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

December 20, 2020 - Fourth 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

Saturday	**December 19**	**Vigil Mass**	**Mass on pg. 93**
4:00 p.m.	Angelina DeCiantes (anniv.) by her family		
Sunday	**December 20**	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**	**Mass on pg. 93**
7:00 a.m.	Lien (Theresa) Le by her family		
9:45 a.m.	Danny Gould (27th anniv.) by Gerald McDonald & family		
11:15 a.m.	Leo Thibaudeau (anniv.) by his children		
Monday	**December 21**	**St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor**	**Mass on pg. 98**
	No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30 a.m. & St. Leo's 8:30 a.m.		
Tuesday	**December 22**	**Late Advent Weekday**	**Mass on pg. 100**
	No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30 a.m. & St. Leo's 8:30 a.m.		
Wednesday	**December 23**	**St. John of Kanty, Priest**	**Mass on pg. 101**
6:30 a.m.	Roger Brideau by SASV Associates		
6:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Confessions		
Thursday	**December 24**	**Late Advent Weekday**	**Mass on pg. 103**
6:30 a.m.	No Morning Mass		
		Vigil Masses	**Mass on pg. 105**
4:00 p.m.	Norman P. Beaudet (15th anniv.) by his wife & children		
6:30 p.m.	Andrew Zephir, Sr. (10th anniv.) by his wife Janice & family		
Friday	**December 25**	**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**	**Mass on pg. 119**
7:00 a.m.	Msgr. Francis Goguen, Fr. Robert Bruso & parishioners of St. Cecilia Parish		
9:45 a.m.	Alfred Bernard (anniv.) by Yvette & Jacques		
	Thomas McDermott, III (31st anniv.) by his parents		
Saturday	**December 26**	**St. Stephen, the First Martyr**	**Mass on pg. 124**
	No Morning Mass		
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Confessions		
		Vigil Mass	**Mass on pg. 126**
4:00 p.m.	Clarence Quiet (29th anniv.) by the family		
Sunday	**December 27**	**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**	**Mass on pg. 126**
7:00 a.m.	Leo Bolduc (4th anniv.) by Cecile & Lawrence Gladding		
9:45 a.m.	Alfred Laverdiere (27th anniv.) by his children		
11:15 a.m.	Eva Daigle & Stella LeBlanc by the family		

A Message From Fr. Mateus

Dear friends, as we approach the end of the year, I just want to take a moment to thank all of our parishioners! Thank you for all your support and understanding! I thank you not only for your understanding of our limitations and changes because of the pandemic, but on a personal note, I thank you for allowing me to be your priest this year. It has been a very challenging year, and I could not have done it without your words of encouragement and support. I also want to thank and acknowledge our staff for their hard work during this year and for the many times they put St. Cecilia's before their own personal obligations. A special thank you to Fr. Jose Rodriguez for his mentorship and friendship! Working with him has been a great experience. And of course, I could not forget to thank Fr. Bob, whom with his witness and love, became an inspiration to all of us! May he watch over us from Heaven!

I also would like to inform you that after almost 2 years, I'm finally able to go to Brazil to visit my family. I'm very excited to see them again. I will be leaving on the 27 of December, and hopefully I will be back on the 29 of January. Please keep my family and I in your prayers. I will be interacting with you through the bulletin and Facebook while I enjoy the 90 degree weather back home!

God bless you!

Christmas message

More than a festive time, Christmas is a real opportunity to encounter God. At the birth of Jesus, the grace of the Incarnate Word is manifested, who, becoming human like us, came to live on Earth to experience the joys and hopes, the sadness and the anguish of men and women today, especially the poor and all those who suffer.

But the attitude of Christians who wish to participate in this meeting cannot be that of someone arrogant or self-sufficient. On the contrary, to enter the place of Jesus' birth it is necessary to bow. Indeed, "if we want to find God manifested as a boy, then we must get off the horse of our pride.

Jesus' birth reflects the certainty that we are not alone in this world. God comes to meet us, to make all things new and to announce great joy to us. This is the authentic meaning of Christmas: the grace of being able to trust the simplicity of a little baby who came to save us.

This Christmas, the entire St. Cecilia's staff team, together with Fr. Jose and I, wish the grace of the Child Jesus to reach every home, providing a true opening of hearts to faith and the Divine Truth, in which we find the God who hides in humility of a newborn baby.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Religious Education News

Be safe as you enjoy our Christmas break.

Classes scheduled to resume Sunday, Jan. 10th.

Dear family in Christ,

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Christmas week with family and loved ones (in person or virtually)!!!

May now, more than ever before in our lifetime, we share the Good News of Jesus with everyone!

Be safe and be holy!

