St. Cletus Parish Official Designated Dilgrims

Official Designated Pilgrimage
Site For the Jubilee

December 24, 2024-December 28, 2025

During the Jubilee of 2025, St. Cletus Parish will open its doors to people from all walks of life, inviting them to embark on a transformative spiritual journey. As a pilgrimage site, we offer not only the chance to pray, reflect, and seek forgiveness, but also a sacred space to celebrate the faith that unites believers across the world.

Whether seeking personal healing, spiritual renewal, or a deeper connection to their faith, pilgrims visiting St. Cletus Parish will experience a sacred environment where God's mercy and love are tangible.

For the Jubilee 2025, we will become a beacon of hope and renewal, welcoming pilgrims with open arms and guiding them on a meaningful spiritual journey during this momentous occasion.





Prayer for the Jubilee Year

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

-Pope Francis

Directory

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Elmer Romero

Pastor

eromero@stcletusparish.com

Rev. Javier Alexander Garcia

Associate Pastor

jgarcia@stcletusparish.com

Rev. Robert Clark Pastor Emeritus

Norma Hernandez

Coordinator of Faith Formation

for Children and Teens

nhernandez@stcletusparish.com

Juanita Avila

Hispanic Ministry

javila@stcletusparish.com

Ryan Rump

Music Ministry

rrump@stcletusparish.com

Rev. Michael Novick Associate Pastor

mnovick@stcletusparish.com

Rev. John Lodge and Rev. Ron Kalas

Senior Priest for Weekend

Liturgies

Deacon Franco Foti ffoti@stcletusparish.com

Deacon Ramón Cazales rcazales@stcletusparish.com

Larry Manetti

O.C.I.A

Imanetti@stcletusparish.com

Kendall Grant Social Concerns

kgrant@stcletusparish.com

Operations Staff

Jim Dion

Business Manager

jdion@stcletusparish.com

Luis Lopez

IT Manager

llopez@stcletusparish.com

Derek Sawicki

Maintenance Supervisor dsawicki@stcletusparish.com

Giselle Rico Office Manager

grico@stcletusparish.com

Olga Montalvo

Assistant Office Manager

omontalvo@stcletusparish.com

School

Greg Porod

Principal

gporod@stcletusparish.com

Mary Lee Krieger

Administrative Assistant

mkrieger@stcletusparish.com

Frank Ochoa

Dual Language Immersion

Coordinator

fochoa@stcletusparish.com

Christy Schaefer

Assistant Principal-Director of

Academics

cschaefer@stcletusparish.com

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

Mass Intentions

| | Wass intentions | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| Saturday December 28 | Rev. John Lodge | 5 p.m. | † Baby Williams † Benjamin Patrick Hyink † Julio Loarte † Winnie Weisgerber | Janet Boyer (Special Intention) For the Living & Deceased Members of the Hamilton Family | | | |
| Sunday December 29 | Rev. Michael Novick | 7:15 a.m. | Living Members of St Cletus CWC (Living) † Robert Spyrison | † Julia Kopacz † Ted Kopacz † Family of Dolores Bochniarz | | | |
| | Rev. Ron Kalas | 8:45 a.m. | † Frank Wojcik † Monsignor Philip Reilly † Dolores Bochniarz | Health blessings for John Prusko, Sr. (Living) Michael Zimmerman Family (Special Intention) | | | |
| | Rev. John Lodge | 10:30 a.m. | † Joseph & Eleanor Brousil † Kriho & Lorence Families † Frank & Betty Niwa | † Anne Scheer Ritz † Mary Ann Cicero † Genevieve Malec | | | |
| | Rev. Emmanuel Torres Fuentes | 12:30 p.m. | † Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio | | | | |
| Monday December 30 | Rev. Michael Novick | 8 a.m. | † Harriet Baczynski † Sophie & Anthony Lorence | † Heather Frazier | | | |
| Tuesday December 31 | Rev. Ron Kalas | 8 a.m. | St. Cletus Parishioners | | | | |
| Wednesday January 1 | Rev. Jim Antiporek | 8 a.m. | † James O' Keefe Eleanor Mary (née Grochocki) Mlot (Special Intention) † Marshall M. Mlot | † BC & Rip Collins † Marshall M. Mlot † Rita Fabijonas | | | |
| Thursday January 2 | Rev. Ron Kalas | 8 a.m. | St. Cletus Parishioners | | | | |
| Friday January 3 | Rev. Henry Kricek | 8 a.m. | † Louie Marasovic † Frank Wojcik † Benedict Dybas | Kenneth Kleinke (Birthday) † Nan & Bob Rettig | | | |
| Saturday January 4 | Rev. Andy Matijevic | 5 p.m. | † Herb Klein † Ezequiel Mendez | Janet Boyer (Special Intention) † Pat DeBello | | | |
| Sunday January 5 | Rev. Michael Novick | 7:15 a.m. | † Eugene Gurga † Benedict Dybas | † Mary Campbell † Irwin Campbell | | | |
| | Rev. Anthony Muraya | 8:45 a.m. | † Nancy Konieczny † Eugene Sorrentino † Monsignor Philip Reilly | Health blessings for John Prusko, Sr. (Living) † Bernadine Sekula, Rosemary Daleo, Rose Haddad | | | |
| | Rev. Anthony Muraya | 10:30 a.m. | † Patrick Cullen † Kenneth "Ken" Raymond Hickey | † Zianna Pompe † Pete Medina | | | |
| | Rev. Emmanuel Torres Fuentes | 12:30 p.m. | † Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Please remember our sick in your prayers:

