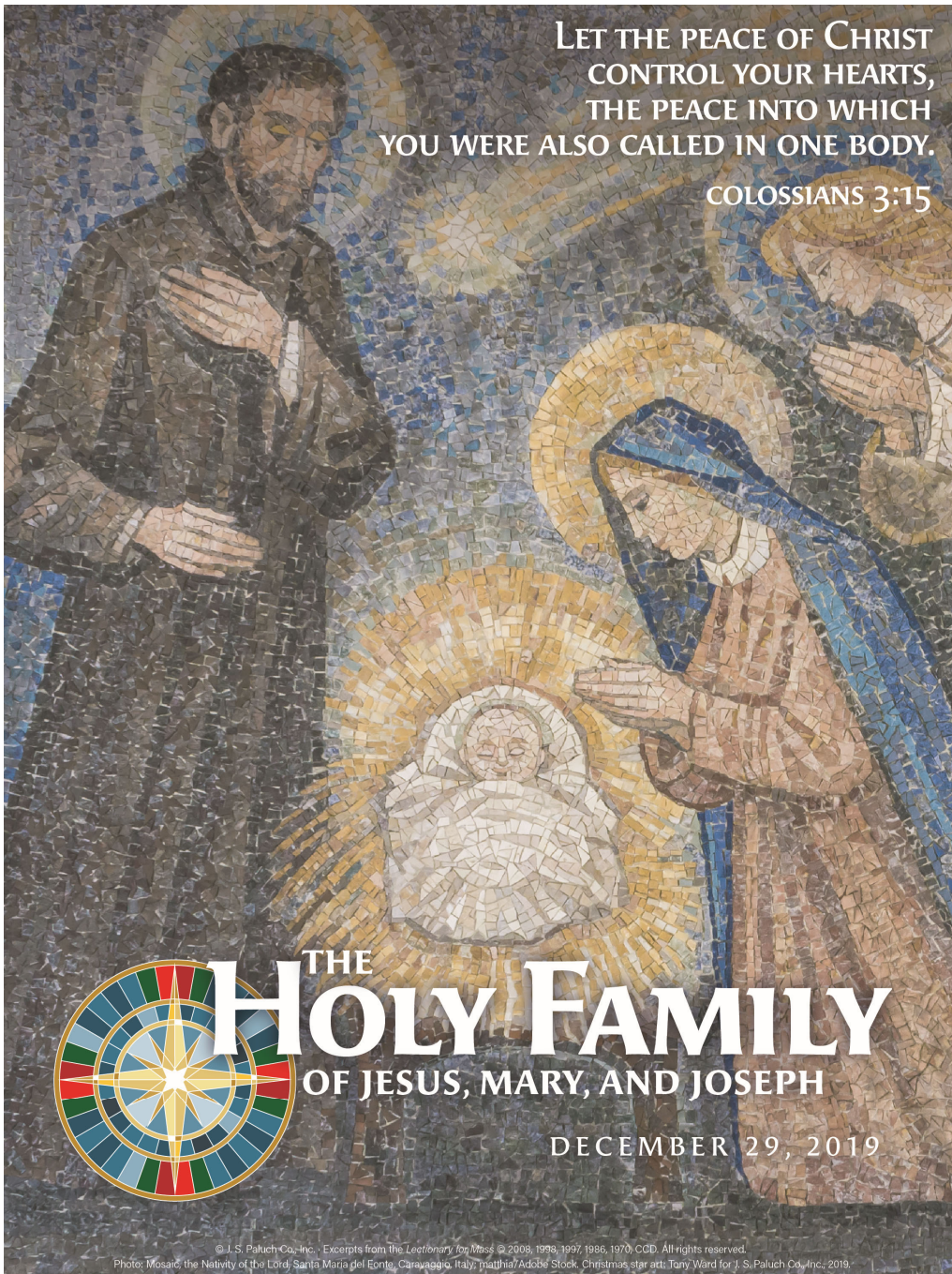


Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

Over all [other virtues] put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection.
— Colossians 3:14



WELCOME

So glad you could join us!