Fr. José

Our Lady, Health of the Sick, Pray For Us

Please pray for those who are ill, especially: **Cello Ciccone, Mary Lasky, Patty McKinnon and Mary Pugley.** 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.

The Parish Office Hours for Upcoming Holidays:

Christmas Eve: 9 am to 1 pm **Christmas Day:** Closed

New Years Eve: 9 am to 3 pm **New Years Day:** Closed

Weekday Mass Schedule for the Month of January:
We will have a **6:30 AM Mass on Fridays Only** (no morning Masses on Wednesdays or Thursdays). In February, after Fr. Mateus returns, we will resume our normal schedule.

Collection Report: Last Week's Stewardship $8,059.01

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.

Christmas Schedule

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 pm Vigil Mass*
6:30 pm Vigil Mass*
NO MIDNIGHT MASS

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS DAY
Friday, December 25, 2020
7:00 am* and 9:45 am*
NO 11:15 AM MASS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Friday, January 1, 2021
Mass at 7:00 AM
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

***Tickets for Masses on Christmas Eve and Day are available in the Parish Office**

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.

When you come to the church for Mass or private prayer, please consider donating to St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Cecilia's Parish. With your donations we 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.

Pope Francis said "generosity enlarges the heart". May God abundantly bless your large, generous hearts for allowing us to do His work in service to others. Please be assured that you are in our prayers. Saint Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Cecilia's Parish

Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223. The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:
Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of Scripture, for example Luke :1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

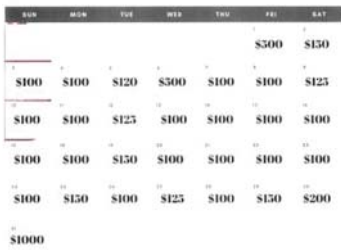
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The leader prays with hands joined:
God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

Saint Cecilia Parish
January Calendar Raffle
31 Days of Prizes



					$500	$150
$100	$100	$120	$500	$100	$100	$125
$100	$100	$125	$100	$100	$100	$100
$100	$100	$150	$100	$100	$100	$100
$100	$150	$100	$125	$100	$150	$200
$1000						

The smallest prize is a combination of cash and gift cards that total $100 the smallest to $1,000 on the last day. You have 31 chances to win.
For January 31, all previous winning tickets will be placed back in, so every-one gets a chance to win the jackpot.

Tickets are $10 each. Could be a stocking stuffer or a gift for yourself. Call or stop by the rectory for more information.

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

Christmas 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As Advent gives way to Christmas, we find ourselves in a continued state of waiting, longing and expectation for a promised vaccine. How our world has changed in a year!

Last Christmas, none of us had heard of COVID-19. Since then our lives, jobs, recreation and worship have been shaped by it. COVID precautions have led to COVID-fatigue as we long for a return to normal life.

Anxious waiting and expectation for the vaccine marks and impacts our celebrations. Gatherings in church and at home will be smaller, travel truncated, carols fewer, precautions increased and parties cancelled.

But Christmas is not cancelled. Our way of celebrating has changed, but our reason for celebrating remains the same. While the world awaits the arrival of a vaccine, we celebrate the arrival of the world's Savior.

We hope for a vaccine that for a time will ward off illness and death. The Divine Savior whose birth we celebrate gives us resurrection and reunion. We pray the vaccine will restore normal life on earth. The grace Christ offers promises eternal life in Heaven.

For two millennia Christians throughout the world have celebrated Christ's birth. Many of these Christmases have been marked by famine, plagues and wars. Through those hardships and others, Christians have found in Christ the strength, hope and joy to persevere, endure and triumph over all of life's uncertainties.

As we wait for the vaccine to come, let us rejoice, give thanks and find peace in the Savior who has already come, defeated sin and death and will come again to share His definitive triumph of eternal life.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert J. McManus

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

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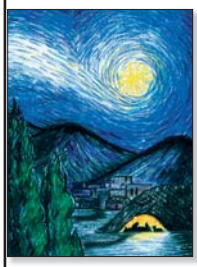

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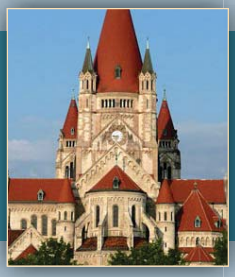

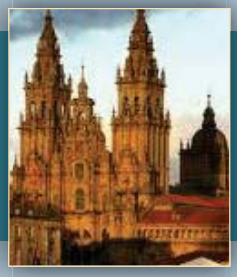

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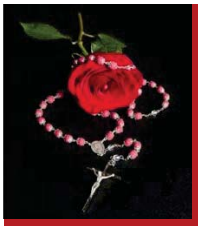
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