And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.”

Luke 2:13-14
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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**Liturgical Schedule and Mass Intentions for the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Presider</th>
<th>Deacon</th>
<th>Servers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., December 26, Saint Stephen</td>
<td>7:00am † Ted Leverenz</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Jim Benz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues., December 27, Saint John</td>
<td>7:00am † Don Chamberlain</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Whitman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., December 28, The Holy Innocents</td>
<td>7:00am † Connie Hanson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Whitman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., December 29, Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</td>
<td>7:00am † Charlie Witte</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Whitman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., December 30, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</td>
<td>7:00am † Bertram Riches</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Whitman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., December 31, Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</td>
<td>8:00am † Anna Rothermich</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Benz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., December 31, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord</td>
<td>5:00pm † Bonnie Worske</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Benz</td>
<td>Frank Olmsted</td>
<td>C. Anderson and E. Krupich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., January 1, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord</td>
<td>7:30am † Barb Minor (living)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Benz</td>
<td>Frank Olmsted</td>
<td>Adult Servers (J. Butler &amp; J. Rogles)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30am † Our Parish Family</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Whitman</td>
<td>Mark McCarthy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30am † Diane Echele</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Benz</td>
<td>Mark McCarthy</td>
<td>G. Basler and M. Basler</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>† Robert Berger, brother of Mary Geraci</td>
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<td></td>
<td>† Mary Lou McLaughlin, sister of Carol Kuhlmann</td>
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</table>

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of:**

† Robert Berger, brother of Mary Geraci
† Mary Lou McLaughlin, sister of Carol Kuhlmann

May their souls rest in our Lord’s eternal embrace
Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, hearing the words of the angel, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy”. Today and throughout the new year, may we take care of our suffering brothers and sisters, bringing hope, not fear. Through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brings the spirit of Christmas to those who are suffering by providing assistance with rent, utilities, food and other bills. Thank You!

There is a promise of marriage between:

**Tyler Percy & Bridget Bier - III**

Please pray for them as they prepare
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL FROM OUR PARISH’S PASTORAL TEAM!
While it is a very hectic time, please do take some time to reflect on the beauty and, even more so, the meaning of this season.

FROM A HOMILY BY ST. AUGUSTINE:
He has promised men divinity, mortals immortality, sinners justification, the poor a rising to glory. But, brethren, because God’s promises seemed impossible to men - equality with the angels in exchange for mortality, corruption, poverty, weakness, dust and ashes - God not only made a written contract with men, to win their belief but also established a mediator of his good faith, not a prince or angel or archangel, but his only Son. He wanted, through his Son, to show us and give us the way he would lead us to the goal he has promised. It was not enough for God to make his Son our guide to the way; he made him the way itself, that you might travel with him as leader, and by him as the way.

SHORT CHRISTMAS QUOTES:
“Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind.” – Valentine Davies
“Love the giver more than the gift.” – Brigham Young
“It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.” – W. T. Ellis
“Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas.” – Dale Evans
“He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.” – Roy L. Smith

A CHRISTMAS DINNER PRAYER FOR YOU TO USE AT YOUR TABLES THIS DAY:
God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day and forever. Amen.
God wants you to experience the JOY he created you for. So do we. Here’s how. It all starts by following 9 simple rules.

Every success in life is meaningless without joy. Joy is God’s dream for you. Heaven is called a “wedding banquet.” And Jesus’ whole mission was to share that joy with you. He said it himself. “I’ve told you these things so my joy may be in you.” Think about that. The joy of GOD IN YOU. The experience of that joy eternal starts now. And it doesn’t start with a change in your circumstances but a change in you.

Chris Stefanik’s book “Living Joy” is intended to help us find the joy for which God has created us.

His nine rules are:
#1 Give Thanks
#2 Practice Silence
#3 Love Yourself
#4 Have Fun
#5 Engage Your Body in the Battle for Joy
#6 Make Friends
#7 Rest
#8 Serve
#9 Frame Your Mind with Faith

Plus Chris has created two short accompanying videos for each rule.

