St. Cletus Catholic Church
Welcoming Christ in the Face of Others
November 19, 2023

33rd SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

“‘Well done, my good and faithful servant.’”
– Mt 25:21

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: 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

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
Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions for the week

Mon., November 20, Weekday
7:00am † Communion Service
Presider: Deacon Tina Adams

Tues., November 21, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:00am † Robert Schneider & Karen Gentille
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

Wed., November 22, Saint Cecilia
7:00am † Robert & Marilyn Schaefer
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

Thur., November 23, Weekday
9:00am † Mike Sepe
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

Fri., November 24, Saint Andrew Dung-Lac
7:00am † Harold Buescher & Jim Wright
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann

Sat., November 25, Weekday
8:00am † Communion Service
Presider: Deacon Mark McCarthy

Sat., November 25, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
5:00pm † Our Parish Family
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann
Deacon: Mark McCarthy
Servers: C. Anderson and M. Nikodem

Sun., November 26, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
7:30am † Virginia George
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann
Deacon: Walt LaBozzetta
Servers: M. Lemkemann and C. Schneider

9:30am † CeCe Kavadas & Ryan Stapleton
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann
Deacon: Walt LaBozzetta
Servers: A. Poulter and L. Henderson

11:30am † Mathew Price
Presider: Fr. Chris Holtmann
Deacon: Frank Olmsted
Servers: M. Martin and X. Martin

In Need of Your Prayers

Ron Haas
Al Hagedorn
Michelle Haines
Bella Herman
Vi Higgins
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
Rose Loos
Joyce Lumetta
Joe Marzaloes
Lisa Masek
Barb Merriman
Rich Meyer
John Miller
Norma Miller
Ron Niffen
Keith R. Noah
Mary Fran Oldani
Mary Fran Oldani
Barb Oliver
Louise Orf
Sandra Perry
Eric Peter
Jim Pini
Rita Prinster
Dave Raley
Rita Rast
Jerry Reese
Jim Reeves

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
† Liz McCarthy, wife of Deacon Mark, mother of Keri Skeeters, Ryan, and Matthew McCarthy, and grandmother of Josh, Kaitlyn, Jenna, and Daniel Skeeters
† Emelia “Emme” Emke, mother of Flo Emke
May their souls rest in our Lord’s eternal embrace.

To keep current with our sick list above, please let us know when we need to add or remove anyone. Thank you!

From Death to New Life

November 19, 2023
The good news of today’s Gospel is the extravagance of what is being given us. All we need do is be faithful in “small matters.” The cost of fidelity has no comparison to the reward given. When you give the furniture, household items and clothing you no longer use to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store (1069 Regency Parkway, St. Charles, MO), you are sharing God’s extravagant love.
Love and Fear

What increases when you use it and decreases when you don’t use it, LOVE. In the Gospel, we hear the parable of the talents. Two people increase their talents, but one out of fear buries it. Notice he buries it out of fear. In my experience when I am fearful of losing what I have, I end up losing it. Fear and love don’t mix. It’s like oil and water. Either fear rules or love rules. Love drives out fear. Do we love God or fear God? We might be confused because in the Old Testament we are told to have fear of the Lord. This is often misunderstood. This fear is in reference of awe and reverence and not of smite and revenge. God is not a punitive god. God loves us whether or not we love him. We might initially come to God out of fear, but for a loving relationship with God it can’t be the final answer. God drives out fear. He wants us to enter into a loving mutual relationship that is always held up on his side. Have we discovered this or are we still holding on to fear?

