

# Saint Cecilia Church

Rectory: 170 Mechanic Street Leominster, Massachusetts

Telephone (978) 537-6541

Parish Website: [stceciachurch.net](http://stceciachurch.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

## The Most Holy Body And Blood Of Christ (Corpus Christi)

June 6, 2021



**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.

### **Welcome to Saint Cecilia!**

We warmly welcome all our parishioners and visitors attending public Mass as well as those watching live-stream.

### **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

## Mass Intentions



<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 5</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 159</b>
4:00 p.m.	Pauline Peloquin (1st anniv.) by Conrad & children		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 6</b>	<b>The Most Holy Body &amp; Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 159</b>
7:00 a.m.	Anthony & Emilia Amico by the family		
9:45 a.m.	Catherine Lanza (1st anniv.) by Michael Lanza		
11:15 a.m.	Robert Champagne & Earl Graves		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>June 7</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 166</b>
	No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30am & St. Leo's 8:30am		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>June 8</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 168</b>
	No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30am & St. Leo's 8:30am		
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>June 9</b>	<b>St. Ephrem, Deacon &amp; Doctor</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 169</b>
	No Morning Mass at St. Cecilia's — Mass at: St. Anna's 7:30am		
	6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Confessions		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>June 10</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 170</b>
6:30 a.m.	John Boyle by Beatrice Dusza		
7:00 p.m.	Ladies of St. Anne Mass		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>June 11</b>	<b>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 171</b>
6:30 a.m.	Paul Salvatore by Carol Tellier		
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 12</b>	<b>The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 175</b>
12:30 p.m.	WEDDING: Kieran Cochrane & Julia Ring		
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Confessions		
		<b><u>Vigil Mass</u></b>	<b><u>Mass on pg. 178</u></b>
4:00 p.m.	Roger Mayer by his sister, Jeannine Jeffrey		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 13</b>	<b>Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Mass on pg. 178</b>
7:00 a.m.	Stella LeBlanc (11th anniv.) by her family		
9:45 a.m.	Doris Richard (10th anniv.) by her husband & family		
11:15 a.m.	Michael Marchand (1st anniv.) by Anne Marie & Jean Noel Bernard		

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

Please pray for those who are ill, especially: **John Baker, Harper Cormier, Nicholas Cormier, John Gallant, Joseph Lucas, Claire Quiet 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.





### A Message from Father Mateus

Dear brothers and Sisters,

With a very heavy heart, I would like to inform you that I am leaving my position as Associate Pastor at St. Cecilia's in Leominster. I have enjoyed my ministry immensely, and I appreciate having had the opportunity to get to know you. Thank you for the support and friendship you have given me during my time in Leominster. Even though I will miss you, I am looking forward to starting a new phase of my ministry as the Administrator of Our Lady Immaculate and St. Francis of Assisi Parishes in Athol and St. Peter's Parish in Petersham. I know the distance will never separate us. Thanks again, It's been a pleasure having you as part of my life. God bless you always.

The solemnity of Corpus Christi, which Catholics celebrate every year on the first Thursday after the Octave of Pentecost, has not existed in the Church since forever. The landmark of his institution is the bill *Transi-turus de hoc Mundo*, by Pope Urban IV, published on August 11, 1264. More remarkable than this decree of the Pope, however, is its spiritual background. Literature usually points to two main events that culminated in the institution of the Solemnity of the Blessed Body and Blood of Christ: a vision of Saint Juliana de Liège, a Belgian Augustinian nun, and a Eucharistic miracle that took place in the city of Bolsena, Italy.

The Pope who instituted Corpus Christi was personally acquainted with both events. Hence the importance of reviewing them, in order to understand the meaning of the feast we are celebrating and, at the same time, reap abundant spiritual fruits from it.

First, Saint Juliana. What did this mystic see to give rise to the institution of a liturgical feast for the universal Church? Pope Benedict XVI, in a catechesis on this saint, explains:

At the age of 16 years [around 1209] Juliana had a first vision, which was then repeated several times in her Eucharistic adorations. The vision showed the moon in its fullest splendor, with a dark band across it diametrically. The Lord led her to understand the meaning of what had appeared to her. The moon symbolized the life of the Church on earth, the dark band represented, on the contrary, the absence of a liturgical feast, for whose institution Juliana was asked to work effectively: that is, a feast in which the faithful could adore the Eucharist to increase faith, prosper in the practice of virtues and repair offenses to the Blessed Sacrament. James Pantaleon of Troyes, who had met the saint during his ministry as archdeacon in Liège was precisely the one who became Pope under the name of Urban IV in 1264, instituting the solemnity of Corpus Christi as a feast of precept for the universal Church.

The so-called "Miracle of Bolsena-Orvieto", in turn, was carried out by God with a very particular meaning: to strengthen the wavering faith of a priest.

