

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

February 28, 2021 - Second Sunday of Lent



Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 P.M.

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

Weekday Masses During Lent:

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
at 6:30 A.M. and 5:30 P.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.**

**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**

Marriages:

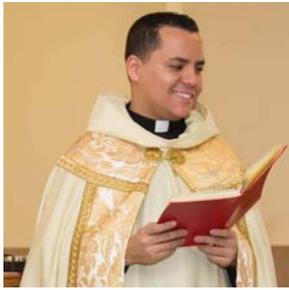
**Couple should contact the rectory at
least one year in advance. A marriage
preparation program is required**

LENT 2021 | Reflect. Repent. Restore.

Saturday	February 27	Vigil Mass	Mass on pg. 70
4:00 p.m.	Dorothy Lapierre (7th anniv.) by Hughes & Lapierre family		
Sunday	February 28	Second Sunday of Lent	Mass on pg. 70
7:00 a.m.	Larry Despres by the family		
9:45 a.m.	Joseph Bergeron (14th anniv.) by his family		
11:15 a.m.	Patrick John Cannon (3rd anniv.) by his family		
Monday	March 1	Lenten Weekday	Mass on pg. 75
No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30am & St. Leo's 8:30am			
Tuesday	March 2	Lenten Weekday	Mass on pg. 76
No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30am & St. Leo's 8:30am			
Wednesday	March 3	St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin	Mass on pg. 78
6:30 a.m.	Constance Gariepy by Al & Claudette Guilmette		
5:30 p.m.	Rita Murray (30th day) by Kevin & Michele Mack, Simard's		
6:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Confessions		
Thursday	March 4	St. Casimir	Mass on pg. 79
6:30 a.m.	Parishioners of St. Cecilia Parish		
5:30 p.m.	Evelyn Nadareski by Susan Lamkin		
6:00 p.m.	Lenten Mission "Journeying with St. Joseph"		
Friday	March 5	Lenten Weekday	Mass on pg. 81
6:30 a.m.	Marcel Guillemette (1st anniv.) by his wife, Pauline		
5:30 p.m.	Cecile & John Currier by Venance & Jeannine		
6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross		
Saturday	March 6	Lenten Weekday	Mass on pg. 82
No Morning Mass			
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Confessions		
		Vigil Mass	Mass on pg. 85
4:00 p.m.	Theresa Doucet (9th anniv.) by her husband & family		
Sunday	March 7	Third Sunday of Lent	Mass on pg. 85
7:00 a.m.	Father Robert Bruso (9 months) by a friend		
9:45 a.m.	Deceased members of the Leon Gallagher family by Rita & family		
11:15 a.m.	Francis Bissonnette by his sister, Shirley		



Saint Katharine Drexel, intercede before God to assist all who seek your aid to overcome the temptation to love inordinately the things of this world. Your holy detachment from wealth and comfort freed you for a life dedicated to prayer and service. May we have that same detachment and that same commitment to God.



A Message From Fr. Mateus

My dear brothers and sisters,

In this liturgical year, the Church takes the traditional meditation for the 2nd Sunday of Lent from the Gospel of St. Mark, which is the account of the transfiguration of Christ. As we read in the text, Jesus ascends a high mountain and, in front of his closest disciples, manifests his quality as Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. This manifestation, however, is somewhat momentary and, at the same time, a sign of an even more glorious reality: God who became man to redeem humanity from its sins. In fact, the importance of the Incarnation is so great that Moses and Elijah appear on the same mountain, during the Transfiguration, to speak precisely of Jesus' path to the Cross.

In the exegesis of the Fathers of the Church, it is shown that the transfiguration of Christ was a change that occurred in the disciples' vision, and not exactly in Jesus. Before the epiphany, the disciples did not see Him as the "beloved Son of the Father", they did not realize that, in that man, God was present. Indeed, the miracle of the Transfiguration is not the transfiguration itself, but the miracle of the incarnate God who hides his glory to suffer the condition of humanity. This is the reality that should leave us speechless.

How is it possible that God renounces his own divinity to suffer in our place? In this time of Lent, this is the question that should disturb us and cause a change in our hearts. In fact, the transfiguration of Jesus only reflects what we ourselves experience every day. We ourselves, by the grace of the Incarnation, are "beloved children of God" who, despite some moments of glory, live daily the Lent of this world: the sufferings, the penances, the sufferings... Our moments of consolation are as momentary as the Transfiguration; we live Lent not only in these forty days of penitential liturgy, but throughout our own personal history.

In the lives of the saints, for example, there are many reports of "transfigurations", moments of glory like those of the Virgin Mary in Heaven, clothed with the sun and with the moon under her feet. But those moments are momentary. Most of the time, the saints lead an arduous life, of indisputable penance and humility, repeating the path of the master Jesus. And so it must be with us too.

St. Peter wanted to pitch tents to stay on the mountain because it was good to be there. In fact, it is good to experience the love of God. But this love must be passed on, it must be brought to others through diligent and pious service. Therefore, God gives us the opportunity to love in return, to suffer for others as He suffered for us.

