

# 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

**April 11, 2021 - Second Sunday of Easter: Sunday of Divine Mercy**

## **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. and 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.**



<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 10</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 244</b>
	4:00 p.m.	Norman Richard (5th anniv.) by his sister & family	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 11</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Easter: Sunday of Divine Mercy</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 244</b>
	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	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 12</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 249</b>
	No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30am & St. Leo's 8:30am		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 13</b>	<b>St. Martin I, Pope &amp; Martyr</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 251</b>
	No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30am & St. Leo's 8:30am		
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 14</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 253</b>
	6:30 a.m.	Jerry Richard by Colleen A. Faris	
	6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Confessions		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 15</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 254</b>
	6:30 a.m.	Joshuah Vautour by his aunt, Susan	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 16</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 256</b>
	6:30 a.m.	Cecile & Joseph Freda by Richard & Carol Cormier	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 17</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 257</b>
	No Morning Mass		
	3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Confessions		
		<b><u>Vigil Mass</u></b>	<b><u>Mass on pg. 260</u></b>
	4:00 p.m.	Eloi Richard by Yvette & family	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 260</b>
	7:00 a.m.	Patrick J. Cannon by his son, Edwin	
	9:45 a.m.	Deceased members of the Oscar Brodeur family by Rita & family	
	11:15 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory	

*Our Lady, Health of the Sick, Pray For Us*

Please pray for those who are ill, especially: **Josephine Beauchemin, 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](mailto:office@stceciliachurch.net) and we will add them to our list for a month.



Dear family in Christ,

I pray that you and your entire family have a Joyful & Blessed Easter season!

Usually, I do not give COVID19 reports, but this one touches near home and it is a good awareness piece. On Easter Tuesday, we had the funeral Mass for a parishioner of Holy Trinity Chapel. She was one of five siblings to be hospitalized due to the virus, and the fourth one to pass away. They were in their late 50's and early 60's, still young nowadays. *Why all of them?* is one of the many questions still unanswered. What is my point in sharing this? Because there are still so many unknowns, please be prudent and wise; and yes, be compassionate by making those little sacrifices for the well-being of others who might be more vulnerable than you.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave it all to renew the human race, through the power of his Death and Resurrection, have mercy on us and on the whole world!

In the love of the Risen Christ,

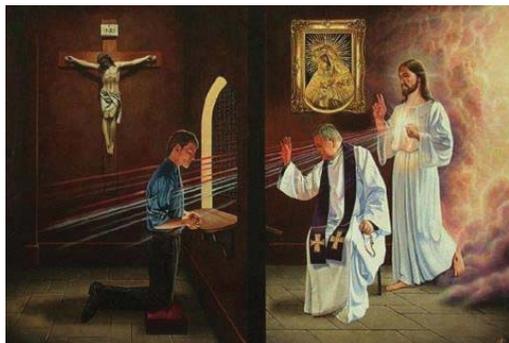
*Fr. José*

**Divine Mercy Sunday Message: "Jesus is in the Confessional" by Robert R. Allard**

Despite evil attempts at discrediting Catholic Priests, many fallen-away Catholics will soon be returning to the practice of their faith. The reason: the Church's new feast on the Sunday after Easter. What new feast you might say? It is the Feast of Divine Mercy. The Catholic Church has been celebrating this feast ever since the Vatican had made it official on April 30th in the Jubilee year 2000. Why would every Catholic want to come back, you might ask? It is the promise that Jesus Himself made for a complete forgiveness of all sins and punishment on that day, even to the most terrible sinner imaginable. God in His great mercy is giving mankind a last chance for salvation.

When did Jesus make this promise and how does one get it? Jesus left all the details in a diary that He commanded Saint Faustina to write in the 1930s. It was her job to record everything that He wanted mankind to know about His mercy before He returns to judge the world. To get this great promise one has to go to Confession and then receive Holy Communion on that Feast of Divine Mercy, which has now been called Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the whole Church. Jesus said, whomever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. (Diary, 300) To receive Communion worthily one should be in the state of grace and without serious sin.

