



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

Ordination of the First Deacons by Fra Angelico

Saint Cecilia Parish

170 Mechanic Street, Leominster, Massachusetts 01453 — 978-537-6541 — stceciliachurch.net.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday from 10am to 3pm



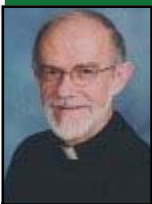
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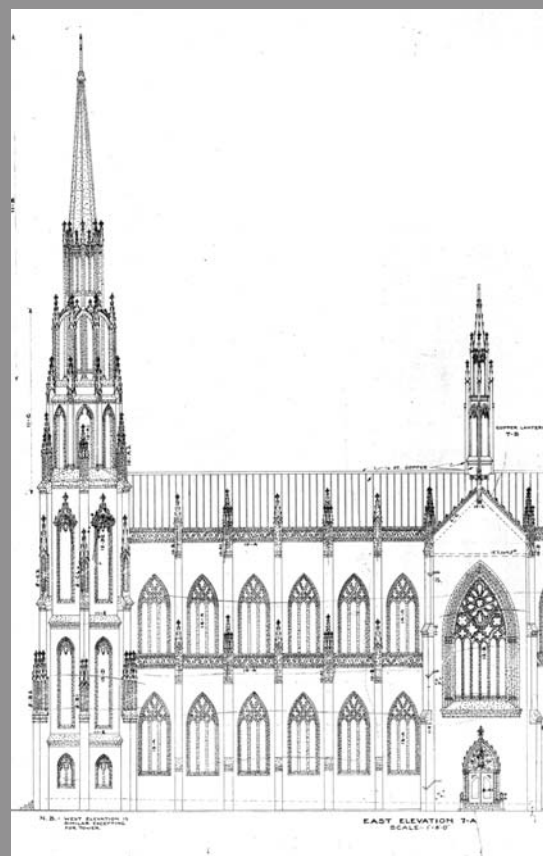
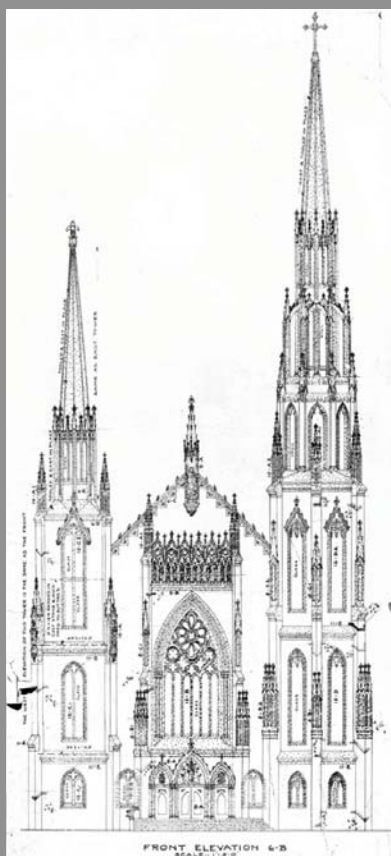
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Jamie Camire
Rectorry Cook





WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

Last week I took a few days off to visit Texas with a priest friend. We returned to many of my favorite places in East Texas and thoroughly enjoyed our first real vacation since the pandemic began.



Of course, each day you were in my thoughts and prayers, especially as we prepare to renew and restore our beautiful Church. If, however, Saint Cecilia's is one of New England's largest churches, we spent a day visiting some of Texas' smallest churches in search of inspiration for the painting of Saint Cecilia's interior.

Many of the "painted churches of Texas" were built by German and Czech immigrants around the same time that our Acadian progenitors were building their masterpiece on French Hill. Like our ancestors, they chose a Gothic Revival style.

The interiors of these churches, however, is what makes them so remarkable. As soon as you walk in you are met with an explosion of colors, from painted landscapes, geometric designs and often stars in the vault above your head. These paintings were done by farmers and their families at night, after working long days clearing the remote prairies between Houston and San Antonio, under the direction of skilled craftsmen from the "old country." There is a simplicity and an honesty to the work that is deeply moving.

