

# SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

Easter 2023



# WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

Christ is Risen! He is victorious over sin and death and invites us to join our hearts and our lives to his saving

sacrifice.

Never was that more evident than last week, when we celebrated the Funeral Mass for little Kaia Evelyn Emma, who at three months old had been baptized just days before. Please join me in continuing to pray for her mom and dad, Chelsea and Joshua, as well as her big brother Kane (he's four years old). Kane drew the picture you see here, explaining that it is what heaven now looks like with Kaia (she's in pink), her grandparents and the angels, with God in the middle (he's wearing two crosses). Deacon Bob Connor, who also baptized Kaia and Kane, preached the following homily, which I share with you as a testament to our Easter faith in the Risen Lord!



"Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

If that Gospel we just heard sounds *familiar* to some of you, it should. I read it just over a week ago. The day we baptized **Kaia** and her brother **Kane**. The second time I got to meet that little girl, and the very day before our Lord – for some reason - decided **He** needed her more than we do.

When I first heard the news that we'd lost this beautiful child, there was a quote that came to mind. Quite frankly, it was all I could think of. I thought at first it was *Shakespeare*, but no – it was *Alfred, Lord Tennyson*. "*Tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all.*" In my mind I had always thought it was a question, "*Is it better to have loved and lost?*" I don't know why, but I thought it sounded better as a question.

Monsignor and I have spoken about Kaia quite a bit. It's not only incredibly sad to have a funeral Mass for someone so young, but it is also – thankfully – very uncommon. In my role here, I sometimes have the unfortunate occasion to attend many funerals, and I will tell you that the tone of the funeral for a child - like Kaia – the readings, the content, the focus – is not about asking for forgiveness. It is not at all about asking for Christ's mercy as it will be, I assure you, when our time comes - when you and I will stand before Him in judgment.

For Kaia there is no need to ask for mercy. Through Joshua & Chelsea's beautiful efforts in bringing her to the Church, in their desire to have her and her brother baptized, and through the willingness of Lexis & Brian to stand up on her behalf as Godparents, we have a situation where the Church – which very rarely makes such statements – says unequivocally – that this child, this child who had been baptized into Christ and into His Church, is absolutely in heaven.

And if you were here with us that Sunday, you may also remember that when we were about to pray the *Litany of the Saints* over these children – I talked about the "*Communion of the Saints*," - and about "the definition of a Saint." "*A saint*," I said, "*is anyone who is in heaven*." Some we know the names of, many we do not – but all of them – by being there - are Saints. They are standing in the presence of God the Father almighty, and our Lord, Jesus Christ, and they are surrounded by the Holy Spirit. I may have even encouraged you, that if you did not have a saint you were particularly drawn to, that you should find one – so that they could help you to become one, too.

Well if saints are those in heaven, and if Kaia is without question in heaven, then brothers and sisters, we have a new saint. A saint we have known. A saint we have maybe even held in our arms. And a saint that we can name. Not only that - but a saint we can ask to intercede on our behalf. All of which means, a saint we can ask for help, to get us to heaven, too. It seems odd to me that, having met this child just twice in my life, that she should have such an impact on me, but Kaia has, and I'll tell you why...Because we prayed over that child, in this church. Cleansed her from *Original Sin*. Anointed her with the *Oil of Catechumens* for strength. Baptized her with Holy Water in the name of the *Father*, and of the *Son*, and of the *Holy Spirit*. Blessed her with *Holy Chrism* to seal her with the Holy Spirit – all to make her a new creation, a child of God. *Just in time for her to go home to Him*.

Is it better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all? I say, yes. *Lord Tennyson* had it right – it is a statement, not a question. As incredibly hard as this is - we are all better (every one of us) for having had the time we did with Kaia, even me with my brief two visits. We are better people than if we had never met her. *So you see, she's already working to get us to heaven*.

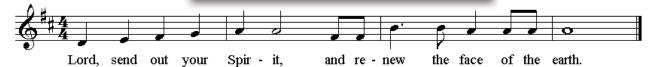
If we can take any comfort, let it be that she is in the arms of family members she did not have a chance to meet before she was born – and that she rests where we all long to be, ourselves, someday - in the arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, even as we speak. *How do we know this?* You just heard it.

"Let the children come to me" He told us. "Do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to just such as her."

Little Saint Kaia, pray for us.

