

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 St. Cletus Parish St. Cletus Church

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

Directory

Pastoral Staff

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Kate Townsend Receptionist/Administrative Assistant ktownsend@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.

Parish Canticle

For any request, please email canticle@stcletusparish.com

		Mas	s Intentions	
Saturday December 7	Rev. John Lodge	5 p.m.	† Carl Welenc † Ellen Benrus	Janet Boyer (Special Intention) † Jason & Gerrie Osmolak † Jason Meyer
Sunday December 8	Rev. Michael Novick	7:15 a.m.	† John and Frances Kennedy † Patrick Mahoney † Jean Comer	† Julia Kopacz † Theresa Duda
	Rev. John Lodge	8:45 a.m.	 † John and Cheryl Fisherkeller † Bruno Konieczny † Dr Thomas OConnor † Maria Del Refugio Diaz Ortiz 	Prusko, Sr. (Living) Michael Zimmerman Family
	Rev. Elmer Romero	10:30 a.m.	† Sammy Colonna † Kathleen Swanson † Mary Dolores Lopez	† C. Rodger Brown † Marco, Emilia Rattin & Bill De Pasquale
	Rev. Alexander Garcia	12:30 p.m.	† Teresa Sepulveda Gamboa † Vidal Torres Morales † Gabriel Gonzalez Leon	 Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio Ma. Engracia Aguilar
Monday December 9	Rev. Michael Novick	8 a.m.	⁺ St. Cletus Purgatorial Society	
Tuesday December 10	Rev. Ron Kalas	8 a.m.	+ For St. Cletus Parishioners	
Wednesday December 11	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	† BC & Rip Collins	
Thursday December 12	Rev. Michael Novick	8 a.m.	† James Vonesh	† Joseph Vieceli
Friday December 13	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	† Louie Marasovic	† Stanley Nykiel
Saturday December 14	Rev. Michael Novick	5 p.m.	† James Chiostri † Delphine Marciszewski † Ellen Benrus	Janet Boyer (Special Intention) † Camille & Cherin Rykaczenski
Sunday December 15	Rev. Elmer Romero	7:15 a.m.	† Sophie Bautista † Jean Comer † Robert and Helen Callaghan	† Julia Kopacz Michael Zimmerman Family (Special Intention)
	Rev. Michael Novick	8:45 a.m.	 † Tim and Lor Glennon † Patrick Glennon † Robert & Stella Konieczny † Frances Konieczny 	Health blessings for John Prusko, Sr. (Living) † Joseph and Adeline Kulikowski
	Rev. John Lodge	10:30 a.m.	† Valerie Moskus † John Joyce † Josephine Sorrentino	† Eileen Marchetti † Dr. Henry Terone
	Rev. Alexander Garcia	12:30 p.m.	† Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio	

Please remember our sick in your prayers:

Richard Madsen | Asis Gonzalez | Frank Orrico | Joanne Kasang | Jorea Touranjzau | Debbie Coté | Vincent Austrevich | Bonnie Kakareka

Please remember our dead in your prayers:

⁺ Dolores Bochniarz , Mother of Frances Jacobs
⁺ Zianna Pompei, Mother of Barbara Boland
⁺ Monsignor Philip Reilly, Uncle of Philip Moore

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6.

Dear Friends,

Last week, the First Sunday of Advent, we were invited to grow in prayer, acknowledge our blessings, and always give thanks. How was it? Were you able to carve out a few more minutes each day for prayer? What happened as you became aware of some special blessings given to you or a loved one? Did you notice your heart desiring to give thanks? Feel free to continue with this exercise throughout the season of Advent.

How about if this week, starting with the Second Sunday of Advent, we discern, reflect, and ponder on the active presence of God in our lives and the lives of our loved ones. How aware are you of his presence in your life? What are some of the best practices you have discovered to cultivate a conscious recognition that God is always with you and actively involved in your daily life? How is prayer, acknowledging your blessings, and giving thanks helping you find him in your own heart? People who are good at this, no matter how hard and difficult life might be, are always radiating the closeness, goodness, peace, and love of God. We are blessed to serve, pray, and worship God with them at St. Cletus.

The weekend before Thanksgiving our parish, through the Food Pantry, distributed over 400 turkeys to our brothers and sisters in need. The love of God was received and given. Volunteers and guests greeted each other with respect, care, and love. God was present in everyone and everywhere. His active presence was felt by all. Their hearts were warmed by the love of God. That is precisely what I experienced as I showed up twice to welcome and thank everyone. As I acknowledge and thank Kendall Grant, Director of Social Concerns, and all the wonderful volunteers, I also would like to thank you for your prayers, support, and generosity.

