



# Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

**Be watchful! Be alert!**  
**You do not know when the time will come.**  
— MARK 13:33

WATCH THEREFORE;  
YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN  
THE LORD OF THE HOUSE IS COMING,  
WHETHER IN THE EVENING, OR AT MIDNIGHT,  
OR AT COCKCROW, OR IN THE MORNING.  
MARK 13:35



FIRST SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**  
NOVEMBER 29, 2020



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Photo: Julia Lilly/Adobe Stock. Advent flame art: Tony Ward for S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.



## WELCOME

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# Mass Intentions for November 30 - December 6, 2020

Day	Time	Intentions
November 30	8:00am	St. Cletus Parishioners
December 1	8:00am	Josephine Kinastowski
December 2	8:00am	Virginia Rachford, John Battistoni, Sylvia Pesut
December 3	8:00am	Sue Baker, BC Collins
December 4	8:00am	St. Cletus Parishioners
December 5	5:00pm	Walter Johnston, Jean Hills, Carol Griffith, Frank Mamolella, Brian Luczak
December 6	7:15am	Bill DePasquale, Emilia & Marco Rattin, George Duda, Patrick Mahoney, John & Frances Kennedy
	8:45am	Stacy Baker, Ricciardone & Calandriello Families, Eleanor Mlot, Jonathan Weidhunter, Bob, Jim, & Mike Caplice
	10:30am	Daniel Linklater, Sam Colonna, Frank Mamolella, Jerome Cherney, Jerry Welch, Samuel Colonna
	12:30pm	St. Cletus Parishioners

### UPDATE TO IN-PERSON OFFERINGS

In light of increased COVID cases in Illinois and out of abundance of caution to protect our parishioners, we have the following modifications to in-person services:

- Saturday communion service is suspended.
- No Tuesday evening Spanish holy hour. Spanish confessions will still take place.
- Wednesday daily mass has moved from in-person to online only.
- Mass attendance is decreased to 50 people per mass. A recording will still be available on the St. Cletus Parish [YouTube channel](#).

All worship opportunities require that you pre-register. The sign up link can be found on our website, [www.stcletusparish.com](http://www.stcletusparish.com).

If you don't have internet access you can call the parish office at 708.352.6209 for assistance.

### PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

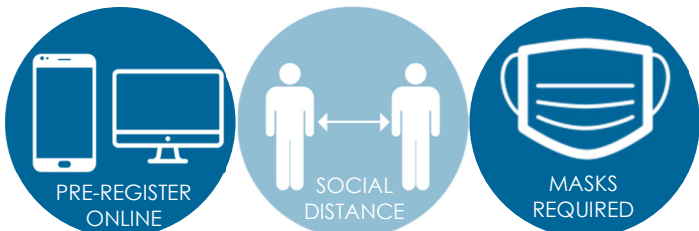
*We always welcome names for the sick. Please note that requests must only be made by the individual or an immediate family member. Names will remain in this prayer list for 3 months.*

**November** - Sandra Eckrich, Patricia Hays, Marilyn Kornau, Maria Matayka, Peggy McCaffray, Kevin Peck, Patricia Rodey, Laura Terrazino, Patrick Wingert

**October** - Catherine Cosgrove, Rosemarie Gallagher, Virginia Kriho, Toni Swindall, Vic Swindall

**September** - Carol Reckwerdt, Baby Vivian Furry, Frank Colonna, John Duda, Alice Dunkovich, John Zydek, Annette Bonvillian, Mary Ann Doornbos, John Paul Granger, Virginia Klecka, Frank Niwa, Waclaw Berdysz, Mary Duckett, Wayne Hamilton, Christine Wolosewicz, Joyce Arnold, John Collingwood, Jeanie Hills, Charles (Bud) Howe, Mark Radulski, Mary Ramirez, Rose Serrano, Ludwig Stoiber, Joseph Gregory Stroude, Grace Yamamoto