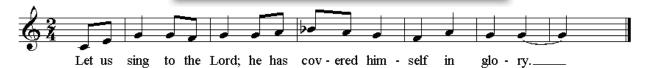


#### FIRST RESPONSORIAL PSALM



Owen Alstott, @ 1977, 1990, OCP. All rights reserved.

#### SECOND RESPONSORIAL PSALM



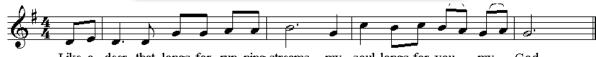
Owen Alstott, © 1977, 1990, OCP. All rights reserved.

#### THIRD RESPONSORIAL PSALM



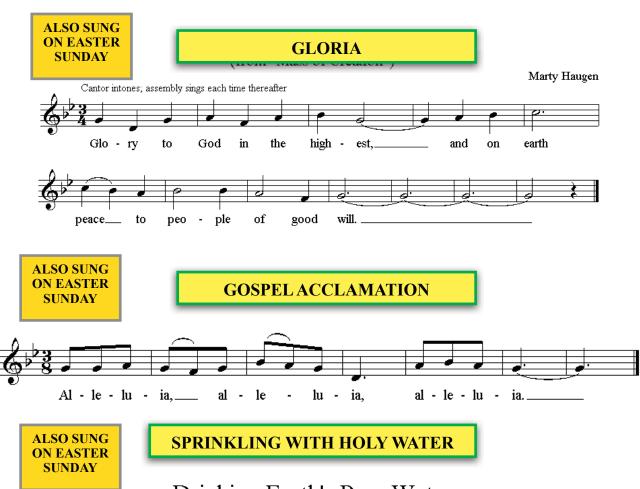
Owen Alstott, © 1977, 1990, OCP. All rights reserved.

#### FOURTH RESPONSORIAL PSALM



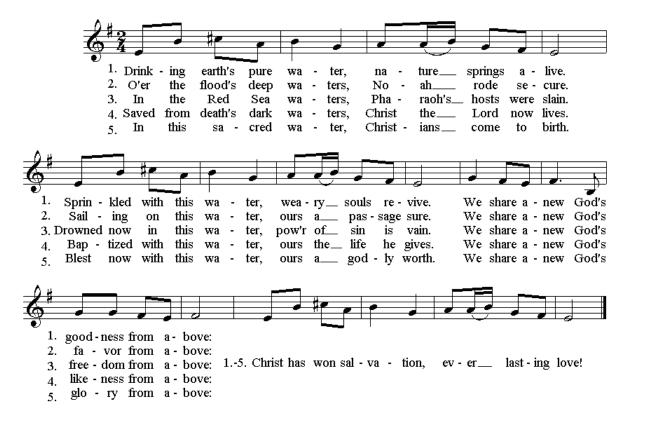
Like a deer that longs for run-ning streams, my soul longs for you, \_\_ my\_\_ God.

Owen Alstott, © 1977, 1990, OCP. All rights reserved.



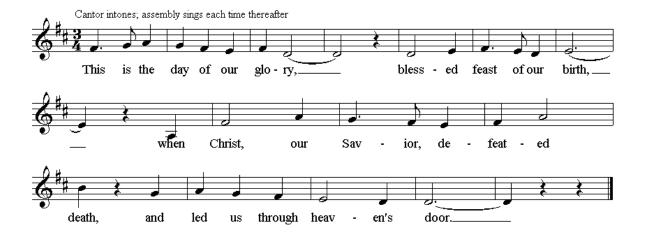
#### Drinking Earth's Pure Water

(Hymn for Rite of Sprinkling at Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday)



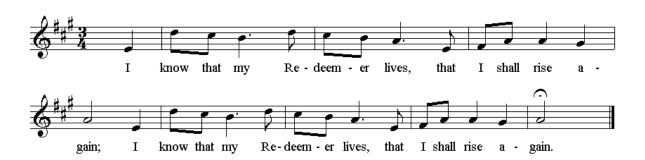
ALSO SUNG ON EASTER SUNDAY

#### **COMMUNION HYMN #1**



Daniel L. Schutte, @ 2000, OCP. All rights reserved.

#### **COMMUNION HYMN #2**



Scott Soper, @ 1990, OCP. All rights reserved.

