



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

The Road to Emmaus, by Fritz von Uhde



WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

It's the Easter Season, which means that it is springtime. Outside my office window, the birds are crowding into the feeder, trying to get a beak full of seeds. A short distance away, the buds are starting to open as, even on a chilly day like this one, you can smell the warmth of summer in the air. These are the days of new life, reminders of all the Lord's triumphant Resurrection, the new Creation we have come to know through his Paschal Sacrifice.



No place is that more evident than in the Sacrament of Baptism, which we celebrated together in the Easter night. Last week, too, we celebrated the Baptism of Alex Gonzalez, a wonderful young man who is now a cherished part of our Parish Family. Nor can we forget the Sanchez Family (Crystal and Orlando and their children, Damian and Jenalise) and Charles Hill and Christopher DiPaolo, all of whom became a part of us through the Paschal Sacraments.

Last weekend, as we celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday, all were blessed with the blood of Pope Saint John Paul II and many people joined us for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy until 3:00pm. We are so blessed by this wonderful devotion and the many people who come together daily in thanksgiving for the Divine Mercy won for us by the passion, death and Resurrection of the Lord!

This past week showed so many signs of new life, including the "Rock n Boots Party" which filled the hall on Sunday afternoon. Father Shaughnessy and I were delighted to see such a great turnout. We are also grateful for the proceeds which, will help us to recover from the utilities bills of the coldest months of winter!

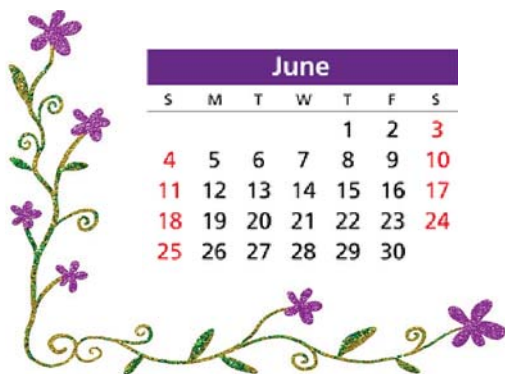
Next week I will be taking a vacation for the first time in three years. Last summer, on a hiking trip to northern New Hampshire with a priest friend, I came down with covid on the second day! So, next Sunday I will be praying for you from Texas, but will be back in the saddle (see, I am acclimating already to the local dialect!) by mid-week.

Until then, know of my prayers, as I trust in yours. Enjoy the Spring!

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney





As requested, we will be doing a calendar raffle for the month of June. To keep our expenses down we are asking for donations of gift cards and or money donations. All proceeds will go towards the church renovations. If you are able to contribute, please drop off at the rectory, place in the collection basket or mail in an envelope marked June calendar. All donors will be listed as sponsors on the calendar, so be sure to include your name. **All donations must be received by Tuesday, May 2** to ensure that your name and gift is included.

**Last Weekend's Collection was
\$7,879.29.
Thank You!**



A reminder to all who took a **Rice Bowl** to place them in the basket by the church entrances.



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someone representing the Catholic Church,
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Diocesan Office for Healing and Prevention
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Mark Your Calendar Now!



Saturday, May 20th, the 9:00am Mass will be celebrated for the intentions of everyone who is sick.

After the Mass, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be given to those who are elderly or who have a serious illness.



The Montachusett Chorale will present its Spring Concert on Sunday, April 30th at 2pm in the Tata Auditorium, Leominster city Hall, 25 West St. Concert proceeds will benefit Team Rubicon a volunteer veteran-led disaster relief organization. Musical selections will include patriotic songs, songs from the stage and screen and the Big Band Era. Advance tickets are \$12 from Chorale members, Mayor's Office, Leominster City Hall or at chorale25@hotmail.com. At door tickets are \$15. Under 18 are free.



Saturday, May 20th, from 8:00am to 3:00pm St. Cecilia's Parish will once again join in the Leominster Citywide Yard Sale to be held in the parish center.



