2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”
- Jn 20:29

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
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
To keep current with our sick list above, please let us know when we need to add or remove anyone.
Thank you!
In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: “Peace be with you!” During Mass we turn to each other and say, “Peace be with you!” As you put your gift into the St. Vincent de Paul box (located at the rear of the church in the main aisle), you say “Peace be with you!” to those who are poor and hungry.
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: I found the following reflection on a very interesting website called youngcatholics.com. Please share this website with any young Catholics you may know. The inset is the title of a book by Pope Francis:

The readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A (the 2nd Sunday of Easter) help us reflect on the boundless mercy of God. The first reading tells how the early Christian community lived in peace, sharing with each other. The psalm reminds us that God’s love is eternal. The second reading speaks of having faith in the resurrection. And in the gospel Jesus shows mercy to Thomas, even in his doubts.

- **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ** – This is a central theme in the readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A, as it is through Christ’s resurrection that we receive mercy and forgiveness for our sins. The readings testify to the fact that Jesus conquered death and sin, and that through his resurrection, we are able to experience new life and hope.
- **Divine Mercy and Forgiveness** – This theme is particularly evident in the Gospel reading of John 20:19-31, where Jesus appears to his disciples and offers them peace and forgiveness. He commissions them to carry out his mission of forgiveness and mercy, and grants them the power of the Holy Spirit to do so.
- **Faith and Trust in Jesus** – Throughout the readings, there is an emphasis on the importance of faith and trust in Jesus. This is particularly evident in the story of Thomas, who initially doubted the testimony of the other disciples, but ultimately came to believe through his encounter with the risen Christ.
- **Witnessing to the Resurrection** – The disciples were called to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus, and this remains the mission of the Church today. Through our words and actions, we are called to testify to the reality of the resurrection and to share the good news of God’s mercy and forgiveness.
- **The Gift of the Holy Spirit** – The readings emphasize the importance of the Holy Spirit in empowering the disciples to carry out their mission. It is through the Holy Spirit that they are able to forgive sins and to be witnesses to the resurrection.
- **The Mission of the Church** – The readings also highlight the mission of the Church, which is to proclaim the good news of God’s mercy and forgiveness to the world. This mission is grounded in the reality of the resurrection and is empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- **God’s love and compassion for humanity** – The readings reveal the depth of God’s love and compassion for humanity, as demonstrated through his mercy and forgiveness. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers us the gift of new life and the hope of eternal salvation.
- **The power of faith to overcome doubt and fear** – Finally, the readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A show us that faith has the power to overcome doubt and fear. Like Thomas, we may struggle with doubt and uncertainty, but, through faith and trust in Jesus, we can experience the peace and joy that comes from knowing the risen Christ.

**THIS WEEK WE CONTINUE OUR “LIVING JOY” SERIES: RULE 6: MAKE FRIENDS**

*Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter: whoever finds one has found a treasure.* (Sirach 6:14)

**Questions to consider:**
1. Think about the root system of Sequoias—how interlocking roots among trees makes them incredibly tall and strong. Which friendships in your life spiritually build you up to be tall and strong? Which friendships do you need to cut off?
2. Why is making friends so hard in society today, especially as we get older?
3. What prevents intimacy and authenticity in your friendships?
4. What qualities do you think Jesus had as a friend?
5. How do you need to be more like him in your friendships?

**The Challenge:**
1. If you haven’t already, reach out to two to five friends as Chris suggests in the video to start a life sharing small group. Perhaps start by going through this program with them!
2. Invest. Reflect on what you need to do to invest in a friendship in your life to make it stronger, and do it!
3. Be intimate. When you connect with your friends, be intentional about revealing your heart, and asking how he or she is really doing.
This lava lamp has a very interesting history. When I first came to St. Cletus in 2004, there was an elderly couple who were shut-ins and so we’d bring them Communion each week. Often when it would be my turn to see them, they would have this lamp turned on, and I always would comment how beautiful I thought it was. The wife died first and then the husband, but, before he died, he told their only child, a daughter, to give that lamp to me, and I think of them whenever I turn it on.

