



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

Some Thoughts on Going to Confession

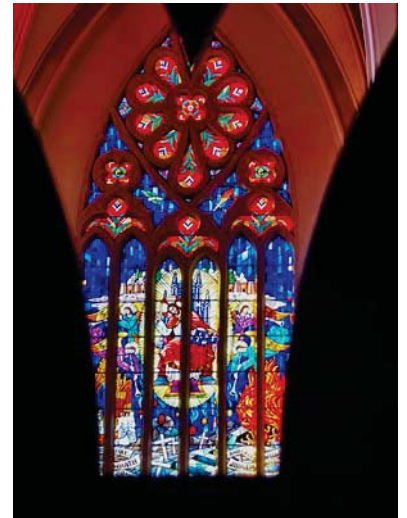


WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA
PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

Can you tell where the picture on the front cover is was taken from?
It's from the inside of my confessional! I particularly enjoy being able to look out the window of my confessional and gaze at the Last Judgement window. There Christ has returned at the end of time and all the dead have risen from their graves. To his right, the just rise to glory, while to the left, the sinners descend to the fiery depths of a hell of their own making.

It is a great reminder, as I sit there opening and closing the sliding doors on each side of the confessional, of what the Sacrament of Penance is all about. It is the most optimistic of Sacraments, for it is a constant reminder of God's loving mercy. No matter what I do or where I wander off to, all I have to do is return to the Lord, turn away from my sins, confess them and say an Act of Contrition, and I am forgiven. Just like that! I walk out of the confessional as pure as the driven snow, with every sin I have ever committed forgiven!



When I kneel on the other side of the screen and confess my sins, it is the greatest relief to hear the priest remind me that "God the Father of mercies, through the Death and Resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins." And then he gets personal! He extends his hand towards me and prays: "Through the ministry of the Church, may God grant you pardon and peace. And I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit."

Since I was seven years old, I have been confessing my sins to God through his priests. As an adolescent, as a young adult, as a middle-aged priest and now in my senior years...so many sins and so much mercy! I can understand how the Prodigal Son must have felt when he returned to his father and was welcomed, embraced and forgiven.

There was an old priest who used to remind me, "So often, we become discouraged by our sins, but God's mercy never grows tired. He is always there, waiting to forgive you." He is always waiting.

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney

Religious Education Students



Sunday, February 5th - Confirmation Candidates: class in the Parish Center (Bible Study Room) from 6:00 - 8:15 PM. Dinner will be provided. **(Meeting date was changed so we could watch the Superbowl.)**

Monday, February 6th - Grades 7-10: Classes continue this week from 7:00 - 8:15 PM. Please enter and exit the Parish Center through the door where the Third & Fourth St. parking lots meet.

Sunday, February 12th – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) - Grade 6: Classes continue this week from 9:45 - 11:00 AM. Please enter and exit the Parish Center through the door where the Third & Fourth St. parking lots meet.

Please pray for those who are ill, especially:

Sister Clemence Croteau, DHS, Terri Cote, David DiGeronimo, Leanne Davis-Iches, Suzanne Melanson, John Nelson, Stephanie Matthews and Linda Kinsey. 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 or so.



The Sympathies of the parish community are extended to the family and friends of

**Ernest J. Savoie and
Bernard A. Dignard**

whose Funeral Masses were held recently.

Please remember them in your prayers.



Last Weekend's Collection was \$6,128.29. Thank You!

2022 Parish Contribution Statements To request a contribution copy, please email BettyAnn at bettyann.stc@verizon.net, if you are unable to email your request, please call the rectory and leave your name and address.

The parish is very grateful for all your generosity throughout the year!

