

Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

Every tree is known by its own fruit.
For people do not pick figs from
thornbushes, nor do they gather
grapes from brambles.
— LUKE 6:44



JOIN US DURING LENT

Ash Wednesday (March 2)
(All services include distribution of ashes)

- 6:30 a.m. Prayer Service
- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 9:30 a.m. School Mass
- 3:30 p.m. Prayer Service
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Service
- 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass

Living Stations of the Cross
Friday, March 4 - 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Daily Mass (Monday - Friday)
8:00 a.m.

Reconciliation
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.

Taizé Prayer
Wednesday, March 9 - 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 21 - 7:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross
Fridays 7:00 p.m.
Mar. 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1, 8

School Stations of the Cross
Mar. 10 - 11:00 a.m.
Mar. 18, 24, Apr. 1, 8, 14 - 2:30 p.m.

Parish Evening of Reflection
Thursday, March 24 - 7:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker - Fr. Tony Pizzo

Parish Reconciliation Service
Monday, April 4 - 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME

So glad you could join us!

- 2 Mass Intentions and Important Notes
- 3 Pastor's Note
- 4 Parish Financial Report
- 9 Annual Appeal Renew My Church
- 10 Sunday Notes
- 11 Parish School
- 12 Social Concerns
- 13 Religious Education
- 14 Youth Ministry
- 15 Ministry Notes
- 16 Community Notes
- 17 Week at a Glance Stewardship Report
- 18 Parish Information



LENT

2022

Mass Intentions for February 28 - March 6, 2022

Day	Time	Presider (subject to change)	Intentions
February 28	8:00am	Fr. Costello	BC Collins, John Martoccio
March 1	8:00am	Fr. Romero	St. Cletus Parishioners
March 2	6:30am	Fr. Romero	Lawrence Viececi
	8:00am	Fr. Costello	
	9:30am	Fr. Romero	
	3:30pm	Fr. Costello	
	6:00pm	Fr. Costello	
7:00pm	Fr. Romero		
March 3	8:00am	Fr. Romero	Phyllis Prevanas
March 4	8:00am	Fr. Costello	Efrena Aranas
March 5	5:00pm	Fr. Romero	Ginny Skibbe, Samuel Colonna
March 6	7:15am	Fr. Costello	Richard Gomez, Margaret Pirman, Patricia Bateman Rose Haddad, James Jasinski, Ola Maveety, Walter Maveety, Ethel Maveety, Thomas Birks Mike O'Connell, Paul Rizzo St. Cletus Parishioners
	8:45am	Fr. Romero	
	10:30am	Fr. Costello	
	12:30pm	Fr. Romero	

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.

February - Sandra Eckrich, Matthew O'Connell, Peter Spizzirri

January - Larry Anders, Debbi Pach, Steve Romanowski, Laura Terrazino

December - Gerda E. Dorso, Steve Hubona, Edward Kwak, Nora McKeehan, Joseph Busta, John Duda, Sandra Eckrich, Howard Eggert, Marlene Heyes, Joan Klemak, Marian Mozden, Patricia Rodey, Jean Tomazin

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

LENTEN REGULATIONS

(from Ash Wednesday, to the Paschal Triduum)

Abstinence from meats is to be observed by all Catholics 14-years-old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

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

Jean L. Butkovic
Mother of Craig

Margaret Mau-Bazeluk
Wife of Richard Bazeluk

May they rest in peace. Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 2



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

6:30 a.m. Prayer Service
8:00 a.m. Mass
9:30 a.m. School Mass
3:30 p.m. Prayer Service
6:00 p.m. Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass

Note: All services include distribution of ashes.

PACZKI AVAILABLE AFTER MASSES

Worried you will have to wait in long lines for your paczki? **Youth Ministry has you covered!**

Join us after all masses on **Sunday, February 27th** to purchase your freshly made strawberry or custard filled paczki from Kirschbaum's Bakery. We are selling them four to a box for \$10. All proceeds go towards our Mission Trip in June of this year.

Thank you for supporting our Youth Ministry program!

Pastor's Note

Dear Parishioners,

Today I share with you a finance report of the fiscal year July 1st, 2020, to June 30th, 2021. I encourage you to look at it attentively. I wanted to share it with you sooner, but because of the reasons I explain below, it took me some extra time.

I started my ministry as your pastor at St. Cletus Parish on July 1st, 2021, after spending 9 years as a member of the faculty of Mundelein Seminary / University of St. Mary of the Lake where I assisted with the formation of priests. As we all know, when we move from one place to another or from one responsibility to another, there is a need for extra time to adjust to the new reality. As I started to embrace my role as your pastor, I learned that our Parish needed a new Parish Finance Council.

After prayer, discernment, and consultation, I started to reach out and personally asked some members of our parish to consider serving as a member of the new Parish Finance Council. This process itself required some extra time. But as you have been informed previously, I am pleased to share with you that now our parish has a wonderful, dedicated, and caring Parish Finance Council. We held our first meeting on October 20th, 2021, and since then we have been meeting faithfully every month.

Then, I learned that our parish would need a new business manager. With the help and guidance of the Archdiocese we were able to interview and hire Mr. James Dion as our new Business Manager effective November 29th, 2021. I am pleased to let you know that James is a man of deep faith and integrity. He is excellent at what he does. He pays attention to details. He really cares about the financial wellbeing of our parish.

Recalling my time of being pastor previously (2006-12), I needed to study, understand, and process the finance report with the Parish Finance Council and Business Manager before sharing it with you. As we engaged and reviewed the 2020-21 financial report, we became aware that we currently owe to the Archdiocese \$675,000.00 which has to do with "To Teach Who Christ Is" fundraising campaign. This finding led us to pause, ask, and look for information. We reached out to the Archdiocese and held extra meetings with them. They confirmed our finding and gave us copies of written documents of agreements between the Archdiocese and our previous pastor.

