God has set before you fire and water;  
to whichever you choose,  
stretch forth your hand.  

SIRACH 15:16
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 soul of:

† Debbie Beres, sister-in-law of Don Beres

May her soul rest in our Lord’s eternal embrace
In the Gospel Jesus says: “Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands shall be great in the kingdom of God.” By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you indeed put your faith into action as you fulfill the commands of Jesus.
STEWARDSHIP: OFFERTORY - THE GIFT OF SELF: Having focused on our Stewardship of Prayer and Participation (Time and Talent) back in September, we focus, beginning this weekend, on our Stewardship of Generosity (Finance). To help us with that focus, you will find below an article from Dave Baranowski, the Archdiocese’s Director of Stewardship Education, whose articles on this topic regularly appear in the St. Louis Review:

The Catechism says this about Offertory at Mass, “The presentation of the offerings at the altar...commits the Creator's gifts into the hands of Christ who, in his sacrifice, brings to perfection all human attempts to offer sacrifices. From the very beginning, Christians have brought, along with the bread and wine for the Eucharist, gifts to share with those in need. This custom of the collection, ever appropriate, is inspired by the example of Christ who became poor to make us rich.” (CCC 1350 and 1351)

The Offertory collection at Holy Mass is our invitation to imitate Jesus; to give the gift of our whole self without expecting anything in return. Unfortunately, today, I suspect the collection is just seen as a financial transaction with God.

But, God doesn't need our money, rather we have a need to give. Why? Because we were created in God's image and likeness. Just as some family members may look alike, sound alike or even have similar body gestures because of traits they inherited from their earthly parents, we too, have inherited the generosity trait from our Heavenly Father, God, who is the most generous giver of all.

When most people go to a family member or friend's house for a party or celebration, they typically bring a gift - a bottle of wine or some food to share. Maybe they order out for pizza and share in the cost. But it's not just the visible material things we bring, more importantly, it's the invisible things we bring to the party like love, friendship, joy, hospitality, gratitude and generosity. It is the combination of visible and invisible gifts that makes the gathering a celebration.

Don't you think this is an interesting parallel to the Sunday celebration of Mass?

How come we are so eager to share with each other when invited to a party, but not so eager when we are invited to the Lord’s house for a celebration? At Mass the bread and wine are already provided, how come many of us come empty-handed? Do we bring the gift of our whole self to share with God and each other? Do we bring our individual visible and invisible gifts to Mass?

In any good, loving relationship, trust is a key factor. Trust allows me to be myself, admit to my faults, not put on a false front, to be held accountable, to hold others accountable and to share what is in my heart and on my mind. This is what our offertory is to God - a covenant relationship with Him based on love, not out of obligation.

Do you trust God will provide all that you need? If so, know that God may be using you as the answer to someone else’s prayer. You may be the key to someone starting a loving relationship with Him through your generous sharing of your visible and invisible gifts.

Some of us have lost our jobs. Some of us are still fortunate to have a job. Whatever our circumstance, we are all being called is this present moment into a loving relationship with God and each other. God will use our current situation for good but we have to do our part and make room for the Holy Spirit to operate in our hearts.

The Sunday collection, the Offertory, is the gift of our whole self - the visible and the invisible.
WE NEED YOU!

School families:
Please work 3 shifts
(Service hours available for students)

Volunteer through signupgenius.com:

Desserts:
Now accepting homemade desserts every Friday from 8am-3pm.

** You can work ANY shifts, ANY Friday.

WEEKLY SPECIALS: $5.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVERY week</th>
<th>Crab Cakes (2 for $5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: February 24</td>
<td>Lobster Rangoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: March 3</td>
<td>Mac &amp; Cheese Bites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: March 10</td>
<td>Shrimp Poppers &amp;/or Jalapeño Cheese Ravioli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4: March 17</td>
<td>Lobster Rangoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5: March 24</td>
<td>Mac &amp; Cheese Bites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6: March 31</td>
<td>ALL ABOVE *While Supplies Last</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARCH 3
STL City Soccer Night

MARCH 10
Surprise Musical Guest

MARCH 17
St. Patrick’s Day Celebration

MARCH 24
Book Fair, Doodles Night, & Cletus Spirit Night

MARCH 31
Cardinals Baseball Night

Questions? Email wearestcletus@gmail.com or call Becky Williamson at 314-630-6696
EXPERIENCE A CURSILLO WEEKEND