Richard Madsen | Asis Gonzalez | Joanne Kasang | Jorea Touranjzau | Debbie Coté | Vincent Austrevich | Bonnie Kakareka | Mary Ann Vokurka

Please remember our dead in your prayers:

- † Jean Burke, Mother of Robert Burke † Theresa Lyons, Mother of Jessica Erwin

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

"The family is a source of wealth for married couples, an irreplaceable good for children, an indispensable foundation of society and a vital community for the journey of the church."

Pope Benedict XVI

Dear Friends,

This weekend is Holy Family weekend, a weekend when the Church honors not only the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, but also our family, all families, our parish family, and the institution of the family itself, which was deliberately designed by God.

With conviction and gratitude, we can say that the family is the single most important institution on earth. Why? Because it was given to us by God. Consider all the happiest, most peaceful, and most enduring societies in history. They have had a deep respect for the family. This is something that we also want, a deep respect for our family.

I encourage you to look back and ponder on the good things God has bestowed on you through the family he has given you. It is through your family that you learn life's most important lesson: unselfish love, the love that consists in the gift of your very self and life to others. Notice, each of us came into this world only because two other persons did that: laid down their lives for us. God gave us the gift of life we enjoy through our parents. And so, we are encouraged to honor, respect, and love our parents. We are also invited to be a source of life for others.

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in Rome to begin a Jubilee Year in 2025. He wants the Jubilee Year 2025 to be lived as a "year of hope." Pilgrims from all over the world will be making their way to Rome to experience that special time of grace, renewal, and mercy in their lives.

Cardinal Cupich will open the Jubilee Year locally by celebrating a special Mass at Holy Name Cathedral today (Sunday) December 29, 2024, at 12:30 PM. As

part of the Archdiocese of Chicago, we will join with the Universal Church in prayer and pilgrimage throughout the year. From December 29, 2024, through December 28, 2025, all are invited to participate in the Jubilee Year by visiting designated Pilgrimage Sites.

I am delighted to let you know that our parish, St. Cletus, is one of the designated Pilgrimage Sites in the Archdiocese of Chicago. I am grateful to Cardinal Cupich for granting us such an honor and a blessing. I am inviting you to take this blessing as an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and one another so that together we can offer pilgrims our warm welcome, hospitality, and love.

I will continue to work with our parish staff and the members of our Parish Pastoral Council regarding this honor, blessing, and responsibility. Per the Archdiocese of Chicago, our schedule for Masses, reconciliation, and adoration will be posted on the Archdiocesan Jubilee Year page. If you could, as you come to Mass acknowledge and welcome pilgrims that might be praying at Mass with you.

Meanwhile, may the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph instill in us a deeper appreciation of our parents and those who love us unconditionally.

Fr. Elmer Romero



A Note from the Associate pastor's Desk

Feast of the Holy Family

Once again, Merry Christmas to all! I hope everyone had a great celebration as we remembered Jesus Christ's taking on flesh. What an amazing moment it must have been for Joseph and Mary! Not only did the angel's message get fulfilled, but how precious and adorable He must have been too!

