

The Finish Line (Lent/Easter, 2019)

A Note from the Pastor, Fr. Jim Benz

A great seasonal thought for us to consider from our Mormon brothers & sisters in Salt Lake City: *Life is often compared to a pathway. And, as most of us know by experience, that pathway is rarely smooth and straight. Rather, it takes us on a journey of peaks and valleys, twists and turns. Some of these are expected: Childhood passes into youth. Youthful life evolves into adulthood and, eventually, into life's twilight. We know these changes are coming, and we can prepare ourselves to transition from one stage to another. Other transitions are less predictable. We might transition from being single to married, from unemployment to a steady job, from health to chronic illness, or any of these in reverse. We know that life's path must take us through such changes; otherwise we will never really go anywhere. Still, it can be hard to transition from the familiar to the unknown. A young man and his father took an adventurous hike in a remote mountainous area. At one point their path brought them to a wide, deep chasm. The only way forward was to cross a long suspension bridge. At first they were hesitant. Was the bridge safe? But then they saw the firm anchors on either side and the strong cables that held the span in place. Seeing the strength of the bridge and knowing that many others had gone this way before them, they confidently crossed the chasm and continued their journey. If we want to safely cross the bridges that span from one stage of life to another, we need secure anchors and strong connections. We can be anchored by values that do not shift with the times, by truth that does not sway in the winds of change. Connections with family, friends, and mentors will give us confidence that we can make lasting and meaningful progress in our transitions through life. Perhaps no anchor is stronger, no connection more important, than our relationship with the divine and our trust in heaven's help. No matter the transitions we must make, no matter the bridges we must cross, if we are anchored in truth and connected to those who love and support us, we can rest assured that we will arrive safely on the other side. **When I heard this talk, I thought, Wow, what a great insight about Lent and Easter, great opportunities to review and to restore the firmness of our most important anchors.***

OF SPECIAL NOTE:

- 1) "Seven Deadly Sins/Seven Lively Virtues":** A Bishop Robert Barron DVD series, a four-part study based on Dante's writings about those great spiritual blocks and how to counteract them; starts March 21.
- 2) "33 Days to Merciful Love"** a six week retreat, Mondays from March 4-April 8, a follow-up retreat by Father Michael Gaitley, focused on God's incredible love. More info? CandSMartin@sbcglobal.net.
- 3) Our Annual Spring Blood Drive: March 24, from 8:00 AM-1:30 PM in our Parish Hall.** Help save a life by donating. For further information, contact Lynn Owen, 636-947-6640 or lynnowen@charter.net.
- 4) Our Lenten Parish Penance Service:** Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 PM. At least 6 priests will be present.
- 5) At Christmas, we distributed copies of Matthew Kelly's The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity.** Look for a book study that we will offer on this book sometime after Easter.
- 6) Mark your calendars for the **St. Charles Serra Club's Priest & Religious Appreciation Dinner, Tuesday, April 30,** at St. Joseph Church (Cottleville). Tickets: \$50. Contact Gerry Deken (636-926-8445).**
- 7) Save the date: July 31, St. Cletus Night at the ballpark: Cards vs. Cubs.** Watch for more later!
- 8) Again, Fr. Mark Whitman leads a weekly Bible study on the upcoming Sunday's readings on Wednesdays in the Duchesne Room from 10:00-11:30 AM. All are welcome!**

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR PARISH'S WEBSITE (www.saintcletus.org) & FACE BOOK FOR OUR OWN AND OUR NEIGHBORS' LENTEN ACTIVITIES AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

An insert listing this information was intended to be included in our Sunday bulletin the weekend before Lent began. Keep an eye on the bulletin, Face Book and our parish's website, www.saintcletus.org.

Suppers 8: Looking for a way to meet and to enjoy your fellow parishioners? Try Suppers 8! It's a very simple process of gathering for dinner in each other's homes in groups of 8 or 9 people. For more info, contact Steve and Sue Schutz at S_Schutz@msn.com or 636-443-0608. You'll have a great time!

Stephen Ministry: If you or someone you know is facing a crisis - large or small - and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, you can contact one of our Stephen Leaders at 636-255-1739. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!"

St. Cletus School Board: Interested in helping St. Cletus School? Consider running for the School Board, an excellent way to influence our school's policies and future. Self-nominations are currently being accepted with the election in April. Contact Jason Stockmann at jstocks80@yahoo.com or 314-805-4406.

Saint Cletus Schools: The children at Saint Cletus have been very busy as you will note below:

- Our **eighth graders** are preparing to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on **April 3** at 7:00 PM. They have been involved in various service projects, attended a retreat, heard a special speaker and will have a festive dinner with their sponsors following Confirmation practice on March 31.
- Our Day School and PSR **Second Graders** are preparing to receive **First Communion** on **May 4**. On Saturday, **March 2**, they will make bread and share it as part of a meal with their parents. First Communicants and their families are making special banners which will be hung in the Church.
- PSR students will pray the **Stations of the Cross** on **Monday, April 15**, at 6:30 p.m. Day School students will pray the **Stations of the Cross** weekly during Lent. **Wednesday, April 17**, will be a **Day of Prayer for the Day School Children** beginning with Living Stations and continuing with a variety of spiritual activities. There will also be time taken for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in both schools.
- The **final day** for our PSR program this year is **May 6**. The **final day** for the Day School is **May 30**. **Parents are encouraged to attend Mass with their children on these two days.**
- Please register now for the 2019-20 school year by **contacting Rosann Doherty (636-946-7756) about Day School tours** or **Laura Henderson (636-255-1717) about PSR info and registration.**

Men's Club: Meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month. Social Hour at 6:30 PM with dinner and meeting at 7:00 PM. All men of the parish are welcome! There is no cost to attend.

