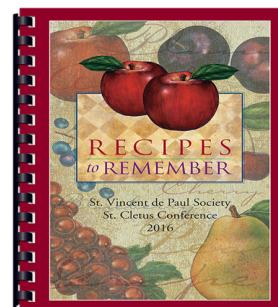
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St. Cletus St. Vincent de Paul Society Cookbook is available. There are 2 ways to purchase a book...

- December 17-18 before/after Masses
- Weekdays in the Rectory starting Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Checks should be made payable to SVDP. All proceeds go to the charitable works of our SVDP conference, helping individuals and families right here in our neighborhood. Proceeds from your purchase of a cookbook literally puts food on tables, keeps the heat and electric running and keeps roofs over heads. Thank you!!

The cookbook is \$15 and contains almost 500 recipes from *(continued on next page)*



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

parishioners, families and friends. It cookbook includes: appetizers, soups and dips, salads, main dishes, vegetables and sides, deserts, cakes, cookies and brownies, breads and rolls and more!

A great stocking stuffer, or beautiful gift for the cook in your life! And that could just be you!

Questions? Call Jerry at 630-849-5857.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The holidays are an especially difficult time for victims of domestic violence. Please consider attending our monthly support group or sharing this information with a friend or family member in need. Thanks!

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 at (708) 215-5418 or email kgrant@stcletusparish.com or for more information.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH
— ARCHDIOCESE of CHICAGO —
AWARENESS · SERVICES · PREVENTION

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

CALL THE 24-HOUR PHONE FOR HELP:
708.485.5254

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 purple box above. You are not alone.

HOMELESS PERSONS MEMORIAL

Monday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.
Old St. Pat's Church (700 W Adams St, Chicago 60661)

On the longest night of the year, please join us as we again remember our homeless brothers and sisters who have died in the last year. The memorial will be held on December 19th, 2016, at Old St. Patrick's Church. Music again will be provided by Harmony, Hope, and Healing, which puts on this service along with the Ignatian Spirituality Project, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Old St. Pat's, New Moms, Cornerstone Community Outreach, and the Night Ministry.

INTERFAITH CAREER NETWORK

Interfaith Career Network (ICN) offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information and upcoming events, please visit our website at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.

MISSION LADIES

The Mission Ladies (pictured below) are a group of volunteers that makes items for children and nursing homes by sewing, kitting, and crocheting. This powerful group made 654 items to give away this year! Items include dolls, adult and children's hats, lap robes, wheelchair bags, and stuffed animals. These beautiful, handmade items are donated to St. Cletus Social Concerns, Kolbe House Prison Ministry, Loyola Children's Center, Meadowbrook Manor, Plymouth Place, Sinai Children's Hospital, and the LaGrange Hospital. Thank you for all your hard work!!! If you're interested in joining Mission Ladies or learning more, please contact Delores Scaletta at deequilter@aol.com.



Advent - A Season of Love, A Season of Joy, A Season of Hope



A SEASON OF HOPE

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

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

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

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

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
 Monday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Tuesday: St. Lucy
 Wednesday: St. John of the Cross
 Friday: *Las Posadas* begins

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30
 Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36
 Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
 Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

When the ties of affection and authority that bound Europe's Catholics unraveled in the sixteenth century, many cultures lost time-honored customs of faith. Some customs proved to be especially difficult for the reformers to wrest away from the people, especially those celebrated in the home. This week in Sweden, a country where the Catholic Church was disestablished four hundred years ago, a Catholic martyr from Sicily is the most beloved figure. St. Lucia, Lucy, is celebrated on December 13. The long-story-short is that Lucy was a Christian whose father wanted to marry her off to a pagan fellow, and she rejected her father's authority. To make an example of her, her father had her killed. In the course of the brutal martyrdom, Lucy lost her beautiful eyes, but her vision was miraculously restored. The candles worn today by the eldest daughter of the family are tokens of the fire that refused to harm the saint. So this patroness of light and clear vision is revered on the shortest, darkest days of the Nordic winter. Before the reform of the Gregorian calendar in the sixteenth century, December 13 was the winter solstice.

Today, young girls appear in the morning wearing lighted candles on their crowned heads (battery-operated now after many mishaps), and serve sweet rolls and coffee to everyone in the house. For the Swedes, who are not churchgoers, the "Lucias" are the official heralds of the holiday season and a sign of everyone's yearning for more light in this world. Europe once abounded with customs like this; the survival of this custom in Scandinavia is a sign of God's grace, and how fertile the soil is to receive the true message of Advent.