The gospel story in St. Luke's account of when Jesus was a younger boy and he stayed back at the temple, only for Joseph and Mary to realize he was not with the group, is one that I am sure many people who have had children get lost in the grocery store could certainly appreciate. Nowadays, police would have been notified, the news might have been called, and, Joseph and Mary might have even been accused of child neglect. But they went back!

Of course, our tradition tells us that the Virgin Mary was perpetually without sin. So, she could not have become angry with Jesus. She simply says "Where have you been? Your father and I have been worried." Jesus responded "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" It almost sounds snippy, doesn't it? Well, at least some of us make it sound snippy. However, Jesus does what is right.

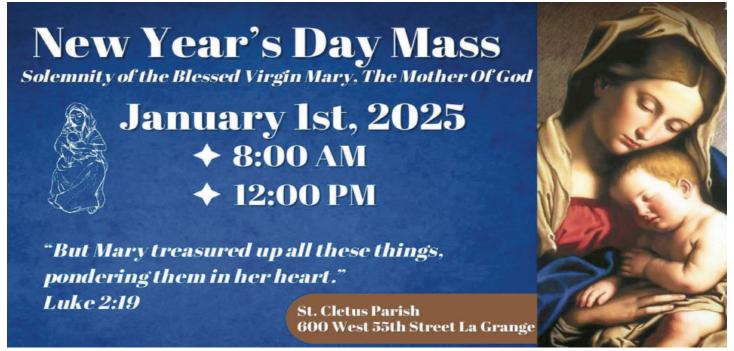
He is obedient to Joseph and Mary. And we are told that He grew in wisdom and grace.

Now that is something we probably expected to hear about Jesus, right? He grew in wisdom and grace. That is really enough for us to know about Jesus' upbringing. What is it that make this family holy? Joseph was righteous in God's sight, Mary was kept sinless from the moment of her conception, and Jesus is both GOD and MAN. They are all great attributes. However, the holiness goes beyond that and it's in Jesus' obedience. Not only here when he is young, but He is obedient to THE Father to sacrifice himself for our sake and our sins.

My guess is that many of you (if not all) can relate to what I am saying. You know that your family feels more whole and on the same page when there is obedience and respect shown by everyone. Obedience tends to be something we think about from an authority viewpoint. We are obedient to our parents as they were or should have been to theirs. And ultimately, we ourselves learn to obey God. When we do that, we become more aware of His presence. We can feel HOLY.

Peace and good cheer in 2025!

Fr. Mike



Parish Life

| Date | Time | Events | Location |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Monday, December 30 | 4:30 p.m. | St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball | PC– Gym |
| Tuesday, December 31 | 3:00 p.m. | St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball | PC– Gym |
| Wednesday, January 1 | All Day 12:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. | Parish & School Office Closed New Year's Day Mass St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball | Church PC– Gym |
| Thursday, January 2 | 3:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. | St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball Chancel Choir Rehearsal | PC– Gym Music Room |
| Friday, January 3 | 3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball St. Cletus Parish Holy Name Society Meeting | PC– Gym Gallagher Room |
| Saturday, January 4 | 11:00 a.m. | St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball | PC– Gym |
| Sunday, January 5 | 2:00 p.m. | St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball | PC– Gym |

Readings of the week

Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

(see a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-

40

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18 **Wednesday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal

4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19

-28

Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34 Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42 Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

(see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-1

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: The Holy Family

Tuesday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve **Wednesday:** Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New

Year's Day, World Day of Peace

Thursday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Friday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

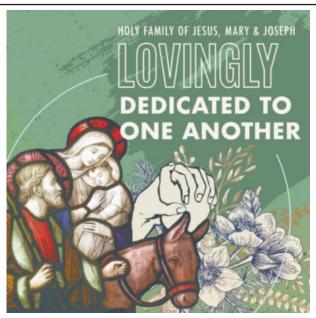
Saturday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious **Next Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord

Celebrating The Sacraments

December 2024 Baptisms

- Giancarlo Rojas
- Angel Eduardo Garcia
- Ximena Martinez- Caro
- Luis Javier Soto Sanchez
- Francesca Mentasti- Billordo
- Sofia Kate Yakupova
- Zaydin Aubrey Valdez Suarez

Congratulations!





