

**St. Cletus Catholic Church**  
*Welcoming Christ in the Face of Others*  
*December 10, 2023*



**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

“Prepare the way  
of the Lord.”  
- Mk 1:3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

**PLEASE FIND OUR EMAIL ADDRESSES AND THE  
EXTENSIONS BELOW AFTER DIALING THE MAIN  
NUMBER OF: 636-946-6327**

**PASTORAL TEAM:**

Rev. Chris Holtmann, Pastor: [frchris@saintcletus.org](mailto:frchris@saintcletus.org)  
or ext. 1711

Deacon Mark McCarthy, Pastoral Associate:  
[mmccarthy@saintcletus.org](mailto:mmccarthy@saintcletus.org) or ext. 1712

Deacon Frank Olmsted: [folmsted@saintcletus.org](mailto:folmsted@saintcletus.org)

Deacon Walt LaBozzetta:  
[wlabozzetta@saintcletus.org](mailto:wlabozzetta@saintcletus.org)

Mary Reich or Cindy Clegg, Parish Secretary:  
[secretary@saintcletus.org](mailto:secretary@saintcletus.org) or ext. 1710

Dr. Marc Strathman, Director of Liturgical Music:  
[mstrathman@saintcletus.org](mailto:mstrathman@saintcletus.org) or ext. 1718

Ms. Rosann Doherty, School Principal:  
[rdoherly@saintcletus.org](mailto:rdoherly@saintcletus.org) or ext. 1730

Mrs. Laura Henderson, Religious Education  
Coordinator: [lhenderson@saintcletus.org](mailto:lhenderson@saintcletus.org) or  
ext. 1717

Mr. Bob Hamer, Director of Youth Ministry:  
[bhamer@saintcletus.org](mailto:bhamer@saintcletus.org) or ext. 1716

Parish and School Website: [www.saintcletus.org](http://www.saintcletus.org)

School: 636-946-7756

St. Vincent de Paul Society: 636-255-1750

Stephen Ministry: 636-255-1739

[www.facebook.com/StCletus](http://www.facebook.com/StCletus)

Twitter: [@saintcletus](https://twitter.com/saintcletus)

**Liturgy Schedule and  
Mass Intentions for the week**

**Mon., December 11, Advent Weekday**

7:00am † *Communion Service*  
Presider: Deacon Frank

**Tues., December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe**

7:00am † *Hazel Freber & Loretta Schneider*  
† *Roy & Madonna Thoele*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

**Wed., December 13, Saint Lucy**

7:00am † *Michelle Haines*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
8:00am † *Paul Smith (all school)*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

**Thur., December 14, Saint John of the Cross**

7:00am † *John Genenbacher, Jr.*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

**Fri., December 15, Advent Weekday**

7:00am † *Richard & Teresa Shriver*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

**Sat., December 16, Advent Weekday**

8:00am † *Communion Service*  
Presider: Deacon Mark

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sat., December 16, Third Sunday of Advent**

5:00pm † *Wally Blei*  
† *Bob Heuer*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
Deacon: Walt LaBozzetta  
Servers: C. Anderson and L. Pezold

**Sun., December 17, Third Sunday of Advent**

7:30am † *Jack Cronin*  
† *Jim Choinka*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
Deacon: Walt LaBozzetta  
Servers: M. Lemkemann and C. Schneider  
9:30am † *Anna Rothermich*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
Deacon: Frank Olmsted  
Servers: K. Autry and K. Ayers  
11:30am † *Our Parish Family*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
Deacon: Frank Olmsted  
Servers: L. Conway and L. Conway



Tina Adams  
Angie Arnold  
Pete Balotti  
Patrick Beckman  
Jerry Belew  
Jim Boyle  
Marnie Boyle  
Sue Brockelmeyer  
Carol Buerman  
Charlene Carson  
Kim Choinka - 1  
Peaches Conoyer  
Jeff Cook  
Gene Dallas  
Dorothy Davis  
Susan Dauten  
Jim Doyle  
Fred Dyer  
Charlene Edler  
Charli Elliston  
Emelia Emke  
Carole Ermeling  
Deacon Tony Falbo  
Therese Flanagan  
Joe Flood  
Margie Fortman  
Shari Gardocki - 2  
Mary Gillespie  
Patricia Glennon - 2  
Randy Gravemann  
Katherine Green  
Ron Haas  
Al Hagedorn  
Bella Herman  
Jason Hoag  
Erin Hogan  
Kathleen Hogarty  
August Hughes  
Kelly Sanders-Hughes  
Kelly Hurley  
Mary Ellen Jones  
Jack Kaiman