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

JUSTICE AND OBEDIENCE

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

—William Penn



PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE

TUESDAY, DEC. 13TH AT 7:00 P.M.

Join us for an opportunity to be graced by God's peace and extend it to others through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Parish Forgiveness Service will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Advent is a time to mend quarrels, to forgive those who have hurt us, and to pray for peace.

WRAP Presents & BE PRESENT BEST Advent EVER

We prepare for everything we consider important in life. And that includes Christmas. We shop for gifts, bake cookies, decorate our trees, and visit family and friends until we're ready to drop. This year, prepare for Christmas in a different way. Join Dynamic Catholic for Best Advent Ever: *Rediscover Christmas*. You'll receive daily emails with inspirational videos, practical tips, or free Christmas music that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most. You'll experience Christmas in a way you've never experienced it before. Are you ready for your best Advent ever?

To sign up, visit **BestAdventEver.com**

Dynamic Catholic
Be Bold. Be Catholic.™



Save the Date

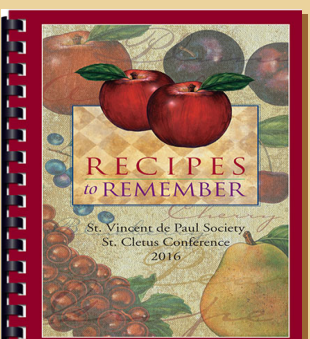
**Saturday
April 1st
2017**

Capri Banquets,
Countryside, IL

**WATCH FINAL FOUR GAMES ON A HUGE 9 X 11 SCREEN!
RAFFLES, DJ, LIVE & SILENT AUCTION,
GREAT FOOD & DRINKS!**

More info coming soon
auction.stcletusschool.com

St. Cletus St. Vincent de Paul Society Cookbook



SVDP Cookbooks are \$15

Checks should be made payable to SVDP.

All proceeds go to the charitable works of our SVDP conference, helping individuals and families right here in our neighborhood. Proceeds from your purchase of a cookbook literally puts food on tables, keeps the heat and electric running and keeps roofs over heads. Thank you! *(More info on pages 6-7.)*

Youth Ministry

FRETUS 2017: ROAD TO EMMAUS



What is Fretus? Fretus is the Freshmen / Sophomore Winter Retreat. This is a combined effort between St. Francis Xavier and St. Cletus Parishes. This retreat is an opportunity for freshmen and sophomore teens to examine their faith, reflect on where they are, learn a few things, and have an outrageous amount of fun! January 13-15, 2017 We are blessed to have this retreat led by wonderful, Spirit-filled junior and senior high school teens, who are eager to be companions on the journey. For more information, including registration, go to the Youth Ministry page on the parish website. This retreat will fill up quickly. If cost is an obstacle to participation in this opportunity, scholarships are available. The registration deadline is December 18th.

MISSION TRIP 2017

Our Mission Trip this summer is organized by Young Neighbors in Action and will take place July 16th-22nd. We will serve the community of South Bend, IN. The exact details of our work are still being worked out, but possibilities include serving at one of many organizations set up to minister to the homeless and centers for at-risk children. Registration details will be available soon. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth. Space is limited and does fill up quickly! This is open to high school students who will have completed 9th grade and above.

We are also looking for adult chaperones who are willing to join us. Without you, this opportunity cannot be

offered. Contact Elizabeth for details to see if this is something meant for you !

GIVING TREE VOLUNTEERS

Please contact Kendall Grant to sign up by emailing kgrant@stcletusparish.com

- Saturday, December 10- Sunday, December 11 (church): collecting and organizing Giving Tree gifts before and after all the weekend Masses.
- Sunday, December 11 2:00-6:30pm: Sorting gifts in church, loading truck for delivery to St. Agatha's and storing local community gifts in Room 201.
- Sunday, December 18 (Morrissey Hall): 6:30am-1:00pm Giving Tree accepting and organizing food baskets and gifts. 1:00pm-7:00pm Distribution of food baskets, gifts, and clean up.

Please Note-it is not necessary to work an entire morning/afternoon shift, but at least 2 hour shifts please.

RECONCILIATION

This month, instead of having our Wednesday Sundaes, all teens are encouraged to attend the parish reconciliation service on Tuesday, December 13th at 7pm in the church. Reconciliation is a very powerful way to prepare for Christmas during this busy advent season. Take time to embrace this opportunity! You are still welcome to bring friends to join you!