The mechanism behind these lamps is pretty simple. The light bulb in the base of this lamp heats up the water in it which causes the golden flecks to circulate. Now why do I have this lamp here on Easter Sunday? It’s very simple; this lamp describes very accurately what Easter is all about.

Think of the bulb at the bottom of this lamp as the Death and Resurrection of Jesus which, like this bulb, influences the whole lamp. Think of these gold flecks as all the ways in your life that reflect God’s love for you, a love shown primarily in Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Think of simple things like the smiles on the faces of all those who love you. Think of special times in your life when you experienced God’s love for you: baptisms, weddings, confirmations, First Communions, the births of your children, retreats, anniversaries, and the like. Think of great vistas you have experienced in your life: beautiful sunrises and sunsets, natural scenes like the Grand Canyon or some other national park. Think of great works of art such as Michelangelo’s Pieta, the Sistine Chapel, the Mona Lisa, something like the Statue of Liberty or even the artwork of your kids or grandkids which you have affixed to your refrigerator door. Think of the complexity of nature through your last trip to the zoo or by your last visit to your doctor. All of these are like these gold flecks reflecting the beauty of God’s love for us as expressed especially and primarily by the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

While I am referring to the gold flecks, notice also the water in which they are suspended. Think of that water as being God’s love for us which surrounds us all the time like the oil surrounding these gold flecks. As I like to say, as fish swim in water, so we are constantly “swimming” in God’s love. As I have shared before, I like the words of St. Bonaventure that “All creation bears the footprints of God” and God’s love for us, or the words of St. Hildegard of Bingen who said that “Every creature is a glittering, glistening mirror of God” and therefore a glittering, glistening mirror of God’s love for us in which we are constantly swimming like fish swim in water.

If this is so, then where do you and I come in? Please note this little switch which turns this lamp on and off. This switch is our ability to make decisions, especially our decision to believe or not believe in the power of God shown by the Resurrection. In other words, this switch reflects our faith or lack of it. If we choose to believe, then the lamp of Easter that embraces each one of our lives will shine brightly and beautifully, but, if we choose not to believe especially when we sin, we prevent the lamp of Easter from shining brightly and beautifully in our lives as we turn it off. That is this switch, our willingness to believe or not believe.

I could end this homily right here, but there is one other aspect about this lamp that I think I need to share with you. If we look at the people who are around us who have turned their faith off, then I would ask us to consider looking upon them as one of the gold flecks in our lives. By valuing them, by caring for them, by loving them, by living in a way that shows our own lives as being like this “turned on” lava lamp, then we will possibly influence them to turn on the switch of faith in their own lives, that switch which is belief in God’s love for us as proven by Jesus’ Death and Resurrection. And, if we will live in a way that shows the beauty of our faith in God’s love, then maybe they too will choose to turn on that switch of faith in their own lives so that we together will be able to swim in God’s love as fish swim in water.
St. Cletus Picnic
May 20-21

O Lord, I know now that it is in silence, in a quiet moment, in a forgotten corner that you will meet me, call me by name and speak to me a word of peace. It is in my stillest hour that you become the risen Lord to me.

HENRI NOUWEN

St. Dorothy Gardening Group

We are having our 2023 Spring meeting on Wednesday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall.

The purpose will be a fun get-together to reconnect with each other and meet any new members. We will also discuss projects for the coming year.

Please bring a light snack to share. We will provide bottled water. Please bring any other drink that you prefer.

If anyone from the parish is interested in becoming a member of the gardening group, please feel free to join us for this meeting.

Please RSVP via email: jeaniem54@sbcglobal.net or call 636-723-3128

Thanks,
Jeanie and Jim McCoy
“I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, that you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter.”

“On this day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy….let no soul fear to draw near to Me.”

Our Lord to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

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 Masses on Sunday mornings.

For information about the legion or to submit Rosary requests

Please email us at legionofmary@saintcletus.org
This Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 pm, Paul and Nancy Hammond will present on "The Role of the Laity: So, I Am Catholic. What now?" Come and join the RCIA group and other interested Catholics in the Duchesne Room as we look to the future in living out our lives in the Holy Spirit.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. The next three weekend experiences are listed below. Sign-up now! For more information or to apply, go to wwwme.org, or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317.