"Beacon of Hope cordially invites you to join us on April 30th for its 30th Annual 5k Walk for Hope in memory of Phil DeCisero and Kathy Ricker. The Walk will be held at Barrett Park in Leominster. Registration is 8 am to 8:30 am, and the walk begins at 9 am sharp. The first 100 people to register will receive a T-shirt. To pre-register or for more info contact Beacon of Hope at (978)840-2727 or www.beaconofhopema.org"







Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

REMAIN WITH US LORD



At the heart of this third Sunday in the Easter Season is our reflection on the story of the bewildered disciples on the road to Emmaus. As they make their way, “conversing and debating” about all that had happened, the Lord comes to walk with them, “but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.”¹

Then the Lord (they still don’t know it is he) interprets how his Passion, Death and Resurrection are the fulfillment of the Scriptures. He acts as if he is going on, but they insist that he stay with them: “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over,”² they tell him. So he goes inside and sits at table with them.

It is at this point that the story takes a very particular turn, as the Lord “**took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.**”³ Recall how these are the same words used by Saint Paul and the synoptic evangelists to describe the actions of the Lord at the Last Supper. In effect, it is the Eucharist which is being celebrated, at which “their eyes were opened and they recognized him.”⁴

The story of the Road to Emmaus, then, demonstrates the faith of the early Church in Christ’s real presence under the form of bread and wine, consecrated by his own hands through the action of the priest at every Mass. While human eyes perceive only bread, the eyes of faith are opened and recognize the Lord in the Breaking of the Bread.

It is that faith which is so beautifully expressed in a famous hymn of Saint Thomas Aquinas: “On the night of that Last Supper, seated with His chosen band, he the Pascal victim eating, first fulfills the Law's command; then as Food to His Apostles gives Himself with His own hand.”⁵

¹ Luke 24:16.

² Luke 24:29.

³ Luke 24:30.

⁴ Luke 24:31.

⁵ Saint Thomas Aquinas, *Pange Lingua*, verse 3.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

QUIZ

Can you choose the correct endings?

- Peter stood up:
(a) alone (b) with the eleven (c) against the Romans?
- Peter was speaking to:
(a) the Romans (b) Pagans (c) the Jews?
- In prayer you call upon:
(a) a Father who judges justly (b) a kindly being (c) a hard judge?
- The risen Jesus joined two disciples who were travelling:
(a) to Jerusalem (b) to Emmaus (c) to Galilee?
- When the disciples returned from Emmaus, they learned that:
(a) Jesus had appeared to Simon (b) the Romans were going to arrest them (c) the apostles were in despair?

ANSWERS

The correct answers are: 1(b); 2(c); 3(a); 4(b); 5(a)

WORDSEARCH

Can you find and circle the words listed below?

PAGANS BODY GLAD
SOUL SILVER CUP
DISTRESS BREAD LAMB
ANGELS GOLD FUTILE
SEVEN PATHS BLOOD

Solution to last week's crossword

G	O	O	D	S	T	O	O	D
L	I	E						I
A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	E
D		T	L	E	N	D		
		R			N			
A	B	S	E	N	T	D	I	E
O	S	E						V
U	S	I	N	C	E	R	E	
O	N	E		T			R	
D			D	E	S	T	R	O

M	P	A	G	A	N	S	A	B	O	D	Y
G	B	F	D	G	E	O	I	C	D	H	I
M	L	N	L	I	C	U	P	L	K	Q	J
O	P	A	T	H	S	L	B	T	V	S	R
B	U	A	D	Z	Y	T	W	L	X	E	V
E	R	D	L	A	M	B	R	C	O	B	R
F	S	E	V	E	N	G	J	E	I	O	H
K	L	W	A	Y	Z	V	P	X	S	U	D
S	G	O	L	D	A	N	G	E	L	S	T
R	Q	P	O	N	M	F	U	T	I	L	E

