

# Saint Cecilia Church

Rectory: 170 Mechanic Street Leominster, Massachusetts

Telephone (978) 537-6541

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

**November 29, 2020 - First Sunday of Advent**



## **Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 P.M.**

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

**Weekday Mass (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**



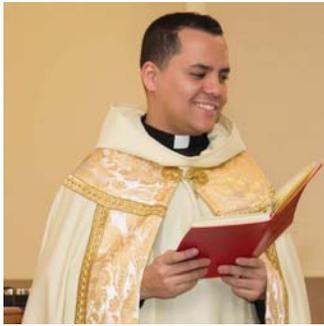
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 28</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 45</b>
4:00 p.m.	Raymond LeBlanc (anniv.) by his brother & family		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 29</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 45</b>
7:00 a.m.	Richard Gladding (1st anniv.) by his cousin, Lawrence Gladding		
9:45 a.m.	Dr. Richard Secino (2nd anniv.) by his wife		
11:15 a.m.	Arthur Raymond Marcoux (2nd anniv.) by his mother, Madeleine		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>November 30</b>	<b>St. Andrew, Apostle</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 49</b>
No Morning 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>December 1</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 51</b>
No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30 a.m. & St. Leo's 8:30 a.m.			
6:30 p.m.	Advent Mission - The Divine Mercy		
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 2</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 53</b>
6:30 a.m.	Sally Fannon by Bache family		
6:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Confessions		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 3</b>	<b>St. Francis Xavier, Priest</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 54</b>
6:30 a.m.	R. Genevieve Groboski (8th anniv.) by daughter & family		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 4</b>	<b>St. John Damascene, Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 56</b>
6:30 a.m.	Helen Silvia by Connor family		
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 5</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 58</b>
No Morning Mass			
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Confessions		
<b>Vigil Mass</b>			<b>Mass on pg. 60</b>
4:00 p.m.	Lucille Tucker (19th anniv.) by her family		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 6</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 60</b>
7:00 a.m.	Ernest & Florida Bouchard by the family		
9:45 a.m.	Parishioners of St. Cecilia Parish		
11:15 a.m.	Louis Daigle & Lionel LeBlanc by the family		

*Our Lady, Health of the Sick, Pray For Us* - Please pray for those who are ill,

especially: **Paul Aubuchon, Cello Ciccone, John Gallant,  
Mary Lasky and Patty McKinnon.**

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

Dear brother and sisters,

This Sunday, the Church dresses in purple to wait, in an attitude of vigilance, for the birth of Christ. But what about today, how can we be attentive to the God who visits us with his grace? What purposes should we pursue to make this Advent a time of true conversion?

The Advent season is the period in which the Church prepares herself, through prayer and penance, for the great solemnity of Christmas. Although there is a custom of referring to Christmas as the “birthday” of Jesus, this solemn date is actually the celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation, which is why, since the 4th century, the Church has reserved a specific time for the liturgy, dedicated to the preparation of the faithful, through the encouragement of practices of piety and asceticism, in order to welcome the Incarnate Word of God, the Redeemer of mankind, in their hearts.

We know that God is everywhere: He is present in his creatures, but especially in the human being. Through his signs, man can intuit God’s existence. With the Incarnation, however, the Lord revealed himself to men in a very particular way, manifesting to them the fullness of his love, something that would be impossible to do only by looking around. Hence the greatness of Christmas and the reason the Church, wearing purple, dedicates a period of liturgy to meditating on this event, over four weeks. The purpose of Advent is to enable Christians to recognize the presence of Christ in their lives.

Christmas refers to one of Jesus’ coming. However, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux teaches that there are actually three of such Jesus’ comings. The first occurred two thousand years ago, in the humility of a manger, in Bethlehem. The third will be the definitive coming, at the End of Time, when Jesus will sit on the throne of glory to judge the acts of humanity. The second coming, however, is an intermediate coming, which can happen every day, through the sacraments, especially through Confession and the Eucharist. And this is precisely the coming for which we must prepare at the time of Advent.

In concrete terms, the person who is in a state of grace must be able to recognize the presence of God in his soul.

It turns out that this presence is, unfortunately, ignored by many of us because of our disordered attachments and passions. Just like in a big city, where the stars end up overshadowed by artificial lights, the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ is hidden by the hundreds of little distractions of our soul, so that, to find Him, we need to retreat to the countryside, where there is no presence of other lights than that of Heaven itself.

