

Saint Cecilia Church

Rectory: 170 Mechanic Street Leominster, Massachusetts

Telephone (978) 537-6541 / 537-6542 / 537-6543

Parish Website: stceciliachurch.net / Like St Cecilia's Church on Facebook

Parish Office Hours are Monday thru Thursday 9 am - 5 pm and Friday 9 am - 4 pm

Religious Education (C.C.D) Office Telephone (978)537-5596

Bingo Telephone: (978)537-5596

July 26, 2020 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Vigil Masses: 4:00 P.M.

Sunday Masses: 7:00, 9:45, and 11:15 A.M.

Weekday Masses (Wednesday-Friday): 6:30 A.M.

Holy Day Masses: As Announced In Bulletin

Confessions (for safety instead of the confessionals we will use the room adjacent to the bathroom in the back of the church by the Mechanic St. entrance, please wear face mask):

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 6:30 P.M.

Saturdays, 3:00 – 3:30 P.M.

Baptisms:

Please call the rectory in advance to schedule baptismal instruction.

Marriages:

Couple should contact the rectory at least one year in advance. A marriage preparation program is required.

Rev. José A. Rodríguez
Administrator

Rev. Mateus Souza
Associate Pastor

Deacon Ronald J. Aubuchon
Deacon Robert S. Connor, Jr.

Mrs. Paula Doucet
Director of Religious Education

Mr. David M. Lasky
Organist



Mass Intentions

Saturday	July 25	Vigil Masses	Mass on pg. 246
4:00 p.m.	Robert Hawkins (3rd anniv.) by Kelley & Kylie		
Sunday	July 26	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass on pg. 246
7:00 a.m.	Paul J. Roy by the Bunko Squad		
9:45 a.m.	Deceased members of the Ladies of St. Anne by the Ladies of St. Anne		
11:15 a.m.	James & Lucille Fernandes by the family		
Monday	July 27	Weekday	Mass on pg. 251
No Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30 a.m. & St. Leo's 8:30 a.m.			
Tuesday	July 28	Weekday	Mass on pg. 251
No Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30 a.m. & St. Leo's 8:30 a.m.			
Wednesday	July 29	St. Martha	Mass on pg. 252
6:30 a.m.	Marcel Guillemette by Pauline Guillemette		
6:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Confessions		
Thursday	July 30	St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor	Mass on pg. 252
6:30 a.m.	Joseph Desilets by last will		
Friday	July 31	St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest	Mass on pg. 256
6:30 a.m.	Henry L. Allard (30th day) by Kevin & Michele Mack, Simard's		
Saturday	August 1	St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor	Mass on pg. 257
No Morning Mass			
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Confessions		
		<u>Vigil Mass</u>	<u>Mass on pg. 260</u>
4:00 p.m.	Rosalie Chillemi (anniv.) by her family		
	Christine Gallant (15th anniv.) by her loving family		
Sunday	August 2	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass on pg. 260
7:00 a.m.	Roger LeBlanc (9th anniv.) by the family		
9:45 a.m.	Gary Cormier by Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gariepy		
11:15 a.m.	Theresa Doucet by her husband & family		



OUR LADY, HEALTH OF THE SICK, PRAY FOR US

Please pray for those who are ill, especially:
Paul Aubuchon, Claire Babineau, Howard Barnaby,
Anselma Geronimo, Norman LeBlanc,
Bob Taylor and Job Turini.

If you know someone who needs prayers, call the rectory or email us at office@stceciliachurch.net and we will add them to our list for a month.



A Message From Fr. Mateus

In this Sunday's Gospel, the Lord makes two beautiful comparisons with the Kingdom of Heaven: The Kingdom is like a treasure hidden in the field and like a pearl of great value. An important detail that we cannot overlook is the fact that Jesus addresses these words, not to the crowds, as it is written in the Lectionary, but to the disciples. St. Matthew makes that very clear when he writes a few verses before that Jesus left the crowd and went into the house where his disciples gathered around him. Jesus, who spoke to the people with parables, explains everything clearly and openly to his disciples who followed him closely, since they have already started to believe and to know Him in intimacy. It is for this reason that after making the two comparisons mentioned above, He asks the disciples: "Do you understand all these things?", who respond to Him without delay: "Yes, Lord".