- 2 Mass Intentions and Important Notes
- 3 Pastor's Note
- 4 Parish School
- 6 Social Concerns
- 8 Youth Ministry
- 9 Ministry News
- 10 Sunday Notes
- 11 Note from Deacon Stuart
- 12 Community Bulletin Board
- 13 Stewardship Report Week at a Glance
- 14 Parish Information

Mass Intentions for the Week of December 30 - January 5, 2019

Day	Time	Intentions
Monday	8:00 a.m.	Kim Zwolinski, Zdzislaw Gajos, Special Intention - Hinton Family
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Apolonia Zagroonik
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	St. Cletus Parishioners
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virginia Rachford, Marilyn Dudacek
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Benedict Dybas
Saturday	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	St. Cletus Parishioners Jim Deslauriers, Joseph, Wanda, & Eileen Kurland, Harry & Joan Brown, John & Angela Cirone, Michael Kalynovsky, Joe & Betty Tiernan, Hugh & Mary McGonagle
Sunday	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Benedict Dybas, Robert McDonnell, George Duda Stacey Baker Eugene Sorrentino, Manuel Rodriguez, Nathaniel Pappalardo, Estela Reyes Ronald Morgan, BC Collins, Nenita Bengua St. Cletus Parishioners



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00pm Vigil Mass
7:00pm Vigil Mass in Spanish

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

There will be no 8:00am Mass on Wednesday, January 1
9:00am Feast Day Mass

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The St. Cletus Parish Offices will be closed for New Years on the following dates:

- Tuesday, December 31
- Wednesday, January 1
- Thursday, January 2

The St. Cletus Staff wishes all of our parishioners a safe and happy new year!

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

Eleanor O'Malley
Ronald Neforas
May they rest in peace. Amen.

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.

December - Joan Clark, Joyce Arnold, Frank Colonna, Jeanie Hills, Mary Ramirez, Charles (Bud) Howe, Rose Serrano, Ludwig Stoiber, Joseph Gregory Stroude, Grace Yamamoto

November - Ed Kutcha, Hermelinda Nevarez, Linda Stoinski, Judy Halvorson, Emily Malec, Rachael Schopp

October - Joan Clark, Gerda E. Dorso, Kim and Tony Fox, Shirley Funk, Don King, Deborah Krueger, Patricia Rodey, Michael Stoinski, Robert Stoinski, John Duda, Chuck Foerster, Stella Fabian, Dr. Max Scheyerer, Rosario Martinez, Edward J McNamara, Jose Perez, Margaret Pirman, Daniella DeRivera, Leo & Gloria Rivera, Ann Scheer, Virginia Skibbe, Laura Terrazino, Carol Witkowski, Ted Buczek, Johnson Dy, Nancy Gibson, Norman Kwak, Kathryn McCord, Jackie Schickel, Nicole Will-Montemagni, Jean Weekley

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

Notes from Fr. Bob...

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

The Christmas story recalls the fact that Mary and Joseph were unable to find room at the inn. Instead Jesus was born in a lowly stable; his companions were the ox and the ass, his cradle a manger. The Messiah, long-awaited by the Jewish people as a King, is born into poverty and instability. Shortly after his birth, to escape the persecution of Herod, Joseph is prompted in a dream by an angel to find safety and security. God sends a messenger to protect his family. The picture of Joseph leading the donkey carrying Mary and the child Jesus is very familiar and a beautiful picture of a family struggling against the power of evil and violence in search of safety.

Both the gospel and the first reading emphasize God's love for the vulnerable, whether the child or the older person. In biblical times, nomadic people who were constantly moving from pasture to pasture might have been tempted to abandon the weakest and oldest members of their families. The first reading shows how it is God's wish that the elderly have a special place in the family and are respected as "encyclopedias of wisdom" (Pope John Paul II).

The flight to Egypt is a reminder that many centuries before this journey, Joseph, of the coat of many colors, was taken to the court of Pharaoh as a slave. It was later that Moses, who was called by God, would lead the Jewish people from slavery to the Promised Land in the great journey of the Exodus. Indeed the return of the holy family to Nazareth recalls the journey from slavery to freedom. Jesus will be the New Moses who will free his people from the slavery of sin and give the promise of eternal life through death and resurrection.

In many ways, families in war torn parts of our world experience the flight into Egypt. It may be to escape persecution and violence. Refugees and asylum seekers, knocking on the door of Europe, America and the developed world, share in the common humanity of the family of God. As we witness their pain and sadness, the words of St. Paul ring in our ears: "Be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience." The orphan, the widow, the poor and the stranger have a special place in God's love. As Pope John Paul II said in the context of the Year of Jubilee, "if we recall that Jesus came to 'preach the good news to the poor', how can we fail to lay greater emphasis on the Church's preferential option for the poor and outcast?" This plea goes out to us and our governments and surely asks us to reflect on how our systems deal with asylum seekers. They must be treated with respect and their cases be examined in the light of justice and charity. Closer to home, the flight into Egypt will prompt us to think of

families, usually women and children, seeking safety from domestic violence.

How sensitive is our parish community to all these issues and to the needs of the most vulnerable, especially children and the elderly? May the Feast of the Holy Family remind us of the gift and innocence of all our children. As a Church, improvements in policy regarding child protection have been needed and are being fully implemented. The aim is to protect children from violence and make the Church a place where the protection of the weakest is evident. And then there are the elderly: who deserve a privileged place in the community. God chooses each person in a special and unique way. The message of Christ is that the commandment of love must be visible and active in each family and every community, touching into the lives of each of us from the moment of conception to the day the Lord calls us to himself.