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



## Notes from Fr. Bob...

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

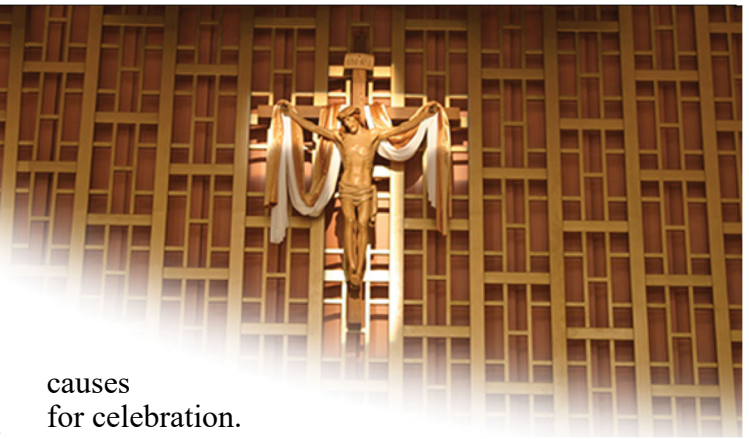
Patrick Kavanagh writes, in a poem entitled *Advent*, “We have tested and tasted too much, lover. Through a chink too wide there comes in no wonder.” His message is that people become tired and surfeited with sensations. For him, Advent is a time of rediscovering wonder: the joy of a bright, crisp wintry morning, smell of food cooking, the look of surprise on the face of a small child exploring a new world, a glimpse of love or thankfulness for a gift. It is a time to pay attention to the particular, to the present moment.

The people to whom Isaiah writes have tested and tasted too much. Their hearts have strayed from God and this has led to a sense of lifelessness which is described in terms of being unclean or wearing filthy clothing. There is no joy to life. They experience the absence of God in their hearts. Yet they know that he is the potter who molds their destiny. Isaiah wants them to see again how God is active in everyday events.

Wakefulness characterizes the life of the disciple. He reflects on how God is active. To be aware of the giftedness of each person requires eyes to see and ears to hear. The disciple is invited to stand alert, like the watchman waiting for dawn, and to recognize God’s power and love breaking in.

Paul is aware of this grace as he observes the witness of the Christians in Corinth. He is able to see the giftedness of the members of the community and recognizes the charisms of the Spirit that they possess. His love for Christ gives him the eyes to see and the ears to hear. He has the alertness of the disciple.

This particular Advent is a season of joy as we celebrate over two thousand years of Christianity. That the small group of disciples who fled from the cross is being remembered over two thousand years later is a true miracle. It bears witness to the Spirit poured over the Church at Pentecost. Recognizing the power of Christ in the Church, in good help us approach this season with new eyes and ears. How is God revealed in the cycle of nature? How do other people reveal God’s love for me? Moments of tenderness, of intimate love, of forgiveness are



causes  
for celebration.

Silence in the midst of activity is a characteristic of the saints throughout the ages. The example of St. Benedict and his followers for fifteen centuries bears witness to the importance of such silence. How is this to be found in the midst of the busy Christian family? With difficulty, perhaps. But the human heart needs moments of silence to renew it. Times of prayer help deepen the awareness of God and God’s work.

Gratitude is the mark of the disciple. May this holy season be a time of growth in gratitude for the faith handed on to each one of us.

*Advent Blessings,*

**Fr. Bob**  
**Pastor**

# Social Concerns Ministry



## ST. CLETUS FOOD PANTRY THURSDAYS 6-8PM

### Most needed at this time:

- Tuna
- Cereal
- Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Corn
- Soup

Please look for the FOOD PANTRY DONATION bin near the Rectory door, they will be checked daily.



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*

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

A heartfelt thank you to all those who helped collect Turkey Bucks at Jewel, those who donated to the program, and the volunteers who helped distribute meals. You all helped make Thanksgiving a little brighter to families in need. Thank you!

## GIVING TREE

*There are many ways to get tags this year:*

**PARISH CENTER GYM:** Trees will be available Saturdays from 3:00-6:30pm and Sundays from 7:00am-1:00pm. Trees will be spread out and we will provide gloves and sanitizer. Masks required. Trees will be labeled by category so you can easily find what type of tag you are looking for. Shop with Scrip will also be available to purchase Grocery Gift Cards for families as well!



**AREA BUSINESSES:** We have partnered with a number of area businesses to host a Giving Tree at their locations! You will be able to visit these partner businesses during their normal hours to pick up tags and even support the business by purchasing your gift there! WIN-WIN!

- Blackberry Market
- Fair Game
- La Grange Library (Children's Service Desk)
- Peak Running
- Springdale Eyecare
- Vintage Charm
- Waterlemon
- Whisper Me Home

**ONLINE FORM:** We have a simple form you can complete to request tags and then we will email you information for tags based on what you requested. All contact free. Visit: [shorturl.at/lrKV3](http://shorturl.at/lrKV3)

**EMAIL/PHONE:** Or you can email [kgrant@stcletusparish.com](mailto:kgrant@stcletusparish.com) or leave a message at 708.215.5418 and we can get back to you with tag info.