God bless,
Fr. Chris
Please join us for a Catholic Charities Young Adult Christmas Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
7-11pm | Semi-Formal Attire
Open Bar, Appetizers, Music & Dancing

Maryland House By Brennan’s
44 Maryland Plaza Rear
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

For Ages 21+, Nursing babies welcome
Hosted by Catholic Charities Young Professionals

Early Bird Pricing: $45 (limited quantity)
Regular Ticket Pricing: $55
https://ccypchristmas23.givesmart.com
Thank You from Bridge Bread

Many thanks to the generous St Cletus parishioners for your continued support of Bridge Bread. Since October 2022, over $7600 has been collected in sales after masses. Of that amount, over $1500 have been in donations that go directly to the bakers. In addition, $400 of unsold bread items were taken to Mt Carmel nursing home for residents to enjoy. Bridge Bread is part of St Cletus’ Peace and Justice Ministry and is grateful for your participation!

The Respect Life Apostolate will be selling Birthright Christmas Cards in the Gathering space after all Masses this weekend and on November 25-26. Thank you for supporting Birthright and their work with moms and babies.

Saturday, December 2, 2023
6:30 p.m. on Historic Main Street

Join us for St. Charles’ 46th re-enactment of the Spanish Tradition of “Las Posadas” as Mary and Joseph seek lodging along Main Street before arriving at a shelter at First Capital and Riverside. Visitors hold candles all along South Main Street and then follow behind the procession as it passes. The journey ends at a live Nativity scene with the reading of the Gospel infancy narrative, the birth of the Christ child, and Christmas hymns sung by the Cobblestone Wassaliers and Rising Generation. Christmas carols follow with everyone joining in. What a beautiful way to begin your Advent and Christmas season! Please join us!
The tree will be adorned again this year with ornaments for gifts to: Birthright St. Charles, F.A.S.T., Our Lady of Guadalupe School and envelopes for tuition assistance for St. Cletus students. Ornaments will be available beginning with Thanksgiving Day Mass and everyday thereafter until 9:00 a.m. on December 16. Please take any ornaments/envelopes you wish and return the gifts (with ornaments) under the tree at any Mass. Our volunteers will gather, sort and deliver them to their appropriate destination. Your generosity has always been overwhelming in the past, and the organizations are so very grateful! Please call Nancy Riordan 636-634-1757 with questions.

Enjoy the gift of giving to those in need this Christmas!!

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFTS!!
AND RETURN ALL GIFTS BY 10:00 A.M. ON DECEMBER 18

Advent by candlelight December 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
St. Cletus Parish Hall

Advent by candlelight is an evening of reflection for the ladies in our community. A time to gather and focus on Our Lord and the meaning of this liturgical season. Come join us. Bring friends and host a table of 6 or simply come and bring a friend, daughter, or two. Coffee and tea will be provided; please bring an appetizer or dessert to share with the table. Table hostesses are encouraged to decorate a table for your enjoyment.

Please RSVP by email or Phone conwaysarah42@yahoo.com 636.639.0348
0 cost, a free will donation will be collected at the event.

Cory Grizzle is a Catholic home schooling mother of 10 who lives a full and chaotic life. Trying to seek God in her everyday life is a challenge and a joy. Living an authentic catholic life means calling on God for everything and seeking him out as much as He chases after you. Cory has been a regular on Covenant Network Radio’s Roadmap to Heaven and writes a blog - complexsimplicity.com. Her favorite subjects are parenting and family life from a Catholic perspective. She and her husband grew up in St. Charles, were high school sweethearts at Duchesne and live here with their children.

Cory Grizzle will be speaking to us about SEEKING THE LORD.
CARE FOR GOD’S CREATION

The world that God created has been entrusted to all of us. Our stewardship of the earth is a form of participation in God’s act of creating and sustaining the world. In our use of creation, we must be guided by a concern for generations to come. We show our respect for the Creator by our care for creation.

You shouldn’t feel obligated to get rid of every last fallen leaf in your yard this fall. Leave the leaves. They offer a lot of benefits for wildlife and your garden. The leaf layer is its own ecosystem? Many wildlife species use the leaf layer as their primary habitat. Many butterflies and moth species overwinter in the leaf layer. In the case of moths, 94 percent of species rely on the leaf layer to complete their lifecycle. If you rake up and throw away all your leaves this fall, you’ll be getting rid of important habitats for these beautiful and beneficial insects, many of which are pollinators.