- **Adult Volleyball** begins in March, please Matt Danter for details: [\(636\) 373-2062](tel:636-373-2062)
- Registrations for **2018 soccer & volleyball** seasons begin in March. Sign up at www.stcletussports.org.
- The **Lenten breakfast** benefiting our **St Vincent DePaul Society**: April 14, after 7:30 & 9:30 Masses.
- The Men's Club will start **accepting applications for the 8th grade athletic scholarships** in April. Forms are available on our webpage (See: www.saintcletus.org under "Parish community")
- We'll provide **dinner for 8th graders after Confirmation practice** on March 31. Please pray for our 8th graders as they approach this special sacrament.
- Our Men's Club Golf **Tournament is May 11** at the St. Peter's Golf Course. Look for more info in upcoming Sunday bulletins or contact Bill Howle ([314-520-7551](tel:314-520-7551)).
- We'll host the **PTO Appreciation dinner** in May. All PTO members are encouraged to come.

Our Parish Picnic is around the corner; planning has already begun. Please mark **May 18 & 19** in your calendars! Our **Washer's Tournament** plus rides will be **Saturday evening** with our **Picnic on Sunday** with its silent auction, games, booths, rides, good food and drinks, especially chicken dinners. Again we'll offer two raffles: **a 50/50 cash raffle and a prize raffle**. We need roughly 300 volunteers and are looking for sponsors to help with the cost of the picnic. We would like to ask for parish groups and organizations to step up and work a booth this year. You can use this opportunity to promote your group or organization with flyers, pictures, t-shirts etc. If you would like to help, especially by being a sponsor, call Jason at **314-910-0789**. **The picnic is a great way to meet new folks in a wonderful family atmosphere.**

St. Cletus LifeTeen Youth Ministry: **Life Nights every Sunday** at 7:00-9:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

- **Luke 18** (March 22-24) This retreat is for 7th and 8th graders. The retreat is run by high school students. The retreat this year is being held at Camp Trinity in New Haven, MO.
- Remember: **Life Teen Mass at 11:30 AM every Sunday**
- **The St.Cletus 5k and 1 mile fun run will be Saturday, May 18, at 8:00 AM.**
- **New prayer opportunity for teens every Tuesday from 7pm to 8:30 PM in the Day Chapel.**
- **There will be prayer, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and every 3rd Tuesday of the month we will have music with Tina.** For more, contact Bob Hamer at [314-623-5258](tel:314-623-5258) / bhamer@saintcletus.org

Legion of Mary: This is a spiritually oriented organization with a **weekly prayer meeting** (Thursdays at 6:30), sponsorship of events **promoting Marian devotion**, and **works of evangelization** within the parish. Please contact Jeff Buchholz (636-486-6920) for more information.

Respect Life Apostolate (third Wednesdays at 6:30 pm) For info, contact Deb Young 459-5131

- Our annual **baby shower** will take place the weekends of **February 24 and March 3**. Items needed are t-shirts, gowns, sleepers, socks, blankets, pacifiers, baby wipes. Sizes needed are newborn to 18 months. A receptacle will be in the Gathering Space.
- **Forty Days for Life begins March 6**. You are invited to prayerfully witness with others in front of Planned Parenthood Abortion facility on Forest Park Blvd. between 7 am and 7 pm. It is the only abortion facility open in Missouri. Please pray and fast for an end to abortion.
- **Roses for Mother's Day** will be available to purchase on Mother's Day weekend, May 11. We will honor fathers on Father's Day, June 16, also.
- **The Book of Remembrance** will be available on both days to write the names of mothers and fathers, living and deceased, you wish to remember.
- **For simple tips** on how to provide loving, life-affirming support for a friend who is unexpectedly pregnant, read "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting" www.usccb.org/supporther.

Hospitality Ministry: I invite you to get out of your comfort zone and come help greet/meet folks as they attend Mass. The St. Cletus Greeters make St. Cletus a welcoming place to worship, and you can make a positive difference. A smile, a warm "welcome to St. Cletus" and being 20 minutes early for Mass is all it takes. You'll absolutely enjoy getting the smiles in return. Come join us and help. For additional info, please contact Mike Boschert at boschfam@sbcglobal.net or 636-795-6076.

Peace & Justice Ministry meets monthly on the **3rd Monday at 6:30 PM**. All are welcome!