How many today receive Holy Communion with souls stained with mortal sins? When a person receives the true Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus in Holy Communion without first going to Confession to cleanse their souls, that soul is going even deeper into sin. Many have not confessed their sins in a long time so this special promise of a complete pardon is an incentive to come to Jesus, with trust, before He returns again to judge the world.



In Saint Faustina's diary, she recorded that Jesus also indicated that He Himself is right there in the confessional. Jesus told her, "When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, there is no limit to My generosity." (1602)

Jesus knew that people would really need to hear these words of reassurance today, so He went on to say "Come with faith to the feet of My representative...and make your confession

before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light." (1725) "Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. (1602)

Many feel that their sins are unforgivable but, Jesus said, "Were a soul like a decaying corpse, so that from a human standpoint, there would be no hope of restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full. In the Tribunal of Mercy (the great sacrament of Confession) ...the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated." (1448) "Here the misery of the soul meets the God of Mercy". (1602) Every sin imaginable could be forgiven by Him!

So many people are weighed down by sin and their prideful nature keeps them away from the confession of their sins. They are living in misery. Jesus said, "Oh, how miserable are those who do not take advantage of the miracle of God's Mercy! You will call out in vain, but it will be too late." (1448) "Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace." (1074) "There is no misery that could be a match for My mercy. (1273) Jesus came to restore sinners and one would be foolish to turn away from His merciful love.

On the evening of His resurrection Jesus appeared to His Apostles and the first thing that He did was to give them the power to forgive sins (John 20:19-31). This is done through the power of the Holy Spirit. For sure it was not the Lord's intention just for the Apostles to forgive sins but rather for that power to be passed down through the Holy Spirit to the priests of today. That is why Confession is so much of an uplifting experience; we are actually receiving heavenly graces and the forgiveness of sins from the Lord Himself!

Most people haven't spent much time thinking about the future. Some might think that they are brilliant and successful in this life, but what is that as compared to eternity? The father of lies has everyone focused on this life while not thinking about what happens in eternal life. If you really want to be wise, think about where you are going to spend eternity. We will be there for quite a long time. Many do not believe in the fires of hell. Unfortunately, those are the ones that usually will end up there. Be wise, think about it!

Remember these words of Jesus, "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (699) "Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity...tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice, is near. (965) Wake up people of the World, and repent of your sins, this just might be our last hope of salvation!

Our deepest condolences to follow parishioner Jeanne Richard,  
whose daughter, **Rita Cannon** died recently in Greenfield.

Please remember her in your prayers.



**THANK YOU!**



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:**

**Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** : Classes resume for children in Grades 1-10 from 9:45-11:00AM in the lower Parish Hall.

**Homeschoolers April 18<sup>th</sup>**: Please return all completed packets be for the Catechist teachers to review at the Parish Center between 9:45- 11:00 AM.

Thanks to our Catechist and families for being so flexible this year! Hopefully this fall all students will feel safe and comfortable returning to the classroom.

**Doing Spring Cleaning? Consider setting items aside for our Spring Flea Market.**

We will be happy to receive any holiday decorations, dishes, knickknacks, religious items, sports memorabilia, DVDs, toys, canning jars, jewelry, books (children's only), ect.

*Please note, we are cannot accept computers, monitors, televisions, electrical appliances, padded furniture, clothing or shoes. We are unable to take large furniture. If it doesn't fit in your car, please don't bring it.*

**Upcoming drop off times:  
On Saturdays, April 24 & May 1  
From 9:30 am to 12 pm  
On Mondays, April 26 & May 3  
From 5 to 7 pm**

All donations are to be dropped off at the parish center (use lower Third St. and Mechanic St. side door across from the church).

Our **Spring Flea Market** will be held in mid May, date to be determined. Watch bulletin for more details.

**Faith in Action**



Our goal is \$50,000  
Pledged as of 4/7: **\$21,905**  
That is **44%**

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!!**

**Join Us  
in Church  
to Pray  
the Rosary**

**For All Monday thru Friday  
afternoons at 3:00 p.m.**

**For Men Wednesday  
evenings at 7:00 p.m.**

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.