Many bird species forage in the leaf layer searching for insects and other invertebrates to eat. Leaves are free mulch. From a gardening perspective, fallen leaves offer a double benefit. Leaves form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds and at the same time fertilize the soil as they break down. Move your leaves, whole or mulched, into your garden beds to protect your plants’ roots, suppress weeds, preserve soil moisture and eventually break down and return nutrients to the soil.

If you decide to get rid of your leaves, don’t throw them in the trash. They end up in a landfill where they break down under other waste and produce methane gas, a significant greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. Either compost the leaves at home or put them in your yard waste recycling bin where they can be turned into compost.

If you must have a tidy look in your yard or maintain a lawn to comply with Home Owners’ Associations or municipal rules, you can move the leaves off the lawn but still use them as mulch in your planting beds. You can also use a mulching mower to chop leaves on your lawn into tiny bits that won’t smother the lawn and also return nutrients to the soil.

From National Federation. Taken from the article by David Mizejewski, October, 2023

On Saturday, December 9, 8:30 AM—3:00 PM, An Advent Day of Prayer, The Three Comings of Christ, will be presented by Karen Seaborn at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center in Frontenac, MO. Register at www.mercycenterstl.org by December 1. Cost $80 (lunch and art supplies included). Presentations will include experiential elements, imaginative prayer, lectio and visio divina. For $150 you can include an overnight stay Friday (no supper) with Saturday pick-up breakfast.
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING - PRINCIPLE NO. 3

THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS
(Including the Right to a Decent and Fair Wage)

YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS A REALITY IN MISSOURI!!

Missourians for Healthy Families and Fair Wages (www.mohealthfamilies.org) is working to place an Initiative Petition on the 2024 ballot to increase the minimum wage on January 1, 2025, to $13.75/hr. and to $15.00/hr. in 2026. Beginning in 2027, hourly wage would be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index. The Petition would also require employers to provide 1 hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked.

WHY IS THIS NECESSARY?
¶ Minimum wage in 2023 is $12/hr. This is barely $25,000 per year, not enough for families to cover basic needs, especially with current inflation and lack of affordable housing (Poverty level for 2023 for a family of 4 is $30,000).

¶ An estimated 980,000 Missourians lack access to paid sick leave according to the Center for Law and Social Policy, forcing them to choose between working or staying home when sick and losing wages, or sending a sick child to school.

¶ When prices keep going up, it makes raising the minimum wage even more important. When wages don’t keep up with prices, workers face a pay cut and get further behind.

¶ Governor Parson and the state legislature set the minimum wage for state employees at $15/hr. and then raised it to $16.30 this year, while also preventing municipalities from increasing their minimum wage beyond the mandated $12/hr!

YOU CAN HELP BY SIGNING THE PETITION

On the weekends of December 2 and 9. Peace & Justice members will have the petitions for signature before and after all the Masses. We urge you to take a few minutes and sign. We had a great response 2 years ago on the successful Medicaid petition and more recently on the letter to our elected officials in Congress about the Farm Bill. LET’S DO IT AGAIN!
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
Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1b-1c, 5-6, 8b and 15/Lk 19:11-28
Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44 Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48
Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40
Next Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1)/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/ Mt 25:31-4

Blue Christmas Candlelight Vigil Sunday, December 3, 2023 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

As we prepare to celebrate the holiday season, we take a moment to reflect, remember, and honor our children gone too soon.

This event is being sponsored by Angel Moms Over St. Louis.

Led by Lay Marianist Retreat Facilitator and Angel Mom, Diana Gorham with music provided by Jim Ford and Rich Young. Diana will lead us in reflection and Jim and Rich will lead us in song, including one that Jim wrote to honor all mothers and fathers who have lost a child.

Please bring a photo of your child/children to be displayed on our Memorial Table as we light candles in remembrance of them.

There is no charge for this event, but please let us know if you plan to attend. Contact dgangel-mom@yahoo.com with questions or to RSVP.