

Saint Cecilia Church

Rectory: 170 Mechanic Street Leominster, Massachusetts

Telephone (978) 537-6541

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

September 27, 2020 - Twenty-Sixth 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

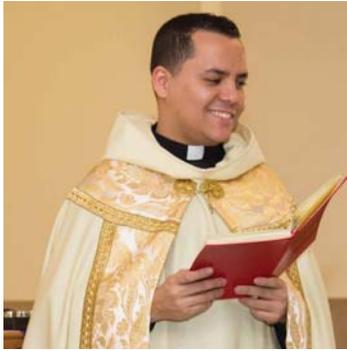
Saturday	September 26	Vigil Masses	Mass on pg. 120
4:00 p.m.	Rita Plourde (5th anniv.) by Carol, Wendy, Kim & Lena		
Sunday	September 27	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass on pg. 120
7:00 a.m.	Jennie Terrell (5th anniv.) by William & Rachel Terrell		
9:45 a.m.	Madeline Girouard (5th anniv.) by the family		
11:15 a.m.	Mark (22nd anniv.) & Cathy (12th anniv.) Fortier by Mom & Dad		
Monday	September 28	St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyrs	Mass on pg. 125
No Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30 a.m. & St. Leo's 8:30 a.m.			
Tuesday	September 29	St. Michael, St. Gabriel & St. Raphael, Archangels	Mass on pg. 125
No Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30 a.m. & St. Leo's 8:30 a.m.			
Wednesday	September 30	St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor	Mass on pg. 127
6:30 a.m.	Santos Pedroza (25th anniv.) by the family		
6:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Confessions		
Thursday	October 1	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor	Mass on pg. 129
6:30 a.m.	Laurie LeBlanc by his wife & children		
Friday	October 2	The Holy Guardian Angels	Mass on pg. 130
6:30 a.m.	Adrienne Murray by Sam & Pat Piccicuto		
Saturday	October 3	Weekday	Mass on pg. 133
No Morning Mass			
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Confessions		
		<u>Vigil Mass</u>	<u>Mass on pg. 134</u>
4:00 p.m.	Eugene Lemire (33rd anniv.) & Marguerite (17th anniv.) by their children Deceased members of the Plourde & Brow families by their families		
Sunday	October 4	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass on pg. 134
7:00 a.m.	Raymond Gould (4th anniv.) & Vivian Gould (10th anniv.) by Mr. & Mrs. Cochlin		
9:45 a.m.	Victor Albert (1st anniv.) by his family		
11:15 a.m.	Eric Scott Doucette (22nd anniv.) by the family		

Our Lady, Health of the Sick, Pray For Us

Please pray for those who are ill, especially:
**Paul Aubuchon, Claire Beaudoin, Howard Barnaby,
 Marie Cyr, John Gallant, Anselma Geronimo,
 Bob Taylor and Riley Watts.**

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

Dear friends of St. Cecilia, Happy Fall! I have to admit that Summer is my favorite season of the year, so I'm not too thrilled about the fact that it is over. In fact, time is flying! I can't believe that next week is already October. In past years, at this point we would be getting ready for our Traditional Christmas in Acadia Parish Fair. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, our Fair will not be celebrated in the way we are used to. Other than our Flea Market, we are still discussing options for our traditional French-Canadian dishes that we all love and that are an essential part of our Fair. As you know, the preparation of those dishes requires a lot of people, so before we make any decision we want to make sure that safety comes first. Hopefully we will have good news for November.

Despite all that, I'm so happy that our reopening process is going well and all those involved in our ministries are safe. That being said, I want to first acknowledge and thank all the parishioners who have been working tirelessly these past couple of months in preparation for our Indoor Flea Market. Organizing and screening hundreds of donations and displaying them so nicely over 6,000 sq. ft. requires a lot of love and dedication. Thank you very much to all of our amazing parishioners. Please make sure to stop by next Friday (October 2) and Saturday (October 3) between 10am and 4pm at the parish center to check out their wonderful work.

I'm also very excited that our in person Religious Education classes also resume this weekend. I want to extend a thank you and a blessing over Paula Doucet and our Catechists for their superb job. We wouldn't be able to resume in person classes without your commitment. May the Lord be with them and our children and parents in this new catechetical year.