Back on June 12, 2016, through the parish bulletin Fr. Robert Clark shared the following message with you.

After the first of next year the plan will be for us to participate in the required Diocesan Capital Campaign entitled "To Teach Who Christ Is" This campaign was designed by the Archdiocese to support educational advancement within the Archdiocese for Schools, Religious Education, and other educational programs. The other part of this campaign is designed to support customized projects or needs within our own parish. This campaign is structured so that for every dollar pledged by the parishioners 60% will be set aside for our needs and 40% goes to support Archdiocesan educational advancement. St. Cletus will begin asking for individual pledges starting after the first of the year 2017. The main goal of "To Teach Who Christ Is" for St. Cletus parish will be to obtain funds to repay our loan from the Archdiocese and any additional finishings that may be needed for our New Parish Center.

Since now our parish has an active Parish Finance Council and an excellent Business Manager, I already feel we have been making progress in using your contributions wisely and responsibly. This practice is already being observed by all Parish Staff members. God wants us to be good stewards with His blessings and your generosity.

I will continue to work closely with the Archdiocese regarding the debt. Whenever I have some updates, I will be happy to share them with you.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for the love you have for St. Cletus Parish and for your outpouring of generosity. I admire your dedication and witness. I pray that our good and gracious Lord will continue to bless you abundantly.

Fr. Elmer Romero
Pastor

St. Cletus Parish
Statement of Revenue and Expenses
Twelve Months Ended June 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>Church Revenue</u>		
Sunday & Holy Day collections	\$ 1,093,623	\$ 1,179,463
Christmas collections	207,361	202,862
Easter collections	107,684	105,538
Tuition & fees (Religious Education)	47,248	83,956
Net Auxiliary groups' revenue	97,499	103,407
Archdiocesan and Other Special Collections	18,015	95,901
Fundraising-Be our light; maintenance fund; Lucky Leaf raffle	128,426	122,058
Sacramental, mass intentions, flowers, misc. donations	48,782	-
Total Church Revenue	\$ 1,748,638	\$ 1,893,185
<u>Church Expenses</u>		
Salaries & benefits	\$ 889,872	\$ 908,633
Religious Ed Books/supplies/liturgical materials	50,017	76,244
Administrative/professional services/technology, credit card processing	70,018	57,823
Utilities	61,275	63,063
Building Maintenance repairs & supplies	57,319	96,370
Archdiocesan assessments/PRMAA assessments	230,141	240,300
Property & vehicle insurance	49,856	42,860
Archdiocesan and Other Special Collections	11,879	14,365
Misc., Meals/hospitality, vehicle, gifts/donations, advertising	177,185	144,124
Total Church Expenses	\$ 1,597,562	\$ 1,643,782
Church Net Surplus	\$ 151,076	\$ 249,403
<u>School Revenue</u>		
Tuition & fees	\$ 1,655,945	\$ 2,074,125
Fundraising events	141,954	187,174
Donations and Empower IL tuition grants outside funding	45,571	8,463
Total School Revenue	\$ 1,843,470	\$ 2,269,762
<u>School Expenses</u>		
Salaries & benefits	\$ 1,515,379	\$ 2,093,871
Materials, books. Instructional, technology, admin	174,789	128,719
Maintenance & repairs	131,424	130,539
Utilities	87,898	96,043
Property Insurance / OCS Assessment	77,712	69,101
Other Expenses- Athletics, FSA, fees, meetings, marketing	28,095	24,058
Total School Expense	\$ 2,015,297	\$ 2,542,331
Parish Support to School	\$ (171,827)	\$ (272,569)
PARISH OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	\$ (20,751)	\$ (23,166)
<u>Other Revenue</u>		
Building Fund Campaign Revenue Collections and interest earned	\$ 87,376	\$ 148,540
Interest Income	746	1,253
Unrealized gains from parish investment	82,173	3,062
Unrealized gains from school endowment investment	133,768	(5,164)
Parish PPP Loan forgiven	190,320	-
School PPP Loan forgiven	361,065	-
School Memorial donations	7,660	-
Total Other Revenue	\$ 863,108	\$ 147,691
<u>Other Expenses</u>		
Building Fund Expense (Credit card fees)	\$ 964	\$ 1,652
Parish Center Capital Loan interest expense	4,402	6,939
Total Other Expenses	\$ 5,366	\$ 8,591
Net Other Income	\$ 857,742	\$ 139,100
NET PARISH INCOME	\$ 836,991	\$ 115,934

**St. Cletus Parish
Balance Sheets
June 30, 2021 and 2020**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Assets		
Parish Checking/Payroll Bank Accounts	\$ 877,078	\$ 600,314
Parish Savings Accounts at Archdiocesan Bank (2)	9,058	3,712
Parish "To Teach Who Christ Is" Account at Archdiocesan Bank (8)	24,806	18,670
Parish Organizations-Auxiliary Group Accounts	327,851	230,654
Prepaid Deposit/Prepaid Expenses	2,270	5,295
Restricted School Endowment investments (1) (3)	507,507	373,739
Unrestricted Parish investments at market value (2), (4)	396,413	317,104
Restricted Parish Center Building Campaign Fund Accounts (1) (5)	<u>4,225</u>	<u>48,991</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,149,208</u>	<u>\$ 1,598,479</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 72,370	\$ 58,629
Tuition deposits	33,832	16,313
Parish and School PPP Loan Proceeds (6)	361,065	551,385
Parish Center Building Capital Loan Payable (7)	<u>-</u>	<u>127,204</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 467,267</u>	<u>\$ 753,531</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$1,681,941</u>	<u>\$844,948</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,149,208</u>	<u>\$ 1,598,479</u>

(1) - Restricted funds are not available for general parish operations.