This week on Thursday, December 12, we will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will start at 4:45 AM singing along with a very good Mariachi the Mañanitas (Morning serenade) to Our Lady followed by hospitality in the Parish Center. Then, at 7:00 PM, we will gather together and celebrate a special Mass (Spanish) to give thanks to the Lord for being close to us through Our Blessed Mother. After Mass, we will move to the Parish Center for hospitality. I am grateful to our leaders for arranging to have this special celebration at our parish. On behalf of them, I am extending you an invitation hoping you can join us.

May the teaching of St. Paul, "that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ" affirm the active presence of God in our lives.

Fr. Elmer Romero.



A Note from the Associate Pastor's Desk

"Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God." (Baruch 5:5)

The above verse is part of the first reading for this coming Second Sunday of Advent. It's a great image for me because it brings me back to the Holy Land pilgrimage I was on in 1999-2000 with my seminary class. It was a great trip, and there are lots of incredible memories. However, I listen to the prophet Baruch "Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights." The way Jerusalem is built up in elevation and from walking along the ramparts of the great city (the tops of their walls), one can see for miles to the east. but Baruch is not simply telling us because we can see forever, but that all of God's children are going to be called back one day -- and not simply the "holy ones." ALL of God's children. And how? Are they going to be afraid? What if God doesn't like me? Is He really going to call ALL of us?" Yes! REJOICING that they are remembered by God. Isn't that beautiful?

We are also let in just a little about John the Baptist. It's not the very beginning of his life and the story of Zechariah's vision of the angel. No. John is already grown up and fulfilling the prophesy that Zechariah made upon John's naming -- that he would announce to the world the coming of the Lord. "You, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins." (Luke 1:76-77) And his message was simple "**Prepare!**"

I know that I have been focusing on the formation series we have been having on Monday evenings for the last several weeks When You Pray by Edward Sri. The people in attendance are really loving it so far. It's amazing how something like a Bible Study can help to form new friendships as a group of people begin to trust one another. Years ago, I was in a small group of parishioners that formed to meet during Lent. Little did I know it would lead to an annual and significant part of our lives as disciples. The group would normally attend a soup and bread dinner at the parish, and then disperse into our individual small groups. We always had something to give a kickstart to the discussion – scripture, formation material, questions of faith, etc. The discussions that ensued were sometimes very heavy. We could be deep because we learned to trust one another that what was said in our group time was sacred ground – what we call an internal forum, just like the discussions between the priest and penitent in confession. I see that happening with this group. It may not be something that happens every year like it was in my past, but trust is building every week at our table.

That trust is necessary. Invariably, the group discussion takes a detour and that is okay as long as everyone is still involved. That alone makes people more comfortable with sharing their thoughts and feelings without feeling like they are on trial or being judged for their view.

Small groups really are a great leap of faith and can really have a great effect on how we learn to care about one another, seeing each other as God sees us. Think about inviting people you know, know of but want to know better, or someone who is just a stranger to you. Good small groups are about 10-12 people in size. No one should monopolize the whole discussion. Everyone should have an opportunity to share. And if you are so moved, have it at your home and practice hospitality. Snacks and non-alcoholic drinks are great.

Just a few thoughts to consider for your future. I know that St. Cletus has begun Alpha (an opportunity to learn and pray together). Maybe there can be something else in the works for St. Cletus' future. Lent is a great time for such programs. There is never a shortage of good authors who have material and questions for discussion in their books.

Press on, St. Cletus. Prepare!

Fr. Mike

Parish Life

Date	Time	Events	Location
Monday, December 9	6:00 p.m.	Faith Formation Classes	School
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study	Gallagher Room
	7:00 p.m.	Novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe	Church
Tuesday, December 10	10:00 a.m.	St. Cletus Book Club	Gallagher Room
	7:00 p.m.	Winter Concert	Church
	7:00 p.m.	Novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe	Gallagher Room
Wednesday, December 11	1:00 p.m.	St. Cletus Living Rosary	Church
	7:00 p.m.	Novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe	Church
	7:00 p.m.	Faith Formation: Teen Seeker Program	Room 213
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	Rectory Basement
Thursday, December 12	4:45 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mañanitas to Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry Distribution Solemn Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Spanish)	Church Food Pantry Church
Friday, December 13	3:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Meeting	Gallagher Room
Saturday, December 14	9:00 a.m.	Giving Tree Distribution	Morrissey Hall
Sunday, December 15	1:00 p.m.	Giving Tree Distribution	Morrissey Hall
	4:00 p.m.	Fine Arts Performance	Church