May our Families Experience the Peace of the Holy Family Always,

Fr. Bob

**Fr. Bob
Pastor**



Parish School



ST. CLETUS SCHOOL DATES TO NOTE

January 6..... School Resumes
 January 26..... Catholic Schools Week Open House
 March 28..... Spring Auction

FOR INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

Gregory Porod, Principal
 (708) 352-4820
 gporod@stcletusparish.com

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



READY FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK

Junior Kindergarten knows how to relax during this busy season! Reading in front of a warm fire listening to Christmas music, of course!

ANGELS AMONG US

As a school, our year-long school theme, “Angels Among us” is especially apparent during the Advent season. In our younger grades, each time a child is caught exemplifying our cardinal values of respect, responsibility and compassion, he/she is given a sticker that says, ‘Angels Among Us.’

Mark your calendars and join us Sunday, January 26th for our Catholic Schools Week

Open House

Join us to talk with teachers and administrators, and discover why St. Cletus School is the right choice for your family!



#HOUROFCODE

TLC students joined with students around the world joining an Hour of Code learning and having fun! The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts.



St. Cletus School

700 W. 55th Street
La Grange, IL 60525


(708) 352-4820 phone
(708) 352-0788 fax
www.stcletusschool.com

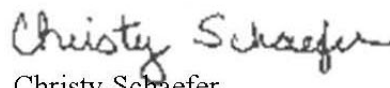
St. Cletus School is a national Blue Ribbon school, recognized by the U. S. Department of Education in 2014. St. Cletus School is also a Red Ribbon school, recognized by the Nationwide Red Ribbon Certified Schools Program in 2018 for our efforts to keep our students safe, healthy, and drug-free. Its elementary program offers a strong educational curriculum guided by the Common Core State Standards in English, language arts, and math, the State of Illinois Learning Standards, and benchmarks established by the Archdiocese of Chicago. In addition to our 1st-8th grade program with an average classroom size of 21 students, St. Cletus offers 3- and 4-year-old half and full-day preschool, full day junior kindergarten, and half and full-day kindergarten classes. Our well-rounded academic program offers Spanish, art, music, physical education, library, and computer technology classes. Daily religion classes, service hours, and regular school Masses also help our students develop into mature, responsible young adults. Other opportunities available at St. Cletus School are Student Council, scouting (for boys and girls), athletic programs, band, choir, and before-and after-care programs. If your child is just beginning his/her education, or if you are considering a change, please call the school to make an appointment to visit or to register.

- ◆ Applications are now being accepted for new students for the 2020-21 school year.
- ◆ Catholic Schools Week Open House is Sunday, January 26, 2020. Interested families are welcome to attend our 9:30 a.m. family Mass at St. Cletus Church, followed by our Open House in the education building next door to Church from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please join us to tour the school and meet our faculty, staff, and school families!

Feel free to call the school office Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. at (708) 352-4820 if you have questions or would like to schedule an appointment to tour our school. St. Cletus School is a great place to be—stop by to learn more!

Sincerely,


Gregory N. Porod
Principal


Christy Schaefer
Assistant Principal



FAITH FAMILY FUTURE



Social Concerns Ministry



ST. CLETUS FOOD PANTRY THURSDAYS 6-8PM

Please note the Food Pantry will be closed on January 2. Happy New Year!

Most needed at this time:

- Shelf stable milk (dry, canned, non-refrigerated)
- Kitchen wraps (foil, plastic, wax paper)
- Kitchen storage bags (zip lock, sandwich)
- Dish Soap
- Diapers size 5 & 6

Donations can be dropped off before or after Masses or anytime daily between 7:45am-4pm in Food Pantry bins in the Narthex (at the back of church).

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

On behalf of the Social Concerns Ministry, we wish all of you a Blessed and Peace-filled New Year! 2019 gave us many opportunities to give hope to many of the people who are struggling in our midst, by providing food, shelter, transportation, and other basic necessities for their families. The generosity of our parishioners, neighbors and friends, abounds, which we witnessed, especially during this Holiday Season.

In 2019:

- 1,168 individuals received presents through the Giving Tree program
- Over 2,400 households were served through the food pantry (over 9,200 individuals). New record.
- Thousands of rides given through ICP
- Over 25 Career Network speakers/workshops
- Hundreds of volunteers
- Almost 1,000 handmade Mission Ladies items
- 60+ families received financial assistance through St. Vincent DePaul or Social Concerns with heat, rent, electric, fuel, etc.
- Dozens of families assisted through Domestic Violence Outreach and the Respect Life Ministry

Volunteers from all areas of this ministry – Social Concerns Commission, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Interfaith Community Partners, Food Pantry, Interfaith Career Network, Respect Life, Mission Ladies, Lenten Almsgiving, Advent Giving Tree, Domestic Violence Outreach, and other special efforts-join you in our goal of responding to human needs with justice and love, in Christ’s name.