(2) - 2021 change in balance from 2020 column includes \$11,482 of stock and misc. donation deposit
The fixed income investment was closed, \$2,864 transferred the Archdiocese bank savings account
Online offertory deposits \$8,450 and interest \$168

(3) - 2021 change in balance from 2020 column includes \$133,768 gain in school endowment investment.

(4) - 2021 change in balance from 2020 column includes \$82,173 gain in parish investments
and fixed income investment closed (\$2,864) funds transferred to the Archdiocese bank account

(5) - 2021 change in balance from 2020 column includes interest and pledge deposits \$87,376;
\$428 donations deposited into parish bank account not transferred to campaign bank account;
distributions of (\$964) towards the credit card fees; (\$4,402) loan interest; (\$127,204) payment
toward principal on the Parish Center Capital Loan.

(6) - Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan received in April 2020.

PPP is a program administered by the Small Business Administration to help small enterprises keep workers on payroll during the COVID pandemic. First draw PPP loans can be used to help fund payroll costs and may also be used to pay mortgage interest, rent, and utilities. The loans may be forgiven if employee retention criteria are met and the funds are used for eligible expenses. Loan forgiveness was granted to the Parish in March 2021 (\$190,320) and to the School in April 2021 (\$361,065). In February 2021 the School received a 2nd PPP draw of \$361,065.

(7) - As of June 30, 2021 the Parish Center Building Capital loan has been **PAID IN FULL**.
Payments of (\$127,204) have been made to pay down the principal & interest due.

(8) - Obligation to the Archdiocese Related to the To Teach Who Christ Is campaign
See the Message from the Parish Finance Council concerning this Parish obligation.

Summary of the Parish Financial Report Year Ended June 30, 2021

- Parish Center Loan. Good news! In June of 2017 the original loan amount for the Parish Center was \$788,189. Thanks to your continued generous pledge commitments and donations, the capital loan is now **PAID IN FULL!** The generous spirit of the Parish has added such a beautiful and useful space for years to come. Thank you for all donations that made this possible.
- “To Teach Who Christ Is” Debt. While the Parish Center Loan has been paid off, the Parish continues to owe an obligation of \$675,000 to the Archdiocese as a result of the “To Teach Who Christ Is” fundraising campaign. This debt is explained in more detail in the Message from the Finance Council.
- Collections. The combined Sunday and holy day collections decreased for the year by \$85,840, while Christmas and Easter collections increased by \$6,645 from the prior year. The re-opening, increased participation of the online giving option, and mail-in with the mail-in contributions have helped tremendously to minimize the decrease. Thank you for your continued generosity.
- Parish Fundraising. Although the Fall Fest/Carnival was cancelled, other fundraising efforts continued. The Lucky Leaf raffle was a success, generating \$50,800 profit. In November 2020 we asked you to “Be our Light,” and we received a generous \$59,300 to help offset the decrease in weekly Sunday contributions and sustain our budgetary goals. Maintenance Fund donations added another \$18,300.
- School Fundraising. Parish family participation contributed \$141,950 toward school fund raising revenue. A Virtual Auction “Cardinal Castaway” netted an amazing profit of \$70,600. The Cardinal Raffle raised \$29,400. The Shop w/scrip program donated \$15,060, the Annual fund over \$9,000, and Virtual Comedy Night and bingo \$8,950. Another \$8,900 came from book fair profits, book sales and miscellaneous donations. District 105 awarded grants in the amount of \$14,525 to offset COVID-related expenses and staff professional development expenses. Thank you for your continued participation and support.
- Net Operating Loss. The Parish finished the June 30, 2021, fiscal year with an operating loss (the shaded line of the Statement of Revenue and Expense) of \$20,751.
- Investment Gains. The Parish’s investment accounts had a net unrealized gain of \$82,173. The School’s investment account had a net unrealized gain of \$133,768. Because investment gains and losses are not part of the Parish’s/School’s normal operations, they are not considered in determining the parish’s/school’s operating income but rather considered Other Revenue.

Parish Data:

Registered families: 2,452
Baptisms: 67
Marriages: 5
Funerals: 79

School Enrollment: 287 Pre-K- 8th grade
Religious Education: 360 (Virtual e-learning)
Communions and Confirmations: 227

Please use this email finance@stcletusparish.com or call the rectory 708-352-6209 with any questions.

Message from the Parish Finance Council

Dear Fellow St. Cletus Parishioners,

A new parish Finance Council was formed and first met Oct. 20, 2021. Based on available records, the previous Finance Council last met about three years ago. The Finance Council is a consultative body whose purpose is to advise the pastor and assist him with his financial responsibilities. The new Council members are committed to understanding the state of the parish's finances so that we can work with Fr. Elmer Romero and the parish staff to understand the parish's needs and help form long-range plans to ensure that the parish can meet its responsibilities.

We encourage you to take a look at the Balance Sheets, Statement of Revenue and Expenses, and Summary of the Parish Financial Report for the last fiscal year. In a year marked by the ongoing COVID pandemic, reduced collections were only partially offset by some reduced expenses, resulting in a net operating loss of \$20,751. As always, your continued generosity is necessary to meet the Parish's operating expenses, fund necessary maintenance and repairs, and support parish ministries and school and religious education programs.

As we began looking at the parish's finances, one aspect that was unexpected for all of us (including Fr. Romero) was the existence of a substantial debt that the parish owes to the Archdiocese of Chicago. We have learned that this debt stems from an Archdiocesan fundraising campaign initiated in 2013 by Cardinal George. The campaign was entitled "To Teach Who Christ Is" (TTWCI), and is described on the Archdiocese website:

The primary goal of the campaign was ensuring parishes in the Archdiocese are strong and vibrant communities of faith. Every parish in the Archdiocese participated in the campaign. Parishes retained 60 percent of all funds they raised for local needs and shared the remaining 40 percent with other parishes and ministries throughout the Archdiocese.