More exciting news! Did you know that there are parishioners who help with the cleaning of the sacred spaces in our Church? Every two weeks, Anne-Marie Bernard with the Ladies of St. Anne have been helping us to keep our sacristy, sanctuary and some other areas tidy and clean in the past years. They are finally ready to resume this beautiful ministry now that the Church is open again. Please give us a call if you are willing to join them. Remember what the Scriptures say: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Those gestures that we see happening in our Parish Community is a perfect witness of what St. Paul says: "the body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." We are glad that you are here! Thank you.

In today's Gospel, Our Lord continues another controversy with the chief priests and the elders of the people. Mounted on a donkey, Christ had recently entered Jerusalem and, having arrived at the Temple, he drove out all who were engaged in commerce in that sacred place. Now, after being confronted and asked, by what authority he was doing these things, Jesus proposes to the chief priests the parable of the two sons. John the Baptist, preaching a baptism of conversion for the remission of sins, had come to lead the people back to the path of justice. Tax collectors and prostitutes, in fact, believed in him and were converted; the chief priests, however, were not even touched with repentance to believe his words. Therefore, the Lord reproaches them: "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you!", For you are like the second son of the parable: you know what you must do, you even say that you want to work: "Yes, father", but you remain inert, lazy. Prostitutes and tax collectors,

however, at first refuse to work in the vineyard; but then, touched by repentance, acquiesce to the Father's will.

These two groups – prostitutes and tax collectors - here symbolize two types of people: on the one hand, the luxurious ones, who, numbed by their laziness for spiritual things, end up worshipping their own bodies and the pleasures they can obtain from it; on the other, the greedy, who have forgotten about God, give themselves up to the exhausting and senseless attempt to obtain their reward in this world. Christ, therefore, places us in front of two opposite trends that must be avoided: laziness, which closes its arms to love, and addiction to work: the apparent "virtue" of doing everything aimlessly and without God on the horizon. Thus, the Lord invites us to a sincere change of life; He wants us, touched by repentance, to fight either against the drowsiness of the soul, or against that restless and "busy" spirit of Martha. May this Gospel passage help us to seek a real change of mentality and lead us to have, out of love, a determined will to live exactly as God, our only and true fulfillment, asks and commands.

God bless you all!

Fr. Mateus

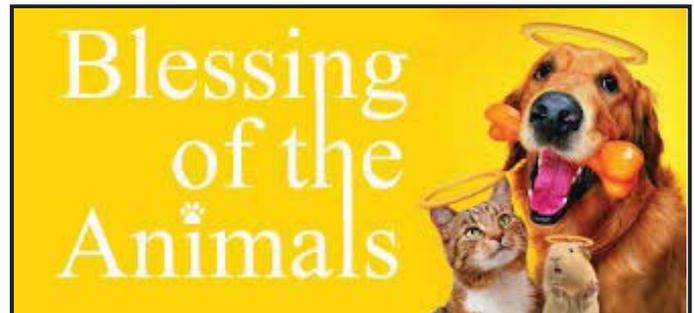


The Sympathies of the parish community are extended to the family and friends of **Constance E. Gariepy** whose Funeral Mass was held recently. Please remember her in your prayers.

**Public Square
Rosary Rally**

**October 10 at 12 Noon
Carter Parker on Main St.
(across from St. Leo's)**

Please join us for all that is happening in our nation and more. Please respect social distancing and wear masks. Thank You!



**In honor of Feast Day of St. Francis
Blessing of Animals
at St. Cecilia's Church Parking Lot
Sunday, October 4th at 9:00 AM**

Bring your pet leashed or crated. If you are concerned that your pet may become anxious with other animals please keep your pet in your car and Fr. Mateus will come to you.

If this time is not convenient for you, on Saturday, October 3rd at 12 noon Fr. José will have blessing of pets at Holy Family of Nazareth church parking lot.

**Collection Report (includes online donations)
Weekly Stewardship \$6,505.84 Thank You!**

We are asking if you are able, please support our parish financially in any of the following ways:

- ◆ In collection basket before or after Mass
- ◆ Mail in your donation
- ◆ Drop contributions off thru the rectory mail slot front door on Mechanic St
- ◆ Online Giving via our parish website www.stceciliachurch.net click box Give Online Support Our Parish

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 Check our Facebook for more details @leominstermass

BE SAFER - SIGN UP AT (978) 537-6541

St. Cecilia's Flea Market

We are now taking reservations for Oct. 2 - 3 from 10 am - 12 noon, walk-ins welcome from 12 noon to 4 pm.