What if you could spend a weekend that helps you experience your Catholic faith more fully and encourages you to engage in a spiritual life filled with love, joy and enthusiasm? You can by participating in a Cursillo Weekend. The St. Louis Archdiocese Cursillo will host the following upcoming weekends: Women’s Spring Weekend from February 23-26, 2023, and Men’s Spring Weekend from March 2-5, 2023. The weekends are held at the Manresa Retreat Center near the campus of St. Louis University. Take advantage of a powerful experience that will enhance your relationship with God and others. Any questions? Please contact Fr. Jim Benz at jbenz@saintcletus.org or Diane Viscomi at diane.viscomi@gmail.com for more information about the St. Louis Cursillo and for a Weekend Application.

Natural Family Planning in St. Louis

There are four models of Natural Family Planning offered at locations throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis. They include the Aware/Billings Ovulation Method, Creighton Model Fertility Care System, Couple to Couple/Sympto-Thermal, and the Marquette Model. Instruction in each of those models is offered independently of the Archdiocesan Office of Natural Family Planning.

The Office of Natural Family Planning, which is supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal, also offers other resources and events. To learn more about the Office of Natural Family Planning, visit stlouisnfp.org. The office also coordinates the Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Adoption Fund, which supports families seeking to adopt a child.

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Cletus Catholic Church

In Memory of Lynn Owen who, for many years, organized St. Cletus’ blood drives to support and save lives in our community

Sunday, March 5
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Cafeteria
2705 Zumbehl Road

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Ash Wednesday will be here in ten days! Deacon Mark McCarthy will present "Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent" this Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 pm. Come and join the RCIA group and other interested Catholics in the Duchesne Room as we prepare for this solemn penitential season.

OLD PALMS

Please bring your old palms to church when you come to Mass next weekend and place them in the baskets at the door to be burned for Ash Wednesday. If you will be unable, the appropriate disposal of a sacramental, like palm, is by burying it or its ashes in the ground.

Functional Fitness Exercise and Fellowship 4 Seniors

The new session of our exercise class, a 7-week session, is starting February 21, 2023, Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8:30—9:30am, $35 for the session.

For more information contact:
Marianne Belcke, MHS, OTR/L, 314-265-5231 sbelcke@gmail.com; or Judy Voss, Certified Personal Trainer, 314-330-5831 judvoss@sbcglobal.net

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 139th annual Black and Indian Mission Collection last weekend. Your prayerful support enables people to come to know Jesus Christ in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities all over the U.S.A. Spreading the Gospel couldn’t happen without your support.

St. Cletus Open House

We would like to welcome families interested in St. Cletus Preschool and Elementary School to attend the upcoming Open House.

Please join us Sunday, March 5, from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Individual tours are available upon request.

Please join us if you have questions regarding the school program or call Rosann Doherty at 636-946-7756. We look forward to seeing you!!
Grace Blankets was created in 2014 by a Kansas couple, Matt and Tara Jarvis, to honor the memory of their two babies who spent their entire short lives in the NICU after being born with genetic abnormalities. They hit upon the idea of providing blankets for NICU babies. Grace Blankets has provided fun NICU linens to Children’s Mercy - Kansas City hospital since 2014, and also branched out.

Since 2016, this charity has extended the blanket giving to multiple hospital locations in various cities across the U.S. To date, Grace Blankets has given over 30,000 blankets to over 25 hospitals nationally!

In any NICU setting, each baby gets a nightly crib linen change. Often nurses are scrambling to find nice blankets for these babies when the patient count is high. Generally, stark white hospital linens are used, which are great, but imagine the warmth a new special blanket would give the staff, the parents, and the babies in need! A blanket with color, a blanket with pizzazz, a blanket sent with love!

Blankets donated can be used as gifts for needy families, small baby isolette covers, bed linens for under baby (never covering) and used in NICU linen supply rotation.

Our St. Cletus PSR has teamed up with Peace & Justice to promote a blanket drive to benefit Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis. Between February 18 and March 5, we will be collecting donations of newly or newly purchased blankets from St. Cletus parishioners and school parents at all the Masses and at St. Cletus School. We cannot accept hand-made or crocheted blankets. Cash donations will also be accepted and used for additional blanket purchases.