A PICTURE TO COLOR



David Fielding

GOSPEL READING: MT 5, 1-12



THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



Saturday	April 22	Vigil	<i>Breaking Bread</i> , page 141
3:00pm Confessions (Church) 4:00pm Mass for Eloi Richard, by Yvette and family (Church)			
Sunday	April 23	Third Sunday of Easter	<i>Breaking Bread</i> , page 141
7:00am Mass for Harold Allard (1 st anniv.), by his friend, Larry Gladding (Church) 9:30am RCIA (Rector) 9:45am Mass for deceased members of LeBlanc and Comeau family, by Gail and Ron (Church) 11:15am Mass for Emile Gould (44 th anniv.), by Millie and Ryan (Church) 12:30pm Baptism of Brielle Lucille O'Clair (Church)			
Monday	April 24	Easter Weekday	
6:30am Mass for Julia and Phillippe Cormier, by the family (Chapel) 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)			
Tuesday	April 25	Saint Mark	
6:30am Mass for Suzanne Melanson, by Wil Gariepy (Chapel) 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel) 4:00pm Sacramental Prep Class A (Parish Center)			
Wednesday	April 26	Easter Weekday	
6:30am Mass for Richard Uschold, by Bert (Chapel) 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel) 6:00pm Mass for Gabe and Nancy DiFrancesco, by Karen and Dave Stilwill (Chapel) 6:30pm Confessions 7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)			
Thursday	April 27	Easter Weekday	
9:00am Mass for David Lamkin, by his wife Susan (Chapel) 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel) 6:00pm Mass for Leo Caissie (19 th anniv.), by his wife and family (Chapel)			



Friday April 28 Easter Weekday

9:00am Mass for Lena Albert, by Karen Albert, Kyla Keuneg and Jane Burgoyne (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 at 6:30pm

Saturday April 29 Easter Weekday

9:00am Mass for Denise Poirier, by Jim & Gigi Grimley (Chapel)

9:00am Sacramental Prep Class B (Parish Center)

9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday April 29 Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 143

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

4:00pm Mass for Romeo Poirier, by Agrien and Gemma Poirier (Church)

Sunday April 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Breaking Bread, page 143

7:00am Mass for Octave Cormier, by wife Kathleen Cormier (Church)

9:30am RCIA (Rectory)

9:45am Mass for Deceased members of Oscar Brodeur family, by Rita and family (Church)

11:15am Mass for Lorette Richard (5th anniv.), by Goddaughter Anne-Marie Bernard (Church)

12:30pm Baptism of Leah, Cole and Quinn Pelletier (Church)

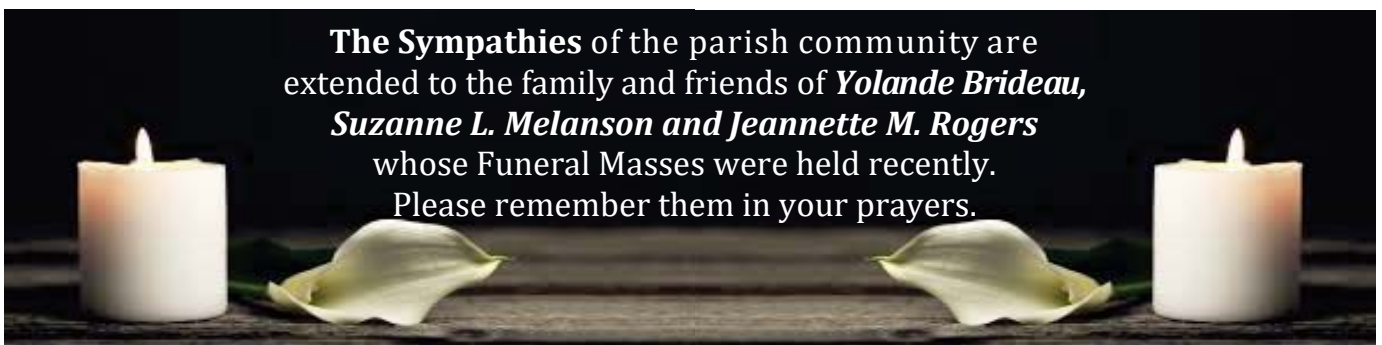


Please pray for those who are ill, especially:

John Nelson, Viola Cyr, Dolores Garceau, Judy Davis, Claudette Hamel, Jesse Rojas, June Roy and José Dhiogo. 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 ***Yolande Brideau, Suzanne L. Melanson and Jeannette M. Rogers*** whose Funeral Masses were held recently. Please remember them in your prayers.





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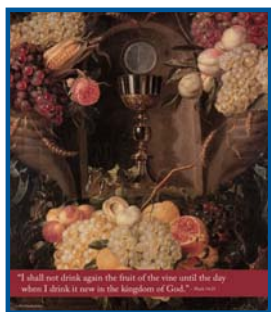
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