

St. Cletus Catholic Church
Welcoming Christ in the Face of Others
January 7, 2024



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

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 or ext. 1711

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: rdoherly@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

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

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions for the week

Mon., January 8, The Baptism of the Lord

7:00am † *Communion Service*

Presider: Deacon Walt

Tues., January 9, Weekday

(First Week in Ordinary Time)

7:00am † *Communion Service*

Presider: Deacon Mark

Wed., January 10, Weekday

7:00am † *Communion Service*

Presider: Deacon Walt

Thur., January 11, Weekday

7:00am † *Communion Service*

Presider: Deacon Frank

Fri., January 12, Weekday

7:00am † *Communion Service*

Presider: Deacon Mark

8:00am † *Communion Service (all school)*

Presider: Deacon Mark

Sat., January 13, Weekday

8:00am † *Communion Service*

Presider: Deacon Mark

Sat., January 13, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00pm † *Our Parish Family*

Presider: Visiting Priest

Deacon: Mark McCarthy

Servers: M. Nikodem and M. Nikodem

Sun., January 14, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am † *Karen Gentile*

Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

Deacon: Mark McCarthy

Servers: Adult Servers (J. Groene & S. Groene)

9:30am † *Thomas Schnelt*

Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

Deacon: Frank Olmsted

Servers: C. Autry and B. Clem

11:30am † *Paul Smith*

Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

Deacon: Frank Olmsted

Servers: E. Hockmeyer and L. Pezold



- Shari Gardocki - 1
- August Hughes - 1
- Jack Kaiman - 3
- Lorraine Lind - 2
- Joe Marzaloes - 2
- Barb Merriman - 2
- Dan Noah - 4
- Keith R. Noah - 1
- Jim Pini - 3



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
 † **Celsus Saale**, brother of Francis Saale
 † **Dorothy Saale**, sister-in-law of Francis Saale
May their souls rests in our Lord's eternal em-



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





PARISH COLLECTION Dec. 24/25, 2023	
Regular Offertory.....	\$38,273.50
Online Offertory.....	\$10,202.73
Matching.....	\$ 2,035.00
Seminary.....	\$ 6,655.00



Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box (located at the rear of the church in the main aisle) so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 8		
5:00PM	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	BENZ
6:15PM	SCHOOL BOARD MEETING	CALLAHAN
6:15PM	PSR CLASSES	SCHOOL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9		
8:30AM	SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS	HALL
12:00PM	PRIVATE MEETING	BENZ
7:00PM	RCIA	RECTORY BASEMENT
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10		
8:30AM	QUILTERS	HALL
12:00PM	PRIVATE MEETING	BENZ
3:00PM	DAISY GIRL SCOUT MEETING	DUCHESNE
4:00PM	FRIENDS OF BIRTHRIGHT MEETING	HALL
6:00PM	CHOIR PRACTICE	CHURCH
6:30PM	MEN'S CLUB GEN MTG	SCHOOL CAFETERIA
7:00PM	STEPHEN MINISTRY MEETING	DUCHESNE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11		
8:30AM	SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS	HALL
12:00PM	PRIVATE MEETING	BENZ
5:00PM	PARISH H'APPY HOUR	HALL
6:00PM	LEGION OF MARY	DAY CHAPEL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12		
9:00AM	WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP	DUCHESNE
12:00PM	PRIVATE MEETING	BENZ
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13		
10:00AM	BLESSING BAG PREP	HALL
5:00PM	RCIA	DAY CHAPEL
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14		
9:30AM	RCIA	DAY CHAPEL
1:00PM	RETREAT TRAINING	HALL
7:00PM	LIFE TEEN	HALL

THOSE WHO
FOLLOW YOU,
LORD,
WILL HAVE THE
LIGHT OF LIFE

For a New Year Resolution, I'll take Howard Thurman's reminder with me...
 "When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart."
 Taken from Terry Hersey's Sabbath Moment daily reflection.



All are welcome.

In the first reading, Isaiah describes this thick cloud of darkness that covers the earth. The good news is that Israel is to become a bright light in this dark world, a light for all the nations to receive. No longer is Israel to be about themselves but they are to be about the world and bringing the truth to the world. In the Gospel, the kings of other nations come to recognize Jesus as the King. The second reading brings it all together. The Gentiles are part of the plan. Everyone is part of the plan and no one is to be left out.