Here are links to Amazon and Target sites with a variety of options for blanket purchases, as well as the QR Codes.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/18221JHVT2QP0?ref=wl_share
https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/stcletusnicublanketdrive

Please join PSR and Peace & Justice in support of Cardinal Glennon Hospital’s NICU care for fragile babies. Learn more about Grace Blankets at: www.graceblankets.com

Thanks for your Support!!!!

Looking for a Valentine Present – Look no further! St. Cletus will be hosting a three-night “date night” and marriage enrichment on Friday, February 17 – March 3– March 17. It will be held in the Parish Hall from 6:00 – 8:30pm. The cost is $30 per couple for all three nights. Babysitting will be available and there will be wine, beer and snacks at the event.

Each night will be a stand-alone subject from communication/conflict to sex/parenting to money/faith. If you can’t make all three, each night will still be awesome! Additional resources for the perfect marriage will also be available as well as meeting other couples striving for the best marriage they can create. Make time for your spouse this year on more than just Valentine's Day. This program is hosted by Tim & Nancy Grimmet (creators of Date your Mate) and will be something that brings renewed passion, energy and love to your marriage. Please join us!! Call or email Mike or Julie Boschert at 636-795-6076 or boschfam@sbcglobal.net with any questions and/or to enroll.
FREDERICK DOUGLASS lived from 1818-1895. He was born into slavery in Maryland, and escaped after his third try. He became one of the most active, and certainly well-known abolitionists. The 14th and 15th amendments have a lot to do with his activism. Douglass was a writer and also a supporter of women’s rights. His first book, *THE NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AN AMERICAN SLAVE*, was published in government posts, e.g., U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia and U.S. Minister Resident and Consul General to the Republic of Haiti.

BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History (4-8 years) Walter Dean Myers (author), Floyd Cooper (illustrator). Quill Tree Books. 2021 This biography examines Douglass’s motivation as well as his impact on U.S. history.

Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom David W. Blight. Simon and Schuster. 2020 This biography utilizes papers that had not been available before this time. It gives a complete and compelling picture of Douglass in terms of his personal life and his complete dedication to the eradication of slavery and the absolute need for civil rights for all people.

My Bondage and My Freedom Frederick Douglass (author) Frederick Smith (editor). Penguin Classics. 2003 This is Douglass’s second autobiography, written 10 years after his legal emancipation in 1846. He had broken with William Lloyd Garrison at this point, but is more committed to the fight for equal rights for all.

FILMS/VIDEOS FOR ALL

Frederick Douglass in Five Speeches 2022. HBO MAX. This 58 minute documentary brings to life Douglass's words about racial injustice.

Becoming Frederick Douglass: Extended trailer. 2022. PBS. This video examines Douglass’s role in the whole anti-slavery movement.

This information was provided by St. Cletus Peace & Justice Ministry, through the courtesy of the Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative (catholicracialjusticestl.org)
St. Cletus cordially invites you to attend the 6th annual
Father Daughter Bows & Boots Dance
Saturday, February 25, 6:30pm - 9:00pm
St. Cletus Church Parish Hall

Tickets—$20 per couple / $5.00 each additional child
Attendees should be Pre-K through 8th grade
DJ, photo booth, balloon animals, snacks and desserts will make this an event you won’t want to miss! Grab your finest western attire and be ready for a line dance or two!
If you would like to help decorate, please arrive at the Parish Hall at 9:00am, Saturday, February 25. If you have any questions, please contact Kortney Morton (314-368-2095) or Lauren Colyer (636-357-2025)

Yes, I would like to attend the Father Daughter Bows & Boots Dance!
Please complete this section of the form and send to the St. Cletus school office along with payment by Friday, February 18
Attendees Names:_________________________________________________
# Attending:____________                        Total $___________
(Please make checks payable to St. Cletus PTO)

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. The desert has always been a symbol for a meeting place with God. Come to the quiet and beauty of St. Joseph Chapel at 204 North Main, O’Fallon, MO on February 16, 2023 from 9:15 am - 3:15 pm and let God speak to your heart. 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 and we ask for a free-will offering. For more information or to register contact Sr. Mary Cecile Gunelson, CPPS at 636-293-8013 or by email at mcgunelson@cpps-ofallon.org

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:___________________________________________

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mk 8:27-33
Friday: Gn 11:1-9; Ps 33:10-15; Mk 8:34 — 9:1
Saturday: Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13
Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48