#### **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

#178 IN THE HYMNAL: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

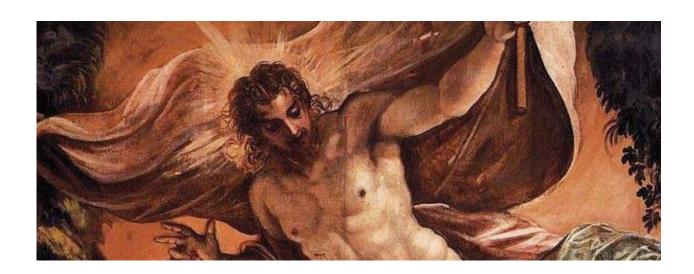
#### MUSIC FOR EASTER SUNDAY

ENTRANCE HYMN *Joyful, We Adore Thee*#555 IN THE HYMNAL

# GLORIA as at Easter Vigil, above RESPONSORIAL PSALM



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION as at Easter Vigil, above
SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER as at Easter Vigil, above
COMMUNION HYMNS as at Easter Vigil, above
RECESSIONAL HYMN JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY
#178 IN THE HYMNAL:



All music reprinted in this program with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-741264.



Attention: **Ladies of St Anne** we are having our first meeting for 2023 Wednesday April 12 (**NEW TIME**) 6:00 pm. Please plan to attend this very important meeting. If you are not current on dues, please bring your book. We encourage all members to attend to show their support for our wonderful organization. It is at the parish center lower hall, we will resume our raffle and have refreshments.

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

Nancy A. DiFrancesco, Kaia Evelyn Emma and Robert J. Hachey

whose Funeral Masses were held recently. Please remember them in your prayers.



Mark your calendar today.

#### A MASS FOR HEALING

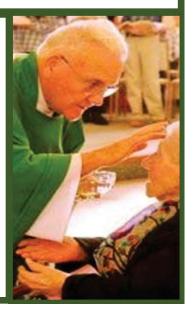
ON SATURDAY, MAY 20<sup>th</sup>, the 9:00am Mass will be celebrated for the intentions of everyone who is sick. After the Mass, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be given to those who are elderly or who have a serious illness.

#### What is the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick?

When the priest anoints the sick person with the Oil of the Sick blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass, he prays that "through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who frees you from your sins, save you and raise you up." The Sacrament unites us to Christ's Passion, strengthens us to endure suffering, forgives our sins, restores our health if it's conducive for our salvation, and prepares us to enter eternal life.



The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is for any Baptized Catholic who is suffering from a grave illness which could, even remotely, end in death. It is not intended for those with a cold or a mild illness. Those who are elderly, by definition, may always be anointed.



Last Weekend's Collection was \$11,090.29. Thank You!

#### April 15 5 PM - 9 PM

\$7 Advance tickets available for purchase at St. Cecilia's Rectory, Bourbeau's Market or at Friday night Bingo



"A little bit Country - A little bit Rock n Roll"

- \$7 (\$10 @ door)
   INCLUDES:
- Surprise Music
   Event

DJ - RAY RICHARD
Playing your favorite Oldies & Country Tunes
April 15, 5 PM - 9 PM

St. Cecilia's Parish Hall
188 Mechanic St., Leominster

 Subs, Fricot, Beverages, Beer, Wine (For Sale)



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

Easter 2023

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"Christ my hope has arisen..." - Easter Sequence

"You know what has happened all over Judea..." (Acts 10:37). Saint Peter's words in the Acts of the Apostles introduce a compact account of Jesus' public ministry. For three years Jesus' preaching, healings, and good works fulfilled the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. His works of love and words of truth led to the dramatic events of Holy Week which the Easter sequence describe as death and life contending in that "battle stupendous." On Good Friday it seemed as if sin, death and evil had triumphed. But when all seemed lost, Easter came. Christ rose. Today, the sequence joyfully announces, "The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal."

The joy of that announcement should sound in our souls and resonate in our hearts. Christ's resurrection shows that, in the end, good triumphs over evil, mercy overcomes sin, and life eternal life - follows death. In a world weary from conflict, war, indifference, uncertainty and grief, the Easter message of hope is timely and needed.

Easter is not just an end to Lent, a day of feasting, and a break from life. Easter is an elevation of life. Christ's resurrection should be the lens through which we grasp life's true meaning and our ultimate goal. It is the perspective which enables us to keep life's disappointments, tragedies and discouragements in proper perspective. Our faith and God's grace don't exempt us from our trials in life. They equip us to live Christ's Gospel on earth and to share His victory in Heaven.