In the New Year, we ask you to pray along with us:

*Lord God, grant us a vision of your world as your love would have it:
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

GIVING TREE



INTERFAITH CAREER NETWORK

Leverage the Power of LinkedIn

For our January speaker we have a LinkedIn Account Manager coming to speak to our group. LinkedIn provides you with opportunities to reach company execs, find contacts that can open doors into companies you are interested in, and helps recruiters find you. Want to learn how to target employers? Want to know what employers look for in their candidates? Join us on January 16 from 7-9 pm and get answers to these and other questions related to LinkedIn. Our speaker, Lisa Rudisel is an Account Manager at LinkedIn. Her insights will be informative and important to everyone in a job search. Start the New Year with ICN at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 S. Wolf Road, Western Springs. This meeting is open to everyone and there is no cost to attend.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Interfaith Community Partners is looking for a part-time Volunteer Coordinator to arrange for transportation for clients 60 and better within our community. Hours are Thursday and Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. Computer skills necessary, pleasant phone communication plus love of working with older adults. Please submit your resume to Janet Garreau at jgarreauicp@gmail.com or call our office for further assistance at 708-354-9328.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PROGRAMS

DIVORCED AND SEPARATED SUPPORT

St. John of the Cross Parish is hosting a weekly support group for those who have been through divorce or who are in the midst of the divorce process. Divorce and Beyond meetings are faith-based and designed to bring hope and healing to one of life's most difficult and painful experiences of loss. Topics include; dealing with stress, anger, loneliness, forgiveness, and healing. Experienced leaders create an open and confidential atmosphere conducive to judgement free sharing and discussion.

Begins Thursday, January 16 (7:00 p.m.)

Register online: <https://www.stjohnofthecross.org/divorceandbeyond> or contact Steve Weigand at the SJC Parish Office. (708) 246-4404 ext.137

SEASONS OF HOPE GRIEF SUPPORT

St. John of the Cross Parish is hosting 'Seasons of Hope' support group for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. 'Seasons of Hope' is a six-session support ministry led by experienced, caring adults familiar with the grief process. Weekly sessions present a faith-based topic and include discussion, Scripture, and prayer. It is recommended that participants allow 3-6 mo. from time of loss before attending.

Register online: www.stjohnofthecross.org/grief-ministry or contact Steve Weigand at the SJC Parish Office. (708) 246-4404

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

All are welcome to any of the 4 weekly groups for Christian Meditation in the St. John of the Cross Parish Center, room 7. Meetings last 45 to 55 minutes, and no experience is necessary.

Tuesdays, 7:30 pm

Wednesdays, 2:30 pm

Saturdays, 8:00 am

Mondays, 10:30am - Christian Meditation as an 11th Step Practice

For more information contact Betsy at wccmchgo@gmail.com or 708-246-8315.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS LOSS PROGRAM

St. John of the Cross parish will begin hosting a monthly support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one from suicide. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. L.O.S.S.

(Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) is a non-denominational program that provides a safe, judgement free environment intended to help survivors and family members share experience, and draw strength and hope within a loving community. Trained counselors are on hand at each meeting.

Call LOSS at 312.655.7285 or SJC (708) 246-4404 for more information.

AGING CARE CONNECTIONS



aging care
connections
Because Aging Well Matters

CONGREGATE MEALS PROGRAM NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Tuesday, Dec. 31 10am-12:45pm at Salerno's Pizza, 9301 W. 63rd St. Hodgkins. Cost: \$2.50 suggested donation.

Registration: RSVP required. Call 708-354-1323 to RSVP or cancel a reservation the day before attendance at noon.

RESPECT LIFE



"God's love is generous, sacrificial, life-giving, and forever. As humans made in God's image, we are called to imitate the eternal giving and receiving of love that is the Holy Trinity."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"Another Look at Contraception"

Youth Ministry

ALPHA FOR TEENS

A faith formation opportunity offered collaboratively through Saint Cletus and Saint John of the Cross Youth Ministries for teens in our community.

What is Alpha for Teens?

Alpha for Teens is a 9-week course that creates a space where teens can be excited to bring their friends for a conversation about Jesus. The series offers compelling stories, images, questions, and discussion topics well spread throughout each episode to better engage youth, helping them think about how these issues relate to their lives as they discuss with their friends and leaders. In each session, we'll eat food, watch a talk, and discuss questions in small groups.