Chuck Lammert  
Marilyn Lawless  
Lorraine Lind  
C J Lindner  
Ellen Loos - 2  
Joyce Lumetta  
Joe Marzaloes  
Lisa Masek  
Barb Merriman  
Rich Meyer  
John Miller  
Norma Miller  
Ron Niffen  
Keith R. Noah  
Barb Oliver  
Louise Orf  
Sandra Perry  
Eric Peter  
Jim Pini  
Rita Prinster  
Dave Raley  
Jerry Reese  
Jim Reeves  
Laura Rehagen  
Eric Reinholz  
Kenneth Robinson  
Barbara Roth  
Ed Scaglione  
Elise Scheu  
Tim Schneider - 1  
Mark Schoene  
Jim Schoonover  
Suellen Shuey  
Andy Stoltman, Sr.  
Samantha T  
Debbie Teson  
Linda Tocco  
Doris Trupiano  
Barbara Tuma  
Dave Vail  
Mark Valenzuela  
Tom Walsh  
Dorothea Wallace  
Michelle Weinrich  
Richard Wieck  
Shelly Wilfong  
Fred Wilkinson  
Mason Wlodarski

As a fresh start and since so many of the names above have been on the "Pray for the Sick" list for a long time, we will remove all names that don't have a number behind them on January 1. Then going forward, to help keep the list current, names will be removed after one month which will be one week after there is a 4 after their name.



<b>PARISH COLLECTION November 26, 2023</b>	
Regular Offertory.....	\$14,202.45
Online Offertory.....	\$ 8,520.73
Matching.....	\$ 1,888.00



**ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11**

11:00AM	CORNERSTONE MASS	CHURCH
12:00PM	CORNESTONE LUNCHEON	HALL
2:00PM	SCHOOL ADORATION/BENEDICTION	SCHOOL
5:00PM	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	BENZ
6:15PM	SCHOOL BOARD MEETING	CALLAHAN
6:15PM	PSR CLASSES	SCHOOL

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12**

8:30AM	SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS	HALL
10:30AM	ADVENT WWP GROUP	BENZ
12:00PM	PRIVATE MEETING	BENZ
7:00PM	RCIA	RECTORY BASEMENT

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

8:30AM	QUILTERS	HALL
12:00PM	PRIVATE MEETING	BENZ
3:00PM	DAISY GIRL SCOUT MEETING	DUCHESNE
6:00PM	CHOIR PRACTICE	CHURCH
6:30PM	MEN'S CLUB GEN MTG	SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14**

8:30AM	SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS	HALL
12:00PM	PRIVATE MEETING	BENZ
6:00PM	LEGION OF MARY	DAY CHAPEL
7:30PM	ADULT FAITH FORMATION	DUCHESNE

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15**

9:00AM	WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP	DUCHESNE
12:00PM	PRIVATE MEETING	BENZ

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16**

9:00AM	KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP	DUCHESNE
2:00PM	PRIVATE EVENT	HALL
5:00PM	RCIA	DAY CHAPEL
5:30PM	ECCLESIA DOMESTICA	BENZ/DUCHESNE

**BRIDGE BREAD SALES AFTER 5:00 MASS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

**BRIDGE BREAD SALES AFTER MASSES**

9:30AM	RCIA	DAY CHAPEL
7:00PM	LIFE TEEN NIGHT	HALL

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." 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.

**ASSISTIVE LISTENING AVAILABLE**

**LISTEN TECHNOLOGIES**

**"PLEASE SEE AN USHER OR DEACON TO OBTAIN A DEVICE"**





## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

One mightier than I is coming after me.