Well, Lent must be that moment to transform our pain into love. Let us not be overcome by the temptation to build the three tents, but let us remember that this world is fleeting and our final home needs to be built in Heaven.

When St. Peter speaks of the tents, he is referring to a feast that the Jews celebrated for the memory of their forty years in the desert. These forty years represent our time here on earth, in the desert of suffering. And that time needs to be lived according to the voice that comes from the cloud, from the God who came to live among us: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!"

In this Lent, let us live the dynamics of the Cross, knowing that Jesus lives in our hearts and wants to transform our pain into love, so that, one day, in heavenly glory, we will definitely be transfigured!

Happy and Holy Lent!

Father Mateus

Dear family in Christ,

I hope that you are having a prayerful Lent! This is the time for the entire Church to unify in prayer, fasting and almsgiving in order to jump start a profound conversion of the entire community not just a few individuals. As a special intention for this Lent, I would like to ask from all of you to offer extra prayers and even some sacrifices for our Pastor to be named this summer. Why wait for July to pray for him! Whoever he might be, we want him to be holy and a good servant of our community, so please pray for him.

Talking about prayer... If you are interested, on Monday through Friday I am offering a short daily prayer through the Holy Family's Facebook.

On a different note, thank you for a wonderful response to the Winter Calendar Raffle! The net income was \$20,870. Which is AWESOME!

Finally, after cleaning the gutters of the church and fixing some small cracks, we think it will be 'safe' to paint the column by the side of the tabernacle. This might be on the week of March 15. More details will follow.

May God bless you with his joyful presence! Be safe and be holy!

Fr. José



Our Lady, Health of the Sick, Pray For Us

Please pray for those who are ill, especially: Payton Baron, Josephine Beauchemin, Leon Bellio, Bryan Cowell, Marie Cyr, Jason Fennelly, John Gallant, Brian LeBlanc, Donna Sevigny, Bernard Vaillette 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.

Welcome!

In a spirit of joyful hope we welcome

Aidan Michael Miguez

into our parish family by baptism as he begins his life of faith here within our parish community.

(Aidan pictured with his parents, Christopher and Shannon and Deacon Bob)

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



COLLECTION REPORT: LAST WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP \$7,042.17

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Thank you for the extra donations for fuel expenses and capital improvements!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:

Sunday, March 7th: Classes continue for children in Grades 1-10 from 9:45-11:00AM in the lower Parish Hall.

Homeschoolers: Packet swap this Sunday, Feb. 28th from 10:00 - 10:50. If you missed picking up your packet today they will be available for pick up the Rectory weekdays (Mon- Thur 9-5; Fri. 9-4) and next Sunday from 9:00-11:00AM in the Parish Center. **Next packet swap March 21st.**



Please call the **Religious Ed. Office at 978-537-5596** if you are running late or need to pick up your child early. We will continue to lock the doors 15 minutes after classes start.



The Lenten Food Drive is off to a great start due to the generosity of the parishioners of St. Cecilia's. Catholic Charities is extremely grateful. Next weekend we will be collecting: **canned fruits, canned juice, bars of soap, cereal (boxed or instant), pancake mix, Bisquick, and maple syrup.**

Zip it Up, It's in the Bag!
Lenten Loose Coin Drive to Benefit our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Usually at this time of the year, we are having our Lenten soup suppers which benefit our St. Vincent de Paul who help people in need in our own area thru-out the year. But with current restrictions, we are not able to do so this year. Therefore, we are asking you to save up your change during Lent and place it in a zip lock bag and turn it in at Easter. Every coin counts!



LENTEN GUIDELINES FOR ABSTINENCE

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.



Fr. Stephen Lundrigan will present "***Making Peace between Faith and Science: A Catholic Approach***", this Monday, March 1st at 7 p.m. Join in person in the church hall at Holy Rosary, 135 Nichols St. in Gardner or watch live on Facebook at Annunciation Parish Gardner. Father Steve will take questions from both those who attend in person and on Facebook.

"Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings." ~ St. Francis de Sales

LENT SCHEDULE:

Ash Wednesday

6:30 am - Eucharist
12:15 pm - Eucharist
5:30 pm - Eucharist

Wednesdays

5:30 pm - Eucharist
6:00 pm - Confessions
7:00 pm - Men's Rosary

Thursdays

5:30 pm - Eucharist
6:00 pm - Lenten Mission in March

Fridays

5:30 pm - Eucharist
6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturdays

3:00 pm - Confessions

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Lenten Mission

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with
REV. LAURENCE BRAULT
REV. SAGAR GUNDIGA
(St. Gabriel's Parish - Upton, MA)



All are Welcome

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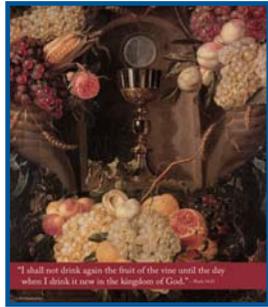
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