Our Church seems to be at our best when we are welcoming everyone. This is the truth. Pope Francis is really driving home the point that all are welcome. Recently he said all are welcome and repeated it to emphasize it. Are we welcoming everyone? I don't know if you think about history when it comes to lepers in this world. If you look at history, every generation has its lepers, people who were not welcome. At the time of Jesus, it was the lepers themselves. They were so ostracized and isolated from the world and, to top it off, people blamed them for the way they were. The Pharisees even used scripture to support their notions of the lepers and the need to alienate them. Generation after generation continued to ostracize them after Jesus. Throughout history we learned more and more about lepers. We began to peel the onion. What was next? What were our other prejudices. It was slavery then racism. Who are the lepers now? Who is it that you absolutely despise in this generation? Who is it that are blamed for the way they are? God creates a diverse world and it seems that every generation has to come to grips with their leper. It's almost as if God deliberately annoys us to see if we really are on the side of love. Beware it takes a lot of courage. The Pharisees are alive and well and exist in this generation as in every generation and their voices can be very loud. Don't be surprised if they are the majority. Don't be surprised if they use scripture and miss the main point, love. Where in the Gospels did Jesus ever say to discriminate and ostracize (he had plenty of opportunity). No he died rather than to exclude, even the sinner.

St. Francis described that he wasn't really free until he kissed the leper. He found that they were God's children like everyone else. Francis experienced a greater freedom. He saw how much his fears held him back from having a greater love that was all encompassing, kind of the way God loves. Who are the lepers in your life? Who are the people that you do not include in your life. We stiff arm them if they come near us. Do we realize that they are children of God, too? You won't really be free until you kiss the leper until you know them on a deep level.

God bless,
Fr. Chris

P.S. Notice that I didn't say who are the current lepers. If you conjured people in your mind when you read this and thought that I couldn't possibly be talking about those people, that is probably your lepers.

*An Epiphany Tradition
A Home Blessing*



Using the blessed chalk received at Mass today,
write on the outside or inside of your house
above or next to the main entrance:

+20 C M B 24+

Pray the following as you mark the entrance:

Lord God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only begotten Son
to every nation by the guidance of a star.
Bless this house and all who live here and all who visit.
May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart,
gentleness and the keeping of your law.
Fill us with the light of Christ, that
our love for each other may go out to all.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The letters C, M, B have two meanings:

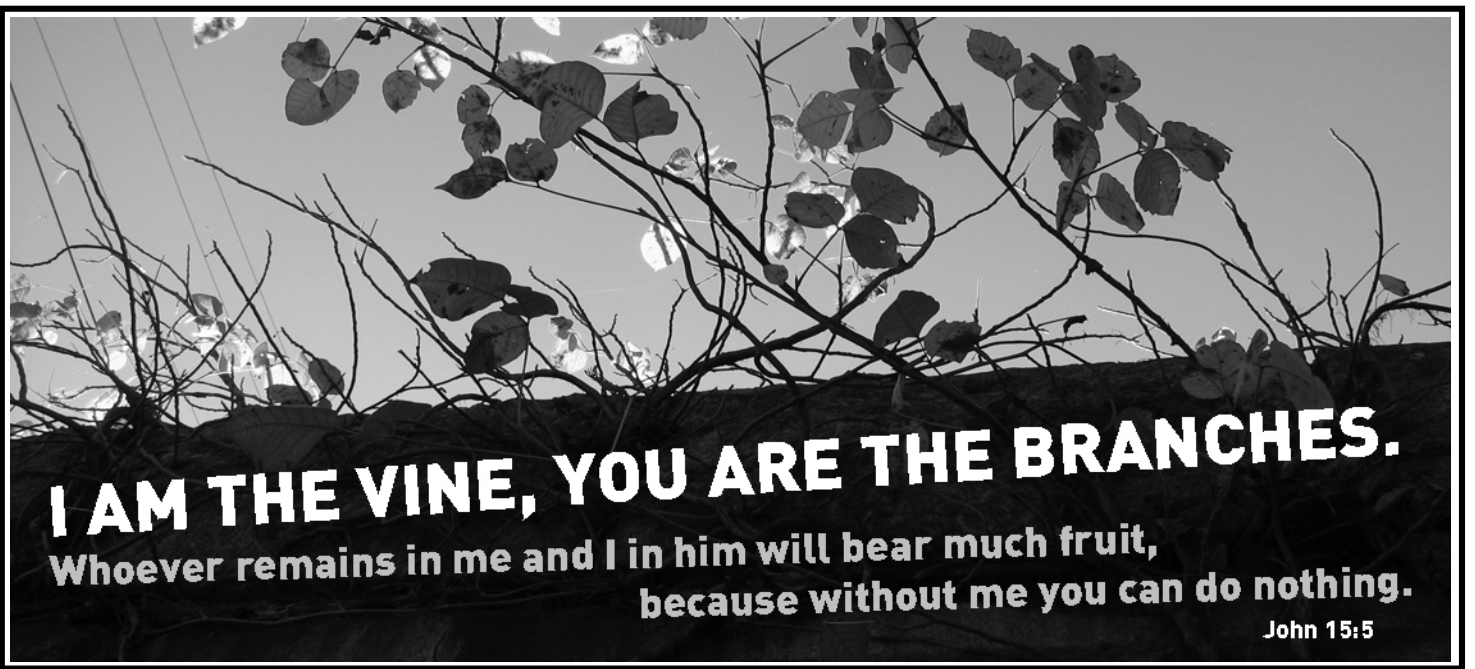
- The initials of the traditional names of the three magi:
Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.
- Or the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*,
"May Christ bless the house."

