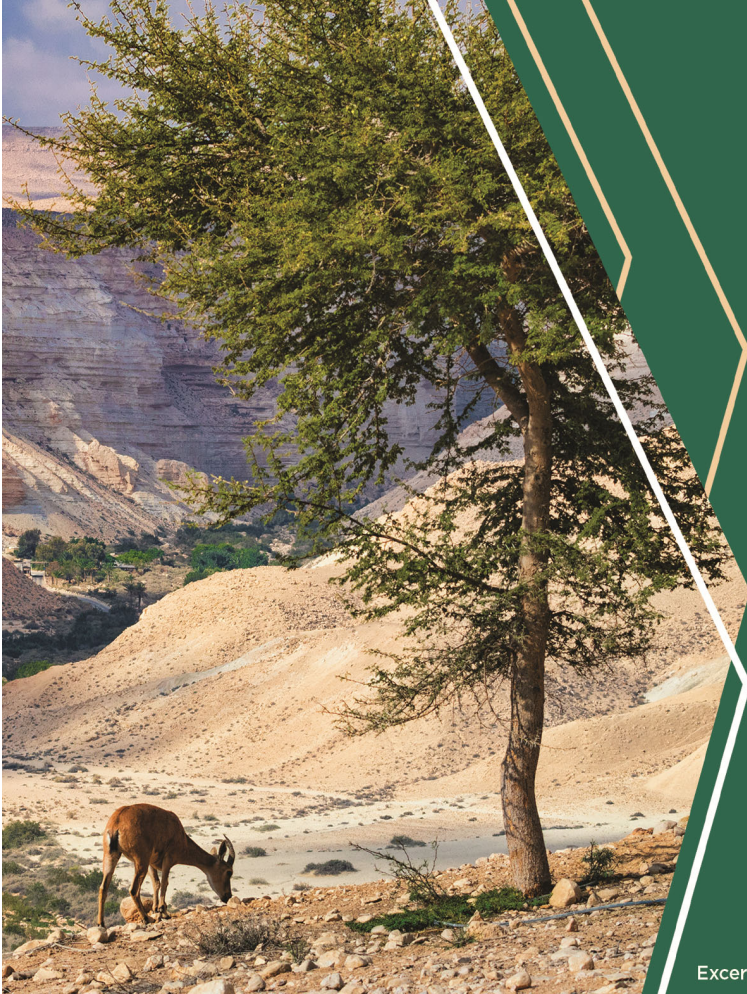


**St. Cletus Catholic Church**  
*Welcoming Christ in the Face of Others*  
*December 3, 2023*



**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

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

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

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**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 4, Advent Weekday**

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

**Tues., December 5, Advent Weekday**

7:00am † *Reinholz Family*  
† *Marilyn Pieper*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

**Wed., December 6, Advent Weekday**

7:00am † *Bill & Nancy Hesselbach (living)*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

**Thur., December 7, Saint Ambrose**

7:00am † *Angelo & Tom Carnaghi*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
5:30pm † *Our Parish Family*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

**Fri., December 8, The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary**

7:00am † *Jean Schaeffer*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
8:00am † *Beverly Kaiman (all school)*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

**Sat., December 9, Advent Weekday**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sat., December 9, Second Sunday of Advent**

5:00pm † *Violet Hodur*  
† *Michelle Haines*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
Deacon: Mark McCarthy  
Servers: M. Martin and X. Martin

**Sun., December 10, Second Sunday of Advent**

7:30am † *Joe Haman*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
Deacon: Mark McCarthy  
Servers: Adult Servers (K. Bury & J. Rogles)  
9:30am † *Our Parish Family*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
Deacon: Frank Olmsted  
Servers: E. Poulter and K. Yanez  
11:30am † *Estelle Stoll*  
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann  
Deacon: Frank Olmsted  
Servers: I. Hamer and M. Hames



Tina Adams  
Angie Arnold  
Pete Balotti  
Patrick Beckman  
Jerry Belew  
Jim Boyle  
Marnie Boyle  
Sue Brockelmeyer  
Carol Buerman  
Charlene Carson  
Kim Choinka  
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 - 1  
Mary Gillespie  
Patricia Glennon - 1  
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 - 1  
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  
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.







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**

<b>MONDAY, 4</b>		
9:00AM	CORNERSTONE	DUCHESNE/HALL/CALLAHAN
5:00PM	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	BENZ
6:15PM	PSR CLASSES	SCHOOL
6:30PM	PEACE & JUSTICE MEETING	CALLAHAN
<b>TUESDAY, 5</b>		
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
<b>WEDNESDAY, 6</b>		
8:30AM	QUILTERS	HALL
12:00PM	PRIVATE MEETING	BENZ
6:00PM	CHOIR PRACTICE	CHURCH
7:00PM	STEPHEN MINISTRY MEETING	DUCHESNE
<b>THURSDAY, 7</b>		
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
<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8</b>		
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
9:00AM	WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP	DUCHESNE
12:00PM	PRIVATE MEETING	BENZ
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9</b>		
11:30AM	BIRTHRIGHT VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PRTY	HALL
5:00PM	PRIVATE EVENT	HALL
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10</b>		
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

## FROM THE PASTOR

### 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

## BLESS YOU

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

### 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.



heartfelt  
thanks!

### 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

Birtheright 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](mailto:legionofmary@saintcletus.org) or call 636-946-6327 ext. 1733





**THE  
SUPPER  
SERIES**

"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.



**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



**ASSISTIVE  
LISTENING  
AVAILABLE**

**LISTEN**  
TECHNOLOGIES

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



## 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 School Volunteers Needed

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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 intersted.

### 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

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