Contact Elizabeth Tomasek at etomasek@stcletusparish.com
(708) 215-5419 www.stcletusparish.com/youth

2016-17 St. Cletus Parish Preferred Providers

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Fr. Bob, Debbie, Bobbie, Mary & Elizabeth

Other Ministry Notes

OPLATKI AVAILABLE

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

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



MARY AND MARTHA DONATIONS - 12/16

We are approaching *Holiday Time* once again. We hope you have been saving little items for the Briar Place residents Christmas packages. We will be putting our gift bags together in the Rectory Basement on Friday, December 16, at 9:00 a.m. Small items e.g. lotions, shampoo, combs, tooth brushes, toothpaste, denture cleaner, deodorant, playing cards, small books, and jewelry are needed. We usually assemble 70 bags. Please drop off your donations at the rectory. Thank you for your kindness.

KOLBE HOUSE JAIL MINISTRY



THE DEACON'S WIFE IS COLLECTING STAMPS AGAIN!

Once again I'm collecting stamps for the Kolbe House Catholic Jail Ministry. These are to be used for the Christmas Card mailings from Detainees to their families. As many of you know I serve as a Catholic Minister for the Kolbe House Jail Ministry at Cook County. In an effort to keep the detainees connected to their families, Kolbe House is again asking for postage stamps to be used for the detainees Christmas greetings to their families. This annual effort this year is looking to collect 7,000 first class stamps.

If you would like to donate stamps in any denomination (1 cent up to first class postage) please put them in an envelope and drop them off at the rectory marked "**Kolbe House Stamps - c/o Marlene**". Thank You on behalf of the detainees at Cook and Lake county jails and the staff and ministers of Kolbe House.

-God Bless You all - Marlene

BOOK CLUB - DEC. 13

The St. Cletus Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday evening, December 13th, at 7:00 p.m. We are meeting in Room 102 in the school. The book to be discussed is "Welcome To Hard Times" by E. L. Doctorow. All interested participants are most welcome.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION AND MINISTERS OF CARE

On the weekend of December 17th-18th, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion and Ministers of Care will be mandated for a three year period. A mandate is an order or commission given by the Archdiocese to individuals who have completed a course of training to serve or continue serving a particular parish as a Minister of Communion. It implies a commitment on the part of the ministers' service who have already been mandated and authorizes their re-mandating (if already in service) or commissions new ministers to be mandated. This occurs every three years. This takes place throughout the Archdiocese on one of the Sundays of Advent marking the beginning of the new liturgical year.

A blessing will be offered for these ministers at each of the weekend Masses Dec. 17-18.

If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Paulette Bolton. Please contact Fr. Ken or Paulette if you have any questions. (708)215-5422.

ARCHDIOCESAN MASS FOR LIFE - 1/7

Save the date for the Annual Archdiocesan Mass for Life which will again be held at Saint Cletus Church.

Saturday, January 7th at 5:00 p.m.

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Principal Celebrant
All Are Welcome. Reception to follow Mass.

WORD OF LIFE

"A child is loved because he is one's child: not because he is beautiful, or because he is like this or like that... Not because he thinks as I do, or embodies my dreams. A child is a child: a life generated by us but intended for him, for his good, for the good of the family, of society, of mankind as a whole."



— Pope Francis, General Audience, February 11, 2015.
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Community Bulletin Board

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL POSITION AVAILABLE

St. Cletus School is currently looking for help with their aftercare program. This is a part time position, 3-5:45pm M- F, subject to school being in session.

THANKS A MILLION!

Women's Care Center of La Grange would like to thank all St. Cletus parishioners who donated to our recent baby bottle collection at the parish. The total amount collected to date is \$8,050. We are so pleased with your response and are very blessed by your generosity! You have made it possible for us to continue our life-saving and life-affirming work helping women and babies in our area.

We are deeply grateful to Fr. Robert Clark, pastor, and to Wayne and Marianne Hamilton, pro-life coordinators, for all their support and leadership in this event. We also want to give a big THANK YOU to the Girl Scouts who once again passed out the bottles after all the Masses.

Because of your sacrifices large and small, Women's Care Center of La Grange will be able to help save babies' lives through compassionate counseling, free ultrasounds, medical referrals and material assistance given to their moms and dads in crisis. As we approach the Christmas season, we and the babies give thanks for all of you and count you as one of our greatest blessings.

