



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

“...if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”



WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA
PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

With the lessening of COVID-19 rates of transmission and severity, we will be restoring the Presentation of the Gifts (Offertory Procession) beginning with Ash Wednesday at all Masses in the Main Church.

The Presentation of the Gifts is an ancient rite in the Church. In the early days, these gifts of bread and wine came from the kitchens of those who brought them to Mass, with the surplus going to the poor. Today, the bread and wine are purchased by the parish, and instead we bring forth gifts of money in support of the needs of the Church and the poor.

But the Procession with the Gifts still has a profound meaning. For the gathered faithful are not silent spectators at what the Priest does on their behalf. Those gathered here by Christ form a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, joining the sacrifices of their lives with the one and perfect sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross.

When gifts of bread and wine are placed into the hands of the Priest, it is not just bread that is offered, but with those little hosts are mixed all the sacrifices of our lives. And with the wine in that cruet are mixed the joys and sorrows, the longings and holy desires of each member of the gathered assembly. At this presentation the faithful are like the Magi bringing gifts to the Christ child. But these gifts are of an even greater value than gold, frankincense, and myrrh, for these are the gifts of our lives. The poet Paul Claudel once wrote of this moment: "Your prayers, and your faith, and your blood, with his in the chalice. These, like the water and wine, form the matter of his sacrifice."

We place these gifts into the hands of the Priest, offering them to Christ. Then the Priest, acting in the person of Christ, places those gifts upon the altar in the same way that Christ placed his body upon the altar of the Cross in a perfect sacrifice of praise. These are the gifts that will be transformed by the great Eucharistic Prayer into the very Body and Blood of Christ, and then returned to us as our nourishment that we might have the strength to continue to join ourselves with Christ's sacrifice every day of our lives.

Not only gifts of bread and wine, of course, but monetary donations to support the work of the Church and to assist those who are poor are likewise collected inspired by Christ who became poor to make us rich.

It is so good to see one more step to returning to normal as the pandemic begins to abate. It is my hope to restore distribution of Holy Communion under both forms in the coming months, as well, all dependent on the rate of transmission and severity of the virus. May God bring us fully back to normal soon!

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney

Please pray for those who are ill, especially:

Dick "The Barber" Fontaine, Terri Cote, David DiGeronimo, Leanne Davis-Iches, Suzanne Melanson and John Nelson.

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

Sister Clemence Croteau, DHS

whose Funeral Mass was held recently. Many of you may remember her as she served several years here assisting with our Religious Education program.

Please remember her in your prayers.



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**Last Weekend's
Collection was \$8,194.29.
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!***



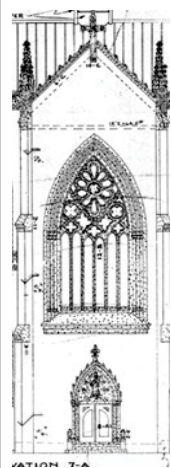
February 12

Catholics believe marriage to be a sacrament. By this we mean that the faithful love of husband and wife is a sign of Christ's lasting love for us. On this World Marriage Day, let us pray that those who are married seek to bring each other closer to heaven each day.



St. Cecilia's Bingo Friday Evenings at 6:30 PM
2 Winner-Take-All-Games • Shot Gun Game • Progressive Games
(This week's Hot Hot Hot 300 Progressive Jackpot is at \$3,800)
20 \$10 Door Prizes • Raffles • Cafeteria
Doors Open at 4 PM Come Try Your Luck!





EXPLORING GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE AT SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

with Monsignor Moroney

Saturdays February 18, February 25 and March 4th.

Pre-registration is required. If you would like to join the class live or by ZOOM, send an email to tempio@aol.com

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 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.

Vianney Dinner for Vocations



The next Vianney dinner is **Thursday, February 23** at the Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies at 51 Illinois St., Worcester. 6:05 pm Mass, 6:30 pm dinner, and 7:00 pm social. These are nights for men, high school aged and up, interested in learning more about a priestly vocation. Don't want to come alone? Bring a friend! You are welcome to come to all or part of the evening as your schedule allows. An RSVP is not needed but it is helpful in getting an accurate count for food.

Email: director@worcestervocations.com.

Job Opportunity

Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope is looking for an **administrative assistant** to manage the administration and a **pickup and delivery person** to work with our Little Store team. The job descriptions is currently posted on our website at [Careers – Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope. \(www.urbanmissionaries.com/careers-2/\)](http://www.urbanmissionaries.com/careers-2/) These are the critical positions, but we have many other positions that have historically been filled by volunteers, and are currently vacant and need to be filled.



COVID – 19 VACCINE CLINIC

Protect yourself, your family, and your loved ones

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Spanish American Center

112 Spruce St, Leominster MA 01453

1:00 PM — 4:00 PM

Vaccine(s) being offered:

Moderna 18 and older, and Pfizer 5 and older

(Bivalent) boosters

You are eligible for the Bivalent booster if: you are 12 and older, who have not had a booster after Sept 1st- for adults, you are a child 5-11, who have not had a booster after 10/12/22-for kids or 2 months after original series

How to register:

Call 978-534-3145 to register

What you need to know:

Please Bring Vaccination Card Bring the health Insurance information

Massachusetts COVID-19 Community Grants

*Gift cards for COVID vaccine recipients available first come,
first serve Walk-ins are accepted*

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 12, 2023

EUCHARIST AS MYSTERY

Immediately after the consecration, the priest holds up the Body and Blood of the Lord for our adoration and then invites us to acclaim the Lord with the words *The Mystery of Faith*.