Readings of the week

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4 -6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6 Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 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 Lk 1:39-47 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13 Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-1

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Tuesday: Our Lady of Loreto Wednesday: St. Damasus I, Pope Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe Friday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Saturday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent



Come to this hour of adoration to encounter Jesus. Your heart is made for Him and will be restless until it knows Him.

bending T-OWARDS the Light a Jazz Nativity

600 W. 55TH STREET LA GRANGE

SUNDAY, DEC. 15 AT 4:00 P.M. ST. CLETUS PARISH CENTER

FREE ADMISSION | DONATIONS ACCEPTED | WWW.EDWARDFAS.COM

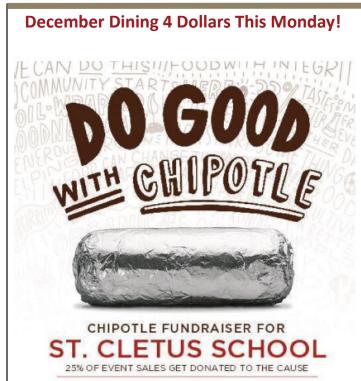


School News

Turkey Bowl

Following our 9am Mass on Thanksgiving we held our annual Turkey Bowl in our courtyard! It was a chilly but fun morning!!





MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH | 4-8PM 5801 S LA GRANGE RD, COUNTRYSIDE, IL, 60525

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE VRR2C23 OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. BISO minimum event alles required to receive any donation.

WIN AN OCULUS QUEST 3!

Our Vegas Night 2025 is coming up on April 5th To kick things off we are raffling off an OCULUS QUEST 3 just in time for Christmas! Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20! Winner will be announced on December 18th!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!!



Ministerio Hispano

Fecha	Hora	Evento	Lugar
Domingo, 8 de Diciembre	12:30 p.m.	Misa en Español	Iglesia
Martes, 10 de Diciembre	6:00 p.m.	Novena de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe	Salon 213
Martes, 3 de Diciembre	7:00 p.m.	Adviento: Una Noche de Oración y Reflexion	Iglesia
Segundo sábado de cada mes	8 p.m 5 a.m.	Misa, Confesiones, Adoración Nocturna	Iglesia
Sábados	8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	Confesiones	Iglesia

Fieesta en Honor a Nuestra Señora de **Guadalup**e

Mañanitas

4:45 AM en la Iglesia, seguido de un compartir fraterno en el Parish Center.

Misa de Rosas

7PM en la Iglesia, seguido de un compartir fraterno en el Parish Center.

Social Concerns



St. Cletus Food Pantry

Thursdays 4-8 p.m.

Wish List:

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

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

Thank You!

Thank you to our volunteers and donors, those who collected Turkey Bucks and donated at Jewel, those who loaded and unloaded, lifted and moved VERY HEAVY boxes of turkeys and sacks of potatoes, those who greeted and helped with check in, the smiley faces and the feet running carts to cars, all of our bakers and cookie sorters, on and on!

We raised over \$5,000 for Thanksgiving meals at Jewel-Osco. We unloaded over 6,500 lbs of food from GCFD. You baked over 3,000 cookies! We made 103 home deliveries We had enough meals for 402 households this year! A record!

We are so grateful for each of you. THANK YOU!













Social Concerns

Giving Tree Tags and 11 million TTTS "TTTSTTSTTSTTSTTSTTSTSTSTST Gift Cards are due St. Cletus REMINDERS TODAY!!! **GIVING TREE** If you forgot, please call or 1. WRAP GIFTS 2. LABEL EACH GIFT WITH THE email ASAP with your tag # TAG # AND PERSON'S NAME and person's name and drop 3. DROP OFF GIFTS: off as soon as you can! Each DECEMBER 7 FROM 12:00PM-5:00PM tag is for a real person in our DECEMBER 8 FROM 7:00AM-12:30PM neighborhood. Thank you! ST. CLETUS MORRISSEY HALL 700 W. 55TH ST LAGRANGE (DRIVE THRU LANE ON STONE AVE)

Thank you for making a Christmas wish come true!