Today, and every day, we should rejoice in the resurrection and give thanks to God for His mercy and love. We should be resolved, as Saint Paul says to "seek that which is above" (Col 3:1). May the joy of Easter give you hope, may it guide your life and elevate your vision. Jesus Christ has risen and He promises His faithful followers, "whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live" (John 11:25).

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus

+ Robert J. Mc Marus

Bishop of Worcester



# The Resurrection of the Lord APRIL 8, 2023 RECEIVING THE PASCHAL VICTIM

Christians, to the Paschal Victim Offer your thankful praises! A Lamb redeems the sheep!



The Paschal Mystery is the great Mystery of Faith. Having just concluded the Sacred Paschal Triduum, the cornerstone of the entire liturgical year, we now reach the greatest feast of all Christianity: Easter Sunday, the Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord.

As we repeatedly recalled throughout Lent, and especially at the Easter Vigil last night, the story begins with the arrogance of sinful Adam, who wanted to be God. Saint Paul, in his famous letter to the Philippians, contrasts this arrogance with the humility of the Son of God "who, in becoming man does not hesitate to take upon himself all human weaknesses, save sin, and going even as far as the depths of death." The Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Son of God is what we refer to as the Paschal Mystery, the central mystery of our salvation, whereby he emptied himself, taking on our humanity out of love for us.

The meaning of the Paschal Mystery is most clearly perceived in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, whereby "on the night in which he was betrayed [the Lord] took bread, and after he had given thanks, broke it and said, *This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.* In the same way, after the supper, he took the cup, saying, "*This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.*"<sup>3</sup>

In the reception of Holy Communion on this Easter Sunday, then, let us enter deeply into the Paschal Mystery, whereby the Lamb has been slain for our salvation and we, who receive his Body and Blood, "renewed by the paschal mysteries, [may] may come to the glory of the resurrection."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Roman Missal, Victimæ paschali laudes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, 8 April, 2009

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 1 Cor 11: 23-25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Prayer after Communion from today's Mass.



#### BIBLE DETECTIVE

See what you can discover for yourself about the background to the readings.

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Palm 118)

Whereabouts in the Bible can you find the psalms? Are they in the Old or New Testament?

What is a psalm? How many of them does the Bible have?

Do we know who wrote the psalms? Do we know roughly when they were written?

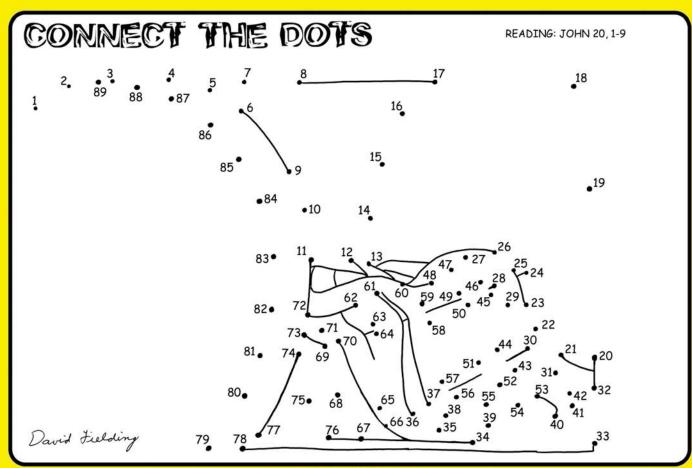
Can you name a particular person whose name is connected with them?

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Can you discover what a cornerstone was?

#### FILL IN THE GAPS

The sentences below are missing key words. Can you find the correct ones? (They are all in today's readings.)