As part of the TTWCI campaign St. Cletus was originally expected to contribute \$862,000 to the Archdiocese (40% of a fundraising goal of \$2,155,000). A 2017 agreement with the Archdiocese reduced St. Cletus's commitment to \$750,000. This amount was supposed to have been paid in five annual installments of \$150,000, beginning in January 2018. We have learned that this commitment was not met. Although the parish made a single payment of \$75,000 in October 2018, the balance of \$675,000 remains owed to the Archdiocese. Fr. Romero (with the support of the Finance Council) has begun working with Archdiocesan representatives to develop a revised payment schedule. Also, we are waiting for Archdiocesan guidance on how/where this obligation should be annotated on our balance sheets.

More information will follow as we strive to keep you informed. We ask for your continued support and prayers.

Thank you,
The St. Cletus Parish Finance Council

Jonathan Andrews
Michael Burns
Rick Chlapecka

Doug Morrissey
Patty Morrissey
Bob Persa

Tom Reisel
Adriana Varela
John Vincent



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Campaign for Catholic Education and Faith Formation

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Vicar General, Archdiocese of Chicago

And

Pastor Rev. Robert J. Clark

Parish St. Cletus Parish

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

Phone 708-352-6209

Purpose and Scope

In acknowledgment of St. Cletus' approval to conduct an Independent Parish Campaign in conjunction with the *To Teach Who Christ Is* capital campaign of the Archdiocese of Chicago, St Cletus pledges the parish share (40%, or \$862,000) of the campaign goal of \$2,155,000. On May 22, 2017, Father Ron Hicks, Vicar General, approved a reduction in the parish share for St. Cletus to \$750,000 over ~~three~~ years.

Five y.c.

All funds previously collected for *To Teach Who Christ Is* will be placed in the parish's account. The parish pledge will be paid according to the following payment schedule:

1. By 1-15-2018 = 20% of goal amount: \$ 150,000
2. By 1-15-2019 = 20% of goal amount: \$ 150,000
3. By 1-15-2020 = 20% of goal amount: \$ 150,000
4. By 1-15-2021 = 20% of goal amount: \$ 150,000
5. By 1-15-~~2021~~ = 20% of goal amount: \$ 150,000

2022 R.J.C.

Agreed and Signed

Pastor Rev Robert J Clark

Date 6-12-17

Finance Council Chair _____

Date _____

Regional Vicar John R. Manz

Date 6/27/17

Vicar General Raymond Hicks

Date 6-19-17

2022 Annual Catholic Appeal

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

2022 Annual Catholic Appeal

Making all things new...
God's promise and our responsibility

annualcatholicappeal.com

I invite you to spend some time this week reflecting on the Annual Catholic Appeal materials you should have received in your bulletin or in the mail. The Annual Catholic Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection: It is a pledged commitment to make a gift over time. Your pledge can be made payable in installments. Each pledge makes a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services to answer the call of “Making all things new ... God’s promise and our responsibility.” If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back. This year, we also encourage our parishioners to make their Annual Catholic Appeal gifts online at annualcatholicappeal.com. Thank you for your generosity.

Le invito a pasar algún tiempo esta semana reflexionando sobre los materiales de la Campaña Católica Anual que debe haber recibido en su boletín o en el correo. La Campaña Católica Anual es muy diferente de una colecta especial que ocurre una sola vez: es un compromiso prometido de hacer una donación a lo largo del tiempo. Su compromiso se puede pagar a plazos. Cada compromiso de donación hace una diferencia, porque todas las parroquias participan en la campaña y las donaciones de muchos permiten a nuestra arquidiócesis ofrecer los ministerios y los servicios necesarios para responder al llamado de “Hacer nuevas todas las cosas...La promesa de Dios y nuestra responsabilidad”. Si usted recibió su formulario de compromiso en el correo, por favor llénelo y envíelo de vuelta. Este año, también alentamos a nuestros feligreses a hacer sus donaciones a la Campaña Católica Anual en línea en annualcatholicappeal.com. Gracias por su generosidad.

Fr. Dan

Renew My Church



WHAT DOES RENEW MY CHURCH MEAN TO ST. CLETUS?

Renew My Church for the St. Cletus Community begins a spiritual journey to re-encounter Jesus both an individual disciples and as parish community. Through three initiatives, we are asked to recommit to the gospel commission:

- Make disciples
- Build vital communities of faith
- Inspire witness that brings the light and hope of Christ to a world in need

These three mission imperatives guide all that we will do in our renewal efforts.

Renew My Church does NOT mean that St. Cletus Parish or school will be closing or merging, as some other parishes have experienced. As previously announced, St. Cletus is a strong and vibrant parish, but ALL parishes in the Archdiocese are participating in Renew my Church.

WHAT IS RENEW MY CHURCH?

Renew My Church is a proactive, strategic effort to ensure the sustainable growth of our Church for the future. Renew My Church is meant to ensure that all parish are vibrant, vital, and life-giving and have the resources they need to carry out the mission of the Church.

Sunday Notes

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



WE ARE KNOWN BY OUR FRUIT

This week, Jesus tells us that we must examine our own inner selves, our attitudes and dispositions, virtues and faults, rather than judging others. What is in our hearts comes out in what and how we speak. If our hearts are filled with kindness and compassion, those qualities will be evident in our speaking, just as beautiful, wholesome fruit comes only from healthy trees. And vice-versa. The Wisdom writer Sirach in the first reading agrees with this concept—that we will be judged by our words. Paul reminds us that the reward of discipleship is eternal life. Today's psalm of thanksgiving and praise reminds us of God's kindness and faithfulness, which we are to emulate in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We are known, each of us, by our own fruit.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — One's speech shows the bent of one's mind. Praise no one before he or she speaks (Sirach 27:4-7).