A Thanksgiving Full Of Blessings





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CLETUS PARISH

center













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St. Cletus Book Club

Come join us on December 10th for a discussion of *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown. We meet at 10 a.m. in the Gallagher Room. If you have any questions, please e-mail

book club@stcletusparish.com. For those who like to look ahead, our February book is *Sugar and Salt* by Susan Wiggs.

St. Cletus Purgatorial Society

St. Alphonsus Liguori and St. Teresa of Avila declare most souls are released from Purgatory on Christmas Day! The greatest gift for the Holy Souls is your offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass especially on Christmas Day!

The St. Cletus Purgatorial Society currently has 69 prayer warriors praying for 708 holy souls. **Enroll your deceased loved ones AT NO COST,** become a member of the purgatorial society by joining us in prayer for the holy souls! A mass intention for the holy souls enrolled in the St. Cletus Purgatorial Society is offered every month. May purgatory be emptied!!! May no soul be forgotten!!! Information pamphlet and enrollment forms can be found in the narthex or visit: <u>https://</u> stcletusparish.com/purgatorialsociety/



National Eucharistic Revival ADVENT NIGHT **OF MERCY**

Please join us for a Night of Mercy at Holy Name Cathedral as part of the National Eucharistic Revival celebrations. Take time this Advent season for praise, reflection and outreach. Bishop Mark Bartosic will preside over adoration and offer an Advent-themed scripture reflection. All are welcome!

The evening will include:

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Reconciliation
- Preaching
- Street evangelization

Questions? Please contact Fr. Andy at amatijevic@holynamecathedral.org.

Wednesday, December 11 | 6 - 8:30 p.m. **Holy Name Cathedral**

735 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60654



2nd Sunday of Advent: Gospel Meditation-Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture By Fr. John Muir at ©LPI

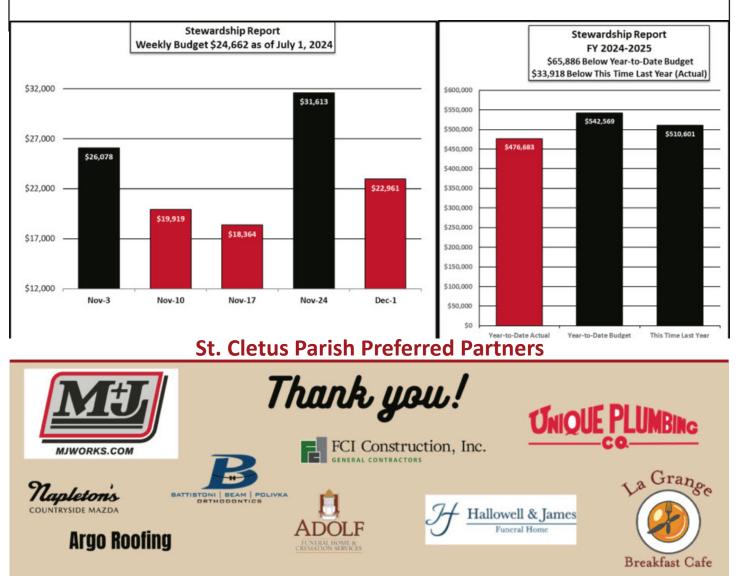
In the year 1995, in the seventeenth year of my life, when Fife Symington was governor of Arizona, Bill Clinton was president of the United States, Chuck Keiffer was pastor of St. Theresa parish in Phoenix, Arizona, and Ron and Mary were my parents, the word of God came to my youth minister Eric and through him I started to see the salvation of God. Soon, Christ came into my life never to leave. I'm thankful beyond words.

Why am I being so specific, you ask? Because in the Gospel this week we hear the specific names of people holding civic and religious authority in first century Palestine when "the word of God came to John the Baptist:" Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas, and Zechariah. All this is meant to help us see that God breaks into our

history, into real human events. Jesus is no mere myth. He is the Word-which-breaks-in, in concrete moments, you might say. And now we anticipate his coming once again in our specific situations.

Advent challenge: Name as many civic and religious leaders who are in authority currently in your life. Now, name who the potential John the Baptists may be. A spouse? A friend? A podcaster? A work colleague who brings God's word to you? Spend a moment considering that this comprises the concrete, historical setting into which Christ wishes to come. Then, with these specifics in mind, pray: "Come, Lord Jesus. Come."

— Father John Muir





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