- **Food** has a way of bringing people together and building community. So whether it's a light snack, sweets or a full meal, Alpha always starts with food.
- The **talks** tackle core questions about life and faith from a Christian perspective. Each episode averages 23 minutes in length.
- Throughout each episode, there are three **discussion** breaks. These breaks give everyone a chance to share thoughts and ideas in small groups without fear of being corrected or judged.
- Along the way, there are opportunities to experience **worship** through music and moments for **prayer**.
- All of this is done in a **fun** environment where everyone is welcome.

All High School teens are invited to attend our weekly Alpha for Teen Series, beginning **Sunday, January 12, 6:15-7:30 PM, in the Saint John of the Cross Parish Center**. All are invited to come to share a meal, watch a short video, and talk about questions and topics from the video. Through the next 9 weeks, the Alpha Teen Series explores timeless questions about life, faith and God for a new generation.

How do I sign up?

Registration can be found on the Youth Ministry page on the Saint Cletus Parish Website, as well as on the Saint John of the Cross Parish Website.

Alpha for Teens needs Adult Volunteers!

VIRTUS-compliant adults feeling called to assist in the preparation and implementation of Alpha for Teens, please contact MaryClaire Zurowski, mzurowski@stcletusparish.com.



Other Ministry News

CREDO



The Holy Spirit inspired them. Israel sang them. Christ himself prayed them, as did our Blessed Mother. At the heart of the Bible are the psalms, prayers from God that help us to pray. In *Psalms: The School of Prayer*, discover how these sacred hymns become our heartfelt response to God's loving and wondrous deeds.

Learn how to meditate fruitfully on the captivating words of the psalms using *lectio divina*, and study the many ways the psalms foretell the life and mission of Jesus.

DATES – TIMES – LOCATION

Monday nights for 12 sessions
starting January 6th, 2020
St. Cletus Parish Center
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

COST – REGISTRATION

Class is free! Book cost \$30.
If you want CREDO to order a book for you, you must register and pay for the book by December 15th.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call Deb Wroblewski at 815-474-6237 for availability.

CREDO

(Continuing Religious Education Opportunities)

SUPPORT ST. CLETUS WITH AMAZON SMILE

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

We hope you will choose St. Cletus Church. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

DAILY REFLECTION—ST. JOHN'S ABBEY

We can only use the Psalms as prayers for ourselves if we're willing to let pass some of the more distasteful or incomprehensible elements we meet there. The authors call down God's rage on their opponents; we don't have to. We don't have to remind God of all the "great things" we have done. But we can find in the Psalms many a phrase which can serve as a theme for the day, an expression of what we hope for. "The Lord is my strength and my salvation." "In you, O Lord, I trust." "In you alone is my soul at rest." Or, what often strikes me in Psalm (50)51,14: "With a spirit of fervor sustain me" and right before that, "Give me again the joy of your help."

That last verse might be good to pull out when one feels less than excited about the upcoming day and its tasks. We can, of course, do simply natural human things that galvanize. But repeating these phrases as a sort of mantra might help to change our attitude. "Give me again the joy of your help." Help me, Lord, to be grateful for my life and work and to show it by my spirit, by some joy. Despite an occasional bad or less than fervent mood, we may be able to recall happy elements within, e.g., a generally very happy life, good work to do and wonderful people to work with. A little reflection may bring up thoughts of my good fortune relative to many others, urge me to show some goodwill and love to all those around me. We could end up thinking there is really no serious reason for not feeling grateful and even joyous.

Let me not waste the day, my time in listlessness, aimlessness, boredom, lassitude. Help me face each moment, each task, each person I encounter, with enthusiasm and appreciation, with my whole heart and strength. Help me to be fervent rather than frightened, generous rather than grumbling, hopeful rather than fatalistic, encouraging rather than dispiriting, eager rather than tepid. "With a spirit of fervor sustain me, Lord."

-Don Talafous OSB

www.saintjohnsabbey.org

ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES

DUELING PIANOS IN THE PARISH CENTER
FRIDAY, FEB. 7
8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM

FEATURING:
TONY KIDONAKIS

TICKETS:
\$40 IN ADVANCE
\$45 AT THE DOOR

RSVP ON ONLINE:
www.edwardfas.com

Sunday Notes



SALVATION IN DAILY LIFE

This Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family, which comes on the first Sunday after Christmas Day. Today's feast celebrates how the humanity of Jesus (including his entire family life) has brought saving significance into the daily rhythms of our human family life.

The scriptures offer instruction and encouragement on how to share—within our families, parish families, and the wider human family—the love that God shares with us in Jesus. Selections from Sirach, Psalm 128, and Colossians encourage us to reflect divine love and thus find holiness in all our human relationships. The reading from Matthew's Gospel offers a living example of love in the actions Joseph took to protect his young family from danger and to nurture them within the larger family of faith of their time.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Those who honor and comfort their parents shall never be forgotten (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14).