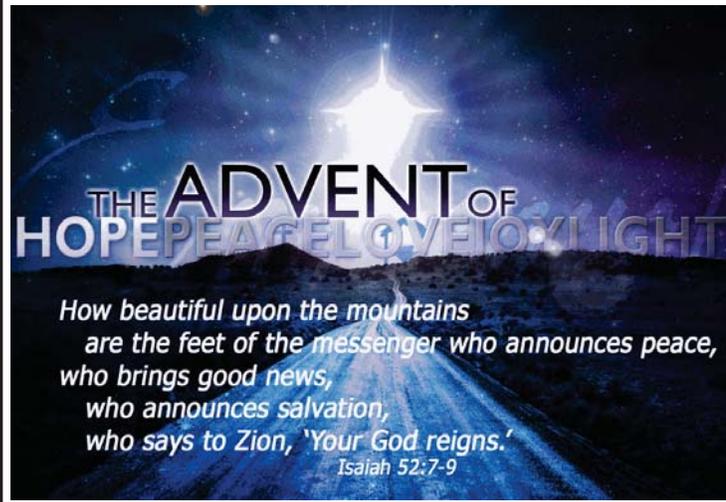
This retreat must be practiced in three ways, according to what our Mother Church teaches:

- 1- Through intimate prayer before God, in which you give yourself absolutely to the Lord and foster a relationship of friendship with him;
- 2 - Through the frequent reception of the Eucharist;
- 3 - Through thanksgiving after Holy Communion.

Of course, these three steps depend, first of all, on the purity of the soul. So it is essential that the person is in a state of grace to be able to see the presence of Christ. May you and your family have a blessed Advent.

God bless you!

**Watch next weekend’s bulletin for Christmas Meat Pie Order Form**



### Religious Education News

**Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>:** Classes resume for children in Grades 1-10 from 9:45-11:00AM.

The first week of Advent is a week of HOPE. We are hopeful as we await the coming of baby Jesus. This year we are hopeful for many different things as we continue through this time of the pandemic. As we enter the Advent season let us not forget that JESUS is our HOPE!

### Advent Mission

The first three Tuesdays of Advent (December 1, 8, and 15) *Deacon Bob* will be hosting an Advent Mission at St. Cecilia's, focusing on the **Divine Mercy** revelation as made to St. Faustina, inspired by the generous gift by an anonymous parishioner of the new Divine Mercy image we will be receiving.

The Mission will be held each Tuesday evening at 6:30pm, and will consist of a brief talk, Benediction, Adoration, and then reciting the Divine Mercy Chaplet together. The third and final evening of the Mission will culminate with the installation and presentation of our new painting of the Divine Mercy, and will consist of a talk by **Daniel DiSilva** of the *Divine Mercy Summit*. Please join us as we learn of God's mercy in our lives, as we prepare for His Nativity and His Second Coming.



### Advent Mission

- Part 1 of 3 -

*The Divine Mercy*

**Tuesday, December 1  
in the Church  
6:30-7:30pm**

Presenter

*Deacon Bob Connor*



The **Sympathies** of the parish community are extended to the family and friends of **Jeanne Gauvin and Lucille P. Goguen** whose Funeral Services were held recently. Please remember them in your prayers.

### Collection Report: Last Week's Stewardship \$6274.78

We are always grateful for your generous support and we hope that you will continue to financially give to our parish in one of the following ways: Place in collection basket before or after Mass, Mail in your weekly envelopes, Mail a check, Drop contributions off thru the mail slot at the rectory (front door on Mechanic St.) or you can contribute online via our parish website [www.stceciliachurch.net](http://www.stceciliachurch.net).



**Advent Giving Tree** - Our parish Giving Tree has been put up near the statue of St. Cecilia. This year we were aware that many shoppers prefer to limit their time in stores so we placed a greater emphasis on requesting gift cards. Please take a tag and return the unwrapped gift or gift card by the weekend of December 12th and 13th. Thank you for your kindness and generosity in making someone's Christmas merrier!

All r p e orders will be ready this week. You will receive an order confirmation call. Christmas meat pie order forms and January Calendar raffle tickets will also be available for pickup/purchase.

**Protect & Heal** - Believe in the possibility of help and healing. If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, call Judith Audette at the Worcester Diocesan Office for Healing and Prevention at 508-929-4363.

### Blessing of an Advent Wreath at Home

Lord our God,  
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,  
He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
He is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us  
as we light the candles of this wreath.  
May the wreath and its light  
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.  
May He come quickly and not delay.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.