The "+" signs represent the cross and 2024 the year.

A SPECIAL
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

We are so blessed by the generosity of your parish and the gifts received through your Giving Tree program. These items will help us meet the needs of women and families through the Spring of the year! God bless you for your support of life in our community.

Birthright St. Charles



COME AND GET CONNECTED

DISCOVERING CHRIST

THURSDAYS 6:00 to 8:30 PM FEBRUARY 8 TO MARCH 21, 2024

Join us for Discovering Christ. Enjoy a free dinner, listen to a dynamic teaching, and join in a small group discussion about the meaning of life in Jesus Christ. Discovering Christ is a seven-week series that will begin Thursday, February 8 at the St. Cletus Parish Hall. And mark your calendars for a life-changing retreat on Saturday, March 9. Seating is limited to the first 125 participants, age 18 and older.

Childcare can be provided for children 3 and older

For more information, contact Paul Borgsmiller at 636-399-7268 or pborgsy@yahoo.com

Register is now open online <https://forms.gle/kP8hD7Bsp4AdiPCT6>, by scanning the QR code below, or in person in the Gathering Space on the weekends of Jan. 13 and Jan. 20, 2024



Gift Card Drive

Lighten your wallet if you are holding gift cards that you may not use!

We give these cards to our Neighbors in Need when we meet with them during our home visits. We especially like to give restaurant, fast food, and cards for Doozles. They are always grateful, and it is a special treat for them!

Any amount or type of cards are appreciated. Thank you for all you do for our St. Vincent DePaul Society!



Please place your gift cards in the collection basket during any Mass in January.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Catholic Social Teaching: **OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE:** The church calls on all of us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. A fundamental measure of our society is how we care for and stand with our brothers & sisters in need.



BLESSING BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

Collecting: **Socks • Beanies • Gloves • Rain Ponchos**

You Can Still Bring Donations **January 6 - 7**

Blessing Bags serve **those without shelter** by providing them with **comfort items** to be kept in your car and handed to an unhoused person on the street. The items we are collecting can help make life on the street just a **bit less challenging, especially during Winter**. Last year Peace & Justice underwrote the entire cost of the **Blessing Bag supplies**. This year due to cost increases and budget restrictions we could **use your help** by purchasing some of the items above.

Sign-ups: **January 6 & 7**

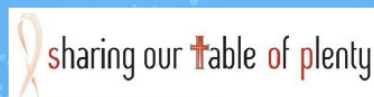
Distribution of Blessing Bags: **Jan 13-14**

Due to fantastic support from our parishioners last year, **Peace & Justice**, in a joint project with **PSR** and **Stitches for Life**, is once again sponsoring Blessing Bags. Our PSR students will fill the bags with the items you donate including **Socks, Beanies, Gloves and Rain Ponchos**

Please consider signing up for a Blessing Bag to hand to a person in need. Our **goal is to have 100 bags** for distribution. We invite you to **make a difference** for the unhoused and **see Christ in the face of others**.



PLEASE JOIN US IN HELPING THE HOMELESS IN OUR COMMUNITY!



St. Cletus Peace & Justice Ministry
 Bill Weisrock 636-284-0451
 Jim LaVictoire 314-308-8462

ONLINE GIVING

As we enter the new Church year, we ask that everyone consider increasing their weekly offertory gift. If you do not already do so, please consider electronic giving. This helps the parish with the budget process each year, and is an easy and convenient way for you to ensure your gift is received.

Instructions on how to donate with OSV

- Go to WWW.saintcletus.org
- Select **Giving** (this will take you to the OSV webpage)
-
- **First Online Donation:**