1. He went	about doing good	_ and healing
all who w	vere in the of th	ne
2. He com	missioned us to	to the
	and to	witness.
3. The	which the builder:	s
has beco	me the	·
4. Early in the morning on the day		day of
the week, while it was still		, Mary
Magdale	n came to the	<u> </u>
5. He did r	not but bent do	own to peer in
and saw	he lying on the	
ANSWERS	5. enter, wrappings, ground	
	b , terif .4 snotersoned , first, d	3. stone, rejec
J	devil 2. preach, people, bea	I. works, grip,



**APRIL 9, 2023** EASTER SUNDAY



#### THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



Saturday April 8

Easter Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 112

no confessions today

8:30pm Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (Church)

Sunday

April 9

Easter Sunday

Breaking Bread, page 135

7:00am Easter Mass for Camille and Nathan Richard, by Leander and Phyllis Maillet (Church)

9:45am Easter Mass for Norman Richard, by his sister and family (Church)

11:15am Easter Mass for deceased members of George Dallaire family, by Jeanne Conti (Church)

Monday April 10

Monday in the Octave of Easter

6:30am Mass for Gudron Schmitz (Chapel)

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

7:00-8:15pm - Religious Education, grades seven through ten (Parish Center)

Tuesday April 11 Tuesday in the Octave of Easter

**6:30am Mass** for Father Stanley Francis Rother, by Claudette (Chapel)

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

7:00pm Introduction to the Sacred Liturgy (Rectory and by Zoom)

Wednesday

April 12

Wednesday in the Octave of Easter

6:30am Mass for Dorothy Grazioso, by Yvonne Richard (Chapel)

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

6:00pm Mass for the parishioners of Saint Cecilia Church (Chapel)

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)

NOTE NEW SCHEDULE: WEDNESDAY 6PM MASS AND 6:30PM CONFESSIONS

Thursday April 13

Thursday in the Octave of Easter

9:00am Mass for Leon Hamel (28<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by his wife, Claudette (Chapel)

9:30am Bible Study (Parish Center)

3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Eileen Belliveau (30<sup>th</sup> day) by her brother, Gerald McDonald and family (Chapel)

NOTE NEW SCHEDULE: THURSDAY 6PM MASS - CONFESSIONS ON WEDNESDAY AT 6:30PM

Friday

April 14

Friday in the Octave of Easter

9:00am Mass for Antoinette Barnaby (1st anniv.), by Kathy and John (Chapel)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass

Noon Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)

3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel) 6:30pm BINGO (Parish Center) Doors open at 4:00pm; Game starts 6:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 9, 2023

Saturday April 15 Saturday in the Octave of Easter

9:00am Mass for Evelyn Gariepy, by Wil Gariepy (Chapel)

9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday April 15 Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 139

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

4:00pm Mass for Rita Cannon, by her mother and family (Church)

5:00pm - 9:00pm "Rock n Boots Party" - A little Country - A little Rock n Roll (Parish Center)

Sunday April 16

Second Sunday in Easter

Breaking Bread, page 139

7:00am Mass for Ernest Savoie (3 months), by Doris and James Small (Church)

9:30am RCIA (Rectory)

9:45am Mass for Catherine Grace Lanza, by Michael Lanza (Church)

11:15am Mass for Jacqueline Lacroix, by her friends (Church)

12:30pm Baptism of Elizabeth Rose Gusha (Church)



#### **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

On the Second Sunday of Easter we recall Jesus' appearance to his Disciples after his Resurrection, when he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thus, particularly in recent times, this Sunday has been devoted to reflecting on the merciful love of God, especially thanks to the teachings of Pope Saint John Paul II and Saint Faustina Kawalska.

Here at Saint Cecilia's, we are particularly devoted to the Divine Mercy of God, thanks to the relics of these two great saints enshrined in our Chapel of Divine Mercy and Saint Joseph. Next Sunday, therefore, we will conclude the 4pm, 7am and 9:45am Masses with a blessing with the relic of Pope Saint John Paul II. At the 11:15am Mass, we will conclude with a Eucharistic procession to the Chapel. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will then continue until 3:00pm, concluding with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction with the Most Blessed Sacrament.

#### Please pray for those who are ill, especially:

Dolores Garceau, Judy Davis, Claudette Hamel, Jesse Rojas, June Roy, José Dhiogo, Jenn, Doris, Elena and Doris Maillet.

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.



# THANKS TO THESE SPONSORS WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH YOUR BULLETIN

#### FREE EACH WEEK

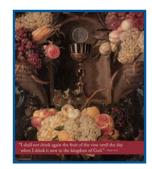
Enjoy the full color bulletin that will change weekly and may feature images to reflect the Gospel of the week or a meaningful Parish event.

To receive this bulletin in your inbox each week please email signup@pilotbulletins.net

617-779-3770 // www.pilotbulletins.net



# **Online Bulletin Delivery**







To your inbox

Sign Up at www.pilotbulletins.net/sign-up

Receive your Parish Bulletin in your inbox every week.