Psalm — Lord, it is good to give thanks to you (Psalm 92).

Second Reading — We are given victory over death through Jesus. In the Lord our labor is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:54-59).

Gospel — A good person produces good, an evil person produces evil. The mouth speaks from the goodness of the heart (Luke 6:39-45).

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

—Henry Ward Beecher

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9; Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9, 10c;
Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16; Ps 98:1-4; Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17;
2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15;
Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tuesday: Mardi Gras; Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence;
Almsgiving

Thursday: St. Katharine Drexel

Friday: St. Casimir; First Friday; Abstinence;
World Day of Prayer

Saturday: First Saturday

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
 that the course of our world
 may be directed by your peaceful rule
 and that your Church may rejoice,
 untroubled in her devotion.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

How can I help bring about God's peaceful reign?

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VOCATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

We beg you good and holy priests.

In every age you call men to follow you
 as servants and shepherds of your people.

Open their hearts to your call
 and give them the courage to follow you.

Be their rock of refuge
 and their lights as they discern.

Help us to support them on their journey,
 and to love them as your disciples.

We thank you for all that you are
 and all that you do.

In your name we pray.

Amen

Vocation Office | Bishop Quarter House
 750 North Wabash Avenue | Chicago, IL 60611 | Chicagopriest.com

St. Cletus School




ST. CLETUS SCHOOL SPRING AUCTION FUNDRAISER *Sponsorships*



Sponsor Levels	Family Sponsor \$200	Two Ring Sponsor \$500	Three Ring Sponsor \$1000	Tightrope Sponsor \$2500	Ringmaster Sponsor \$5000+
Tickets to the St. Cletus Spring Auction on April 2, 2022	2 (\$120 value)	2 (\$120 value)	4 (\$240 value)	6 (\$360 value)	6 (\$360 value)
Listed in Full Page Thank You Ad in Easter Sunday Canticle	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Sponsor Benefits	Web Page Listing & Event Recognition	Web Page Listing, Social Media Mentions, & Event Recognition.	T-Shirt Sponsor, Web Page Ad, Social Media Mentions, & Event Recognition.	T-Shirt Sponsor, Web Page Ad, Social Media Mentions, & Event Recognition.	T-Shirt Sponsor, Web Page Ad, Social Media Mentions, & Event Recognition.

- Check here if you would like to sponsor a St. Cletus School Teacher's ticket to the event at \$60 each.
- Check here if you are happy to sponsor but cannot attend the event and would like to donate the cost of your tickets back to St. Cletus School.
- Check here if you would like to remain anonymous in all publications and promotions.



Sponsorship Level: _____ Total Donation Amount: _____

Contact Name: _____

Company/Organization Name (if applicable) _____

Name as it should be listed: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Online payments are accepted on our website at: stcletusschool.com/fundraising/auction

Please make checks payable to St. Cletus School. Sponsorship agreements and payments can be mailed to or dropped off at: St. Cletus Auction, 700 W. 55th Street, La Grange, IL 60525. Sponsorship Agreements are appreciated as soon as possible, but no later than March 1st, 2022 for t-shirt acknowledgment and no later than March 25th, 2022 for Event Recognition.

Any sponsorship questions can be emailed to auction@stcletusparish.com

Thank you for your support of the students and staff at St. Cletus School.

Your support of St. Cletus School is sincerely appreciated. St. Cletus is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations and gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. You will receive confirmation of your tax-deductible contribution for your records.

Social Concerns Ministry



**ST. CLETUS
FOOD PANTRY
THURSDAYS 6-8PM
CHURCH PARKING LOT**

FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST:

Thank you so much for your generous donations! We are blessed to have many, many holiday food drives going on right now to support the pantry. Please consider holding food donations for a few weeks. Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook:
@StCletusFoodPantry

Now on Instagram:
@St.CletusFoodPantry

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



**GREATER
CHICAGO
- FOOD -
DEPOSITORY.**

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, 8-10 volunteers work to earn \$15.00 each toward our GCFD food purchase. Our next volunteer session will be **Saturday, March 19 from 8:30-11:30**. Volunteers can be ages 16+. Volunteers age 11-15 must be accompanied by an adult.

GCFD is located at: 4100 W. Ann Lurie Place, Chicago, IL 60632. You can also sign up to go at a convenient time for you. Please designate St. Cletus Food Pantry-Agency #A01336, as the recipient of your volunteer credits. For more info: www.chicagosfoodbank.org

At the time of this writing: All GCFD volunteers, contractors and employees must be vaccinated against COVID-19. Volunteers will be asked for confirmation of vaccination status. GCFD requires volunteers to wear masks and practice social distancing when volunteering. Thank you for your understanding and for helping us end hunger!

The GCFD requests that we wear long pants, shirts that cover the shoulder and shoes that cover the entire foot. There are lockers in the building to hold your valuables.

LENTEN OUTREACH

Join our faith community-and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States-in a transformative Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl next weekend after Mass. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on global hunger and take action to help our sisters and brothers impacted by this injustice. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



As we prepare for Lent, we partner with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to reach out and serve others through the Rice Bowl program. Please help distribute Rice Bowls after Masses March 5-6. All ages are welcome. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4uxnad3f> to view slots and sign up.