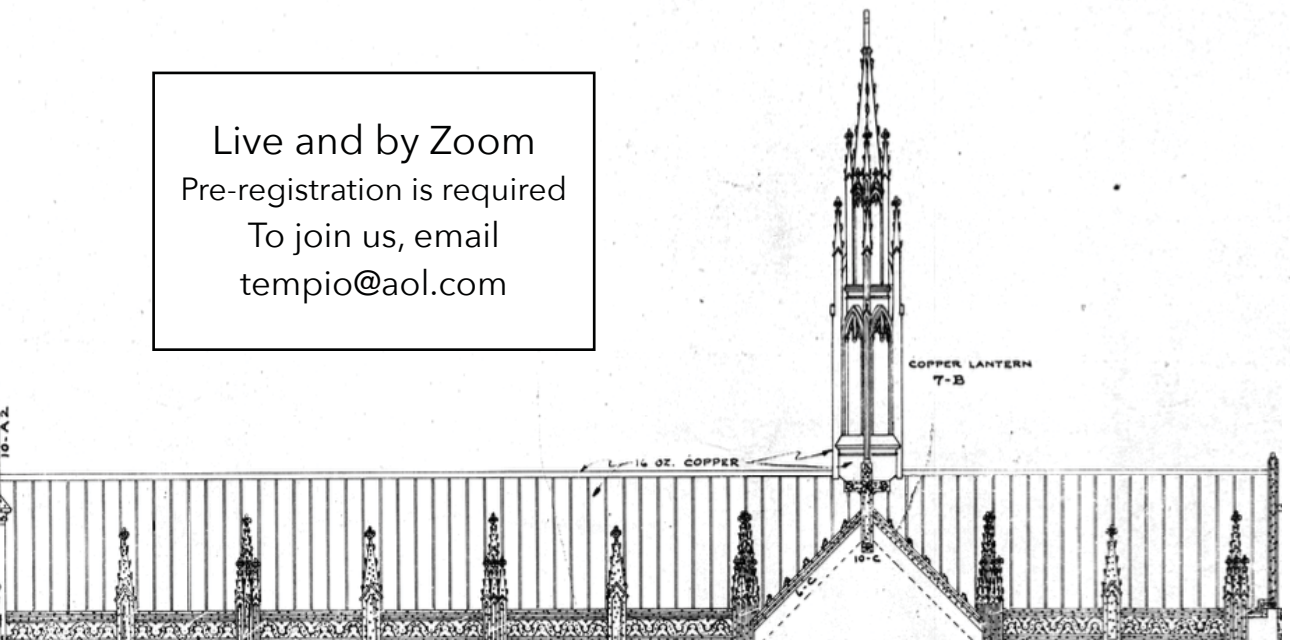
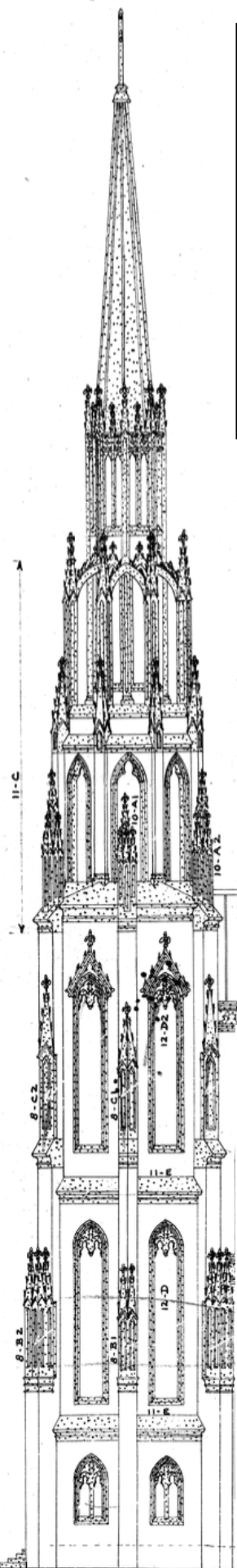
February Envelope Packets - We have been informed by the Church Budget Envelope Company that they will not be sending out envelopes for the month of February due to supply chain problems and difficulty with getting sufficient employees. Church Budget has served the parish well through the years, and we are confident that they will be back on track by March. So you will find boxes of envelopes at the entrances to the Church which are marked Saint Cecilia's Donation Envelopes for February. Please pick some up today to bring home with you.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (MATTHEW 5:16) The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people and it is contagious! Good works encourages more good works. Generosity is a by-product of a grateful lifestyle. The more we recognize God's gifts, the more we want to share them. Good stewards recognize that God is working through them and they don't put themselves above the people they have been called to help.