WHAT IS THE JUBILEE?

The Universal Jubilee of the Catholic Church is a highly significant religious event celebrated to promote faith, charity, and forgiveness. It is a special occasion for the faithful worldwide to renew their spiritual commitment and receive plenary indulgences.

WHEN DOES THE JUBILEE START IN ROME?

The 2025 Jubilee began on December 24, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This symbolic rite, was performed by the Pope, marked the beginning of the Jubilee period and invites all the faithful to enter a time of grace and spiritual renewal. The opening of the Holy Door is a highly significant moment, attracting pilgrims from all over the world.

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE



Book Club

Come join us on February 11th for a discussion of Sugar and Salt by Susan Wiggs. 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 April book is The Women by Kristin Hannah.



Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society will be meeting on January 3rd, at 7:00 pm in the Fr. Gallagher room. All men of the parish are invited. Lawrence Lewandowski will give a presentation on tax preparation.



Gospel Meditation - Encourage Deeper understanding of Scripture

By Father John Muir at ©LPi

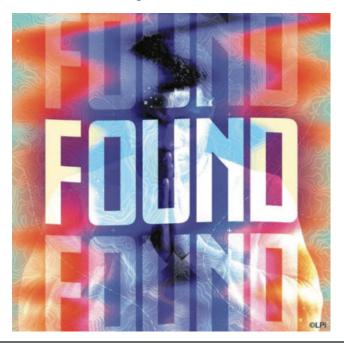
December 29, 2024 The Holy Family

As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, "Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us." I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God's grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary "after three days found him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers..." (Luke 2:46). We don't know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: "Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." The three days of his absence foreshadow his death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their

family was becoming a place where death and resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss — just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God's presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, he will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when he is found, it will be stronger than ever before.



(Practicing) Catholic - Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

Where is Jesus?

Every mother who has ever lost sight of her child in a crowd, even for a few seconds, knows the panic.

I think of Mary living with that level of anxiety for three straight days. I doubt she slept, but I'm sure Joseph forced her to lie down at night, imploring her to think of her health, to rest while he kept on searching the streets of Jerusalem. I imagine her lying there, eyes open and staring at the ceiling. Mary, full of grace. Mary, spotless of sin. Weeping in the dark, whispering, "Where is he?"

It's an experience that we all have at one point or another. Running through the world, desperate and confused, just trying to find God and failing so miserably that we wonder if He's purposefully eluding us. If Mary couldn't even find Him, do we stand a chance?

Why didn't Mary think to look in the temple? She had wisdom beyond anyone else who ever lived, at least when it came to Jesus. But I think God purposefully dropped a veil over her reasoning for these three days, so that He could show us it's okay to lose our way.

He isn't eluding us. In fact, He's trying to make it easy. He's staying put, in one place, the very place we should know to look. But the streets of our life are so crowded and loud. so full of distraction.

The Christmas season is about God revealing to us who and what and where He is. He has told us. The question is, have we listened?

AARP Tax-Aide Needs Volunteers for the 2025 Tax Filing Season

Looking for a rewarding opportunity to make a difference in your community?

The AARP Tax-Aide Program is now seeking volunteers for the upcoming 2025 tax filing season. It's not necessary for you to be an AARP member or to have a tax or an accounting background to volunteer. However, some knowledge of your own personal tax matters is very helpful. All returns are prepared on computers; thus, volunteers should be somewhat computer literate. Training classes will be held in January, 2025. Minimum time commitment during the filing season is 4 to 5 hours one day per week from early February to mid-April.

This income tax preparation and assistance service is offered to low and middle income individuals with special attention to those 60 years and older. Won't you help?

For further information about the program and to sign up as a volunteer, please visit: https://www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer or contact parishioner John Wagner at 708-352-0170.

School News

Preschool Christmas Program

The preschool Christmas program was absolutely beautiful! It was a heartwarming celebration that captured the true spirit of the season! The children's excitement shone through as they performed!







School Christmas Mass

One of our favorite traditions is our Christmas Mass put together by our kindergartners and 8th graders each year! The kindergartners brought joy and innocence with their heartfelt participation, while the 8th graders demonstrated leadership and reverence guiding with the liturgy with grace. From the thoughtful readings to the angelic singing, it was a cherished moment for sure!