Enhancing The Lives Of Individuals With Developmental Disabilities.

**Beacon of Hope Community Services** cordially invites you to our **"Virtual Evening of Hope and Celebration"** on **December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7 pm to 8 pm**. Enjoy the evening's festivities in the comfort of your own home. The celebration will feature musical performances by Neurotic Gumbo, Ray Pelkey, Marlana VanHoose and powerful mission moments from our members and their families. Tickets are \$40 per household and include a link to the event, 50/50 entry and a chance to win a 40" Smart TV if registration is received by November 26<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction with the virtual event, Beacon of Hope is hosting a silent auction with unique and must-have items up for bid. To register on-line, bid on auction items or for more information please contact Beacon of Hope at [www.beaconofhopema.org](http://www.beaconofhopema.org) or call (978) 840-2727.

**Cooks Needed** - St. Cecilia Parish is one of over a dozen local area churches that help support the mission of North Star Family Services. Formerly known as the Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. (MIHN), the organization started its mission in 2003 and operates a shelter for homeless families on Main St. in Leominster. Volunteers from St. Cecilia work on a rotating basis (with the other churches) supplying and preparing an evening meal for one week approximately every 3 months. Cooking and delivering a basic dinner for approximately 15 individuals (parents and their children) is the primary call to action. Our turn is coming up quickly and we need your help. Please call the rectory for more information. All safety precautions are taken. No contact drop off.



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

November 13, 2020

My dear friends in Christ,

Earlier this week the Massachusetts House of Representatives utilized the state budget process to approve the expansion of abortion in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In certain respects, the budget amendment did remove some provisions that were deeply troubling in the ROE Act.

However, there remain several aspects in the proposal that are completely unacceptable. Among them is the expansion of abortion in certain circumstances for the full term of pregnancy. Additionally, it would reduce the current age of consent for an abortion from 18 years of age to 16 years of age.

This week, the budget debate will move to the full State Senate. I am asking you to call your local Senator and urge him or her to vote no on any amendment that expands abortion in Massachusetts. You can find the contact number for your Senator by visiting the Massachusetts Catholic Conference website at [macatholic.org](http://macatholic.org) or by calling 617-746-5630.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
 Bishop of Worcester

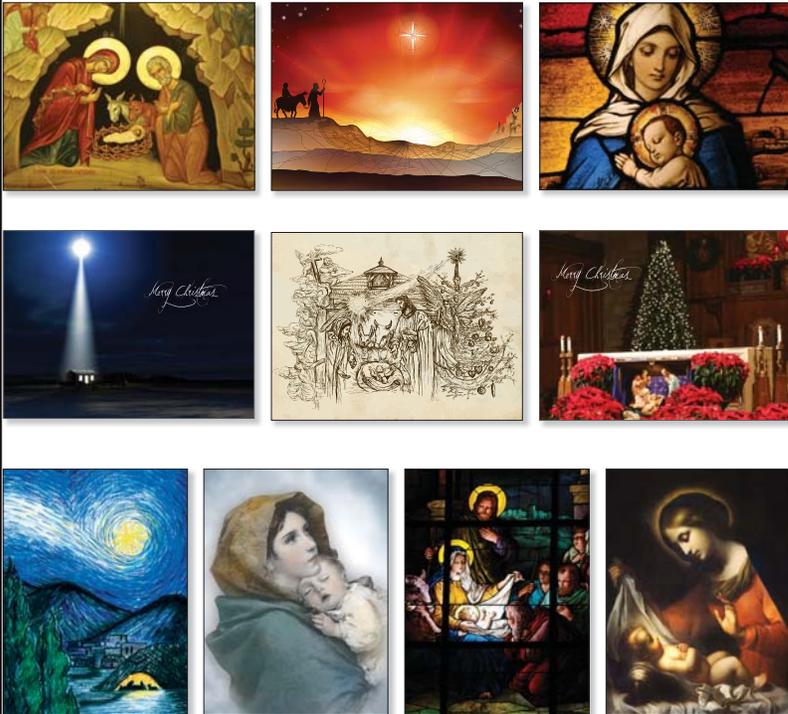
State Senators

Harriette Chandler	617-722-1544	Harriette.Chandler@masenate.gov
Joan Comerford	617-722-1532	Jo.Comerford@masenate.gov
James Eldridge	617-722-1120	James.Eldridge@masenate.gov
Ryan Fattman	617-722-1420	Ryan.Fattman@masenate.gov
Anne Gobi	617-722-1540	Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov
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