EXPLORING LITURGICAL ARCHITECTURE AT SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

Where did the architecture of Saint Cecilia's come from and what principles contributed to the development of its liturgical space? In three presentations, Monsignor Moroney will explore where the Gothic Revival movement fits into the history of Catholic liturgical architecture and introduce the participants to the Church's teaching on what a Catholic Church is supposed to be.

Live and by Zoom
Pre-registration is required
To join us, email
tempio@aol.com



Saturday, February 11th from 10am - noon
From Basilica to Gothic: the Elements of Gothic Revived

Saturday, February 18th from 10am - noon
Gothic Liturgical Space: Domus Dei and Domus ecclesiae

Saturday, February 25th from 10am - noon
Light, Color and Narrative: A Vision of Gothic for the
Twenty-first century

Discovering Christ



An Inquiry and Meditation

With Monsignor Francis Kelly

TUESDAY NIGHTS

FEBRUARY 28th, MARCH 7th and MARCH 14th

FROM 7:00-8:30pm

at Saint Cecilia Parish in Leominster

Prepare for Holy Week by this prayerful reflection on the mission and mystery of Jesus, including a study of the Passion and Resurrection. The course is based on Monsignor Kelly's book, *Discovering Christ: An Inquiry and Meditation*, a copy of which will be provided to all participants. If you would like to join us live or by Zoom, send an email today to tempio@aol.com. Pre-registration is required and a donation of \$25 is requested, although not required.



Monsignor Francis Kelly, a priest of Diocese of Worcester for fifty-nine years, is a Canon emeritus of Saint Peter's Basilica, former Rector of Pope Saint John XXIII Seminary in Brighton and former Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Worcester. He also served with then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger on the Committee which prepared the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for publication.

I THINK GOD MIGHT BE CALLING ME TO

THE
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STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

Second Collection Next Week - February 12th



Home mission dioceses across the country face similar challenges: small Catholic populations, great distances between parishes, and economic hardships that make it difficult for parishes to meet the pastoral needs of their communities. In northern Alabama's Diocese of Birmingham, for instance, one parish is the only Catholic church in its county. Another parish affected by high unemployment and underemployment lacks resources to pay for youth ministry and parish activities. Despite these economic challenges, the diocese is committed to forming disciples in the parishes and providing quality education to poor and minority students.

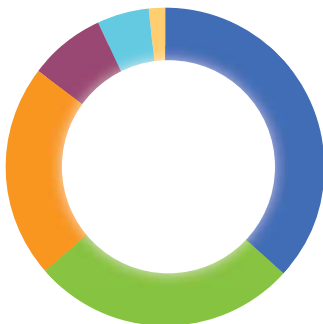
Support from Catholic Home Missions makes the day-to-day ministries of these parishes possible through grants to the diocese for parish operations, training of parish catechetical leaders, youth ministry support, and one-on-one attention to help struggling Catholic school pupils succeed in their education. When you support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, your contribution helps dioceses like Birmingham keep their parishes open and available to meet the pastoral needs of their communities.

For more information about the Catholic home missions, visit www.usccb.org/home-missions.

What Is a Home Mission Diocese?

Home mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and laypeople. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home missions.

CHMA FINANCIALS 2021



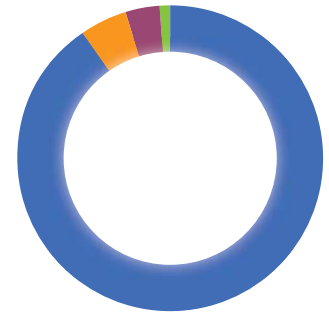
Totals by Program Area

• Diocesan and Parish Assistance	\$3,410,000
• Faith Formation	\$2,505,000
• Priestly and Religious Vocations	\$2,017,500
• Cultural Ministries*	\$715,000
• Strengthening Marriage and Family Life	\$485,000
• Life and Dignity of the Human Person†	\$150,000