SCSG DECEMBER EVENT

Suburban Catholic Singles Group (SGSC) Multi Parish Ministry for singles in their 40's and 50's

December Event:

Sunday, 12/11, join us for 11pm Mass at Mater Christi Catholic Church, 2431 S. 10th Ave., in North Riverside. Afterwards, is our Christmas Luncheon, 12:00pm, at Tipster's Village Pub, 8839 W. Cermak Rd., in North Riverside. Cost is \$24; that includes meal, tax, tip, and door prizes. Cash Bar. RSVP required by 12/06 if attending. Events are subject to change.

You can contact us at singlesadmin@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook – Suburban Catholic Singles

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS

Chicagoland area Catholic High Schools will offer their entrance exams on the morning of Saturday, January 11, 2017. Please visit their websites or call the school for more information or to register.

JOYFUL AGAIN



Being widowed is a special loss, and this program is designed especially to help the widowed find hope & joy again.

There will be a retreat/workshop Jan. 21 & 22, 2017, at Our Lady of the Angels House of Prayer (located in Lemont on Alvernia Manor's campus). Incls. overnight and meals.

Joyful Again Widowed Ministry - Phone 708-354-7211
You can also see our video on our website:
www.joyfulagain.org or email us
at joyfulagain7211@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Celebration of Giving - Catholic Charities 69th annual Celebration of Giving is underway! Our mission is to provide children and families served by Catholic Charities with gifts and necessities during Christmas. Celebration of Giving brings joy to many families who otherwise would not be able to celebrate. Drop-off at various locations until December 14. During our 2015 event, Catholic Charities distributed gifts and toys to more than 25,000 children and families. Help Unwrap the Spirit by donating toys, sponsoring a family, or volunteering in "Santa's Workshop." For more information and for drop-off locations, visit www.catholiccharities.net/celebration or contact 312-655-7401 or COG@catholiccharities.net

Catholic Charities Volunteer Opportunities Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer? Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago is looking for helpful, friendly volunteers to serve as greeters at the hospitality table at 721 N. LaSalle St. in Chicago. For more info, email volunteer@catholiccharities.net or call the Volunteer Relations department at (312) 655-7322.