We are looking forward to working creatively to meet the growing need this year. Thank you for your help!

## GIVING TREE DROP OFF

If you took a Giving Tree tag, thank you! Please remember:

### WRAP GIFTS

- Label each gift with the tag # and person's name so we get it to the correct person!

### DROP OFF GIFTS:

- **December 12 from 8:00am-6:00pm**
- **December 13 from 6:30am-1:00pm**
- **St. Cletus Parish Center**  
(contact free, drive thru drop off)

Please make sure gifts arrive by 1:00 on 12/13, some are delivered immediately.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH

*In an emergency, dial 911, call the National Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline at 800-799-7233 or the local 24 hour hotline for Pillars, found in the purple box.*

You are not alone.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH  
— ARCHDIOCESE of CHICAGO —  
AWARENESS - SERVICES - PREVENTION  
[www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org](http://www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org)

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

CALL THE 24-HOUR PHONE FOR HELP:  
**708.485.5254**

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

**Catholic Charities Counseling Support Line** - If the pandemic has you feeling anxious or depressed and you'd like to talk with a counselor, please call the Catholic Charities Counseling Support Line at (312) 948-6951 anytime M-F from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Spanish speaking counselors are available. If you leave a message after hours, a counselor will call you back. Learn more at <https://www.catholiccharities.net>,

## WORD OF LIFE



“The right to religious freedom has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person.”

Pope Paul VI, Dignitatis humanae (Declaration on Religious Freedom), 2. © 1965 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

## KINDERGARTEN FOOD PANTY DONATIONS



The St. Cletus kindergarteners loved bringing their class donations over to the food pantry donation bin. They were so excited to see that they filled it to the top!

**\*\*We would like to ensure you that the students gathered together for these quick photos but quickly returned to full social distancing from each other. St. Cletus School is doing everything they can to keep children safe and healthy at all times\*\***

## THANK YOU ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

Volunteers from St. John of the Cross dropping off 50+ boxes from their annual Harvest Day collection!

Thank you to all who donated!!!



# St. Cletus School

**Greg Porod, Principal**  
708) 352-4820 | gporod@stcletusparish.com

**Christy Schaefer, Asst. Principal**  
708) 352-4820 | cschaefer@stcletusparish.com

## FOCUS ON OUR FAMILIES

As we had showcased some of the staff of St. Cletus, we want to highlight a few school families as well.



### GETTING TO KNOW THE NAPLETON FAMILY

Meet the Napleton Family! Mike and Margaret are products of Catholic education both at the elementary and high school levels. In their relatively short time at St. Cletus parents, they have been great examples of Catholic servant leadership by taking on roles in both the St. Cletus School Board and FSA.

Mike and Margaret have shared, “Now more than ever we are so appreciative of the work the faculty and staff have done to maintain in-person learning in a safe environment. Our children are so happy to be in school and are getting an excellent education. We can’t thank the teachers and administration enough for all of their hard work during this period of time. We are proud to be part of the Cardinal Community.”

Like many St. Cletus parents, Mike and Margaret have been working hard to make this a special school not just for their children, but for all of our Cardinals!



### GETTING TO KNOW THE HODAK FAMILY

The Hodak Family has one of the more interesting stories for a St. Cletus Family. Sara is a graduate of St. Cletus herself, and now her two sons are following in the footsteps of their mom and their aunt and uncle. Lucas and Ethan have even been taught by some of the same teachers who taught their mom!

Sara and John, who are residents of Brookfield, have said, “We love the friends and education and teachers our children have gotten through St. Cletus and the small close knit community it has.”

For the past few years, Sara has been using her photography skills to capture many of the special moments that take place throughout St. Cletus School. She has also been responsible for posting content on some of our school’s social media sites. In addition, Sara has been the chairperson of our hot lunch program and is currently the secretary of the FSA. John is the fundraising chairperson for the Fathers’ Club, and he helped organize our Comedy Night last week.



### GETTING TO KNOW THE MCKEEHAN FAMILY

Lupe, Nick, and Isabel McKeehan truly treat everyone at St. Cletus School as part of their family! While living in Berwyn, they chose to send Isabel to our part-time preschool to follow their family tradition of attending Catholic school.

