The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song.

ISAIAH 35:1–2
## Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions for the week

**Mon., December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe**
7:00am † Hazel Freber, & Loretta Schneider  
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz  
8:00am † Communion Service  
Presider: Deacon Frank Olmsted

**Tues., December 13, St. Lucy**
7:00am † Walter Pfeiffer  
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman  
8:00am † Mary Rose Peters  
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz

**Wed., December 14, St. John of the Cross**
7:00am † Jennifer Fitzsimmons  
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman  
8:00am † Gerald Goedert  
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz (level mass)

**Thur., December 15, Advent Weekday**
7:00am † Joe Worland  
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman  
8:00am † JoAnn Bethmann  
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz

**Fri., December 16, Advent Weekday**
7:00am † Victoria Cooper  
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman  
8:00am † Barb Roth  
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz

**Sat., December 17, Late Advent Weekday**
8:00am † Dale Pohlman  
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz

**Sat., December 17, Fourth Sunday of Advent**
5:00pm † Julie Bossard  
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman  
Deacon: Mark McCarthy  
Servers: E. Krupich, L. Pezold

**Sun., December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent**
7:30am † Mildred Olmsted  
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman  
Deacon: Mark McCarthy  
Servers: M. Lemkemann, C. Schneider  
9:30am † Dolores (Dolo) Boschert  
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz  
Deacon: Frank Olmsted  
Servers: L. Conway, L. Conway  
11:30am † Our Parish Family  
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz  
Deacon: Frank Olmsted  
Servers: I. Hamer, M. Hamer

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To keep current with our sick list above, please let us know when we need to add or remove anyone. Thank you!

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**From Death to New Life**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
† Mary Strate, wife of Mark and sister of Sandy Mohrman  
† Steve Ellison, husband of Sandy and father of Sean

May their souls rest in our Lord's eternal em-
There is a promise of marriage between:

Jacob Larson & Morgan Hancock - III
Tyler Percy & Bridget Bier - I

Please pray for them as they prepare

**ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12**
9:10AM CORNERSTONE HALL/DUCHESNE/CALLAHAN
5:00PM MEN’S BIBLE STUDY CLETUS
6:15PM PSR CLASSES SCHOOL

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13**
8:30AM SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS HALL
9:00AM WAKE & FUNERAL CHURCH
11:00AM PASTORAL TEAM MTG CALLAHAN
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING CLETUS
5:00PM SVDP CHRISTMAS PARTY HALL

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14**
8:30AM QUILTERS HALL
8:30AM MORNING SOCIAL HALL
10:00AM FR.MARK BIBLE STUDY DUCHESNE
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING CLETUS
6:00PM CHOIR PRACTICE CHURCH
6:30PM MEN’S CLUB GEN MTG SCHOOL CAFETERIA
7:00PM STEPHEN MINISTRY (TRNING) DUCHESNE

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15**
8:30AM SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS HALL
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING CLETUS
5:00PM PARISH “APPY’ HOUR HALL
6:30PM LEGION OF MARY DAY CHAPEL
7:00PM RCIA DUCHESNE

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**
9:00AM SMALL FAITH GROUP DUCHESNE
12:00AM PRIVATE MEETING CLETUS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17**
BRIDGE BREAD SALES AFTER 5:00PM MASS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**
BRIDGE BREAD SALES AFTER ALL MASSES
1:00PM PRIVATE EVENT HALL
2:30PM BLAZE MEETING DUCHESNE
7:00PM LIFE TEEN HALL
A Beautiful Advent Thought from St. Andrew of Crete (650-740):
He is coming who is everywhere present and pervades all things; he is coming to achieve in you his work of universal salvation. He is coming who came to call to repentance not the righteous but sinners, coming to recall those who have strayed into sin. Do not be afraid then: “God is in the midst of you, and you shall not be shaken.” Receive him with open, outstretched hands, for it was on his own hands that he sketched you. Receive him who laid your foundations on the palms of his hands. Receive him who laid your foundations on the palms of his hands. Receive him, for he took upon himself all that belongs to us except sin, to consume what is ours in what is his. Be glad, city of Zion, our mother, and fear not. Celebrate your feasts. Glorify him for his mercy, who has come to us in you. Rejoice exceedingly, daughter of Jerusalem, sing and leap for joy. “Be enlightened, be enlightened,” we cry to you, as holy Isaiah trumpeted, “for the light has come to you and the glory of the Lord has risen over you.”