Those who approach Christ with a sincere heart and let themselves be enlightened by faith, become capable to see the Lord's presence in every passage of the Sacred Scriptures; they see Him hidden in the whole of the Old Testament, as a treasure buried in the field, and they recognize Him as a jewel of inestimable value, for which it is worth giving everything with joy.

Let us ask Him today for the gift of faith and the grace of having Him always close at hand, as an intimate friend, so that we can say one day with Saint Paul: "In fact, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ"(Phil 3: 8). Let us also make the purpose this week to dedicate a little more time to personal prayer, in which we have the joy of meeting with the One who is entitled to our love and our continuous attention.

May God bless you!

Fr. Mateus

A Do It Yourself Retreat...

Fr. José would like to invite you to join him in doing this retreat with the comfort of being at home. After the 33 days there is a consecration to the Blessed Mother. Our target is to begin on Thursday, August 6, and to culminate with the consecration on Tuesday, September 8, the Feast of the Birth of Mary. Among the resources needed for the retreat, there is a book titled "33 Days to Morning Glory". Some of you may already have the book, but if you do not have it, we will be placing an order. Please learn more about it by searching online. If you are interested in being part of this group, please call the office 978-537-6541 and let us know. A great way to pray and reflect together while keeping our distance!



The Sympathies of the parish community
are extended to the family and friends of

Darleen M. Siegel and

Maurice J. Goguen

whose Funeral Services were
held recently. Please remember
them in your prayers.



Collection Report

7/19 Weekly Stewardship \$5,352.65
(this includes many makeup envelopes
and on-line donations)

Pieta-Worcester

Pieta is an ongoing support group for bereaved parents. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is welcome to attend. Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at St. George Church, 40 Brattle St. The next meeting will be held **Aug.10 at 7 p.m.** in the church hall.

For more information, please call
Terry Gentile at 508-284-0796 or
Sue Stevens at 508-852-4887, or email pieta3@gmail.com.



2020 Partners in Charity....Envision Faith in Action!

Thank you to those who made a gift and a special thank you for those who gave for the first time. Your gift will help us in reaching our parish goal. **To date we have raised \$35,006.** However, we need the support of all members of St. Cecilia Parish if we are to be successful in reaching our parish goal of \$50,000. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge text giving is hands down the easiest and most secure way to give. If you know how to send a text message, you can make a gift to Partners in Charity in seconds on your phone. Best yet, our parish St. Cecilia will receive credit! Text the word donate to 84576. You can also make your gift by filling out a commitment pledge envelope which you can pickup on the table by the church entrance or visit partners-charity.net. Thank you for your continued support!

One very grateful recipient who would not be where he is today if it weren't for Partners in Charity.



Responding to a call from God

"Hello everyone. I'm Peter Bui, a seminarian studying at Catholic University's Theological College preparing to serve in the Diocese of Worcester. I'm blessed to be a seminarian intern this summer at St. Joseph Parish in Charlton. I just want to say **thank you** for giving me and my fellow seminarians the opportunity to not just study, but to prayerfully respond to the call from Jesus Christ to serve the people of Worcester as a diocesan priest. These times are certainly making it an experience I will never forget!"

First Holy Communion



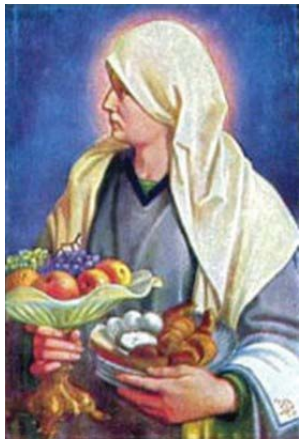
Congratulations to the children who received the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time on June 28th. Although it occurred later than usual and it was warm and the children had to wear masks they did a great job assisting in the Mass in the ways that they could. May it be the first of many times to help them grow in faith, love and in friendship with Jesus.

Thank goodness for the many stairs. We were able to space the children far enough away from each other to take a quick group picture!



Top Row: Shawn Taylor & (his sister) Layla Cucchi, Fr. Mateus & Logan Gibbons
Middle Row: Julie McQuaid, Irelynn David & Marita Ramey
Bottom Row: Timothy Thomas, Lucas Vincent & Kayla Wallach

Thanks to all who contributed in making it a special day for them to remember!



St. Martha, Disciple of the Lord – Feast Day this Wednesday, July 29

From St. Martha's diligence, we learn not to allow ourselves to be so overcome by daily duties that we neglect love; from her profession of faith we learn that life in God makes us experience wonders that we could not believe possible.

We learn about Saint Martha from the Gospels. She was from Bethany, a village a few kilometers from Jerusalem. The sister of Lazarus and Mary, she was considered diligent and meticulous; she was certainly one of the first to believe in Jesus. The Lord was often a guest in her home, especially during the time of His preaching in Jerusalem.

Saint Luke especially is able to "draw us a picture" of St Martha, describing her daily life. In his Gospel, relating one time when Jesus was visiting His friends in Bethany, the Evangelist writes: "As they continued their journey He entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed Him. She had a sister

named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to Him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to Him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.' The Lord said to her in reply, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.'"

The Master helps her to understand that even praiseworthy labour can risk obscuring the interior life. It is a warning that causes one to reflect on how important it is to nourish the spirit, to listen to the Word of God, because it is the Word of God that gives meaning to our daily activities. Nonetheless, on account of her admirable dedication to doing the work necessary to offer a guest a comfortable respite, the Church recognizes Martha as a model of industriousness.

And so Martha and Mary are serve respectively as examples of the active and the contemplative life; the life of external activity and the life of prayer. In the life of a Christian, neither should be lacking; activity and contemplation should be seen as complementary, and not opposed to one another.

Martha's profession of faith

Saint Martha has also left us a strong witness of faith. We see, in her response to Jesus' questions after the death of her brother Lazarus, a total belief, a faith that does not hesitate, does not doubt. Martha has complete confidence in God, even in the face of what seems impossible on a human level: "When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet Him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [But] even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.'" It is already an extraordinary profession of faith; but the colloquy between Martha and Jesus continues. And from this simple woman of Bethany, we come to understand what it means to believe in Jesus Christ: "Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise.' Martha said to Him, 'I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.'" It is the essence of Christianity; Martha, in her answer, condenses the whole of the faith into a simple confession of belief, which in turn is the faith of every believer; a simple answer in which every Christian can recognize the meaning of life.

The origins of her liturgical memorial

Tradition tells us that, after the first persecutions of Christians, Saint Martha, with Mary, and Lazarus, and other disciples, left their own land and went to France, arriving in Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, in Provence, where they brought the Christian faith. The liturgical memorial of Saint Martha was begun by Franciscans, in 1262, who celebrated her feast on 29 July, eight days after the feast of her sister, St Mary Magdalene. In Bethany (now known as El-Azariyeh, "the place of Lazarus"), one can find the tomb of Lazarus, as well as a sanctuary built upon the remains of Byzantine and Crusader structures -- themselves constructed on top of a pre-existing structure. This is believed to be the house of Martha. The church, with its sanctuary in the form of a Greek-cross, is embellished with beautiful mosaics, that portray the episodes related in the Gospel that refer to Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.

Watch the Mass on CatholicTV

During this difficult time, CatholicTV wants to ensure that all Catholics have access to the Mass and other vital prayer resources. You can watch daily and Sunday Masses on **WatchtheMass.com**, and you can find other prayers like the Divine Office, the Rosary, and more on **CatholicTV.com**.



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