You can hear Chris describe this book and its process learning more about them by going to: https://coaching.reallifecatholic.com/living-joy

While this book and its accompanying videos will be beneficial to anyone who reads it and uses the videos, our parish’s Adult Faith Formation Committee would like to invite you to consider using this book and its videos in a more impactful way by doing so in small groups.

You can form your own small group comprised of your friends and/or family members (we will provide you with a small group guide which you can use). However, we would also invite you to become a member of one of our parish’s small groups. Our parish small groups are intended to be a part of our observance of the Season of Lent (the first four rules) as well as our observance of the Season of Easter (the last five rules). Our parish’s small groups will either be in-person or by a Zoom meeting. If you wish to be a member of one of our parish’s small groups, we ask you to complete the following form and return it to our office by Feb. 1:

Name(s): ____________________________________________

Phone number: ____________________________________________

E-mail address if you have one: ____________________________________________

I would like to participate in an in-person small group: ____

I would like to participate in a Zoom small group: ____

I am willing to be a small group leader via Zoom: ____ in-person: ____
As we continue our pilgrimage — our faith journey — into Christmastide and on to Epiphany, let us look around and see our neighbors at St. Cletus, our families, and friends from other denominations; and let us realize we are part of a larger human family anticipating the coming of Jesus into our lives.

As we celebrate this awesome, wonderful God of ours during this sacred time, we know we are celebrating with other countries and cultures around the world. It is the birth of Christ that causes us to recognize that we are all God’s holy and chosen ones; we are all part of the Body of Christ.

Most of us grew up with our “images” of God, Jesus, and the Holy Family, usually depicted in some form or other as white Europeans, even though they were of a Semitic background.

This is a perfect time to look around and appreciate how others “see” God, the Holy Family, the Epiphany, Flight to Egypt. By looking at how our neighbors around the world imagine and celebrate God’s presence in the world, our hearts and minds have the wondrous opportunity to see God in new ways and even gain new insights into our faith life.

On this page and the next you will find a variety of images of Jesus, the Holy Family, and more for your contemplation. It is our prayer that these images will be an invitation for each of us to see God anew.

St. Cletus Peace & Justice Ministry Wishes You a Very Blessed Christmas
December 25

“The infant Christ ‘came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph’ (PC 5). The humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah in a stable, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son in the years to come… Joseph’s devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us.”

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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: St. Joseph, Defender of Life

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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!
Christmas 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish you, your families, and your loved ones joyful greetings at this special time of year!

This past year has been a year of consultation and unceasing prayer as we continue in this journey to make All Thins New in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. This strategic pastoral planning process is about revitalizing our parishes and ministries, and providing a more vibrant future for Catholic communities throughout the Archdiocese.

This Christmas, I ask you to pray for vocations and for all our priests and seminarians. I also ask you to be generous in your donation to the Christmas collection at your parish, which helps ensure that our seminarians receive the education and formation they need to grow closer to Christ each day. Your support is a source of inspiration for the seminarians and helps to build up the Church in St. Louis. Together, we can encourage our future priests to walk the path of holiness as they seek to configure their hearts to the Heart of Jesus Christ.

I look forward to celebrating the joy of the Christmas season with all of the faithful of the Archdiocese. Please be assured of my prayers for you during the season of Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

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:___________________________________________

Functional Fitness Exercise and Fellowship 4 Seniors

The new session of our exercise class, a 7-week session, is starting January 3, 2023, Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8:30—9:30am, $35 for the session.

For more information contact:
Marianne Belcke, MHS, OTR/L, 314-265-5231 msbelcke@gmail.com; or Judy Voss, Certified Personal Trainer, 314-330-5831 judvoss@sbcglobal.net

HELP WANTED
PSR assistant teacher needed to assist with 6th grade. Person must be willing to be a lead teacher if needed.
Contact Laura Henderson for more information. 636-255-1717 or lhenderson@saintcletus.org
NOTE:

Please print 625 copies Thank You!