In what sense is the Eucharist a mystery? We might be tempted to see the word *mystery* as connoting an imponderable reality, like an Agatha Christie whodunit, or the popular series, *White Lotus*, in which we spend several episodes trying to figure out who has died.

But the Eucharist is a far deeper mystery than this. It is mysterious because the understanding of it is only found by peering into the mind of God. To understand the Eucharist we must understand, as Saint Paul tells us today, “God's wisdom, [which is] mysterious, hidden,” predetermined by God... before the ages for our glory.”

The Mystery of the Eucharist is the mystery of the crucified Lord, of sinful men and women like us being invited to a feast of heavenly delights,¹ of a chosen people mysteriously made one with their Lord.

Such a mystery was well understood by Saint Teresa of Calcutta, who insisted that all of her sisters celebrate the Eucharist, receive Holy Communion and spend an hour in adoration of their Eucharistic Lord before they would go out to serve the poor. “To be able to live this life of vows,” she said, “we need our life to be woven with the Eucharist.”

Such is the Mystery of the Eucharist which is the source and summit of our lives.



¹ Cf. Prayer after Communion for today's Mass.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



Saturday February 11 Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 65

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

4:00pm Mass for Paul and Rita LeBlanc, by the family (Church)

Sunday February 12 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Breaking Bread, page 65

7:00am Mass for Nelson Crochetière (17th Anniv.), by the family (Church)

9:45am Mass for Oscar Brodeur (8th Anniv.), by his wife Rita and family (Church)

9:30am-11:00am RCIA Group (Rectory)

9:45am-11:00am Catechist of the Good Shepherd, and other classes through Grade six (Parish Center)

11:15am Mass for Everett and Jeanne Duchesneau (Anniv.), by Priscilla Gates (Church)

Monday February 13 Weekday

6:30am Mass for Edward Gautreau, by Yvon Martin (Chapel)

3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

7:00pm - 8:15pm Grades Seventh thru Tenth Religious Education (Parish Center)

Tuesday February 14 Saints Cyril and Methodius

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

6:30am Mass for the People of Saint Cecilia's Parish (Chapel)

3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

6:30pm - 7:45pm Bible Study (Parish Hall, Meeting Room)

Wednesday February 15 Weekday

6:30am Mass Paul J. Roy by the Bunko Squad (Chapel)

3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

6:00pm Confessions (Church)

7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)

Thursday February 16 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Jacqueline Lacroix, by Georgette and Florian Babineau (Chapel)

3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

6:00pm Mass for Cecile Leger, by Carol (Chapel)



Friday February 17 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Father Charles R. Armey (3rd Anniv.) (Chapel)
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass
 Noon Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
 4:00pm Wedding Rehearsal for Nicholas Zwenke and Bridget Duffy (Church)
 6:30pm BINGO (Parish Center) Doors open 4pm; Game starts 6:30pm

Saturday February 18 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Norman & Lillian Richard, by Ken & Jeannie Richard (Chapel)
 10:00am - Noon: Exploring Gothic Architecture (Church - pre-registration required)
 1:00pm - Wedding of Nicholas Zwewnke and Bridget Duffy (Church)

Saturday February 18 Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 68

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Father Francis Goguen (10th Anniv.), by his cousins (Church)

Sunday February 19 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Breaking Bread, page 68

7:00am Mass for Stella LeBlanc, by the family (Church)
9:45am Mass for Glenn Reynolds, by Patrick and Janice Goguen (Church)
 9:30am-11:00am RCIA Group (Rector)
 9:45am-11:00am Catechist of the Good Shepherd, and other classes through Grade six (Parish Center)
11:15am Mass for Jay and Doug Moore, by Jeanne Conti (Church)

Welcome to our newly expanded Parish Calendar. In addition to the Mass Intentions, we will be posting all parish events in this space (with their locations) in this space every week. It is our hope that this will serve as an easy reference.

DID YOU EVER WONDER ABOUT THE CELEBRANTS' CALENDAR?

Ever wonder which priest is celebrating which Mass? While special events cause exceptions, here's the way the celebrants' calendar generally works: (1) Sunday Masses alternate each week in the following manner: PRIEST A celebrates the 4pm and 9:45am Masses, while PRIEST B celebrates the 7:00am and 11:15am Masses (this priest also celebrates 9am Saturday). (2) Monday and Tuesday Masses (6:30am) are usually celebrated by Father Shaughnessy. (3) Thursday (6:00pm) and Friday (9:00am) Masses are usually celebrated by Monsignor Moroney. (4) Wednesday (6:30am) Mass is alternated between the two priests. Now you know!

*To live your true
calling is a life of joy,
but you will only hear
His voice if you take the
time to listen.*



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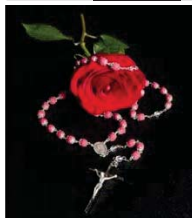
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