At two years old, Isabel was diagnosed with a rare, metabolic disorder. Lupe and Nick have said, “The SC community has learned and embraced our Isa’s situation and we are so grateful for their commitment to her.” In fact, in 2017, our staff worked with Make-a-Wish Illinois to surprise Isabel with her wish reveal to go to Hawaii. The experience was even more special because her school friends and teachers were there with her.

The McKeehan Family has served the parish community by volunteering for the Giving Tree distribution and food pantry. Nick and Lupe have both served on the School Board and FSA and have given tours to prospective parents at our Catholic Schools Week Open Houses. Whether it’s the Fall Fest, class holiday parties, or the pet parade, this family is more than willing to share its time and talents with St. Cletus.



### GETTING TO KNOW THE LUDDEN FAMILY

The Ludden Family exemplifies what it means to be committed to Catholic education. Jim and Jana are the parents of two St. Cletus alums, as well a two current St. Cletus students. When choosing a school for their children, they were looking for one that offers a faith-based education, while also ensuring a high-quality, well-rounded spiritual and academic environment. They have said, “St. Cletus has become an integral part of our lives. The teachers and entire staff have made such a positive difference in the lives of our children with their determination, encouragement and continuous support. We are very proud to be a St. Cletus family with its rich traditions, present-day accomplishments, and the promise it holds for all of its students now and in the future.”

Both being college science professors, Jim and Jana have lent their expertise as guest lecturers in science classes and as judges for our science fair. For the past fifteen years, both parents have volunteered as scout leaders. They are an example of the many families who share their time and talents for the benefit of our students.

## The First Sunday of Advent



### The Advent season begins today!

The Advent season begins today! Take time to reflect on how you will use the next four weeks to prepare your heart for Christmas.

### Blessing of the Advent Wreath

It's time to bring out and bless the Advent wreath! The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

Use this prayer to bless your family wreath:

*When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.*

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, *Isaiah 9*: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or *Isaiah 63* (lines 16-17 & 19) or *Isaiah 64* (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God,

we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,  
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us  
as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light  
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring  
us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.



# Stewardship of Treasure

## St. Cletus Parish Balance Sheets June 30, 2020 and 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Parish Checking/Payroll Bank Accounts	\$ 600,314	\$ 174,190
Parish Savings Accounts at Archdiocesan Bank (2)	22,382	135,397
Parish Organizations-Auxiliary Group Accounts	230,654	152,488
Prepaid Deposit/Prepaid Expenses	5,295	10,349
Restricted School Endowment investments (1) (3)	373,739	378,903
Unrestricted Parish investments at market value (4)	317,104	314,042
Restricted Parish Center Building Campaign Fund Accounts (1) (5)	<u>48,991</u>	<u>31,474</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 1,598,479</u>	<u>\$ 1,196,843</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 58,629	\$ 174,150
Tuition deposits	16,313	44,039
Church and School PPP Loan Proceeds (6)	551,385	-
Parish Center Building Capital Loan Payable (7)	<u>127,204</u>	<u>249,636</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>\$ 753,531</u>	<u>\$ 467,825</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>\$844,948</u>	<u>\$729,018</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 1,598,479</u>	<u>\$ 1,196,843</u>

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

(2) 2020 change in balance from 2019 column includes \$16,985 of stock and misc. donation deposits. and a (\$130,000) withdrawal due to Sunday donation losses from the COVID-19 Church closure.

(3) 2020 change in balance from 2019 column includes (\$5,164) loss in school endowment investment.

(4) 2020 change in balance from 2019 column includes \$3,062 gain in parish investments.

(5) 2020 change in balance from 2019 column includes interest and pledge deposits \$148,540; distributions of (\$1,652) towards the credit card fees; (\$6,939) loan interest; (\$122,432) payment toward principal on the Parish Center Capital Loan.

(6) Paycheck Protection Program(PPP) loan received in April to help retain parish & school staff during the closure. Amounts to Parish \$190,320 & School \$361,065 were used for payroll, health and fringe benefit and utility costs.

(7) As of June 30, 2020 the outstanding loan amount for the Parish Center Building is (\$127,204). Payments of (\$122,432) have been made to pay down the principal & interest due on the Parish Center Loan.