St. Cletus Parish Family Masses



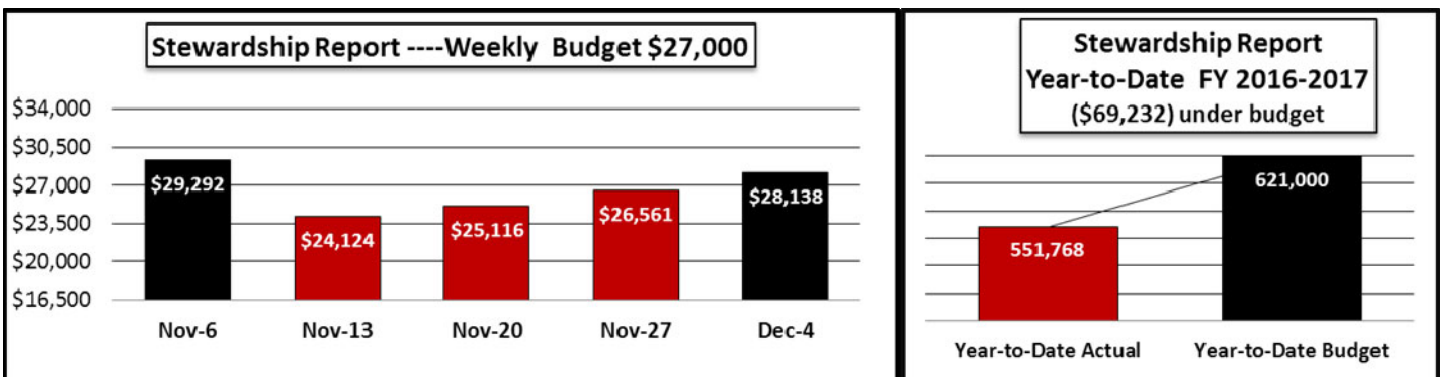
Join Us As We Celebrate...
Family Mass

December 11, 2016
11:00 a.m. Mass

Week at a Glance


C...Church	S...School (Education Building)	Narthex...Church Vestibule	RB...Rectory Basement	MH...Morrissey Hall
DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	
Sunday, December 11	All Masses All Masses 11:00am 7:00pm 4:00pm	Narthex Narthex Church Church S Music Rm	Return Gifts for Giving Tree SVDP Cookbook Sale Family Mass Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Teen Choir Rehearsal	
Monday, December 12	4:00am 4:00pm 7:00pm	Church S Music Rm Church	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mananitas Junior Choir Rehearsal Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass	
Tuesday, December 13	7:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 9:00pm	S Rm 102 Rectory Church S Rm 207 MH	Book Club RCIA Parish Reconciliation Service Men's Prayer Group Boy's Church League Basketball	
Wednesday, December 14	6:30pm 7:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 9:00pm	Church Church S Rm 98 S Rm 200 MH	Advent Evening Mass Youth Ministry CREDO Baptism Prep Boy's Church League Basketball	
Thursday, December 15	5:00pm 7:30pm 9:00pm	S Music Rm S Music Rm MH	Children's Choir Rehearsal Chancel Choir Rehearsal Boy's Church League Basketball	
Friday, December 16	9:00am 7:00pm	RB Church	Mary and Martha Assembly Christmas Novena	
Saturday, December 17	5:00pm 7:00pm	Narthex Church	SVDP Cookbook Sale Christmas Novena	
Sunday, December 18	All Masses 7:30-11:30am 7:00pm	Narthex MH Church	SVDP Cookbook Sale Return Food Baskets for Giving Tree Christmas Novena	

Stewardship Report



St. Cletus Parish Information

CONTACT US

Rectory(708) 352-6209
 Español(708) 215-5440
 School(708) 352-4820
 www.stcletusparish.com  stcletuschurch

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Please note the office will close at noon on Fridays over the summer.)
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

MASSES

Saturday Evening 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Spanish)
 Weekdays Mon. thru Sat. 8:00 a.m.
 Evening before Holy Day 7:00 p.m.
 Holy Day 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Confessions every Saturday 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.

BAPTISMS

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation class. Please make arrangements by calling the Rectory office.

WEDDINGS

Dates and times are reserved for registered parishioners. Initial arrangements must be completed five months in advance of the wedding date. Contact Bobbie Kallal (708) 352-6209.

HOME/HOSPITAL VISITATION AND COMMUNION CALLS

Please contact the Ministry of Care Office (708) 215-5407

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

Holy Hour first Tuesday of the month 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Hispanic Adoration continues 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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. Ron Anglim, *Weekend Associate*
 Rev. Mr. Jesús & Silvia Casas, *Deacon Couple*
 Rev. Mr. Stuart & Marlene Heyes, *Deacon Couple*

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Ken Baker/Paulette Bolton, *Worship..* (708) 215-5422
 Larry LaLonde, *Music Ministry* (708) 215-5423
 Deacon Jesús Casas, *Hispanic Ministry*..... (708) 215-5440
 Elizabeth Tomasek, *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

SCHOOL STAFF

Tom Chinske, *Principal*
 Christy Schaefer, *Assistant Principal*
 Mary Lee Krieger, *Administrative Assistant*
 Jeannie Scalzitti, *Receptionist/Office Assistant*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Barb Campbell, *Director of Religious Education*
 Paulette Bolton, *Director of Adult Faith Formation and Assistant Director of Worship*

RECTORY STAFF

Bobbie Kallal, *Human Resources/Records*
 Mary Zwolinski, *Parish Accounting*
 Elizabeth Goellner-McLean, *Bulletin Editor*

PARISH/SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Tim O'Brien (708) 215-5432

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

Pastor Fr. Bob Clark
 Chairperson Eileen Dorchinecz
 Vice Chairperson John Rossmiller
 Secretary Jodie Pulciani

Members

Scott Aulinskis	Valerie Sosne
Bob Havelka	Ron Skrip
Chris McLean	Patrick Townsend
Doug Rausch	Matt Wangard

Liaisons

FSA President Nikki Gorman
 Athletic Association President..... Brendan Foley

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pastor..... Fr. Bob Clark
 Chairperson Jack Fisherkeller
 Vice-Chairperson Chuck Luna
 Recording Secretary Robbie O'Shea
 School Representative Tom Chinske
 Director of Parish Catechesis Paulette Bolton
 Staff Representative Debbie Lestarczyk
 Hispanic Ministry Luis Lopez

Members

Colleen Hagen	Susan Hurley
Maggie Kensek	Helen McMahon
Henry Morlock	

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

St. Cletus Church #9238
600 W. 55th Street
La Grange, IL 60525

TELEPHONE

708-352-6209

CONTACT PERSON

Elizabeth Goellner/
Debbie Lestarczyk (Bus Mgr)

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