John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

MATTHEW 3:1

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
Liturgym Schedule and Mass Intentions for the week

Mon., December 5, Advent Weekday
7:00am † June Lepski
   Presider: Fr. Benz
8:00am † Communion Service
   Presider: Deacon Mark

Tues., December 6, Saint Nicholas
7:00am † Bill Worland
   Presider: Fr. Whitman
8:00am † Connie Hanson
   Presider: Fr. Benz

Wed., December 7, Saint Ambrose
7:00am † Frankee Tajkowski
   Presider: Fr. Benz
8:00am † Sue Wehde
   Presider: Fr. Whitman
6:00pm † Carnaghi Family
   Presider: Fr. Benz

Thur., December 8, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
6:30am † Beverly Kaiman
   Presider: Fr. Whitman
8:00am † Marilyn Klutenkamper (all school)
   Presider: Fr. Benz
7:00pm † Our Parish Family
   Presider: Fr. Benz

Fri., December 9, Advent Weekday
7:00am † Bob Glenn
   Presider: Fr. Benz
8:00am † Estelle Stoll
   Presider: Fr. Whitman

Sat., December 10, Advent Weekday
8:00am † Ed Mangan
   Presider: Fr. Whitman

Sat., December 10, Third Sunday of Advent
5:00pm † Eleanor Rupp
   Presider: Fr. Benz
   Deacon: Walt LaBozzetta
   Servers: G. Basler and M. Basler

Sun., December 11, Third Sunday of Advent
7:30am † Cecilia Kavadas
   Presider: Fr. Benz
   Deacon: Walt LaBozzetta
   Servers: E. Poulter and M. Windisch
9:30am † Ronald Arthur
   Presider: Fr. Benz
   Deacon: Mark McCarthy
   Servers: K. Ayers and M. Ayers
11:30am † Our Parish Family
   Presider: Fr. Whitman
   Deacon: Mark McCarthy
   Servers: S. Blaha and R. Maples

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
† Thomas Sprengnether, Sr., father of John and grandfather of Bryn and Paige
May his soul rest in our Lord’s eternal embrace
Wedding Banns

There is a promise of marriage between:

Jacob Larson & Morgan Hancock - I & II

Please pray for them as they prepare

In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to “Prepare the way of the Lord.” This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at 636-255-1750 so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

Grace—gifts given without being earned and with no expectation of return—
"TEACHING MASSES" BY FR. MARK: Those of you who were at last Sunday’s 9:30 Mass as well as those of you who participated in this weekend’s 5:00 PM and 7:30 AM Masses know that Fr. Mark conducted a “teaching Mass” for all those present as a way of helping us to better appreciate what we do here every weekend and, for that matter, at any Mass we attend. (Please note that he will also do this “teaching Mass” at next Sunday’s 11:30 AM Mass.) Anything we do repeatedly we will necessarily take for granted. Look at even simple things like driving a car, walking, calling someone on the phone, watching TV, seeing, the people in our lives, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera; we will take them for granted. In a sense, it’s sad that we need something like Thanksgiving Day to remember the beauty and the miracle of all the wonders that surround us all the time. The same can be said of our relationship with God, the gift of Jesus’ death and resurrection, and especially our contact with them through the Sacraments and especially in the celebration of the Mass. Here is how the Church in its General Instruction of the Roman Missal describes the “Importance and Dignity of the Celebration of the Eucharist”: (red numbers indicate paragraphs)

16. The celebration of Mass, as the action of Christ and of the People of God arrayed hierarchically, is the center of the whole of Christian life for the Church both universal and local, as well as for each of the faithful individually. For in it is found the high point both of the action by which God sanctifies the world in Christ and of the worship that the human race offers to the Father, adoring him through Christ, the Son of God, in the Holy Spirit. In it, moreover, during the course of the year, the mysteries of redemption are celebrated so as to be in some way made present. As to the other sacred actions and all the activities of the Christian life, these are bound up with it, flow from it, and are ordered to it.

17. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that the celebration of the Mass or the Lord’s Supper be so ordered that the sacred ministers and the faithful taking part in it, according to the state proper to each, may draw from it more abundantly those fruits, to obtain which, Christ the Lord instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of his Body and Blood and entrusted it as the memorial of his Passion and Resurrection to the Church, his beloved Bride.

18. This will fittingly come about if, with due regard for the nature and other circumstances of each liturgical assembly, the entire celebration is arranged in such a way that it leads to a conscious, active, and full participation of the faithful, namely in body and in mind, a participation fervent with faith, hope, and charity, of the sort which is desired by the Church and which is required by the very nature of the celebration and to which the Christian people have a right and duty in virtue of their Baptism.

19. Even though it is on occasion not possible to have the presence and active participation of the faithful, which manifest more clearly the ecclesial nature of the celebration, the celebration of the Eucharist is always endowed with its own efficacy and dignity, since it is the act of Christ and of the Church, in which the Priest fulfills his own principal function and always acts for the sake of the people’s salvation. Hence the Priest is recommended to celebrate the Eucharistic Sacrifice, in so far as he can, even daily.

