1st SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.”
- Mk 13:33

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

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School: 636-946-7756
St. Vincent de Paul Society: 636-255-1750
Stephen Ministry: 636-255-1739
www.facebook.com/StCletus
Twitter: @saintcletus
### Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions for the week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Type</th>
<th>Presider</th>
<th>Deacon</th>
<th>Servers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon., December 4, Advent Weekday</strong></td>
<td>7:00am</td>
<td>† Communion Service</td>
<td>Deacon Frank</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tues., December 5, Advent Weekday</strong></td>
<td>7:00am</td>
<td>† Reinholz Family</td>
<td>Pres. Fr. Chris Holtmann</td>
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<td>† Marilyn Pieper</td>
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<td><strong>Wed., December 6, Advent Weekday</strong></td>
<td>7:00am</td>
<td>† Bill &amp; Nancy Hesselbach (living)</td>
<td>Pres. Fr. Chris Holtmann</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>† Our Parish Family</td>
<td>Pres. Fr. Chris Holtmann</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thur., December 7, Saint Ambrose</strong></td>
<td>7:00am</td>
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<td>Pres. Fr. Chris Holtmann</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri., December 8, The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary</strong></td>
<td>7:00am</td>
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<td>Pres. Fr. Chris Holtmann</td>
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<td>8:00am</td>
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<td>Pres. Fr. Chris Holtmann</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sat., December 9, Advent Weekday</strong></td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>† Communion Service</td>
<td>Deacon Mark</td>
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<td><strong>Sat., December 9, Second Sunday of Advent</strong></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pres. Fr. Chris Holtmann</td>
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<td>Deacon: Mark McCarthy</td>
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<td>Servers: M. Martin and X. Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sun., December 10, Second Sunday of Advent</strong></td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pres. Fr. Chris Holtmann</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30am</td>
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<td>Deacon: Frank Olmsted</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
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<td>Servers: E. Poulter and K. Yanez</td>
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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.
PARISH COLLECTION November 19, 2023
Regular Offertory……………… $16,145.67
Online Offertory……………… $11,145.73
Matching………………………. $  5,535.00
Camp for Human Devel……….. $  1,459.34

ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS THIS WEEK
MONDAY, 4
9:00AM CORNERSTONE DUCHESNE/HALL/CALLAHAN
5:00PM MEN’S BIBLE STUDY BENZ
6:15PM PSR CLASSES SCHOOL
6:30PM PEACE & JUSTICE MEETING CALLAHAN

TUESDAY, 5
8:30AM SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS HALL
10:30AM ADVENT WWP GROUP BENZ
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING BENZ
4:00PM PRIVATE EVENT HALL
6:00PM ROSARY FOR HOPE & HEALING DAY CHAPEL
6:30PM BAND CONCERT GYM
7:00PM RCIA RECTORY BASEMENT

WEDNESDAY, 6
8:30AM QUILTERS HALL
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING BENZ
6:00PM CHOIR PRACTICE CHURCH
7:00PM STEPHEN MINISTRY MEETING DUCHESNE

THURSDAY, 7
8:30AM SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS HALL
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING BENZ
12:00PM STAFF MEETING CALLAHAN
6:00PM LEGION OF MARY DAY CHAPEL
7:00PM FINANCE COMM MTG CALLAHAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
OFFICE CLOSED
9:00AM WOMEN’S PRAYER GROUP DUCHESNE
12:00PM PRIVATE MEETING BENZ

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
11:30AM BIRTHRIGHT VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PRTY HALL
5:00PM PRIVATE EVENT HALL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
9:30AM RCIA DAY CHAPEL
9:30PM 6TH GR COMM MASS/DONUTS CHURCH/HALL
1:00PM PRIVATE EVENT HALL
7:00PM LIFE TEEN NIGHT CHURCH

As we begin Advent we are called to “Be watchful! Be alert” as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to bless our lives once again. Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box (located at the rear of the church in the main aisle) will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God’s love this Christmas.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
† Jane Smith, sister of Marge Blevins
† Wilma Christiansen, sister of Judy Allen Simon
† Michelle Haines, daughter of Joy Ernst
May their souls rest in our Lord’s eternal embrace.