Total: \$9,282,500

*including Hispanic and other ethnic and cultural ministries

†including prison ministries and ministries for persons with disabilities



• Grants and Donations	\$8,084,200
• Program Costs	\$432,593
• Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	\$336,841
• Administrative Expenses	\$81,035

Total Expenses: \$8,934,669



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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2023

EUCHARIST AND CHARITY



Among the formulas prescribed for the Deacon to dismiss the gathered assembly at the end of Mass are two formulas introduced in recent years: *Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord* and *Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life*. These dismissals are drawn from ancient texts which reflect the fact that celebration and reception of the Eucharist change us. We leave the Church different from when we arrived.

Do you recall what the Lord did before he celebrated the Last Supper? He washed the feet of his disciples, as an example of sacrificial love. Only then did he institute the Holy Eucharist with the words “this is my Body...this is my Blood,” just as he would open his arms on the altar of the Cross the next day, offering the perfect Sacrifice for their salvation.

When we encounter the Lord, we are changed. When we receive him in Holy Communion, we become one with him, empowered to love others as he has loved us.¹

This is why the Council Fathers reminded us that Christian charity “flows mainly from the Eucharistic Sacrifice, which is therefore the center and root of the whole priestly life.”² This is also why Pope Saint John Paul II recommended daily celebration of the Mass, in order to “counteract the daily tensions which lead to a lack of focus [that is found] in the Eucharistic Sacrifice – the true center of [our] lives and ministry – the spiritual strength...”³

Thus we hear Isaiah proclaiming the Lord’s command: “Share your bread with the hungry...” as we are sent forth, empowered by the Holy Eucharist, which satisfies the thirsty soul, and fills the hungry with good things.⁴

¹ Cf. John 15:9.

² *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, no. 14.

³ *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, no. 31.

⁴ Cf. Prayer after Communion from today’s Mass.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 4	Vigil	<i>Breaking Bread, page 63</i>
9:00am	Jack O'Donnell by Jim & Gigi Grimley		
Sunday	February 5	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<i>Breaking Bread, page 63</i>
7:00am	Robert Connor, Sr. by the Connor family		
9:45am	Tami LeBlanc (1st anniv.) by the family		
11:15am	Bertha Gauthier by the Ladies of St. Anne		
Monday	February 6	Saint Paul Miki and companions	
6:30am	Edward Gautreau by Yvonne Richard		
Tuesday	February 7	Weekday	
6:30am	Marguerite (Maggie) Cormier by Therese Doiron		
Wednesday	February 8	Weekday	
6:30am	Parishioners of Saint Cecilia Parish		
Thursday	February 9	Weekday	
9:00am	Lena Albert by Anita Leger & Jeannette Wiseman and family		
6:00pm	Charles & Mildred Bilodeau (anniv.) by Priscilla Gates		
Friday	February 10	Saint Scholastica	
9:00am	Antonio Caiazzi by his wife		
Saturday	February 11	Weekday	
9:00am	Benjamin Bennett by the Connor family		
Saturday	February 11	Vigil	<i>Breaking Bread, page 65</i>
4:00pm	Paul & Rita LeBlanc by the family		
Sunday	February 12	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<i>Breaking Bread, page 65</i>
7:00am	Nelson Crochetiere (17th anniv.) by the family		
9:45am	Oscar Brodeur (8th anniv.) by his wife, Rita and family		
11:15am	Everett & Jeanne Duchesneau (anniv.) by Priscilla Gates		





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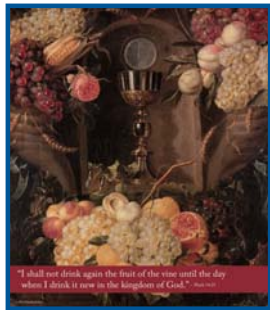
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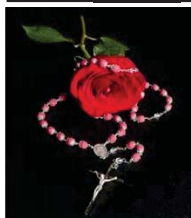
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