Psalm — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128).

Second Reading — You are called into one body. Bear with one another; forgive one another; let Christ's peace control you (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]).

Gospel — Joseph rose, took the child and his mother, and fled to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23).

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

WINTER WILD

It was winter wild
While the Heav'n-born child
All meanly wrapt in the rude manger lies.

—John Milton, *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
 Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
 Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 Monday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
 Tuesday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve
 Wednesday: The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace; New Year's Day
 Thursday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
 Friday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus; First Friday
 Saturday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; First Saturday

SAINT THOMAS BECKET (1118-1170)

December 29

To anyone who imagines conflict between religion and politics to be a modern phenomenon, history witnesses otherwise. Martyred under Henry VIII in 1535, Thomas More declared, "I die the king's good servant, but God's first!" Thomas Becket could have said the same four centuries earlier. As Henry II's closest friend and trusted chancellor, Becket, the king presumed, could be counted on, if made archbishop, to deliver the church to royal control. But Becket experienced a profound conversion, confirmed by the ordination liturgy's rich symbolism of the bishop as Good Shepherd and the church as Bride of Christ. Renouncing secular responsibilities, distributing his wealth to the poor, Thomas became the church's uncompromising champion. Faced with this "new" Becket, the king's previous friendship turned into a ferocious, almost irrational hatred. As eight centuries later, Archbishop Romero would be martyred at the altar of Christ's sacrifice, Becket was slain before the altar of Canterbury Cathedral by royal agents, neither the first nor last good shepherd to lay down his life as the price of freedom for Christ's church and justice for Christ's sheep.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

NEW YEAR

The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year, but rather that we should have a new soul.

—G. K. Chesterton

A Note from Deacon Stuart

A few weeks ago Marlene & I went on a trip to England & Ireland, the highlight of which was a pilgrimage to the “Knock Shrine” – Full title being “The Shine of Our Lady of Knock, The Queen of Ireland”

Marlene had, for sometime, felt drawn to visit this Marian Apparition site but wasn't sure why, however, the pull was irresistible and so we went. It would be fair to say that “Our Lady of Knock” is a lesser known Apparition relative to Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe (see later) but nonetheless of very great significant, especially to the people of Ireland.

A brief history of the Apparition at Knock Co. Mayo, Ireland

On the evening of Thursday August 21, 1879, at around 8.00pm,(it was raining heavily – imagine that in Ireland !!), when Mary Byrne and Mary MCloughlin, who were walking home came upon an amazing sight, it stopped them in their tracks. Mary Byrne ran home to tell others who also gathered to view the miraculous site on the gable end of the parish church. It was the Apparition of Our Lady together with St. Joseph and St John the Evangelist and a Lamb on an altar suspended by angels behind which was a large cross.

Various accounts, 15 individuals in total, were recorded by a Commission of Enquiry which concluded that the testimonies were valid. It is recorded that this small group of people knelt in prayer, in the pouring rain for two hours.

They individually told the commission that Mary, who stood a few feet above the ground as with the whole apparition, was wearing a white cloak fastened to the neck and a brightly lit crown with a single rose.

More details are available but suffice to say that all witnesses noted in spite of the weather, the area of the apparition remained completely dry.and bathed in golden light.

A few interesting facts about this apparition

- The only one in which Mary was accompanied.
- Mary did not speak or communicate a message
- Mary appeared at a terrible time in Ireland's history – failed potato crops, famine and starvation.
- As with other apparitions she appeared to poor and suffering.

Why ???

The reason seems obvious – she wanted to encourage the people of Ireland, predominantly Catholic, in their struggles. At this time Ireland was part of Great Britain and much of the country was owned by absentee “British” landowners. Most cared little for their Irish tenants, only that they paid the rent in a timely fashion, regardless of the impact of the seasons on their crops. This led to the truly miserable conditions eloquently described by Tom Neary in Chapters 1 & 2 of his book “I Saw Our Lady”.

Some forty years later Ireland would be divided into Catholic South and Protestant North and I would suggest that the Mary's Apparition gave the Irish Catholics the impetus to separate from mainland Britain, and although this is my personal view – t it seems consistent with facts and circumstances of the events in Knock, Co Mayo, Ireland some 140 years ago.

The opening lines of the “Prayer of our Lady of Knock” are:

**Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland,
you gave hope to your people in a time of distress
and comforted them in sorrow**

As Marlene & I reflected on our visit, Marlene said she believed she felt now she understood that she was drawn to Knock and given a mission to tell the story which is so little known (outside Ireland).