AREA RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY



40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion clinics. If you are interested in signing up and participating locally, you can do so here:

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/downersgrove>

WORD OF LIFE



“The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is **cherished.**”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent
uscbb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection

Religious Education

DECIDING TO MAKE JESUS THEIR CHOICE

Last Saturday we celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with our Eighth Grade, High School and Adult Candidates. It truly was a spirit-filled celebration, which touched everyone present. There are so many people to thank for such a wonderful sacramental celebration. Our liturgy was beautiful in part to the wonderful music provided by our choir and Cantor (Elliot Wimbush) under the direction of our Director of Music Ministries, Karen Ziembra. We are truly grateful for the many adult volunteers who served as Ushers, Greeters, Altar Servers, and the MC. Our liturgy was presided by Bishop Kevin Birmingham and concelebrated with Fr. Elmer Romero and Fr. Dan Costello. We are thankful for the strong connection our parish priests have with our newly confirmed.

The parish staff also had a big role in the celebration of this sacrament, although a lot of their work was behind the scenes. A very special thank you goes to our Maintenance Staff who spent hours decorating the Church and the Parish Center for our celebration. Their work made the art and environment for our mass truly beautiful. Chris Wagner, our Director of IT Services, ensured that almost 200 people who could not attend in-person were able to livestream our Confirmation mass. His work was exceptional, allowing each candidate to be clearly seen as they were anointed. If you have not had the opportunity to view the recording of the mass, I encourage you to do so on our St. Cletus YouTube page. Fr. Ken Baker was a critical figure in the formation of our teen candidates. He helped to begin the journey to Confirmation at their Commitment Ceremony last year, and served as the Retreat Master at our Day of the Spirit Confirmation retreat. His deep influence on the spiritual formation of these teens could be seen in the lovely art piece the teens created for the Confirmation Mass. Our new Pastoral Associate, Tina Norton, did a great job in preparing the liturgy. It was lovely to have Greg Porod and Christy Schaefer (Principal and Assistant Principal) present as Eucharistic Ministers, and Kendall Grant (Director of Social Concerns) assisting as a Greeter.

I would also like to recognize all of our Catechists who have a special role in accompanying the newly confirmed on their faith journey. Over the years, these faith-filled individuals have shared their faith stories and planted seeds of faith within those they taught. Those seeds were in full bloom this past Saturday. A very heart-felt thanks goes to Griselda Rahman, the Coordinator of Religious Education. She coordinated the teen Confirmation program and all of the requirements this year, and was deeply touched by the saint reports and service journal entries that demonstrated the true encounters these newly confirmed have had, and the commitment to their faith that they expressed. I also need to recognize and thank my friends and fellow Catechists for our Adult Confirmation program, Steve Weigand from St. John of the Cross and Maggie McMahon from St. Francis Xavier. This is our second year of offering a tri-parish Adult Confirmation class. We are truly fortunate to be able to provide this formation for the adults in our three parishes.

Our parents and Sponsors have had the most influential role in the lives of the newly confirmed. Their love, encouragement, and support were critical to the faith journey of those confirmed. May you continue to accompany them for the rest of their faith journey, modeling how to be a faithful disciple of Jesus.



SAVE THE DATE! VBS IS BACK!

We are now taking registrations for our upcoming Monumental VBS to be held on June 13-17, 2022. Please see the parish website for more details and the registration forms!

Youth Ministry

PACZKI SALES TODAY AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES



Join us after all masses on **Sunday, February 27th** to purchase your freshly made strawberry or custard filled paczki from Kirschbaum's Bakery. We will be selling them four to a box for \$10. All proceeds go towards our Mission Trip in June of this year. Don't delay – we have limited supply, so when we sell out, you will need to wait on long lines at the bakery!

Thanks so much for your support of our Youth Ministry program!

KAIROS 38 RETREAT – IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER!



We are excited to invite Juniors and Seniors in High School to Kairos 38! The retreat will take place on **March 10-13, 2022**, at the Cabrini Retreat Center in Des Plaines. We are so excited to be able to bring this retreat back to our teens, despite the ongoing pandemic! Please take advantage of this opportunity to encounter Jesus, make new close friends, and take some much needed time for yourself.

Registration is now open! **Registration forms can be found on our website**, or the St. John of the Cross website (stjohnofthecross.org). Download the registration form from this website and return the completed form to the St. Cletus Parish Center (600 W. 55th Street, LaGrange), or the St. John of the Cross Parish Center (5005 S. Wolf Road, Western Springs) **by Monday, February 28th**.

CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

Our Church League teams continue to compete and will soon enter the playoffs. We are truly grateful to our amazing coaches who have been critical in allowing us to bring back this important component of Youth Ministry. Thank you to Coaches James Komsthoeft, Kathryn Derat, Gonzalo Ruiz, Barb Cramer, Megan Magee, and Michael Grace. You are all amazing, and deeply appreciated!



Ministry News

1ST ANNUAL FATHER'S CLUB FISH FRY

Friday, March 18th

SEATINGS: 4:30 PM, 5:30 PM, 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM

TICKET PRICES (CASH ONLY):

Adults: \$15 in advance/ \$20 at the door

Kids (12 & under): \$10 in advance/ \$10 at the door

More information will be available in the 3/6 Canticle.

SC COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Celebrate St Patrick's Day with CCW Come all ladies of the parish & bring a guest!

Wednesday, March 16th | 7:00pm in the Church

Guest entertainment is Kathleen O'Brien Dietz who will grace us with a variety of songs reflecting Irish faith and heritage. We will also have a short meeting.

COME JOIN US FOR COFFEE!

Please join us for Coffee and... in the Gallagher Center on the third Wednesday of the month following the 8:00 a.m. morning mass. We will be serving coffee and cookies and conversation for anyone who wants to attend (you don't have to attend mass to come, but why not?). Stay as long as you like and enjoy the company of friends and neighbors. Our next gathering will be March 16.

