St. Cletus Catholic Church
Welcoming Christ in the Face of Others

FOURTH SUNDAY OF Advent

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”
MATTHEW 1:23

PLEASE FIND OUR EXTENSIONS BELOW AFTER DIALING THE MAIN. NUMBER OF: 636-946-6327
PASTORAL TEAM:
Rev. Jim Benz, Pastor: jbenz@saintcletus.org or ext. 1711
Rev. Mark Whitman, Associate Pastor: mwhitman@saintcletus.org or ext. 1727
Deacon Mark McCarthy, Pastoral Associate: mmccarthy@saintcletus.org or ext. 1712
Deacon Frank Olmsted: folmsted@saintcletus.org
Deacon Walt LaBozzetta: wlabozzetta@saintcletus.org
Mr. Joe Gogel, Business Manager: jgogel@saintcletus.org or ext. 1715
Mary Reich or Cindy Clegg, Parish Secretary: secretary@saintcletus.org or ext. 1710

Dr. Marc Strathman, Director of Liturgical Music: mstrathman@saintcletus.org or ext. 1718
Ms. Rosann Doherty, School Principal: rdoherty@saintcletus.org or ext. 1730
Mrs. Laura Henderson, Religious Education Coordinator: lhenderson@saintcletus.org or ext. 1717
Mr. Bob Hamer, Director of Youth Ministry: bhamer@saintcletus.org or ext. 1716
Parish and School Website: www.saintcletus.org
School: 636-946-7756
St. Vincent de Paul Society: 636-255-1750
Stephen Ministry: 636-255-1739
www.facebook.com/StCletus
Twitter: @saintcletus
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions for the week

**Mon., December 19, Late Advent Weekday**
7:00am † Marco Barrios
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz
8:00am † Communion Service
Presider: Deacon Mark McCarthy

**Tues., December 20, Late Advent Weekday**
7:00am † Greg Beller
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman
8:00am † Anna Rothermich
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz

**Wed., December 21, Late Advent Weekday**
7:00am † Ernie & Minnie Viscomi
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz
8:00am † Terry Boldt (all school mass)
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman

**Thur., December 22, Late Advent Weekday**
7:00am † Ben & Ruth Carneal
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman
8:00am † Martha Baronovic
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz

**Fri., December 23, Late Advent Weekday**
7:00am † Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz
8:00am † Roy & Madonna Thoele
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman

**Sat., December 24, Late Advent Weekday**
8:00am † Violet Hodur
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz

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**Sat., December 24, Christmas Eve**
5:00pm † Dolores (Dolo) Boschert
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman
Deacon: Mark McCarthy
Servers: M. Nikodem, M. Nikodem
10:00pm † Our Parish Family
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz
Deacon: Walt LaBozzetta
Servers: M. Martin, V. Martin

**Sun., December 25, The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)**
7:30am † Dennis Gray
Presider: Fr. Mark Whitman
Deacon: Frank Olmsted
Servers: Adult Servers (K. Bury, T. Schoolfield)
9:30am † Greg Viscomi
Presider: Fr. Jim Benz
Deacon: Walt LaBozzetta
Servers: A. Poulter, E. Poulter

**NO 11:30 MASS ON CHRISTMAS**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
† Dick Guignard, the husband of Shirley
May his soul rest in our Lord’s eternal embrace

To keep current with our sick list above, please let us know when we need to add or remove anyone. Thank you!
There is a promise of marriage between:

**Tyler Percy & Bridget Bier - II**

Please pray for them as they prepare.
ONE MORE WEEK OF ADVENT: We have the unusual opportunity to celebrate a full season of Advent this year, running a full four weeks. That being the case, I thought I'd touch upon a couple of Advent themes outlined earlier this season: the first being my homily for the First Sunday of Advent and the second being an idea related to the Immaculate Conception of Mary on December 8.