We will adhere to all safety regulations regarding number of people who can enter, social distancing, must have mask on and bring your own hand sanitizer.

Call the rectory 978-537-6541 for reservations (you will need to know in advance how many will be coming with you).

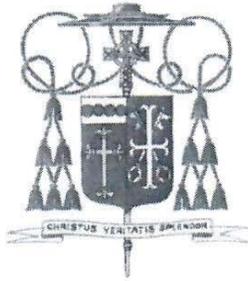


Back by Popular Demand the Knights of Columbus, Joseph P Keating Council 99 will be having another **Chicken BBQ** during the Columbus day weekend **Sunday, October 11th**. This will be another drive up BBQ no need to get out of your car. The menu will consist of a Half Chicken, Baked Potato, and corn on the cob.

Price : \$10. Advance sales only. Tickets are available at the Knights of Columbus 165 Electric Ave from 12 noon until 7 pm Tuesday through Sunday. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Knights at 978-343-9841.

St. Leo School Golf Tournament

St. Leo School 22nd Annual Golf Classic Tournament will be held **Tuesday, October 6** at the Sterling National Country Club, 33 Albright Road, Sterling. Check-in is at 8:30 a.m., with a shot gun start at 9:30 a.m. Individual players and foursomes of all abilities are welcome to join. Registration includes driving range, cart, green fees, continental boxed breakfast, "Grab and Go" lunch on hole #5 and #11. Contest, raffles, and prizes awarded for winning teams. Contact St. Leo School Development Office at 978-537-0142 or email stleodevelopment@hotmail.com. On-line payment can be made at www.St-Leoschool.com.



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

September 24, 2020

My dear friends in Christ,

The history of Catholic education in our country has certainly changed over the years, but the mission has always been the same.

In the mid 1800's it was expected that a Catholic school would be part of every Catholic parish. Education was valued as a way to assist immigrant families in particular to overcome many of the obstacles they faced. Parish schools could meet the unique needs of their members, including overcoming language and culture barriers, while remaining true to the mission to teach the faith. It was up to every Catholic to support Catholic education so that every Catholic family could send their children to parochial schools.

Catholics are no longer denied access to publicly funded schools, but their faith cannot enter into the dialogue in the classroom. For some families, religious education programs teach the faith separate from the school curriculum. Catholic schools are a valued choice by many families who seek a solid educational foundation while exercising the ability to learn about and practice the Catholic faith as part of each school day. Many of these families must make great financial sacrifices to exercise that option for their child's future.

We cannot leave the financial burden of Catholic education on the shoulders of these families. Our schools struggle to meet even 20% of the demonstrated need for financial assistance.

The challenges of the coronavirus pandemic are more than enough for families to cope with during this school year, and for many of our families it has meant making very difficult decisions. Just as our schools continued in their mission during the Spanish flu in the early 1900's, we continue to offer the best education possible today during this pandemic.

Many of us owe the success we enjoy in life today to the excellent education we received in a Catholic school, particularly at the elementary and secondary level. Consider making a gift of a Catholic education to a child who wants to attend – or continue to attend – one of our parochial or diocesan schools. Your donation to this appeal, made in a spirit of gratitude, can help make that wish a reality for another child.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a donation to this year's Catholic School Appeal on the weekend of September 27. May God keep you and your loved ones safe during these uneasy times.

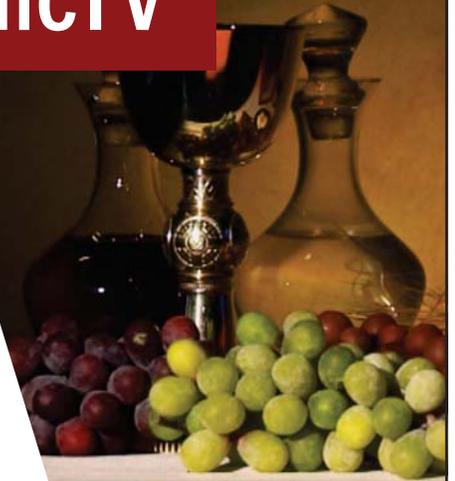
With every prayerful good wish, I remain

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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