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

April 4, 2021 - Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

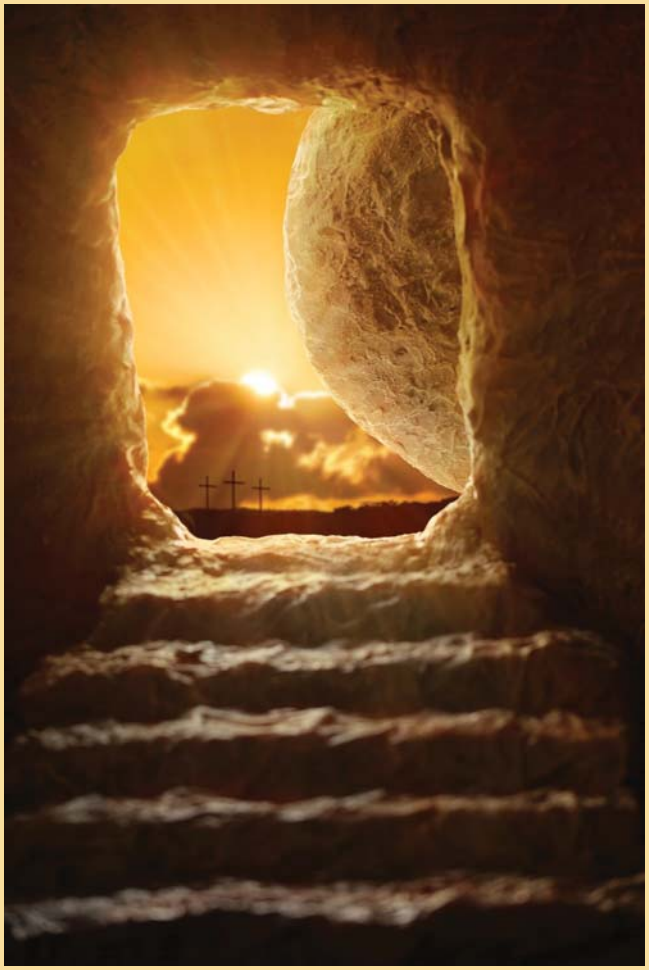
Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Vigil Mass:
4:00 P.M.

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

Weekday Masses:
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:30 A.M.

Holy Day Masses:
As Announced In Bulletin



Rev. José A. Rodríguez
Administrator

Rev. Mateus Souza
Associate Pastor

Deacons
Ronald J. Aubuchon
Robert S. Connor, Jr.

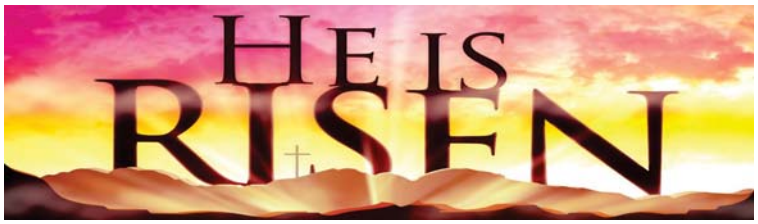
Mrs. Paula Doucet
Director of Religious Education

Mr. David M. Lasky
Organist

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 Street entrance, please wear face mask):
Wednesdays, 6:00 - 6:30 P.M.
Saturdays, 3:00 - 3:30 P.M. (No confessions on April 3, Holy Saturday)

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.



Saturday	**April 3**	**Easter Vigil Mass**	**Mass on pg. 186**
7:30 p.m.	The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night		
Sunday	**April 4**	**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**	**Mass on pg. 227**
7:00 a.m.	Parishioners of St. Cecilia Parish		
9:45 a.m.	Norman Rheault (18th anniv.) by his wife & children		
11:15 a.m.	Deceased members of the Bernard & Richard families by Jean Noel & Anne Marie		
1:00 p.m.	Mass in Spanish		
Monday	**April 5**	**Monday within the Octave of Easter**	**Mass on pg. 233**
	No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30am & St. Leo's 8:30am		
Tuesday	**April 6**	**Tuesday within the Octave of Easter**	**Mass on pg. 235**
	No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30am & St. Leo's 8:30am		
Wednesday	**April 7**	**Wednesday within the Octave of Easter**	**Mass on pg. 236**
6:30 a.m.	Father Robert Bruso (10 months) by a friend		
6:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Confessions		
Thursday	**April 8**	**Thursday within the Octave of Easter**	**Mass on pg. 238**
6:30 a.m.	Kevin & Dale (30th day) Dutton by Jamie Camire		
Friday	**April 9**	**Friday within the Octave of Easter**	**Mass on pg. 240**
6:30 a.m.	Edgar Roy by Helen St. Germaine		
Saturday	**April 10**	**Saturday within the Octave of Easter**	**Mass on pg. 241**
	No Morning Mass		
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Confessions		
		Vigil Mass	**Mass on pg. 242**
4:00 p.m.	Norman Richard (5th anniv.) by his sister & family		
Sunday	**April 11**	**Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)**	**Mass on pg. 244**
7:00 a.m.	Carmelle Nadeau by Mark & Michelle Randall		
9:45 a.m.	Roger Pothier & Marcel Guillemette by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Marcoux		
11:15 a.m.	Evelyn M. Cormier (7th anniv.) by Jan & Wayne Doucet		