“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.” - Marcel Proust, novelist
Watch

Jesus says to be watchful in the Gospel. He says emphatically at the end of the passage, “Watch!” The first thing to do during Advent on this first day of Advent is to watch. So my question is, what are you watching for in your life. One of the biggest things people watch is the news. I was talking to this guy and he was homebound. As I walked into the house, all the TVs were blaring the same news channel. I managed to get him to turn off the sound in the room so we could talk. He proceeded to tell me that he was so angry. He tells me that everything is wrong in this world. He said he watched the news 24/7 and he knew everything going on. The world has gone so wrong. He was even mad at the commercials for they presented the wrong agenda. He was high as a kite on anger and its adrenaline. This is so tragic as I told you, you can’t be angry and happy at the same time. He was so bitter and angry and he was wondering why. So I suggested one thing, the one thing he had power over. Can you guess it? It is so obvious. Turn off the news and while you are at it why don’t you just turn off the TV if the commercials make you angry. I don’t think I got through to him that day. The job of the news is to make money and one of the greatest ways they draw us in is to make it sound as if it is the end of the world and therefore we must pay attention. Our enemies are destroying us and we must destroy them. It’s all about watching for what is wrong. That’s one of the constant things in our society is to watch for what is wrong.

If the Gospel tells us to watch, what are we to watch for, what are we to look for? The story of the servants and the master is a metaphor for watching for the master, for Christ. Christ is the good news! I want to share with you something that has changed and revolutionized my life. In life most people look for what is wrong, not only what is wrong in the news, but what is wrong in their life. You say this happened and that happened, darn the luck. I have all of these problems and I am trapped. It’s so depressing because it is depressing. I know this firsthand. Here’s what revolutionized my life. Someone suggested to me that instead of watching for what is wrong in my world and in my life, watch for what is right, what is right in the world and what is right in my life. Open your eyes. This is what I have come to find that the things that are right in this world far outweigh what is wrong. The things that are right in our own life far outweigh what is wrong. Have you ever thought about that. Try it on. Isn’t it true? The simplest thing and greatest thing that is right is that, my God, you are alive and that this life is just a small part of the eternal life that God is promising. I’m not going to go into the billions of things of what is right (I could). I want you to discover them. And I believe your being, in itself, far outweighs any wrongs you have done. I say this as a confessor all the time. I’m not saying that we don’t take ownership of the wrongs that we have committed. We definitely have things to work on. I’m also not saying that we don’t be aware of what’s wrong in this world, but we need to keep things in perspective. So watch for what is right in this world and in our life and take the final step. Thank God. Isn’t this what prayer could be about? As we celebrate the Eucharist isn’t that what Eucharist means, thanksgiving. This is the key to changing our attitude and disposition. Could it open up joy in our life?

God bless,
Fr. Chris
Dearest St. Cletus family,

There are no words other than “THANK YOU” to express the gratitude that I and my children have in our hearts for you. Your prayers and support for Liz, me, and our family gave us strength throughout this difficult time. Our hope and prayer for each of you is that Jesus blesses you a hundredfold for the gift of caring support you have blessed us with. May the Lord watch over you, keep you in his care, and bless you with his peace.

In gratitude, Deacon Mark

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.

MONTHLY ROSARY FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Please join us in the Daily Chapel, 6:00-6:30 p.m. on the First Tuesday of each month as we come together to pray the Rosary for your special intentions as well as those intentions that others have asked us to remember in prayer. There will also be opportunity to place your prayers at the altar in the prayer basket.

Because December is the month of waiting for the feast of the Incarnation, as we pray for healing of loved ones, we will also remember all those who wait in hope, that they may experience the joy of the presence of Christ in their lives both here and in eternity.

The next gathering is Tuesday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

“Where two or three are gathered, there I am in their midst...”
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.
St. Vincent de Paul Quilt Social

During the upcoming Advent Season, we reflect on the many gifts for which we are grateful, and the many blessings we have received. The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are thankful for many things. One of our greatest gifts is the generosity and kindness of the parishioners of St. Cletus. We would like to thank everyone who helped make our St. Cletus Quilt Social a success. By helping us you have touched the hearts and the lives of those in need within our parish boundary. Again, a heartfelt thank you!

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

The PTO will be selling spirit wear items after the 7:30 and 9:30 Masses Today!!
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.

The Legion of Mary
Saint Cletus Morning Star Praesidium

“May the Most Holy Virgin, who was the first to practice the gospel perfectly and in all its severity, even before it was proclaimed, spur us on to follow closely in her footsteps.”

St. Padre Pio

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 or call 636-946-6327 ext. 1733
"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) or contact the Parish Office by December 22. For more info, email Steve & Sue Schutz at suppers8stcletus@gmail.com or call 314-973-8707.

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Senior Clete’s — Vintage 2023

Thanks to all those who expressed an interest in restarting the monthly Senior Clete’s luncheons.

With the holiday season upon us, which is filled with activities and gatherings; we are going to delay any further preparations until after the first of the year.

Again, thank you for your interest and check the bulletins next year for information and arrangements.

Merry Christmas and God bless,
Jack Kaiman
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.

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:__________________________________________

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

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 or 636-255-1717 if you are interested.

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