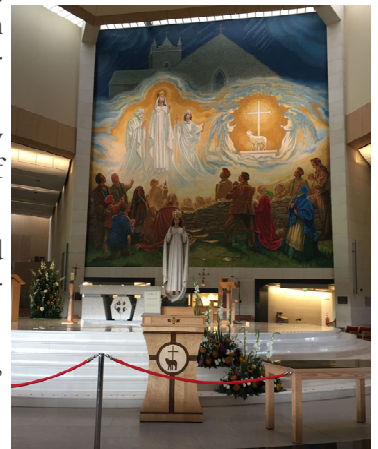
So this is the first part of that mission – enjoy.

Second Part – We are considering taking a group to Ireland for a week or so next September, the highlight of which will be a pilgrimage to Knock Shrine. If you are interested please email me at sheyes@stcletusparish.com or call my cell phone 630 842 3967.

Blessings – Dcn Stuart & Marlene



The apparition site with actual size figures and arrangement as described by the 15 witnesses.



The Basilica at Knock

Community Bulletin Board

JOYFUL AGAIN! WIDOWED MINISTRY



“I knew I needed something.” “I wanted things to get better. “ “This helped a lot.” (What they say about us.) We understand. We’ve been there. For more information contact us at 708-354-7211, joyfulagain7211@gmail.com, www.joyfulagain.org.

THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Conscious Conversations
Sundays, Jan. 12 and 26 – 11 AM - 1 PM (continues through May, every other Sunday)

Three minute Parker Palmer videos will spark conversations where each of us listens to the other with openness and respect, and uses our own voice with clarity. Facilitators: Barbara Clevenger and Diane Pfahler, SND Cost: \$10-15

Emotional Bypassing
Monday, Jan. 13, 7-8:30 PM

As we gather and explore our thoughts, emotions, and motivations, we will touch the edges of our consciousness and listen for the Divine within. This lively introductory session is open to all, and if there is further interest, we will continue to meet every other week. Facilitator: Marv Baldwin Cost: \$20/session

Mary Southard Paint Your Soul Retreat
9 AM Thurs., Jan. 16 – 3 PM Sunday, Jan. 19

Mary Southard, CSJ is a celebrated artist, experienced educator and retreat director in love with Life and with the Creator/Creation. In this retreat, for artists and non-artists alike, we will engage with the energies and images from within our own abundant and beautiful souls. Cost: \$475 (includes overnight accommodations and meals)



The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park, IL. A Member of the Congregation of St. Joseph Mission. Network. www.csjthewell.org 708-482-5048

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.

ENROLL IN ELECTRONIC GIVING

Do you want to transition away from writing checks and contribute electronically? It is SO EASY! Visit the St. Cletus Parish website at www.stcletusparish.com and click the “DONATE” BUTTON. Click Sunday donations. We accept checks (ACH), debit and credit cards. If you have questions or need help, call Mary Zwolinski 708.352.6209

R.W.S. Landscaping & Lawncare

708-489-6333



V MECHANICAL INC.
SINGLE SOURCE HVAC & R CONTRACTOR
WWW.VMECHANICALINC.COM | 708-863-6737



John Wilson
Western Springs, IL
(708) 246-5604



Professional Land Clearing

ALL AROUND AMUSEMENT



Jerry Mitchell, Real Estate Broker (630) 849-5857

Adolf Funeral Home & Cremation Services, LTD
Battistoni & Beam Orthodontics Ltd.
Friends of Countryside Mayor Sean McDermott

FCI Construction Inc.
Hallowell & James Funeral Home
Health Pic
Horizon Wealth Management

Jeffrey R. Tobolski Cook County Board Commissioner-16th District
LG Celtics Soccer Club
Unique Plumbing
WATRA Church Goods

Thank you to our 2019 St. Cletus Parish Fall Fest Major Sponsors. These businesses will be listed in our Parish Canticle for one year as preferred providers.