Our Lady, Health of the Sick, Pray For Us

Please pray for those who are ill, especially: **Josephine Beauchemin, Rita Cannon, Marie Cyr, Jason Fennelly, Brian LeBlanc, Alisha Orlow, 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.

A Message From Fr. Mateus

Dear brothers and sisters,

Jesus is Risen! Alleluia! In the joy of those words, I wish you all a blessed and happy Easter.

In these days of Easter, we rejoice that Jesus, who is for us the Light of the World, rose from the dead. In his resurrection, we find our hope and our joy. This celebration is at the heart of our Catholic faith. When we open our hearts to the wonder of this message, we walk with Jesus, sharing in his life and his peace. His message is one of hope for all.

As we renew our promises of baptism at Easter, may we who profess faith in his Resurrection strive to bring Jesus' hope to all, particularly those who are poor and those who live in fear.

Our last Easter was different from anything we have experienced during most of our lifetimes. The coronavirus, stay-at-home orders from the government, isolation, hand-washing and social distancing have certainly impacted our daily lives. This year we are thankful that at least we can gather in the church without fear. That's why we believe that the resurrection of Jesus reminds us day after day -- and in a particularly special way on this Easter Sunday, that no matter how dark it is, the light of Christ is always more powerful than darkness. And that no matter how much trouble or difficulty there could be in the world, the love of Christ conquers all fear and fills us with hope and new life.

Through the power flowing from the Lord's passion, death and resurrection, let us continue to work together to sing the Easter Alleluia and to do our part to proclaim Jesus Christ is risen from the dead through our actions, words and deeds.

May we courageously help one another through this extraordinary time in the history of the world and trust that God will give us what we need to have hope and keep our eyes fixed on heaven. Let us live in the Light Jesus shows us as we strive to love as he has shown us.

I pray your celebration of this great feast is a time of grace.

A blessed Easter to you and your loved ones!

Fr. Mateus Souza

Dear family in Christ,

Rejoice and be glad He is Risen!!!
What a contrast from last year. It definitely felt more like Holy Week and Easter this year.

We are people of The Resurrection. That doesn't mean that we will be problem free, illness free or death free. What it does mean is that all those things we will be able to overcome with the grace of God. With Christ, we will conquer even Death by participating of His eternal life.

May God bless you and your entire family with great joy and peace!

In the love of Christ,
Fr. José

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:

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

Homeschoolers: Do you still need to pick up your packet? Packets are available for pick up the Rectory weekdays (Mon. - Thur. 9-5; Fri. 9-4.) **We are quickly approaching the end of our Religious Education program for the year. I ask that on April 18th completed packets be dropped off at the Parish Center to mark the conclusion of this year.**

Collection Report:

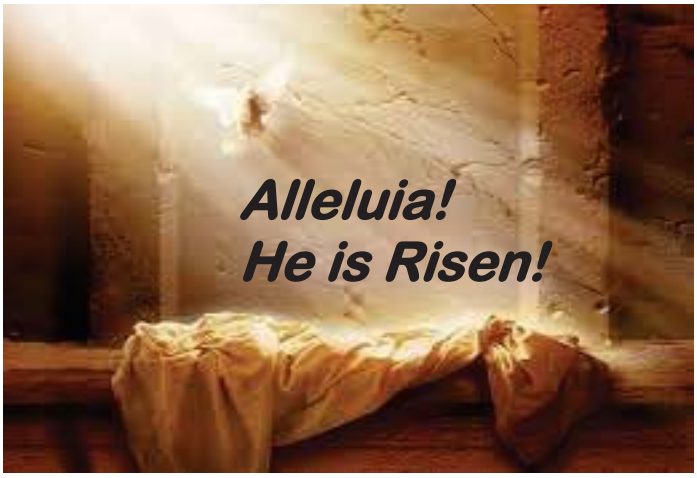
Last Week's Stewardship $5,031.99
March Church Maintenance $1,584
Fuel Donation: $500
Catholic Relief Services: $983

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

We have been getting calls asking if we will be having our **Spring Flea Market** this year and the answer is "Yes". It will be in the middle of May, date yet to be determined. We will start accepting donations at the end on April. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions
All are welcome to join Annunciation Parish in Celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday on April 11th at Holy Rosary Church 135 Nichols St. in Gardner. Confessions will be heard from 2 until 3. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed at 3 p.m.