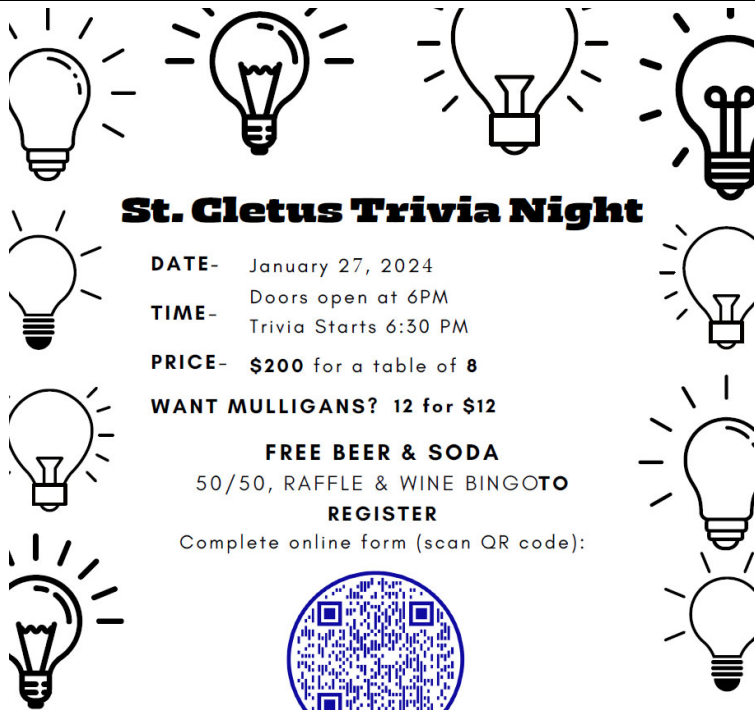
Follow the following steps.

- Select which fund you want to donate to by clicking on the Give Now spot on the fund you want to donate to.
 - Example: Weekly Contributions
- Click on the (v) for additional options.
- Enter your gift amount
(Example: \$20.00, \$30.00, etc.)
- Gift Type (either **One Time or Recurring**)
- Frequency (Choose from Weekly, Biweekly, Monthly, etc.)
- State Date you want donations to start.
- Click Continue
- Enter your Information
- Enter payment information (Choose either Checking Account or Credit Card)
- Enter Payment Address
- Click on save my payment
- Enter **your new password**
(It will be needed every time you log in)
- Click on submit gift.
- Click back to Fund List to donate to other funds or Log Out.

Editing your weekly gift:

- Log in to the OSV using your email and password. If you have forgotten your password, press "Forgot Password" and follow the instructions.
- Select your current contribution
- Edit the amount
- Save your changes

If you have problems signing on to the OSV Online giving website, please call OSV at 1-800-348-2886.



St. Cletus Trivia Night

DATE- January 27, 2024

TIME- Doors open at 6PM
Trivia Starts 6:30 PM

PRICE- \$200 for a table of 8

WANT MULLIGANS? 12 for \$12

FREE BEER & SODA

50/50, RAFFLE & WINE BINGO

REGISTER

Complete online form (scan QR code):



Sponsor a round for \$100

DONATIONS NEEDED

Wine bottles & gift cards, and round sponsors

Drop off in the school office

email: saintcletustrivia@gmail.com with questions

9 Days For Life Novena

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life Novena, 9 Days for Life, Tuesday, January 16 thru Wednesday, January 24. Get daily intentions, brief reflections and more by email or text message.

Sign up at: 9daysforlife.com.
See the flyer in the January 14 Bulletin.

St. Cletus Trivia Night – Help Needed

Earn volunteer credits on your time by helping with gift cards and raffle baskets!

Scan the QR code to sign up now.



Or fill in the form below and return to the school office:

Collect 10 Gift Cards: _____

Organize & donate 2 raffle baskets: _____

Don't want to commit to the above, but have items to donate? We'll take them! We need gift cards, raffle items, wine, and liquor bottles.

All donations should be turned into the school office by 1/19/24.



Jesus does not speak about
a change of activities,
a change of contacts,
or even a change of pace.
He speaks about
a change of heart.

HENRI NOUWEN



ASSISTIVE LISTENING AVAILABLE

LISTEN
TECHNOLOGIES


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

Volunteers
NEEDED



We are always looking for extra help to decorate our beautiful church and would love to have you, especially for Christmas and Easter in addition to Ordinary time. We especially need some younger folks that are not afraid to climb ladders for hanging banners. If you are willing to lend a hand please contact one of us. It is a fun and rewarding ministry!
Cindy's email:
cclegg@saintcletus.org

Mike & Cindy Clegg
Environment and Art Committee



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for the St. Cletus Nursing Home Ministry - to help with the setup for the Communion Service at Aspen Point Health and Rehabilitation - it requires approximately one hour - one Thursday per month. Please contact Joan Buchheit at 314-706-6402 or joanbuchheit@att.net. Thank you.

English Language Classes

Thanks to the 4 persons who generously offered to tutor English learners! Now we are inviting folks who would like to improve their English skills as a second language. I would like to meet with any tutors/learners when I return from our mission trip to El Salvador. Meantime, if any of you know how to get new/used materials we could use, please check for us.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
 Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

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: _____