20. Since, however, the celebration of the Eucharist, like the entire Liturgy, is carried out by means of perceptible signs by which the faith is nourished, strengthened, and expressed, the greatest care is to be taken that those forms and elements proposed by the Church are chosen and arranged, which, given the circumstances of persons and places, more effectively foster active and full participation and more aptly respond to the spiritual needs of the faithful.

In my homily on November 20, I pointed out how we cheer at Cardinal games, at Blues games, at Chiefs games and the like to show our appreciation for their accomplishments, but then I asked the question: But how often do we cheer Jesus for what he has done for us and continues to do for us? I then asked: Isn’t the way we sing at Mass to be a form of cheering? Isn’t the sincerity with which we pray at Mass to be a form of cheering? Isn’t our attentiveness to the Readings and to the words the priest prays on our behalf at Mass to be a form of cheering? Yes! which is why it is so important that our prayer at Mass always be, as para. 18 says above, “conscious, active, and full.”
Home Advent Wreath Blessing

Lord God, your church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever.

Blessing of Home Christmas Tree

by parent or 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.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Immaculate Conception celebrates the conception of Mary in the womb of St. Anne without the stain of original sin. This solemnity is sometimes confused with the Annunciation, in which the Church celebrates the conception of Jesus in the womb of the Blessed Mother. While it’s important to understand this distinction, both celebrations highlight the beauty and goodness of God’s gift of new life. Learn more: bit.ly/Immaculate-Conception.
Our next Walking With Purpose Bible Study may be just what you’ve been looking for. Just in time for the Lenten Season. We hope you will join us!

Fearless and Free is a ten-lesson Bible study based on the book of Ephesians. So many of us are wrestling through the reality that life isn’t easy, even when we are doing the right things. Suffering can slam into us from left field, leaving us reeling. This study provides a firm foundation to stand on no matter what life throws our way. With an emphasis on healing and wholeness, Fearless and Free is the most personal and transformative study that Walking with Purpose has offered.

This study will begin on January 10, 2023, and run for 10 weeks with a break on February 14, for Valentine’s Day. It will be held on Tuesday Mornings from 10:30-12:00 and Tuesday Evenings from 7:00 to 8:30. For more information, please call Cheryl Borgsmiller at 636-751-6592 or cborgs4132@yahoo.com

You can also register online by copying this code.
Advent By Candlelight

All ladies of the parish and their friends are invited to join us on December 11, 2022 at 6:30p for our annual Advent by Candlelight. This is an opportunity to set aside the hustle and bustle of the holiday preparations and focus our minds on Our Lord and Savior. Beautiful decorations and fellowship will provide a delightful atmosphere for ladies to come together and grow closer to Our Lord and each other.

This year we will stream a wonderful catholic comedienne to give us joy and laughter! Our theme is from Proverbs, “she laughs without fear of the future”. We will begin with reflections and readings from the Bible followed by dining.

Please consider hosting a table of 6 and invite your relatives and friends! Hostesses are responsible for decorating their table, providing table settings, and organizing their refreshments. Individuals, please contact Sarah for a table assignment! There is no cost for reservations, a free will donation can be made at the event.

Contact Sarah Conway for reservations and details; conwaysarah42@yahoo.com

Set up will begin at 5p on December 11.
God is a mystery of humble love. It is a mystery that you cannot reason or try to figure out. You must simply live in the mystery. . . .

Ilia Delio

The Legion of Mary

“There is no problem, I tell you. No matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.” -Sister Lucia

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

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

Get the FREE Reading Plan!
Scan this QR code with your phone to learn more and get your free reading plan!

www.ascensionpress.com/ciy
This Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 pm, Nancy Hammond will present "Joseph and Mary," a beautiful time to reflect on this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Come and join the RCIA group and other interested Catholics for this opportunity to grow in your faith.

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/xFVBf5G4PrzpmdiW9 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: _________________________________________

2022 Giving Tree

It will be adorned with ornaments for gifts to: Birthright St. Charles, F.A.S.T., Our Lady of Guadalupe School, and envelopes for tuition assistance for St. Cletus students. Ornaments will be available beginning with Thanksgiving Day Mass and everyday thereafter until 9:00AM December 16. Please take any ornaments/envelopes you wish and return the gifts (with ornaments) under the tree at any Mass. Any monetary donations should be made payable to the organization. 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!!
AND RETURN ALL GIFTS BY 12:30 ON DECEMBER 18
An Advent retreat entitled "Cultivating a Listening Heart" will be held the weekend of December 9-11, 2022; veteran retreat leaders Fr. Tom Santen, Steve Givens, and Lucia Signorelli will draw retreatants closer to Jesus as the Incarnate Word of God through scripture-opening teaching and experiences of various kinds of contemplative prayer. Registration information and additional details can be found at https://marianistretreat.com/events/advent-retreat-2022/

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- **Monday:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
- **Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
- **Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
- **Thursday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- **Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
- **Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- **Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**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:**___________________________________________
December 4, 2022, bulletin
Sent: Monday, November 28, at 1:00pm

NOTE:

Please print 575 copies  Thank You!