ART AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE INVITATION FROM TINA NORTON

When my son was a preschooler, I was asked if I could water the plants in my church during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Because I was available during the day and they told me I could bring my son along, we went into church twice a week after the morning mass with our buckets and watering cans and watered all the plants. He was old enough to be able to help and he loved doing it. The plants got watered and I remember being in the quiet church with him very fondly. Plus, the church became a friendly and familiar place, it was our community, and there were lots of pretty things to look at and help with and nice people to work with.

Part of our worship is doing so in a beautiful and inspiring worship environment. We would like to start an Art and Environment Committee at St Cletus, which would be responsible for decorating the church for the liturgical seasons, taking care of the plants, etc. The work is not hard and could be done mostly on your own schedule (bring your child if it's convenient!), and mostly before and during Easter and Christmas. If there is enough interest, we will be planning the Holy Week and Easter season environments to start. If you are interested, please give me your name at tnorton@stcletusparish.com or call the parish office.

- Tina Norton, Pastoral Associate

HISPANIC MINISTRY SATURDAY ADORATION



Adorado sea El Santísimo Sacramento Por Siempre...

La comunidad hispana de San Cleto, ha estado realizando la Adoración Nocturna todos los segundos sábados de cada mes en el horario de 7:00pm a 10:30pm. A partir del mes de diciembre 2021

comenzamos hacerlo durante toda la noche con el debido permiso de nuestro párroco P. Elmer Romero. El nuevo horario ahora será de 9:00pm a 5:30am. Todos son bienvenidos a rendir Adoración a nuestro Señor. Para cualquier pregunta dirigirla al consejo parroquial 708-502-4891.

Ave María Purísima
Sin pecado concebida ...

Adored be the Blessed Sacrament Forever...

The Hispanic community of St. Cletus has been performing Nocturnal Adoration every second Saturday of each month from 7:00 pm to 10:30 pm. As of December 2021, we begin to do it all night with the due permission of our parish Pastor, Fr. Elmer Romero. The new hours will now be from 9:00 pm to 5:30 am. All are welcome to pay Adoration to our Lord. For any questions please call the parish center at 708-502-4891.

HISPANIC MINISTRY TUESDAY ADORATION

Cada martes a las 7:00PM estaremos haciendo la Adoración al Santísimo en la Parroquia.

Every Tuesday at 7:00 PM we will be doing the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Parish.

BOOK DISCUSSION

For the next book discussion, we are reading **What Alice Forgot** by Liane Moriarty. We will meet on April 12, 2022 at 10 AM in the Fr. Gallagher Room of the Parish Center. Please note, this is our new meeting time. For those who like to look ahead... June 14, **Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles As always, all are welcome. Questions – call Denise at 708.712.8294

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE

**SOUND SYSTEM
FUND RAISING
STATUS**

48.5%
\$53,423.14

Goal:
\$110,000.00

Community News

ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES



Sing!
SONGS YOU LOVE
FEATURING MUSICIANS YOU KNOW

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 4:00 P.M.
ST. CLETUS PARISH CENTER

FREE ADMISSION | More info at www.edwardfas.com

TROOP 19 SPRING PLANT FUNDRAISER



Boy Scout Troop 19 is selling a variety of annual plants and hanging baskets!!! Order your plants next starting weekend! Pick up will be early May, just in time for Mother's Day!

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Link to order:

<http://go.noblevalleywreathsale.com/tp19spring22>

Thank you for supporting Troop 19!

BETHLEHEM ARTS



March 12 & 13 we will host representatives of the Catholic Christian Community from Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the Holy Land who will be displaying handcrafted olive wood religious figurines and articles. Due to the political conflict and COVID-19 results in the reduction of tourism, the Catholic Community has come to depend more on the sale of these articles abroad to survive. The woodcarvings are beautiful and reflect faith and love for the Lord.

Please consider purchasing a gift that will be remembered and cherished for yourself or someone dear to you. The handcrafted olive wood religious figurines and articles will be available for purchase after all the weekend Masses in the Narthex.

ARTES DE BELEN 12 Y 13 DE MARZO



Representantes de la Comunidad Cristiana Católica de Jerusalén y Belén, de Tierra Santa, están aquí para vender sus artículos de madera elaborados a mano. Dicha comunidad depende principalmente de la artesanía religiosa talladas en madera y el turismo.

Debido a los conflictos políticos y la falta de turismo muchos de los cristianos se ven obligados a abandonar Tierra Santa. Con la venta de estos artículos religiosos usted ayudará a que sobrevivan y mantengan su comunidad viva. Que sea un reflejo de nuestra fe y amor al Señor.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY



The world-wide “Synod on Synodality” is underway now! This is a gathering of bishops and everyone in the church in order to make ourselves more “synodal” - that is, working together and walking together to make ourselves and our church better and more unified.

The three keys to the Synod are communion, participation, and mission. We are all invited to take part in the synod, and Pope Francis has specifically asked for participation of the laity. We are invited to reflect on the themes of communion, participation and mission and send our thoughts to the Archdiocese in order to be included as part of the synod reflections. If you would like more information on the synod in general or to include your thoughts, please visit <https://www.archchicago.org/news-and-events/synod>.

THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE on Wednesday, Mar 2, 7—8PM On Zoom. Prayer service, with reflection by Bridget Spurduto. Free will offering.

JOURNAL YOUR LIFE Two Thursdays, Mar 10 and 24, 10-11:30 AM Facilitator: Diane Pfahler, SND Ever wonder what benefit journalers get from putting pen to paper? This class may be just what you need to be propelled into the company of Anne Frank, Marie Curie, Thomas Merton, and Lady Gaga. \$30 series.

Please register/find out about more about programs at www.csjthewell.org or call 708-482-5048. All programs are currently on ZOOM.