"For those who quality. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ""Other valid at time of estimate only, 2 like leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor sets of gutter guard system in America. Agency conducted as 16 month outdoor sets of gutter guard system in America. Registration #110 file/9015 Licensee (ECOSOFIC) Licensee (ECOSOFIC)

## Consumer Cellular



call consumer cellular 866-929-3439

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. New service activation on approved credit. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations. For promo details please call 866-929-3439

# **Custom Glide-Out Shelves** for your existing cabinets and pantry.



Easy access, less stress, everything within reach.

ShelfGenie

a neighborly company

Call for Your **FREE** Design Consultation: **(855) 625-9032** 

\*Limit one offer per household. Must purchase 5+ Classic/Designer Glide-Out Shelves. EXP 4/30/23. Independently owned and operated franchise. ©2023 ShelfGenie SPV LLC. All rights Reserved.



**\( (844) 985-4959** 

Take the guesswork out of senior care, call a Caring Family Advisor today.



**\( (844) 985-4959** 



#### Wright-Roy Funeral Home

109 West Street Leominster

978-534-9372

www.wrightroyfuneralhome.com



Parishioners of St. Cecilia's for over 75 years!

Right Coverage. Right Price. Right Choice.

David Pelletier • Brian Allain 978-534-8329 www.choice-insurance.com

Home • Auto • Business • Life



#### DOUGLAS TAMMELIN, **REALTOR®**

Cell: 978.514.3423

Office: 978.840.4014 Douglas.Tammelin@NEMoves.com

Leominster Resident Call for a FREE Market Analysis!



COLDWELL BANKER 4 Monument Square Leominster, MA 01453

· 2 Progressive Games

#### PROTECT GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS

**END ABUSE END ABORTION** 

> Joe O'Donnell Tax & Pension 978-840-1040



· 2 Winner-take-all games · Air Conditioned

Doors Open @ 4:00 Bingo Starts @ 6:30

20 \$10 Door Prizes

800-880-9780

HEATING OIL, PROPANE AND 24 HOUR HEATING SERVICE

Simard Funeral Home

Serving the Residents of Leominster since 1906.

**Kevin J. Mack Funeral Director** 

14 Walker Street Leominster 978-534-8420

**Mediation Services** of North Central

Having trouble with a tenant, landlord, neighbor, family, etc.? We can help. MSI is a non-profit conflict resolution

> 978-466-9595 or info@mediationncm.org



"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

MA, Inc.

service CONTACT US today!

841 Main Street Tewksbury, MA 01876 (978) 851-9103

Rosaries from Flowers "Handmade from the Flowers of your Loved One'

AD SPACE AVAILABLE

www.rosariesfromflowers.com

#### Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE** (855) 401-9893





#### **Online Bulletin Delivery**

Sign Up to Receive your Parish Bulletin in your inbox every week.

Go to www.pilotbulletins.net/sign-up

#### BINGO Every Friday Night at St. Cecilia's Parish Center 188 Mechanic Street, Leominster

314 Central St. Leominster, MA 01453 www.cristinas.net • 978-534-0849

# AD SPACE AVAILABLE

#### **FREE INTERNET**

**Qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program** 

YOU QUALIFY for Free Internet if you receive Housing Assistance, Medicaid, **SNAP, WIC, Veterans Pension,** Survivor Benefits, Lifeline and Tribal.

**Bonus offer: 4G Android Tablet** with one time co-pay of \$20

**CALL TODAY (888) 490-8957** 

Maxsip

ACP program details can be found at www.fcc.gov/affe

### **DENTAL** Insurance

Get help paying big dental bills

#### Get vour FREE Information Kit

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company.

#### 1-866-615-0296

Dental50Plus.com/Pilots

Product not available in all states. Contact us to see the coverage and offer available in your state. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation including costs and limitations. This specific offer is not available in CO. Call 1800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer. In WY. To find a provider in the network visit us at <a href="https://www.physiciansmutual.com/web/dental/find-dentist">https://www.physiciansmutual.com/web/dental/find-dentist</a>. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E); Insurance Policy PI5O; Rider Kinds B438/B439. In CA, CO, ID, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MO, NV, NJ, NC, ND, VX: Includes Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Certificate C254/B465 (PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy PI54/B469 (GA: PI54GA; OK: PI54OK; TN: PI54TN). 6323