In 1263 (a year before, therefore, the institution of Corpus Christi) a German priest named Peter of Prague stopped in the city of Bolsena after a pilgrimage to the Eternal City. The chronicle usually describes him as a pious priest, but who had difficulty believing that Christ was actually present in the consecrated Host. So here's what happened to him:

While celebrating Holy Mass on the tomb of Saint Cristina, he had barely uttered the words of consecration when blood began to flow from the consecrated Host, dripping into his hands and descending on the altar and the corporal. The priest was immediately taken aback. At first he tried to hide the blood, but then he interrupted Mass and asked to be taken to the nearby town of Orvieto, where Pope Urban IV was then residing.

The Pope heard the priest's report and absolved him. He then sent emissaries for an immediate investigation. When all the facts were confirmed, he ordered the bishop of the diocese to bring the Host and the linen cloth containing the bloodstains to Orvieto. Together with archbishops, cardinals and other Church dignitaries, the Pope carried out a procession and, with great pomp, introduced the relics into the cathedral. The linen body bearing the blood marks is still reverently preserved and displayed in the Cathedral of Orvieto.

As is well known, after that, the Pope asked none other than St. Thomas Aquinas to compose the liturgical

texts referring to Corpus Christi, from whose pen the most beautiful hymns ever written to the Blessed Sacrament were born, and which we all sing to this day.

But what does all this have to do with us?

In the first place, let us remember the three purposes for which Jesus asked this feast to Saint Juliana: “to increase faith, prosper in the practice of virtues and repair offenses to the Blessed Sacrament”. All very current. For the Catholic faith in the sacrament of the Eucharist seems to be increasingly lost. As a result, profanation and sacrilege multiply. What should then be food to strengthen souls becomes the cause of their own condemnation, to use the words of St. Paul (1Cor 11:29); and people, instead of getting better, growing in virtues, only go from bad to worse.

For all that, Corpus Christi is a day of repair. Reparation for the general lack of faith in which our Catholics find themselves, participating in Mass any which way and receiving Communion as if it were any piece of bread. Reparation because, despite so many Eucharistic miracles, such as the one at Bolsena, in which God seems to shout in our ears the truth of his real presence in the Eucharist, we ungrateful people insist on not believing, not worshiping, not hoping and not loving Him. Reparation because, to a God who ardently desires to be united with us, our response is so often laxity, coldness, indifference.

Let us, therefore, repair the Eucharistic Heart of Our Lord, but with a joyful and grateful heart on our part, because it is He Himself who makes this grace possible for us. It was Jesus Christ himself who asked the Church, almost a millennium ago, to institute the solemnity we are celebrating today, the liturgical feast that was lacking in the “life of the Church on earth”.

And let's not be surprised that it took so long — 1200 years! — so that the Catholic faithful could begin to celebrate it. With each new generation of Christians, God brings new things to his Church. In the same way, at each Holy Mass we participate in, He wants to do new things in our soul. Let us always be on the lookout!

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the news this weekend that God has blessed me to be named as your pastor, along with Father Paul Shaughnessey, SJ as Associate Pastor (effective July 1st) I just wanted to assure you of our constant prayers. Father Shaughnessey and I ask for your prayers, as well.

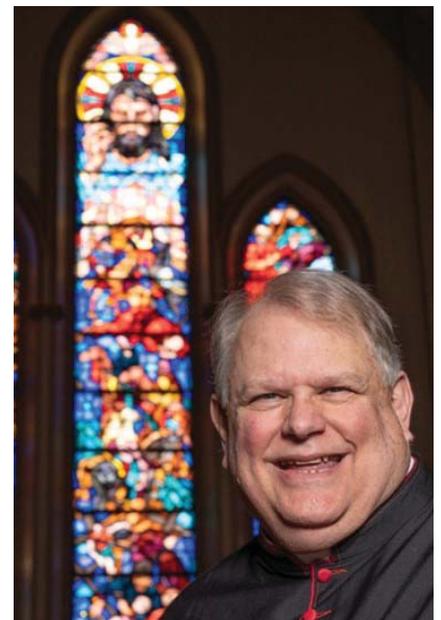
I have always loved Saint Cecilia's, a thriving community built on deep and faithful Acadian roots. Your famous gothic spires reach to the heavens as a testament to the prayers of the diverse community of deep faith which worships beneath them.

With the death last summer of your beloved pastor, and my friend, Father Bruso, I know you are anxious to write the next chapter in the story of the Church on French Hill. Never did I dream as I sat in the pew concelebrating his Funeral, that I would be named his successor. I am humbled to be your father and your brother at this exciting time in the life of Saint Cecilia's parish.

Looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you, and with a shepherd's heart aching to be among you, I remain,

In the Lord,

Monsignor James P. Moroney  
Pastor-elect





### Partners in Charity

Pledged as of June 1: \$41,550.  
 In order to reach goal we need: \$8,450.  
 Can we try to reach our goal before the end of June?

Thank you for an incredible response and generosity!!!



### PARISH DEBT

As of June 1, we have a debt of \$160,000. Some is dated before 2014. It is that portion of the debt that the Diocese is matching dollar per dollar. If you and your family have been financially blessed this year, and you can donate to the "Debt relief", please drop your envelope directly in the office with the note "debt" on it. Preferably by June 14, but it will be always welcomed!

Please pray for **Kieran Cochrane & Julia Ring** who are getting married in our church on June 12th.

### St. Cecilia's Spring Flea Market

Profit \$4,776.36

Thank you to all who helped make this such a huge success!



The Sympathies of the parish community are extended to the family and friends of **Gladys Berhouet and Josephine "Josie" Beauchemin** whose Funeral Masses were held recently. Please remember them in your prayers.

**COLLECTIONS REPORT:**  
**LAST WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP \$5,453.49**  
**MAY CHURCH MAINTENANCE: \$1,274**  
**ASCENSION: \$1,048**  
**Thank you for your ongoing support!**

*Congratulations to the new transitional Deacon Cleber de Paula!*

*May God continue to bless him and guide him as he prepares to be ordained a priest in 2022!*

## Grow in Faith with Deacon Bob

### “Genuflecting”

While it should surprise no one that the basis of the word we use when we bow and kneel in adoration has a Latin root (*genu* = knee + *flectere* = to bend), we may not be sure as to why, in fact, we do this.

Historically when people would bow before others, it was both a sign of respect and a sign of surrender. If we think about it, many of our most ancient traditions come from a time when the world may have been significantly less civilized. You may have even heard how “*shaking hands*” was not even so much a sign of friendship at first, as it was to ensure no one was carrying a weapon (trying to “shake it loose” if it was hidden!).

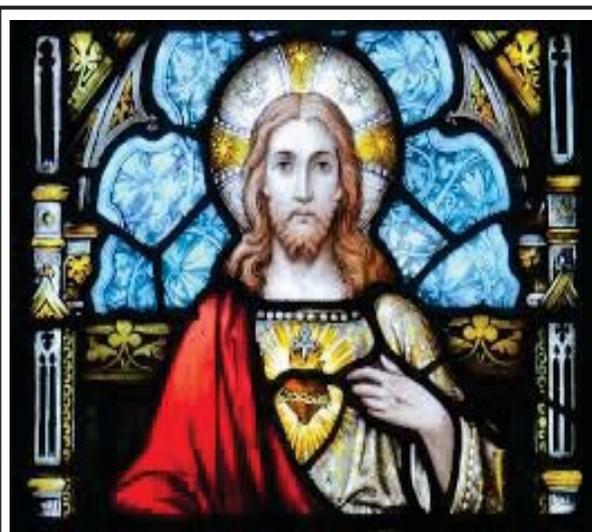
In a similar way, the act of bowing and/or kneeling, historically, came from a way to show respect – but also to show that we are making ourselves defenseless. When we kneel, from a self-defense perspective, there is almost no greater disadvantage we would have to defend ourselves. Humbling ourselves but also completely “*dropping our guard*” in order to acknowledge that we stand before One who is greater, and who we surrender to and now serve. We are placing ourselves at their mercy, while pledging our service to them.

When we add the Sign of the Cross to this action, we make the connection of our heavenly Lord and Savior to this earthly action – and we complete the understanding that we are, without a single word, showing everyone in our presence where our loyalties lie and where we place our value and our trust. A sign of respect, of love, and of surrender.

Within the confines of Church, we do this when we enter the pew before Mass, as well as when we leave it at the end of Mass. We are also called to do this every time we pass in front of the Tabernacle, provided there is a lit candle to indicate the presence of our Lord within. Some will do this before receiving Communion, as well, for all those same reasons.

Every time we perform this action we should actively be thinking of exactly what it is we are saying: “You are my King. You are my Lord. I am here to serve you. I offer my life for you. I ask for your protection. I love you more than life, itself.”

God Bless you all!



### ***This Friday is the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Feast***

*O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore You, I love You, and with a lively sorrow for my sins, I offer You this poor heart of mine.*

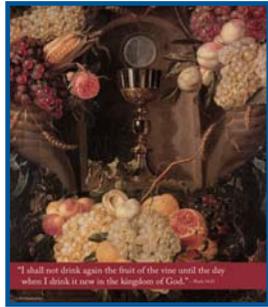
*Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to Your will.*

*Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in You and for You. Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my afflictions.*

*Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, Your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death.*

*Amen.*

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