John proclaims in this Sunday's Gospel, "one mightier than I is coming after me." Do you believe this? I would say most people don't. They are so stuck on their ego. These people even come to church, but they are still managing their own plans. I will come to Church to control God so He won't punish me. Everything has its proper place so I can be in control. As one person put it, we all live in our own private control towers.

Scripture mentions these mountains and valleys. Have you come up to the mountain yet, the immovable mountain. Is it work? Work is just killing us. We can't stand the job. Is it the bills? We just can't control our spending. Is it an unhealthy relationship? I can handle it; I can fix it. Not! Is it some pattern that we are stuck in? We keep expecting to be free, only to do it again.

Are we stuck low in a valley. Is it hopelessness, loneliness, emptiness, meaninglessness, despair, depression?

I was reading about this guy who was depressed off and on again for fifteen years. He suffered from despair and great anxiety, the inability to feel he could handle life. His psychologist tried to get him to get medicine. He was reluctant. He would only take a little for he was fearful of the side effects. He kept going in and out of severe depression. Finally, he gave up to God of trying to handle this on his own. He went to the psychiatrist and said give me whatever will work. Lo and behold they eventually found the right medicine and he has been free of the depression ever since.


Notice what happened. He finally gave up trying to control his problems. He stopped fighting and surrendered to God and His people (the psychologist and the psychiatrist), and he was healed. I can't tell you how many times I have seen people finally surrender to God and His people only to finally find healing. It's not necessarily a quick fix. Sometimes it takes time, but you realize you are not alone, and people are trying to help you. Maybe you continue to suffer, but you realize the most profound thing, God is suffering with you and your suffering is not meaningless. Everybody thinks it's a fight between good and evil and they wear themselves out when it's just a matter of surrendering to God.

John the Baptist is humble. All these people are coming to him, yet he knows that there is one greater than him. It is so crushing to the ego. When we finally let go of our ego and place God ahead of us we find that this is the way to crush the mountains in our life and fill in the valleys.

God bless,  
Fr. Chris

Coming to St. Cletus in 2024

# Discovering Christ



ask.  
seek.  
knock.

## CURIOUS ABOUT THE MEANING OF LIFE?

DISCUSSION & FREE DINNER


More information in future bulletins.

## Discovering Christ Prayer

**Please pray for the success of this event.**

Heavenly Father, today we pray for the Discovering Christ retreat that is being planned in our parish. Many plans regarding the logistics and details surrounding this event have been made, but we know that only You can determine our steps. If it is in accordance with Your will, we pray that You make this a successful event. Moreover, we pray that we honor You in the planning process. Please give those planning this event, patience, peace, and contentment as we prepare. We pray that You bless this event. May everything happen according to Your will. Help us to rest in knowing that You are the Great Provider, and You know our exact needs and desires. You already know everything that is to happen at this event. We know that You will provide and so we pray that this event will glorify You in the end. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.





**Advent  
Giving  
Tree**

**2023 Giving Tree**

Birthright St. Charles, F.A.S.T., and Our Lady of Guadalupe School look forward to this ministry each year, due to your overwhelming generosity during their times of great need. Please take any ornaments/envelopes you wish and return the gifts (with ornaments) under the tree at any Mass. **Please consider using the STP Program gift cards to make your purchases or buy them as gifts on our ornaments.** Our volunteers will gather, sort and deliver the gifts to their appropriate destination.

Please call Nancy Riordan 636-634-1757 with questions.  
Spread joy by giving to those in need this Christmas!!

**PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFTS!!**  
**AND RETURN ALL GIFTS BY 12:30 ON DEC. 17**

## Caring for Creation during the Christmas Season

*Here are some appreciated gifts you can give the earth this season.*

- **Recycle** gift wrap and tissue paper.
- Don't leave the **Christmas lights** on all day and/or night. Make it easy.
- Set a **timer** to turn the lights on and off at set times.
- Old Christmas lights not working? **Don't throw** them away. *(Away is not in a manager, it's in a landfill)*

Take them to:

### Recycle Works - Central

60 Triad South Drive, St. Charles, MO 63304  
636-949-7900 ext. 4271

Or

### Didion Orf Recycling Inc.

206 Didion Drive  
St. Peter's, MO 63376  
636-397-6060

- Get new **electronic** for Christmas? **Recycle** the old ones at  
**Recycle Works - Central,**  
**Didion Orf Recycling or**



### EPC at 3941 Harry S. Truman Boulevard

- Did you purchase a **new artificial tree** this year? Before hauling the old one to the trash bin, **consider donating** the tree to a thrift store like St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, Good Will, a shelter or non-profit organizations.
- **Recycle your fresh tree.** The City of St. Charles will offer free recycling of live Christmas trees the first two weeks of January on your regular scheduled yard waste day of the week. Remove all lights, ornaments and metal stands. Any tree over 6 feet needs to be cut in half. **Republic Recycling 636-255-6142**

*Please keep for future reference.*



## FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

"Suppers 8 is my favorite!! I'm so glad we joined. It's a fantastic way to meet parishioners and I love trying everyone's recipes. We've had some really meaningful moments with people we've met through Suppers 8." - Sarah Hagen, Suppers 8 participant since 2018

Join us for Suppers 8, where food and fellowship come together. In small groups of 8 (singles welcome!), we enjoy casual dinners in our homes, where the main dish is provided by the host and guests contribute sides or desserts. Each date and location is determined by the group and hosts rotate each session. It's a relaxed setting, perfect for making meaningful connections.

Every four months, we plan and start a new rotation. It's all about community, not formality.

Ready to join us for the next round in January? Sign up [here](https://forms.gle/4M8tpF4RJroTQY3o9): (<https://forms.gle/4M8tpF4RJroTQY3o9>) or contact the Parish Office by December 22. For more info, email Steve & Sue Schutz at [suppers8stcletus@gmail.com](mailto:suppers8stcletus@gmail.com) or call 314-973-8707.



### Advent Novena at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

The parish of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton welcomes you to an Advent Novena in preparation for Christmas. The program consists of congregational and choral singing, Scripture readings, preaching, and prayers. **The Novena will be held on the evenings of 15 – 23 December: each night will begin at 7 pm and run for about 45 minutes.** Please join us in prayer as we prepare for our hearts for the feast of Christ's Nativity, and stand alert as we await His return in glory. Come, Lord Jesus!

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church: 1 Seton Court, Saint Charles, 63303






# Sunday School Volunteers Needed

---

---

We are starting Sunday School for 3 years old- 5 years old (who haven't started kindergarten) during the 9:30 a.m. mass. Volunteers will teach our young friends about Jesus and do activities with them.

Contact Laura Henderson at [lhenderson@saintcletus.org](mailto:lhenderson@saintcletus.org) or 636-255-1717 if you are interested.



## A DAY IN THE DESERT!

**Desert Day:** I really need a day of prayer and quiet! Desert Days at the Sanguis Christi Spirituality Center of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood are just that. Come to the quiet and beauty of St. Joseph Chapel at 204 North Main St.,

O'Fallon, MO on **December 12, January 16 or February 21 from 9:15 am – 3:15 pm**. The day will begin and end with prayer. The remainder of the day is solitude, quiet, reflection, and rest. The opportunity to talk with a spiritual director is also available. Lunch is provided. A free will offering is requested. For more information or to register contact Sr. Mary Cecile Gunelson, CPPS at 636-293-8013 or by email at [mcgunelson@cppsofallon.org](mailto:mcgunelson@cppsofallon.org)



### Come to the Cradle

What: Free Nativity Display with over 1000 nativities  
Children’s activities available

Where: Spring Hills Presbyterian Church  
6247 Upper Byrnes Mill Road  
Byrnes Mill, MO 63051

When: Friday, December 22, 2023,  
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday, December 23, 2023,  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday, December 24, 2023,  
4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.



**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. Tuesday thru Friday

**ADORATION:** 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

**COMMUNION SERVICE:** Monday at 7:00 a.m. and Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**  
Thursday 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

**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](mailto:secretary@saintcletus.org)

The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord. Henri Nouwen

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/ Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_