**St. Cletus Parish Statement of Revenue and Expenses  
Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2020 and 2019**

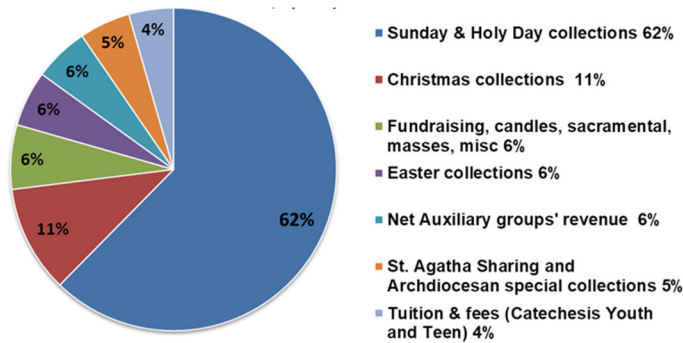
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b><u>Church Revenue</u></b>		
Sunday & Holy Day collections	\$ 1,179,463	\$ 1,262,962
Christmas collections	202,862	201,002
Easter collections	105,538	100,054
Tuition & fees (Catechesis and youth)	83,956	106,369
Net Auxiliary groups' revenue	103,407	51,965
St. Agatha Sharing , Archdiocesan and other Special Collections	95,901	33,804
Other Revenue -Fundraising, candles, sacramental, masses, misc	122,058	134,488
<b>Total Church Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,893,185</b>	<b>\$ 1,890,644</b>
<b><u>Church Expenses</u></b>		
Salaries & benefits	\$ 908,633	\$ 970,355
Religious Ed Books/supplies/liturgical materials	76,244	91,479
Administrative/office/professional services/technology	57,823	65,450
Utilities	63,063	62,169
Building Maintenance repairs & supplies	96,370	156,003
Archdiocesan assessments/property & vehicle insurance	283,160	277,194
St. Agatha Sharing and Archdiocesan Special Collection	14,365	104,093
Other Expenses-donations, formation, hospitality, social concerns	144,124	163,107
<b>Total Church Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,643,782</b>	<b>\$ 1,889,850</b>
<b>Church Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 249,403</b>	<b>\$ 794</b>
<b><u>School Revenue</u></b>		
Tuition & fees	\$ 2,074,125	\$ 2,231,862
Fundraising events, donations and grants	195,637	195,339
<b>Total School Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,269,762</b>	<b>\$ 2,427,201</b>
<b><u>School Expenses</u></b>		
Salaries & benefits	\$ 2,093,871	\$ 2,085,986
Materials, books. Instructional, technology, admin	128,719	165,378
Maintenance & repairs	130,539	132,084
Utilities	96,043	110,041
Insurance / OCS Assessment	69,101	67,852
Other Expenses- Athletics, FSA, fees, meetings, marketing	24,058	42,201
<b>Total School Expense</b>	<b>\$ 2,542,331</b>	<b>\$ 2,603,542</b>
<b>Parish Support to School</b>	<b>\$ (272,569)</b>	<b>\$ (176,341)</b>
<b>PARISH OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ (23,166)</b>	<b>\$ (175,547)</b>
<b><u>Other Revenue</u></b>		
Building Fund Campaign Revenue Collections and interest earned	\$ 148,540	\$ 222,001
Interest Income	1,253	1,571
Unrealized gains from parish investment	3,062	597
Unrealized gains from school endowment investment	(5,164)	(7,217)
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 147,691</b>	<b>\$ 216,953</b>
<b><u>Other Expenses</u></b>		
Building Fund Expense (Credit card fees, furnishings and equipment)	\$ 1,652	\$ 12,952
Parish Center Capital Loan interest expense	6,939	15,548
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,591</b>	<b>\$ 28,500</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 139,100</b>	<b>\$ 188,453</b>
<b>NET PARISH INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 115,934</b>	<b>\$ 12,906</b>