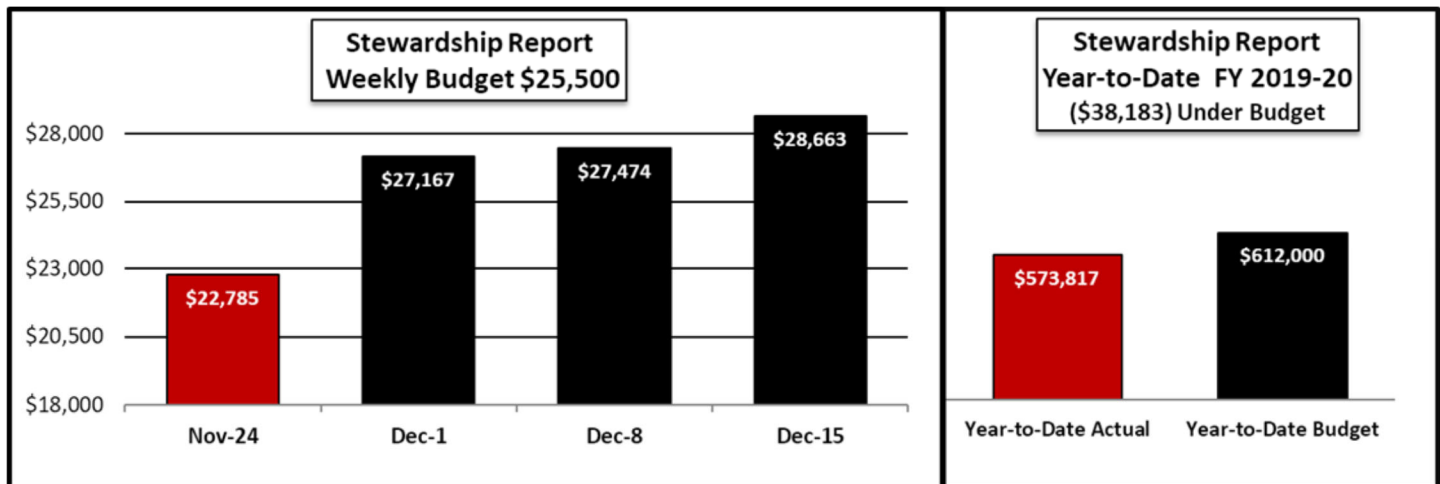
Week at a Glance

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, December 29			
Monday, December 30	8:00pm	Parish Center Gym	Men's Basketball
Tuesday, December 31	8:00am 5:00pm 7:00pm	Church Church	Facilities Closed after 8am Mass Vigil Mass Vigil Mass in Spanish
Wednesday, January 1	9:00am	Church	St. Cletus Facilities Closed - No 8am Mass Feast Day Mass
Thursday, January 2			All Facilities Closed after 8am Mass
Friday, January 3	8:00pm	Parish Center Mtg. Room	Holy Name Society Meeting
Saturday, January 4	5:00pm	Narthex	Welcome Committee
Sunday, January 5	7:00am	Narthex	Welcome Committee

Stewardship Report

WEEKLY GIVING REPORT

Due to early printing deadlines, the December 22nd Giving Report will appear in the January 5th Canticle.



YEAR-END STATEMENT BY REQUEST ONLY


As tax time approaches, we ask everyone who would like a year-end statement of their Year 2019 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 bkallal@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
 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-Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

MASSES

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

CONFESSIONS

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

BAPTISMS

1st & 3rd Saturday of most months at 11:00 a.m.
 Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation class. Please make arrangements by calling the Parish office. Contact Bobbie Kallal (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

PARISH MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement: St. Cletus is a dynamic Catholic community dedicated to spreading the Good news of Jesus Christ through worship, education, and service.

Vision Statement: We welcome all. We encourage all parishioners to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in their daily lives, by sharing their talents and faith with our parish and community.

STAFF

PARISH STAFF

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Baker/Paulette Bolton, Worship (708) 215-5422
Karen Ziemba, Music Ministry (708) 215-5423
MaryClaire Zurowski, Youth Ministry(708) 215-5419
Kendall Grant, Social Concerns (708) 215-5418
Deacon Stuart Heyes, Pastoral Care .. (708) 215-5407
Debbie Lestarczyk, Business Manager (708) 215-5405
Christopher Wagner, Technology (708) 215-5420

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

Rev. Lorenzo Gamboa, 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
Deborah Pusinelli, Assistant
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
Carol Scatena, Parish Assistant
Kadie Lestarczyk, Parish Assistant

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

Pastor Fr. Bob Clark
 Chairperson Bob Wasik
 Vice Chairperson
 Secretary

MEMBERS

Bob Havelka
 Kevin Hogan
 Mike Napleton
 Paula Struwing
 Karla Martinez
 Bob Malham
 Shanta McGahey

LIAISONS

FSA President Nikki Gorman
 Athletic Association President Michele Kulovic

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pastor Fr. Bob Clark
 Chairperson..... Mary Ann Doornbos
 Vice-Chairperson Chuck Luna
 Recording Secretary..... Maggie Kensek
 School Representative.....
 Director of Parish Catechesis..... Paulette Bolton
 Staff Representative..... Debbie Lestarczyk

MEMBERS

Jack Fisherkeller
 Helen McMahon
 Henry Morlock
 Susan Hurley
 Robbie O'Shea

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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

TELEPHONE

708-352-6209

CONTACT PERSON

Elizabeth Goellner/
Debbie Lestarczyk (Bus Mgr)

SOFTWARE

MSPublisher 2003
Adobe Acrobat 7.0
Windows XP Professional

PRINTER

HP Laserjet 1022

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION

December 29, 2019

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

1 through 15

Wednesday 3pm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS