

# Saint Cecilia Church

Rectory: 170 Mechanic Street Leominster, Massachusetts

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

Parish Website: [stceciliachurch.net](http://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

**August 2, 2020 - Eighteenth 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

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>August 1</b>	<b>Vigil Masses</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 260</b>
4:00 p.m.	Rosalie Chillemi (anniv.) by her family Christine Gallant (15th anniv.) by her loving family		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 2</b>	<b>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 260</b>
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		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>August 3</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 264</b>
	No Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30 a.m. & St. Leo's 8:30 a.m.		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>August 4</b>	<b>St. John Vianney, Priest</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 265</b>
	No Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30 a.m. & St. Leo's 8:30 a.m.		
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>August 5</b>	<b>The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 267</b>
6:30 a.m.	Lien (Theresa) Le by her family		
6:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Confessions		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>August 6</b>	<b>The Transfiguration of the Lord</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 268</b>
6:30 a.m.	Robert F. Dube, Sr. & Wilma Dube Brideau by their children		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>August 7</b>	<b>St. Cajetan, Priest</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 269</b>
6:30 a.m.	Fr. Robert D. Bruso (30th day) by St. Cecilia Parish		
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>August 8</b>	<b>St. Dominic, Priest</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 270</b>
	No Morning Mass		
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Confessions		
	<b>Vigil Mass</b>		<b>Mass on pg. 272</b>
4:00 p.m.	Robert Hawkins (3rd anniv.) by Aggie, Derek & Kathy Eloi Richard (3rd anniv.) by Yvette & children		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 9</b>	<b>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 272</b>
7:00 a.m.	Theresa St. Pierre by her family		
9:45 a.m.	Paul Pirro by Pauline Sala		
11:15 a.m.	Jeanette (14th anniv.) & Joe (9th anniv.) Miller by Karen & Chris		



### 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 and Bob Taylor.**

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



### A Message From Fr. Mateus

My dear brothers and sisters,

In the miracle of the multiplication of loaves we can see a very clear allusion to that famous Exodus episode when God feed his people with manna. In fact, just like the people of Israel who was wandering through the desert towards the promised land, we also are pilgrims in this world. We are headed to our heavenly homeland and, until we get there, we need to be sustained and strengthened by the bread of life. Our existence on this earth, in fact, is nothing more than a crossing – a Passover - and we can only receive the food we need to reach the end of the journey from those to whom the Lord said: "Give them some food yourselves", that is to say, the priests: the only ones capable of making the sacrament of the Eucharist. In these words, then, we see what the main mission of a priest consists of: feeding with the Body of Christ those whom they gave birth in Baptism and healed in Confession.

The Lord has given to those who participate in his priesthood the task of feeding the faithful with food for the journey - the viaticum - so they will not faint as they go to the Father's house. However, for His bread, food for the soul, to be a true spiritual meal and to produce its full effect in us, we must receive it with the appropriate provisions and, above all, with a living faith filled with adoration and gratitude for the one who, although hidden under the sacramental species, is really present in them, as true God and true Man, with His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

Let us therefore try with all our efforts to make of our communion an intimate and fruitful encounter with the Risen One. Let us not waste the time when we have Him inside of us with distractions and futile conversations. Gathered and prostrate at His feet, let us give Him the proper thanksgiving and let ourselves be burned by the fire of His Eucharistic Heart.

I would like to finish this message with a special note of thank you and congratulations to our beloved bookkeeper Judy Garipey who recently announced her retirement. I enjoyed working with her during her time here, and I consider her not only a valuable asset to our Parish but an enjoyable presence in the office, as well. While she will be missed by all of us at St. Cecilia's, she certainly deserves her retirement. Judy's hard work and diligence have greatly benefited our Parish. and I hope that the remaining employees here will continue to follow her stellar example. Her contributions to our overall daily operation of the finances with the guidance she provided will be sorely missed. It has always been my pleasure to work with her. So, while I am saddened to see her go, I am confident that she will find the same success and happiness in retirement that she experienced during her time here.

I wish her the best in her future endeavors. Retirement will surely offer her many new opportunities, which I know she will embrace wholeheartedly, just as she did at St Cecilia's. Judy! Please keep in touch, and visit often if you find that you have the time. I hope you have a fun and fruitful retirement!

God bless you always!

Fr. Mateus



It's no surprise that due to the pandemic there is a lot of questions and concerns this year as we look to starting school this fall. You might have guessed that we are looking at what the Leominster Public school system decision will be to help guide us in our decisions. This week we will be meeting your children's catechists (teachers) to explore together our options and comfort levels. After meeting with them don't be surprised to see a Flocknote email looking to explore your thoughts, opinions and comfort levels.

Feel free to reach out to me at anytime with thoughts, questions or concerns by calling the rectory at 978.537.6541 or via email [pd@stceciliachurch.net](mailto:pd@stceciliachurch.net).

Hope that you and your continue to be safe!



**The Sympathies** of the parish community are extended to the family and friends of **Norman J. LeBlanc**

whose Funeral Mass was held recently.  
Please remember him in your prayers.

#### **Collections Report** *(includes online donations)*

7/26 Weekly Stewardship \$5,231.84

July Church Maintenance: \$1,044.

Peter's Pence: \$572.

Your continued support of our Parish is greatly needed and deeply appreciated.



*In today's Gospel "Jesus said to them, 'There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves'." (Matthew 14:16)*

This is what Jesus said right before he fed the five thousand men, not counting women and children with two fish and five loaves. How often do we really place our trust in Jesus when the situation looks grim? With Jesus, no gift is too small or insignificant when offered with love. But, we have to do our part. We should trust that Jesus will provide all that we need. We need to believe that Jesus has a better plan in store for us.

*How might we do that in our lives? Please consider donating to St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Cecilia's Parish. With your donations they have been able to provide food, emergency shelter, rental assistance, gas money, heating expenses, and aid in avoiding utility shut-off as well as several other services to individuals and families with children in our area. You will see donation boxes at each entrance to the church.*

## 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!



## 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 \$36,756.** 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](http://partners-charity.net). Thank you for your continued support!

***One very grateful recipient who would not be able to assist so many if it weren't for Partners in Charity.***



## Serving people in need on the fringe

"My name is Maydee Morales and I am the Director of Emergency services and food pantries at our 4 Regional Offices of Catholic Charities located throughout Worcester County. We have seen the demand for assistance double and even triple for food, diapers and aid in order to avoid going hungry or becoming homeless. Let me offer a big **thank you** to everyone who supports Partners in Charity so that we can respond to keep these families and individuals in safe, stable homes!"



**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](mailto:pieta3@gmail.com).



Diocese of Worcester  
Office of the Bishop  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

July 31, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

“Restore the Church – Build the Future” is the theme for the **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE)** which will be taken up in our diocese on the weekend of August 9. Your donation supports strengthening Catholic education, seminary formation and development of new lay leaders in 28 countries.

Around the world, women who face unplanned pregnancies or who have experienced abortion or miscarriage suffer psychological stress. They need material and emotional support to help them to heal. This reality is especially true in Eastern Europe, where for decades, the Soviet system proposed abortion as a method of birth control. Today in this developing region of the world, many pregnant women face difficult financial situations, are abandoned by partners and family members, and confront other hardships that compound their circumstances. In the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, however, women who previously would have been alone and vulnerable in such times now have access to assistance and support when they face challenging pregnancies or losses.

Since 2014, Crisis Pregnancy Center has provided a wide range of long-term help to hundreds of women: psychological counseling, job search assistance, training in infant care, life skills such as budget management, and group therapy for women who have experienced miscarriages and lost babies. Where few government resources are available to support these kinds of services, local organizations — with the help of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE) — are accompanying the most vulnerable women and helping them to choose life, even in their time of greatest need.

For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee). I ask that you keep these programs in your prayers and that we join our fellow Catholics in the United States in contributing generously to this collection. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

With every prayerful best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

# 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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