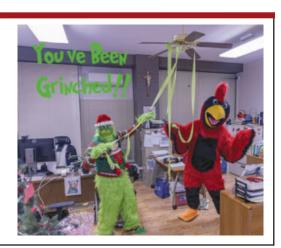






THE GRINCH!

That silly old Mr. Grinch was up to all sorts of tricks this season!! He even got his best buddy, our cardinal, in on the fun!!



Ministerio Hispano

| Fecha | Hora | Evento | Lugar |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Domingo, 29 de Diciembre | 12:30 p.m. | Misa en Español | 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 |



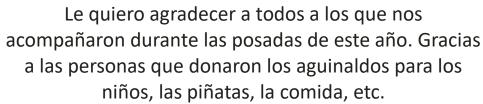














De parte del Ministerio Hispano, les deseamos un lindo año nuevo.





Social Concerns



St. Cletus Food Pantry

Thursdays 4-8 p.m.

Wish List:

- Tuna
- Coffee
- Cereal
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Crackers, cookies, snacks

Follow us on

Facebook:

StCletusFoodPantry

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@St.CletusFoodPantry

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

Giving Tree

Another record-setting year.

411 families

1,136 tags

← 121 home deliveries

♥ 275+ volunteers

\$ over \$30,000 in grocery gift cards

groceries for 400+ families

hundreds of donors

Thank you for helping us make Christmas a little brighter this year!

Below we share with you a few recent notes about Giving Tree:

"Thank you for all that you do for our church, community and for all of the wonderful ways you've allowed our family to get involved!" T.B.

"Thank you for delivering food to us this year. God Bless you!" S.S.

"Thank you so very much for the fabulous gifts. The food is always so helpful! I love my new potholders. My old ones were in shreds." P.J.









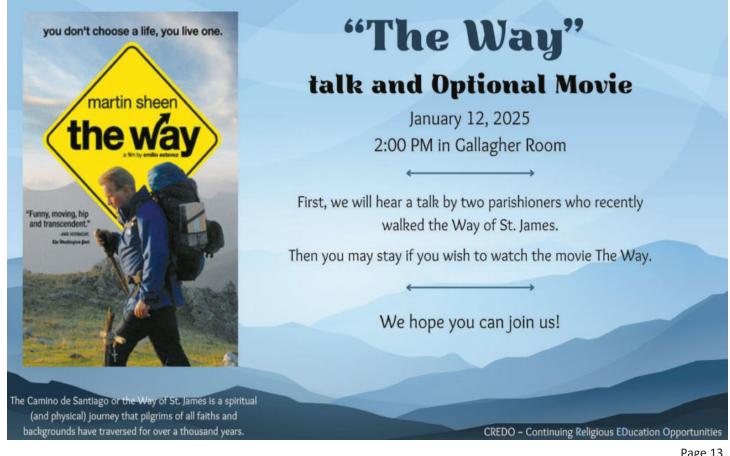












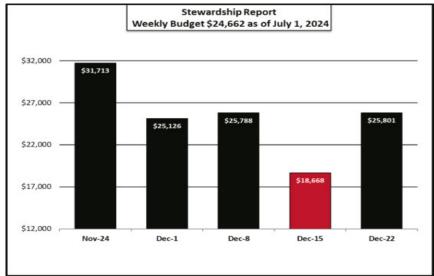


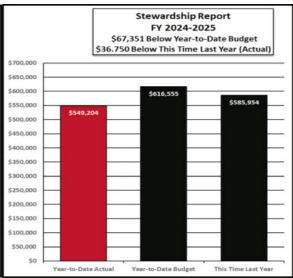
Why Pushpay?

For parishioners, Pushpay offers the benefit of a convenient, secure, and accessible way to make donations to their church online, with features like quick one-time or recurring giving options, the ability to view their giving history, and streamlined access through a mobile app, all while decreasing the need for physical envelopes or checks; essentially making donating to their church simpler and more flexible.

There are currently 101 parishioners registered in Pushpay and 72 parishioners in Give Central that have not yet converted to Pushpay. If you need help setting up your account on Pushpay, feel free to call the parish office at (708)352-6209. You can also scan the QR code to give a one time donation or set up your recurring gift.







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Experience the Difference Office Locations: La Grange | 708.352.4500 Oak Park | 708.848.5900



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