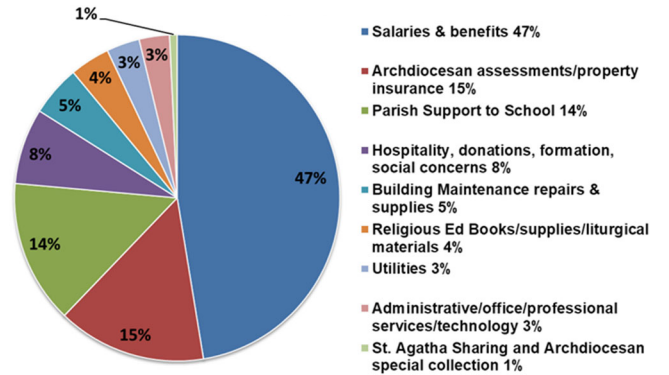
# Stewardship of Treasure

## Sources and Uses of Parish Operating Funds

**Sources of Parish Operating Funds**  
Fiscal Year 2020  
\$1,893,185

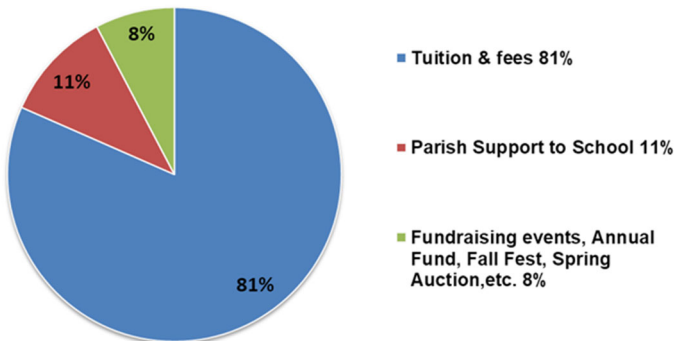


**Uses of Parish Operating Funds**  
Fiscal Year 2020  
\$1,916,351

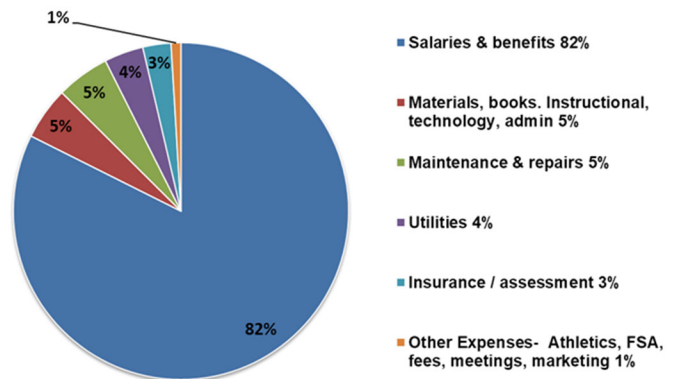


## Sources and Uses of School Operating Funds

**Sources of School Operating Funds**  
Fiscal Year 2020  
\$2,542,331



**Uses of School Operating Funds**  
Fiscal Year 2020  
\$2,542,331





## Stewardship of Treasure

### Summary of the Parish Financial Report Year Ended June 30, 2020

- Everyone's daily lives have been impacted by the COVID 19 virus, as we continue to pray for the world; we all adapted to keep each other safe. Last March, COVID-19 caused cancellations and limitations of daily and weekend masses as well as parish and school events. Virtual has replaced in-person liturgies, prayer opportunities and in-school learning, but technology has allowed us to still be connected. Your patience, volunteering and your continued support are greatly appreciated. Thank you.
- The combined Sunday; Christmas and Easter collections for the year decreased by \$76,155 from the prior year. The four month closure attributed to the decrease. The increased participation of the online giving option along with the mail-in contributions have helped tremendously to keep the decrease from being even higher. Thank you for your continued generosity
- The Fall Fest/Carnival was a huge success netting a profit of over \$101,000 for the parish and the school. Featuring entertainment, food, rides and raffles, this was a great event where the community can gather. Volunteers help to make this so successful. The Fall Fest will return in 2021.
- Parish family participation contributed \$173,527 toward school fundraising revenue in 2020. The school hosted a successful Virtual Spring Auction, raising over \$72,000. The remaining funds are from the Cardinal Raffle, Dance-a-thon, shop with scrip, Fall Fest and Annual Fund. The school also received \$22,110 in miscellaneous donations and grants from Loyola University and Aimsweb. Thank you for your participation and support.
- The required parish support to the school in fiscal year 2020 was \$272,569, due to decreased enrollment and increased tuition assistance, and a 3- 5% rise in salaries and benefit costs.
- The parish finished the June 30, 2020 fiscal year with an operating loss (the shaded line of the Statement of Revenue and Expense) of \$23,166.
- 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 parish has since paid \$660,985 toward the principal balance, of which \$122,432 has been paid this year. An outstanding balance of \$127,204 remains as of June 30, 2020. The building provides a wonderful space for the children as well as the adults to utilize for worship, school, religious education, sports, and social gatherings. We are very close to paying the loan balance, we hope we can still count on your support, thank you in advance.
- The Parish's investment accounts had a net unrealized gain of \$3,062. The school's investment account had a net unrealized loss of \$5,164. 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 Census Data

