St. Cletus Catholic Church
Welcoming Christ in the Face of Others
January 1, 2023

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found

MARY AND JOSEPH, AND THE INFANT LYING IN THE MANGER.
Luke 2:16

January 1, 2023 • Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Dr. Marc Strathman, Director of Liturgical Music:
msstrathman@saintcletus.org or ext. 1718
Ms. Rosann Doherty, School Principal:
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Mrs. Laura Henderson, Religious Education Coordinator:
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Mr. Bob Hamer, Director of Youth Ministry:
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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
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 souls of:
† Nancy Schimoler, aunt of Fr. Mark Whitman
† Kathy Wacker, mother of Joan Papin and grandmother of Allison, Meagan, Sam, and Anne

May their souls rest in our Lord’s eternal embrace
Today is the feast of Mary, Mother of God. Like Mary, may we always treasure the events in our life and reflect on them in our heart. Please remember to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 2023 so that together we can continue to bring comfort and peace to our brothers and sisters who are poor and suffering. May the peace and joy of the New Year be yours!

SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 7:30 (live streamed), 9:30, and 11:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: 7:00 a.m. Monday thru Friday and 8:00 a.m. Saturday (live streamed)
8:00 a.m. Tuesday thru Friday in the weekday chapel

COMMUNION SERVICE: Monday at 8:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
Monday 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. or by appointment

BAPTISMS:
Please contact Deacon Mark McCarthy to arrange for date and time.

MARRIAGES:
Arrangements must be made six months in advance. Contact Deacon Mark McCarthy

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:
By appointment

HOMILIES:
Sunday homilies can be found at:
www.saintcletus.org

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday thru Thursday: 8:30am - 4:30pm
Friday: 8:30am - 1:00pm

BULLETIN DEADLINE: 10 Days Prior to date
In writing or email to: secretary@saintcletus.org

PARISH COLLECTION December 18, 2022
Regular Offertory $ 19,276.50
Online Offertory $ 9,028.00
Matching $ 385.00

ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS THIS WEEK
MONDAY, JANUARY 2
NEW YEARS HOLIDAY—OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3
8:30AM SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS HALL
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING CLETUS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4
8:30AM QUILTERS HALL
10:00AM FR.MARK BIBLE STUDY DUCHESNE
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING CLETUS
6:00PM CHOIR PRACTICE CHURCH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5
8:30AM SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS HALL
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING CLETUS
6:30PM PTO GENEREAL MTG SCHOOL CAFETERIA
7:00PM RCIA DUCHESNE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
9:00AM SMALL FAITH GROUP DUCHESNE
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING CLETUS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
NO ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
12:45PM BAPTISM CHURCH
2:30PM BLAZE MEETING DUCHESNE
7:00PM LIFE TEEN NIGHT HALL
“THREE TREES”: As we begin a new year, I offer you this thought. Certainly our plans don’t always work out according to what we desire, but I think we can learn something from these three trees.

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving, and everyone would see the beauty." Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull." Finally the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill, and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me.

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter," and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest. At the second tree the woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship. When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree, I'll take this one," and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for. The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end. The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark. The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose, and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and He stood and said "Peace" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat. Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER: Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year and for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that, in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name. (www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer)
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: _____
You’re Invited:

Come to the Feast -
The Eucharist as a Meal

Dates: January 19 & 26
February 2 & 9

Time: 6:00-9:00 pm

Place: St. Cletus Parish Hall

Please join us for food, fun, & fellowship with Father Mark Whitman sharing how the Mass feeds our souls

Babysitting is available on request

Register via signup genius on the parish website: [www.saintcletus.org](http://www.saintcletus.org)
Or text/call 314-808-4513

It's Tropical Trivia Night at Duchesne!

Join us for an evening of fun at Duchesne’s TROPICAL TRIVIA NIGHT!
Dress in your tropical best!
Tables prizes and best costume will be awarded.
Wine Pull, 50/50, Liquor Basket Raffle and MORE!

Book your table today!

“There is the Music of Heaven in all things and we have forgotten how to hear it until we sing.”

St. Hildegard of Bingen
Ladies – The Holiday Rush is over!
It’s not too late to sign up for
Walking with Purpose – “Fearless and Free”

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
cborgs415@yahoo.com.

You can also register by clicking on this code!
This Thursday, January 5 at 7:00 pm, Fabian Yanez will present "The Sacrament of Baptism." Come and join the RCIA group and other interested Catholics in the Duchesne Room for this opportunity to reflect on the living waters of Christ.

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**Mercy Moments**

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
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
**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34  
**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11  
**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

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**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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There will be a gathering for Catholic artists and art enthusiasts on Saturday, January 14 at our Lady of Lourdes parish Hall in University City from 10:00 to 2:00. The event will consist of a dozen presentations by local Catholic artists and a potluck lunch. Visit [www.catholicartistnetwork.com](http://www.catholicartistnetwork.com) for more information.

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**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@saaintcletus.org
January 1, 2023, bulletin

Sent: Thursday, December 22, at 1:00pm

NOTE:

Please print 625 copies  Thank You!