5/5/2023 - 5/7/2023 - Cape Girardeau, MO
8/4/2023 - 8/6/2023 - St. Peters, MO
9/29/2023 - 10/1/2023 - St. Peters, MO

It is that time of year again. Please check your closets, basement, garage, and barn for those items that you never use and donate them! We accept all items that are clean and in working condition. We are also looking for help Sunday, May 7, to box items after the 11am Mass. Questions, contact Brian Niehaus: 314.341.5269 brianstgianna@gmail.com

Sale Times:
- Friday, May 5 — 3:00pm - 7:00pm
- Saturday, May 6 — 7:30am - 6:00pm
- Sunday, May 7 — 9:00am - 12:00pm

Items can be dropped off at the parish hall:
- Thursday, May 4 — 9:00am - 7:00pm
- Friday, May 5 — 9:00am - 12:00pm
Thank You!

From the Family of Michael E. Bell
If you sent a card or had a Mass said. If you said a Prayer or Rosary or gave one of the many Hugs. If you brought food or made a donation to his favorite charity.

THANK YOU! We are Beyond Grateful and feel Truly Blessed for the Love we have felt during this sudden Loss that no one was prepared for. Our Church Family is the Best.

Divine Mercy Sunday
Today, April 16, 2023
St. Joseph Catholic Church
(1355 Motherhead Road, Cottleville MO)
Doors open at 2:30 pm
Confessions and Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament Will begin at 2:40
Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 4:30 pm

Duchesne High School Dream Home Raffle Tickets

Dreaming of a new home or a nicely padded bank account? Duchesne High School’s Dream Home Raffle can make your dreams come true! Don’t miss this fabulous opportunity to win BIG money—and to assist the students who benefit from Duchesne’s exceptional Catholic, college preparatory education.

The Dream Home Raffle has the best odds in town: No more than 3,500 tickets will be sold, and one ticket gives you 20 chances to win BIG cash prizes! The lucky grand prize winner will receive $150,000 toward a new home from Fischer& Frichtel Homes, OR $120,000 CASH! Second prize is $5,000 cash, and 18 additional cash prizes ranging from $500 to $1,500 will be awarded!

Dream Home tickets are just $100 each. You can purchase tickets by calling DHS at 636.946.2603 or online at www.duchesne-hs.org/2023-dream-home-raffle.html. The grand prize drawing is April 28, 2023, livestreamed on our Facebook page. (You need not be present to win.)

All Dream Home proceeds directly benefit our students - so every ticket is not only a chance to win big, but also an investment that stays in the community and helps Duchesne shape leaders in mind, body, and spirit! Ticket sales end on April 21 or when they sell out, so get yours today!
**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/ Jn 3:1-8  
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/ Jn 3:7b-15  
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21  
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36  
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4,13-14/ Jn 6:1-15  
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/ Jn 6:16-21  
Next Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (11a)/Lk 24:13-3

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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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**All You Can Eat Breakfast**

"The Knights of Columbus at St. Robert Bellarmine Church (1424 First Capitol Drive South, St. Charles) welcomes you to their All You Can Eat Breakfast on Sunday, April 30, from 8:00am to 11:30am. Breakfast includes: made to order omelets, pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, juice, milk and coffee. Thanks to all those who have supported this social event/fundraiser."

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**GAME NIGHT**

Join St. Charles Borromeo's Young Married Couples (20s & 30s-ish) for a Game Night on Friday, April 21 at 7pm. We will meet at St. Charles Borromeo in the Cafe. Bring your favorite game to share and your own beverage. We will have chicken nachos. Please contact John & Zoey Plummer with any questions 636-627-1756 or ziplummer@gmail.com.

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**Knights of Columbus Council 823**

will host a chicken dinner on Tuesday, April 18  
Time: 6 - 7pm. Cost: $12.00 per person.  
Call 636-949-0222 for reservations by Monday, April 17

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**March on the Arch**

Join Coalition Life for the 6th annual March on the Arch! Come be inspired by engaging speakers and seize the opportunity to stand up for the lives of the preborn as the pro-life community makes a positive witness for life.  
**When:** Saturday, April 29 - Rally kicks off at 11am.  
**Where:** Aloe Plaza (near Union Station).  
Register online at STLMarch.com  
We hope to see you there!