Registered Families: 2,689  
Baptisms: 63  
Marriages: 7  
Funerals: 57

School Enrollment: 353 Pre-K- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Religious Education: 440 Pre-K- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Special Needs  
First Communion: 105  
Confirmation: 114

Fr. Bob Clark  
Pastor

Fr. Ken Baker  
Associate Pastor

Fr. Lorenzo Gamboa  
Associate Pastor

Please use this email [finance@stcletusparish.com](mailto:finance@stcletusparish.com) or call the rectory 708-352-6209 with any questions.

# Sunday Notes



## MARK'S JESUS

Mark's Gospel is the shortest and tersest of all four. The discourses of Jesus tend to be terser as well. Mark's portrayal of Jesus has none of the poetry of the Sermon on the Mount or the Sermon on the Plain as in Matthew or Luke, nor the extensive, reflective "I Am" discourses as in John. Mark's Jesus "cuts to the chase," we would say today. This is reflected quite well in today's passage.

It is no accident that the dialogue of Jesus at this point in the Gospel according to Mark—the concluding words about the end of the world—immediately before his passion, is riddled with exclamation points and an overall sense of urgency.

We would do well to re-tool our own way of living this Advent, for we live in a world urgently in need of hearing the message of Jesus proclaimed. It's time for us to "wake up!" and get out into the world to do it.

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## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

**Psalms** — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

**Second Reading** — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

**Gospel** — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

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

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent  
 Monday: St. Andrew, Apostle  
 Tuesday: World AIDS Awareness Day  
 Thursday: St. Francis Xavier  
 Friday: St. John Damascene  
 Friday: First Friday

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22  
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24  
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37  
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27  
 Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31  
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8  
 Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

## FEAST OF FAITH

### What Is the Mass?

What is the Mass? There is no simple answer to that question. The Church uses many different images and terms to describe our most important prayer. The Mass is the celebration of the Eucharist, a Greek word that means "thanksgiving." It is the Lord's Supper. It is the Breaking of the Bread. It is the memorial of the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. It is the Holy Sacrifice, in which the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is perpetuated. It is the holy and divine liturgy, the sacred mysteries. It is the source and summit of our Christian lives, the new covenant, the work of the Holy Spirit, the paschal mystery. The many different words and images that we use when we speak of the Mass are not signs of confusion, but of wonder at what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1328) calls the "inexhaustible richness" of the Eucharist. The Mass, our greatest prayer and our deepest mystery, is celebrated every day, many times a day, the world over. The Eucharist is both "bread from heaven" and "daily bread." The Mass is our everyday miracle.

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## UNWRINKLED

To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent—that is the triumph over old age.

—Thomas Bailey Aldrich

## LIKE A CHILD

One who aspires to the grace of God must be pure, with a heart as innocent as a child's.

—St. Nicholas

## BIG AMBITION

Give up your small ambitions; come with me to save the world.

—St. Francis Xavier

## Stewardship Report

Due to the early printing of the Canticle, the Stewardship Report for November 22 will be published in the December 5 Canticle.

## Other Ministry News

### BOOK DISCUSSION



The next book discussion will be at 7:00 P.M. December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss **Little Fires Everywhere** by Celeste Ng.

For those who like to look ahead: February 9: **Happiness is the**

**Choice You Make** by John Leland. Questions – call Denise at 708.712.8294

### BECOME A ST. CLETUS REOPENING TEAM VOLUNTEER

Every time the doors of our church are open, GREETERS, (led by Colleen Hagen), those confirming reservations and checking people need to be present. USHERS will also need to be present to assist people with being seated, receiving communion and being dismissed safely following each service.

Our CLEANING TEAM, (led by Tom Reisel and Mary Delaney) arrives after each service to wipe down and disinfect the pews, kneelers and other areas of the church used during the service.

Before each service and after each service, our SETUP / SACRISTANS TEAM (led by Mary Sue Kegl) prepare the church and vessels as required for the particular service. At the conclusion of each service, this team cleans and disinfects the sanctuary and all books vessels and furniture used for the service.

All of these volunteers are here to make your visit, your return to church as easy, prayerful and as safe as possible; but WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Each Mass, baptism, funeral, confession, and prayer service requires many more volunteers than pre-COVID days. Please consider becoming a volunteer.

**TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE EMAIL  
REOPENING@STCLETUSPARISH.COM**

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM DECEMBER 5, 2020

8th Graders are invited to take the Catholic High School Entrance Exam on December 5, 2020. Please contact the school where you are interested in testing for more information.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

During this time of giving thanks, the Religious Education office wishes to recognize the abundant blessings and gifts we have received from God. We are thankful for the precious gift of our RE families and friends, for those who are actively teaching their children at home and with online lessons, and those who have served and been formed in the past. We are thankful for God's abundant grace that we encounter each time our family gathers together. We see glimpses of heavenly beauty through the eyes of our young children, and delight as we watch them learning to be God's hands and feet in the world. We are especially grateful for our parents who sacrifice and teach their children to be faithful servants, and who have had to step into the ongoing role of Catechist, being the first and best teacher of the faith to their children. We ask God to continue to bless us always and in *all ways*.

This weekend we start the new liturgical year! This is the first Sunday of Advent, when we light the Hope candle on our Advent wreaths. The word Advent means "coming." Advent is the four weeks before Christmas when we prepare for Christ's coming. What are you hoping for? Many hope for an end to this pandemic, or for the health and well-being of their families. This week, pray to God, sharing your hopes and prayers for your family and others.

All through Advent, I encourage you to pray to Jesus to fill our hearts with his hope, peace, joy and love. This is the time to try to pray more and to do good deeds. It isn't always easy. But we can offer our prayers and good deeds as gifts to Jesus, our newborn King!

### ENROLL IN ELECTRONIC GIVING

***Do you want to transition away from writing checks and contribute electronically? It is SO EASY!***


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### BULLETIN ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Please note that all Canticle articles are to be emailed to [canticle@stcletusparish.com](mailto: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.

# St. Cletus Parish Information

## CONTACT US

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

## PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Please note that all deliveries and inquiries should be made to the parish center office. Food pantry will remain in the rectory.

Monday-Friday ..... 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
 Saturday and Sunday .....Closed

## MASSES

Saturday Evening..... 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday .....7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,  
 12:30 p.m. (SPANISH)  
 Weekdays.....Mon. thru Sat. 8:00 a.m.

We continue to offer daily Mass online and our 5pm Vigil Mass is livestreamed each Saturday. Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel and click the bell icon to be notified of the latest videos. You can also find the link on our website and Facebook page.

## CONFESSIONS

Confessions First Saturday of the Month 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. Must call parish offices to schedule a reservation.

## BAPTISMS

Parents must be registered parishioners. Please make arrangements by calling Bobbie Kallal 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. Contact Bobbie Kallal (708) 352-6209.

## HOME/HOSPITAL VISITATION AND COMMUNION CALLS

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

## STAFF

### PARISH STAFF

Rev. Robert Clark, *Pastor*  
 Rev. Kenneth Baker, *Associate Pastor*  
 Rev. Lorenzo Gamboa Cadena, *Associate Pastor*  
 Rev. Mr. Stuart & Marlene Heyes, *Deacon Couple*

### PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Baker/Paulette Bolton, *Worship* .... (708) 215-5422  
 Karen Ziemba, *Music Ministry* ..... (708) 215-5423  
 Kendall Grant, *Social Concerns* ..... (708) 215-5418  
 Deacon Stuart Heyes, *Pastoral Care* .. (708) 215-5407  
 Debbie Lestarczyk, *Business Manager* (708) 215-5405  
 Christopher Wagner, *Technology* ..... (708) 215-5420

### HISPANIC MINISTRY STAFF ..... (708) 215-5440

Fr. Lorenzo Gamboa Cadena, *Head of Hispanic Ministry*

### SCHOOL STAFF ..... (708) 352-4820

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

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF ..... (708) 352-2383

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

### PARISH OFFICE STAFF ..... (708) 352-6209

Bobbie Kallal, *Human Resources/Records*  
 Mary Zwolinski, *Parish Accounting*  
 Elizabeth Goellner-McLean, *Bulletin Editor*  
 Kadie Lestarczyk, *Parish Assistant*  
 Daria Sawicki, *Parish Assistant*

## ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

Pastor ..... Fr. Bob Clark  
 Chairperson ..... Bob Wasik

### MEMBERS

Bob Malham  
 Kevin Hogan  
 Mike Napleton

### 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.

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