We See New People in our church every weekend – all are welcome to participate in the worship of God and celebrate the Eucharist together. If you choose to stay with the parish community you may register as a parishioner with us by calling the rectory 978-537-6541.



Our goal is $50,000
Pledged as of 3/30: ***$21,605***
That is ***43%***

Thank you for your generosity!

This is the time of year when we ask you to support the Annual Partners in Charity Appeal. It is a way to generate joy in the lives of those served by our many agencies.

Donation envelopes can be found at each church entrance.
Thank you for your support!!

The Parish is Very Appreciative to those families who have mentioned Saint Cecilia's Memorial Restoration Fund in the obituary of family members who have died and also to those who have donated in recognition of a special occasion. These donations to the parish are used to pay for on-going restoration and maintenance to our parish properties.

We would like to thank those who donated in memory of:

Victor Albert
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Fleur-Ange Bachand
Nelson, Albertine, Berry Baral
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Edgar J. Roy
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Ruth L. Soucy
Richard H. Surrette
Daniel Tana
Francisa Candelaria Vincenty

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

Easter 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Imagine the joy of Christ's grieving followers gathered in the Upper Room when on Easter the Risen Lord suddenly appeared and said, "Peace be with you." Their joy and peace at Christ's Victory must have been unbounded as they recognized Him in their presence.

But not all of Christ's followers shared that joy. Saint Thomas, who was absent, experienced not joy but doubt. Two other disciples after hearing of Christ's Resurrection, instead of immediately joining the others, departed Jerusalem and were downcast. Even when Jesus drew near and spoke to them of the Scriptures, they did not recognize Him. Only in the breaking of the bread (the Eucharist) did they recognize Him. Only then did they return to Jerusalem to join the disciples assembled in the Upper Room and share in the joy of Easter.

On this Easter Sunday, after a year of COVID isolation, when we seek peace and joy amidst doubts and losses we can profitably reflect on the importance of gathering at the Eucharist. As Jesus came to the disciples gathered together in Jerusalem so, too, He is most present to us, not in our individual reflections upon the Scriptures, but when the Scriptures and Eucharist are celebrated at Mass.

It has been a long year with necessary and prudent precautions keeping many of us from Sunday Mass. Given the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID pandemic, personal prayer, reading the Scriptures and watching the Mass live-streamed have been prudent choices for many. However, such choices are all inferior to being present at Sunday Mass and receiving the Holy Eucharist, which the Second Vatican Council proclaimed as the source and summit of the Church. Like St. Thomas and the disciples on the road to Emmaus, it is harder to recognize Jesus, ward off doubts and avoid being downcast by the trials and tragedies of life when we are not nourished by the Eucharist at Sunday Mass.

As signs of progress in the COVID pandemic begin to give way to hope for a return to a more normal life, and as vaccines become more widely available, it may be time to begin to consider prayerfully a return to Sunday Mass. Certainly, everyone needs to consult family and doctors and use prudence taking into account one's own circumstances and health. Our parishes will continue to require masks and social distancing and employ sanitary precautions. As society moves towards reopening, may the Holy Spirit guide you, along with prudent medical advice, in your consideration about coming back to Sunday Mass in the weeks and months ahead.

With every prayerful best wish for a joyous Easter, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert J. McManus

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

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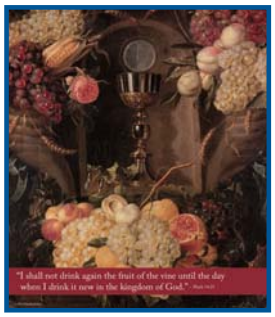

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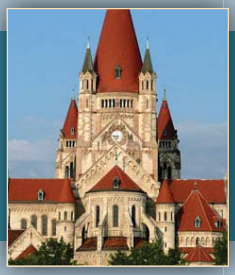

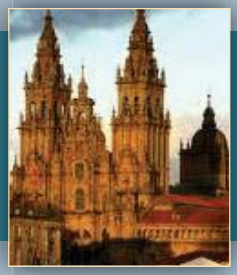

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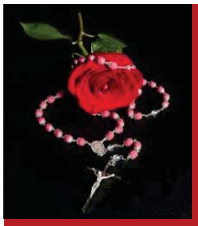

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