Please remember that our Archdiocese is in the stretch run for gathering information for the All Things New strategic planning process with the deadline being December 31. I ask that you will pray the following prayers suggested by our Office of Sacred Worship for use at our weekend Masses during Advent:

First Sunday of Advent
—For the Church in St Louis, summoned again to wake from sleep, to throw off the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light, may we respond joyously to this message as we prepare to make All Things New, let us pray to the Lord.…
—That as the All Things New pastoral planning Initiative continues, may we stay awake, ready and watching for the coming of our Lord and Master, and may His arrival not be a disruption of our lives, but the goal of our desires, let us pray to the Lord.…
—As we continue to discuss and plan for the All Things New pastoral planning initiative, that the Lord will inspire all gathered here, and may God stimulate our spiritual lives and the practices that sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.…

Second Sunday of Advent
—As we continue with the All Things New pastoral planning initiative, may John the Baptist, the thundering preacher of Advent repentance, cry out again in the desert of our secular world, compelling us, the Church in St. Louis, to make straight the way of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.…
—That the spirit of the Lord may rest upon all who are entrusted with authority in the Church, especially Archbishop Rozanski, Bishop Rivituso, and all priests that each seek wisdom, counsel and strength for the All Things New pastoral planning initiative, let us pray to the Lord.…
—That like John the Baptist we may herald the coming of the Lord and the call to All Things New so that we may build the kingdom here in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, let us pray to the Lord.…

Third Sunday of Advent
—That as we continue with the All Things New pastoral planning initiative, our holy shepherds and leaders in the Church may prolong in our midst the role of John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord in our hearts by their preaching and the witness of their lives, let us pray to the Lord.…
—As we continue with the All Things New pastoral planning initiative, that the Holy Spirit will animate the Church in St. Louis and inspire joy in the hearts of the faithful which they will share with others, let us pray to the Lord.…
—That as we continue with the All Things New pastoral planning initiative, may we all have ears to hear and eyes to see the glory the Lord has for each of us, let us pray to the Lord.…

Fourth Sunday of Advent
—That as we continue the All Things New pastoral planning initiative, the Lord will deepen the dreams of the faithful in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, so that together we may imagine and work for a church that is welcoming and responsive to all, let us pray to the Lord.…
—That we may not weary God through resistance and unbelief, but like Mary and Joseph bring Him submissive hearts and trusting spirits, ready to rejoice in the wonders He wishes to work for us in our lives, families, and the Church in St. Louis, let us pray to the Lord.…
—That the Holy Spirit be our guide in the All Things New pastoral plan, let us pray to the Lord.…
HOME CRÈCHE INFANT BLESSING

Blessed be your name O Lord,
you are the font and source of all blessing,
and you look with delight
upon the devout practices of the faithful.

Draw near, we pray, to these your servants
and, as they use this symbol of their faith and devotion,
grant that they may also strive to be transformed
into the likeness of Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

Amen

Blessing of Home Christmas Tree
by parent of other family member.

Holy Lord,
we come with joy to celebrate the birth of
your Son.
who rescued us from the darkness of sin
by making the cross a tree of life and light.

May this tree, arrayed in splendor,
remind us of the life giving cross of Christ,
that we may always rejoice
in new life that shines in our hearts.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood offer an Open House Tour of their beautiful historic chapel and heritage area. For more information or to schedule a tour contact Sr. Cecile Gunelson at 636-293-8013.

Address: 204 North Main Street, O'Fallon, MO

Directions: Use the entrance at Main and 3rd street and take the first right. Parking is available on the south side of chapel. Chapel is handicapped accessible.
We can all find hope in the truth that God does not abandon us in our suffering, even when we don’t understand His will. The Church desires to walk with all those who bear the burden of infertility. Pope St. John Paul II clearly affirmed that couples who are unable to have children are “no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others.” It is important that all couples who experience infertility—and those who desire to offer them support—know that their love is still fruitful and their married life remains filled with meaning. We pray that couples struggling with infertility would know Christ’s closeness in a special way and be confident in His perfect will for their marriage and family. May we strive to be channels of mercy to all who carry the cross of infertility through our own awareness, sensitivity, and support.

Reflection adapted from “Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility” (respectlife.org/navigating-infertility).

ACT (choose one)
Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet (usccb.org/divine-mercy-chaplet) for all couples who carry the Cross of infertility.

- Choose one day this week to abstain from sweets or your favorite snack as a reminder to draw close to Christ in times of suffering and trust in His plan for our lives.

- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month’s intention.

Love Remembers ~ It is possible to have intimate relationships with loved ones who have died. Death sometimes deepens the intimacy. . . . [I believe] that after separation certain people continue to be very significant for us in our hearts and through our memories. Remembering them is much more than just thinking of them, because we are making them part of our members, part of our whole being.

Knowing this experience allows me to live from the deep belief that I have love to offer to people, not only here, but also beyond my short, little life. I am a human being who was loved by God before I was born and whom God will love after I die. This brief lifetime is my opportunity to receive love, deepen love, grow in love, and give love. When I die love continues to be active, and from full communion with God I am present by love to those I leave behind.
Reflect
How does God exercise authority? Does God exploit us, leaving us broken and used? Or does he mend what is broken and bring forth new life? Just as God is over us, so should we be good stewards over creation.

Pray
Father, out of your communion of love light bursts forth from darkness, life shimmers in a dazzling array of beauty.
As you care for all your creatures give me a heart to love them as you do.
Let me give honor to your handiwork by giving more than I receive.     Amen.

Act
What is one small thing you can do to give back to the earth? Perhaps plant a tree or clean up trash on the roadside? Choose some way to show your stewardship of God’s creation.
Come as you are.

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YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women.
Refuel and refresh – Learn more about God.

We are blessed to be offering our fourth Women’s Bible study here at St Cletus, beginning January 10, 2023.
This will be a ten-week study with a break on Feb. 14, 2023 for Valentine Day!
We will meet on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 – 12:00
And Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30.
For more information call Cheryl Borgsmiller at 636-751-6592 or cborgs413@yahoo.com.

You can also register by clicking on this code!
This Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 pm, Paul Borgsmiller will present "Prayer and Praying." Come and join the RCIA group and other interested Catholics for this opportunity to grow in your faith during this Advent season.

Would you like to meet fellow parishioners of St. Cletus in a small group setting and share a meal together? If so, Suppers 8 is for you! Dinner is hosted in members’ homes with dates and locations chosen by each group. The host prepares the main dish, while other members bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert. At the end of the fourth month, all gather for a potluck before groups are rearranged and a new session begins. There is no long-term commitment or meetings to attend…it’s just dinner and fellowship!

We plan to begin the next round in January, and we would love to have you join! To have your name added to our list, please click [https://forms.gle/xFVBf5G4PrzpmidW9](https://forms.gle/xFVBf5G4PrzpmidW9) and complete the questions or complete the information below and return it to the Parish Office by December 15. You can also contact Steve & Sue Schutz at: suppers8stcletus@gmail.com or 314-973-8707.

Name(s): ____________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________ Phone #: __________________________

Dietary restrictions/allergies: ____________________________________________

This is the **last weekend** to pick ornaments for gifts to: Birthright St. Charles, F.A.S.T., and Our Lady of Guadalupe School and envelopes for tuition assistance for St. Cletus students. Please take any ornaments/envelopes you wish and return the gifts (with ornaments) under the tree at any Mass. PLEASE RETURN ALL GIFTS BY 12:30 on December 18. Our volunteers will gather, sort and deliver them to their appropriate destination. Your generosity has always been overwhelming in the past, and the organizations are so very grateful! Please call Nancy Riordan 636-634-1757 with questions.

Enjoy the gift of giving to those in need this Christmas!!

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFTS!!
Duchesne High School is honored to invite you to our forty-third annual
Pioneer Expedition Auction
Winter Wonderland
Proceeds benefit Duchesne Students in Mind, Body, and Spirit
Saturday, February 4, 2023
Old Hickory Golf Club
1 Dye Club Drive | St. Peters, MO 63304
Early Bird tickets $125 per person by January 6
$150 per person after January 6 | Tables of ten
Doors Open 5:30 p.m. | Cocktail Hour 6:00 p.m.
Dinner and Program 7:00 p.m.
RSVP dhs2023.givesmart.com

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47,
or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Welcome New Parishioners!
To receive a registration form or indicate an address change or move from the parish, please fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket, or call the Parish Office (636-946-6327).

Names:__________________________________________
Adults_______                 Children________
Address:_________________________________________
Phone:__________________________________________
Email:___________________________________________

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Mary Reich

Microsoft Publisher 2010
Adobe Acrobat X Standard
Windows 10

Pages sent: 1 through 11

December 11, 2022, bulletin

Sent: Monday, December 5, at 1:00pm

NOTE:

Please print **575 copies** Thank You!