INVITE FROM HITZEMAN FUNERAL HOME

We are hosting a complimentary seminar with an Attorney for Estate Planning as well as a representative of the Catholic Cemeteries to answer any questions you may have when it comes to pre-planning.

March 8, 2022 at 2:00pm Live and 6:30pm Virtual

Hitzeman Funeral Home, 9445 West 31st St. Brookfield. Please R.S.V.P. by 3/7 at 708-485-2000 or info@hitzemanfuneral.com. Space is limited.

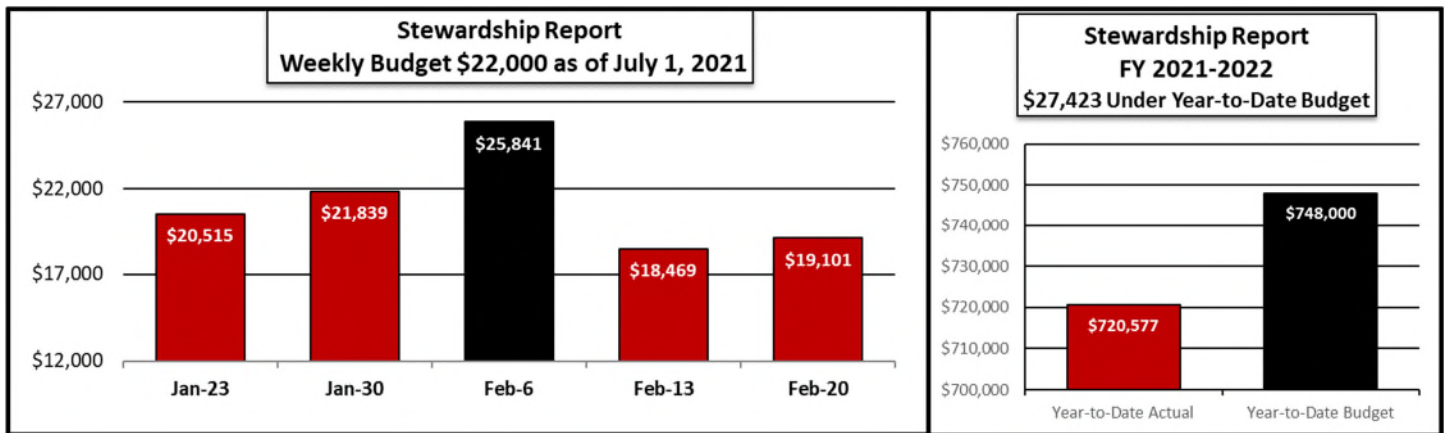
BULLETIN ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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.

Week at a Glance

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, February 27	7:15am 10:30am	Parish Center Church	Youth Ministry Paczki Sales Family Mass
Monday, February 28			
Tuesday, March 1	7:00pm	Church	Spanish Holy Hour
Wednesday, March 2	9:00am 1:00pm	Parish Center Meeting Room Church	Mission Ladies Rosary and Prayers
Thursday, March 3	6-8pm 6:00pm 8:15pm	Parking Lot Church School Music Room	Food Pantry Distribution Renew My Church Meeting Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 4	2:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Church Church Parish Center Meeting Room	Living Stations of the Cross Living Stations of the Cross Holy Name Society Meeting
Saturday, March 5	8:30am 5:00pm	Church Narthex	Confessions Rice Bowls Distribution
Sunday, March 6	7:15am	Narthex	Rice Bowls Distribution

Stewardship Report



YEAR-END STATEMENT BY REQUEST ONLY


As tax time approaches, we ask everyone who would like a year-end statement of their Year 2021 financial offering to the parish to fill out the form below and return it or simply call the office @ (708) 352-6209 with your request. You may also email jdion@stcletusparish.com and submit your request electronically. Rather than mail statements to everyone in the parish, it seems more prudent and conservative to only mail them to those who need them for tax returns. Of course, your statement is available anytime a need for it may arise. Thank you.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Envelope # _____

St. Cletus Parish Information

CONTACT US

Parish Center.....(708) 352-6209
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 thru Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday and SundayClosed

MASSES

Saturday Evening..... 5:00 p.m.
Sunday7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m. (SPANISH)
Weekdays..... Mon. thru Fri. 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

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

BAPTISMS

Parents must be registered parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements at (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.

Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements at (708) 352-6209.

HOME/HOSPITAL VISITATION AND COMMUNION CALLS

Please contact the Ministry of Care Office (708) 352-6209

STAFF

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Elmer Romero, Pastor
Rev. Dan Costello, Associate Pastor
Rev. John Lodge, Weekend Associate
Rev. Robert Clark, Pastor Emeritus

PASTORAL STAFF

Tina Norton, Pastoral Associate (708) 215-5412
Karen Ziemba, Music Ministry (708) 215-5423
Kendall Grant, Social Concerns (708) 215-5418
Christopher Wagner, Technology (708) 215-5420

HISPANIC MINISTRY STAFF

Juanita Avila, Head of Hispanic Ministry

SCHOOL STAFF

Gregory Porod, Principal
Christy Schaefer, Assistant Principal
Mary Lee Krieger, Administrative Assistant
Jeannie Scalzitti, Receptionist/Office Assistant
Kate Townsend, Receptionist/Office Assistant

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Barb Campbell, Director of Religious Education
Griselda Rahman, Coordinator of Religious Education

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Jim Dion, Business Manager
Olga Montalvo, Parish Administrative Assistant
Silvia Castellanos, Parish Secretary
Elizabeth Goellner-McLean, Bulletin Editor

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

Pastor Fr. Elmer Romero
Chairperson..... Bob Wasik

MEMBERS

Bob Malham
Mike Napleton
Kevin Hogan
Jennifer Senyard

LIAISONS

FSA President Rhonda Aumann
Athletic Association..... Tina Pryor

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.