My homily on the First Sunday of Advent: Those of you who heard it know that I highlighted the theme of light and darkness found in that day’s Scripture readings: *O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord*, as Isaiah wrote; *Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day*, as St. Paul wrote; and *Stay awake! You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come,*" as Jesus states in the Gospel. In that homily, I used two flashlights, one with its batteries exhausted and one with its batteries fully charged, and I concluded that homily with this sentence, *During these four weeks of Advent, I hope that we will also take the time to check our spiritual batteries and to change them if they are more like this (dead/dim) rather than like this (bright).* A parishioner who heard that homily sent me this additional reflection about batteries and replacing them as needed. I really liked what it had to say, and I thought that you'd appreciate its insights as a way to build upon the point of my homily.

Another idea about the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: I have always been amazed by the power of decisions and how each decision, no matter how seemingly worthless, can be vitally important and life shaping. A good example is the article to the right. I found it in the “Deaths Elsewhere” section of the Post-Dispatch back on September 19, 2017. After I read it, I realized the tremendous debt that all humans owed to this largely forgotten man who literally saved the world so I saved this clipping waiting for an appropriate opportunity to share it with you. Think of the pressure that Mr. Petrov was under as he saw those five nuclear-tipped missiles headed toward his country! Think too of the pressure that the Blessed Virgin Mary was under when the angel Gabriel appeared to her inviting her to be an unwed mother! Gabriel says to her, “Do not be afraid!” Heck, I’d be shaking in my boots if I were she. Yet she, like Mr. Petrov, made a fateful decision which also shaped the world even in a more graphic way than did Mr. Petrov’s decision. After I clipped out this item from the P-D back on September 19, 2017, I placed it in a prominent place in my breviary to remind me of the importance of my decisions. Little did Mr. Petrov realize that, as he went to work on September 25, 1983, he would save the world. Also little did Mary realize that ordinary morning when she woke up an angel would appear to her and that her decision later that day would help to save the world in an infinitely greater way.
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.
St. Cletus Trivia Night

DATE- January 28, 2023
TIME- Doors open at 6PM
       Trivia Starts 6:30 PM
PRICE- $200 for a table of 8
WANT MULLIGANS? 12 for $12
FREE BEER & SODA
50/50, RAFFLE & WINE BINGO

TO REGISTER
Complete online form (scan QR code):

DONATIONS NEEDED
Wine bottles & gift cards, and round sponsors
Drop off in the school office
email: saintcletustrivia@gmail.com with questions
Knights of Columbus Council 823 will host a chicken dinner on Tues Dec 20th.
Serving time: 6 - 7 pm
Cost $10.00
20 Westbury Drive St Charles Mo 63301
Please call for reservations by Dec 18th, 949-0222

The Legion of Mary

Please join us in the day Chapel to pray the Rosary for peace in the world, 30 minutes prior to the 7:30 and 9:30 Mass times on Sunday mornings.

For information about the legion or to submit Rosary requests please call 636-946-6327 Ext 1733

Patience is the companion of wisdom.
ST. AUGUSTINE
Come as you are.

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!

"Jesus calls each of us to ‘care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible’ (EV 87). ...The encyclical The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation."

*Excerpt from Evangelium vitae, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life
This Thursday, December 22 at 7:00 pm, Fabian Yanez will present "Sacraments and Sacramentals." Come and join the RCIA group and other interested Catholics for this opportunity to receive an overview on the very life of the Church.

2022 Giving Tree

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!!

The real enemies of our life are the 'oughts' and the 'ifs.' They pull us backward into the unalterable past and forward into the unpredictable future. But real life takes place in the here and now.

HENRI NOUWEN
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 48abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
     Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
     Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
     Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

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:___________________________________________

Understand Your Catholic Faith with
The Catechism in a Year Podcast
with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:
• Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
• Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
• Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

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www.ascensionpress.com/ciy

Welcome New Parishioners!
ST. CLETUS CHURCH # 020010
2705 Zumbehl Rd.
St. Charles, MO  63301

636-946-6327

Mary Reich

Microsoft Publisher 2010
Adobe Acrobat X Standard
Windows 10

Pages sent: 1 through 11

December 18, 2022, bulletin

Sent: Friday, December 9, at 1:00pm

NOTE:

Please print 575 copies  Thank You!