**COLLECTION REPORT:**

**LAST WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP \$7,555.37**

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

**Organ Recital in Worcester  
(in-person and online)**

**Friday, April 23 at 7:00 pm**

**Fee 1 Hour Concert**

**Blessed Sacrament Church,  
551 Pleasant St., Worcester.**



Grant Wareham will perform on the newly restored Skinner organ at Blessed Sacrament Church. Grant is director of music at Derry Presbyterian Church in Hershey, Pennsylvania and a graduate of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

This free, one hour event is available in-person (with masks and social distancing) and a live-stream link can be found at [blessedsacrament.us](http://blessedsacrament.us).

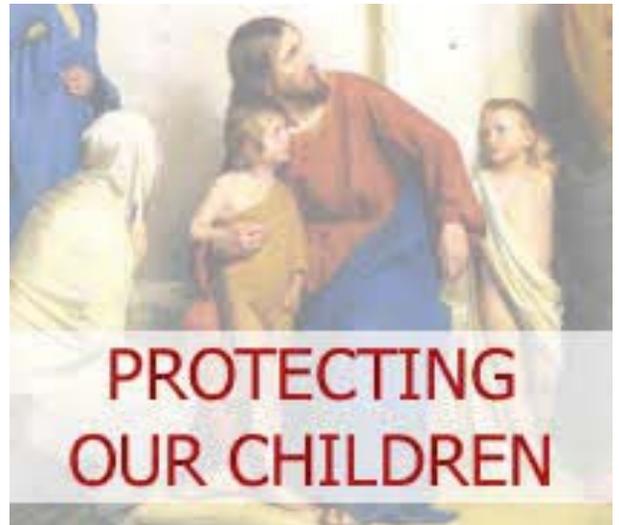
### **April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Did You Know?**

#### **Teach Kids to Protect Themselves at Home**

We consider our homes to be safe places for our children. But being home alone can pose risks for children. Here are a few tips to teach kids that will help keep them safe when you are not with them at home: Never answer the door if alone. Do not invite anyone in the house without the permission of a parent or babysitter. Don't tell anyone on the phone that your parents are not home. Instead tell them that your parents can't come to the phone, and take a message.

(Source: "Know the Rules . . . After-School Safety Tips for Children Who Are Home Alone," [www.kidsafe.com](http://www.kidsafe.com).)

For more tips, please visit [www.kidsafe.com](http://www.kidsafe.com). For particular help you may call Judith Audette Director of Office for Healing and Prevention at (508) 929-4363.

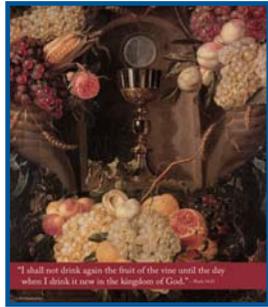


**First Concern Pregnancy Resource Center** provides pregnancy testing, counseling, education, and support – both spiritual and material - to families where the discovery of new life is met with anything but joy. They work to remove the barriers that would limit a new life being welcomed into the world. All services are free of charge and confidential. They are always looking for support and volunteers to help in their mission, too. ***Do you know someone who could help, or be helped?*** Go to [www.firstconcern.org](http://www.firstconcern.org) or call 978-365-9817.

### ***Doubting Thomas***

Does the apostle in today's Gospel reading deserve the label *Doubting Thomas*, or was his reaction understandable due to the immense fear and anxiety that was present following Jesus' crucifixion? He was the only one who was not there when Jesus first appeared to the disciples. And when Thomas was finally in the presence of Jesus, he fell to his knees and confessed *My Lord and My God!* Ultimately, Thomas' belief in Jesus was so strong that it led him to spread the news of Christ to Babylon, Persia and eventually India, where he was martyred for his convictions. Like Thomas, we are called to believe in Jesus no matter the circumstances and to live a life of discipleship. We can trust in the fact that if Jesus can pass through locked doors to be with His disciples, He will surely transcend any of today's obstacles to be with us. May this knowledge bring us peace and assurance.

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