- **Archbishop's Letter on Racism:** As a follow-up to the PBS "*Slavery by Another Name*" program earlier this year, we will offer prayer, education and activities around the Church's response to racism. For more info contact, **Bill Weisrock** at 918-527-8738
- **Bridge Bread:** A program to provide opportunities for the disadvantaged. Delicious bread and rolls made by Bridge Bread bakers will available on **March 16-17** and **April 27-28**. For more info, contact **Shirley Mergenmeier** at 785-844-3197
- **El Salvador Mission:** Representatives of the 24 missionaries who traveled to El Salvador in January of this year will present to the parish on their experience. For more info, call **Ann Roussel** at 314-378-6413
- **Sharing our Table Of Plenty (STOP):** Our collection this spring will benefit Youth in Need work with vulnerable children, teens and families. For more info, contact **Jim LaVictoire** 314-308-8462
- **Season of Creation:** In support of Pope Francis' encyclical *Care of Creation* St. Cletus will be **replacing styrofoam in 2019** with more environmentally friendly items. For ideas on recycling, reducing and composting, contact **Pam Brown** at 636-734-2321

PTO News: Please come & support our **Lenten Fish Fry** (Dine In and Carry Out) every Friday during Lent with the exception of Good Friday. **Doors open at 4:00 PM with the last meal sold at 7:00 PM.** Come enjoy a delicious meal with your family and friends. We offer **baked fish, fried cod, catfish, shrimp meals as well as cold shrimp and cheese pizza.** We **need donated desserts** weekly. Please **drop off desserts anytime Friday during Lent** in the school cafeteria. **Volunteers are always needed.** If you can work a 2 hour shift any Friday, please contact Vanezza Brasher (636-352-3116) or sign up on VolunteerSpot: <http://signup.com/go/EzXFrdm>. Your help is appreciated! Please remember to **buy STP (Share the Profits) gift cards** after all Masses. STP gift cards **do not cost any additional money.** **STPs are also available to purchase online,** email ptostp@saintcletus.org for an account.

Pope Francis reminds us that the blessings we receive do not belong to us as a "right" but are gifts meant to be shared. The **Annual Catholic Appeal** provides us an opportunity to share our gifts through our generosity. It funds ministries, services, and programs that show our compassion, respect for life, commitment to education, and care for the less fortunate. Agencies funded through the ACA benefit food pantries, the unemployed, parish schools, special education, criminal justice, formation of priests and deacons, and other important causes throughout the Archdiocese. Pledge cards will be in the Weekday Mass Chapel after Mass the weekends of **April 28, May 5, and May 12**. If you are unable to stop by and sign your pledge card then, you may receive a call from a fellow parishioner inviting you to pledge. **Please join us in donating to this important campaign. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated!**

The Church of St. Cletus
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Reminders

- Our **Job Search Ministry**: Contact Mike Sepe at m.sepe@sbcglobal.net for assistance with resume reviews, job search planning and counseling. He is happy to meet on an as-needed basis.
- **The Quilters at St. Cletus** meet every Wednesday, 8:30 AM-2:00 PM in the parish hall. We welcome experienced quilters and wannabees. Contact Pat Strittmatter (630-272-8351) or Pat Jett (314-704-0950)
- Our **Nursing Home Ministry** supports Mass/Communion service at the Frontier Nursing Home every Thursday at 9:45. Service begins at 10:15. For more info, call Diane Judge (314-807-6236).
- Our **Cancer Support Group** welcomes those with Cancer, in Remission, Spouses, Caregivers and Friends. Our next quarterly meeting: April 10, 6:30 PM. For more, call Tony Petti (636-443-2380).
- **Singles Again**: Separated, divorced, and widowed ministry. For info, call Lee Schellert (314-971-1821).
- Our parish offers **Eucharistic Adoration** in our Adoration Chapel from Mondays 7:30 AM through Saturdays 7:30 AM. For more info, call Jennifer Iffrig (636-940-9858) or Jan DuBray (636-947-4654).
- Our **Room at the Inn** volunteers, in cooperation with an area-wide group, provide meals and shelter for up to 10 persons one night each month. Contact Mary Howle (636-734-2119) or mary.howle@att.net.
- Our **St. Vincent De Paul Society** meets every third Tuesday at 7:00 PM. The members help the poor and needy within our parish boundaries. All are welcome.
- Our **Senior Cletes** senior citizens group meets every third Tuesday at 11:30 AM in our Parish Hall. Call Betty McMichael (636-946-5566) for more information.
- **St. Cletus Sunday Preschool**, 3-5 year olds during 9:30 Mass, call Erin McMillian (615-424-3405).
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word**, K-3rd graders during 9:30 Mass, call Barb Sullivan (314-517-0207).
- Our **Funeral Lunch Ministry**'s mission is to comfort & support grieving parishioners and their families. If interested, call Janet Haislip (636-724-3225).
- **Prayer Groups**: **Centering Prayer** (Tuesdays, 9:00-10:30 AM), **Our Lady's** (the second and fourth Mondays, 9:15-11:30 AM), and **Men's Bible Study** (Mondays, 5:30-6:30 PM; optional rosary 5:15 PM).
- **Deacon Ken Potzman**, board certified in general and mental healthcare, is happy to meet with anyone struggling with health issues, grief/loss, or low self-esteem free of charge. Call him at 314-251-6470.