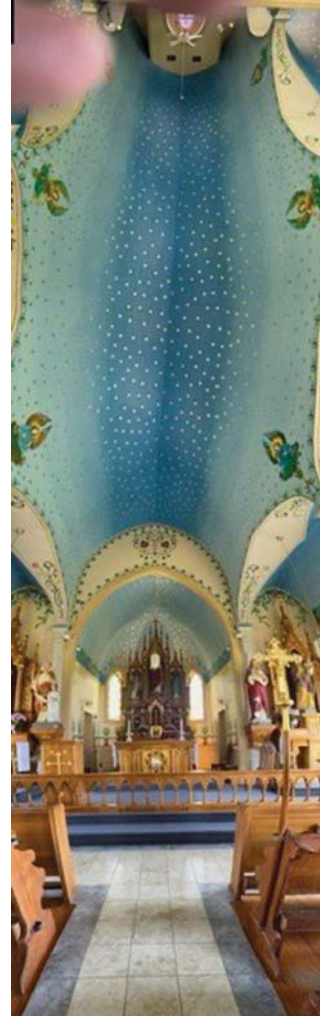
Outside of each of these churches there is always a cemetery. For the life of these hardworking pioneers revolved around the Church, just as they would rest right outside the front door, awaiting their rewards when the Lord returns in glory.

In so many ways, these Texan Catholics are so different from you and I. But in so many ways they are distinctly the same. Seeking to build God's Kingdom here on earth, as a reflection of what we hope to enjoy forever in Heaven.

It's good to be home.

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney



Please pray for those who are ill, especially:

Jeannine Brideau, Jennifer, John Nelson, Viola Cyr, Dolores Garceau, and Judy Davis. 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.



**Mark
your
calendar
today.**

A MASS FOR HEALING AT SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

ON SATURDAY, MAY 20th, 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.

Who can be anointed?

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.



PROMISE TO
PROTECT



PLEDGE TO
HEAL

Protect & Heal - Believe in the possibility of help and healing. If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, call Judith Audette at the Worcester Diocesan Office for Healing and Prevention at 508-929-4363.

**Last Weekend's Collection was \$6,429.29.
Thank You!**

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." (1 PETER 2:7)

Every person has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called "charisms" and they are used to build God's kingdom of earth. While many people are able to recognize their natural talents and abilities, they may be unsure of their charisms. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember - no gift is too small or insignificant in God's salvation plan.



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 \$1600)
20 \$10 Door Prizes • Raffles • Cafeteria
Doors Open at 4 PM Come Try Your Luck!



Saint Cecilia's Flea Market & Citywide Yard Sale

Saturday, May 14 from 8AM - 3PM

This you don't want to miss! Over 4000 sq. ft. filled with toys, tools, housewares, jewelry, seasonal items, games, holiday bargains and much much more. Mark your calendars now.





Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

THE PASCHAL MYSTERY AT WORK IN US



God chooses us and gathers us to the Cross of his Son at every Mass. Us! Of all the people in the world: the ones so much brighter than us, so much better looking than us, so much more powerful than us...He chose **us** "before the world began, ... to be holy and blameless in his sight."¹ It was not we who chose him, but he who chose us.

The Mass is for us poor little ones who have been baptized into his paschal death and rising. For we have washed our robes in the Blood of the Lamb and have become whiter than snow.² Thus we have, in Baptism, been consecrated as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people claimed by God as his own."³ to join the sacrifices of our lives to the one perfect Sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross.

By the Holy Eucharist, this priestly people are joined to Christ's Holy and Living Sacrifice and gain eternal life. Thus those who are "imbued with heavenly mysteries...pass from former ways to newness of life."⁴ The saving passion, death and resurrection of Christ are thus accomplished in us, and lead us to eternal life.⁵ This is why the priest invites us to receive Holy Communion with the words "blessed are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb," for the destiny of all who eat his Body and drink his Blood is the Paschal Banquet of which the Book of Revelation speaks:

A voice coming from the throne said: "Praise our God, all you his servants, [and] you who revere him, small and great." Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder, as they said: "Alleluia! The Lord has established his reign, [our] God, the almighty. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory. For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready. She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment." (The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)

Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These words are true; they come from God." I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't! I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brothers who bear witness to Jesus. Worship God. Witness to Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."⁶

¹ Ephesians 1:4.

² Cf. Revelation 7: 14.

³ 1 Peter 2:9.

⁴ Prayer after Communion from today's Mass.

⁵ Cf. Collect from today's Mass.

⁶ Revelation 19: 5-10.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

FAITH FACTS

THE APOSTLE PETER

After Jesus rose from the dead, his apostles began their task of spreading the good news throughout the world. During the coming weeks, we will see what happened to each of the apostles - as far as we know.

We know that Peter was the head of the Church in Jerusalem. We know that he was imprisoned and was miraculously released by an angel. (Acts 12; 1-17)

It seems certain that Peter went to Rome and preached the Gospel there. He was the first Bishop of Rome; the first Pope.

He was martyred in Rome on the same day as Saint Paul, somewhere around the year 67 A.D. Saint Paul was beheaded, whereas Saint Peter was crucified, hanging upside down.



CODE - BREAKER!

The sentence below is to be found in one of today's readings. Can you break the code and write in the sentence? Here are two clues: F = I, and X = A.

Crossword solution from last week

S	I	N	S		S	
A	A	J	U	S	T	L
V	O	I	C	E		A
E	L	S			F	A
		S	O	U	L	F
P		I	S			S
E	V	I	L	F		G
T		R	D	E	C	E
E	Y	E	S	A		F
R				R		T

F XJ QEB TXV,

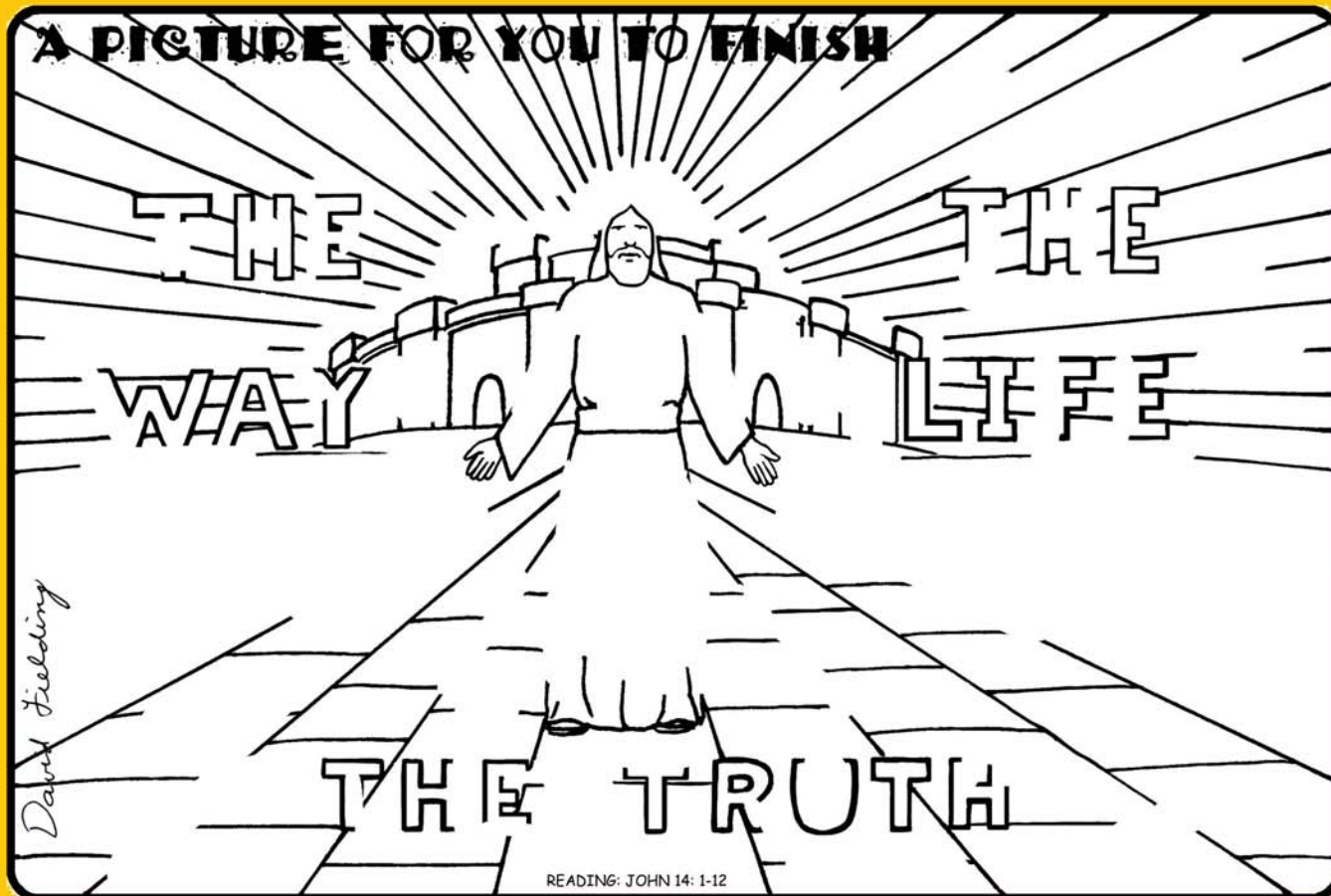
XKA QEB QORQE,

XKA QEB IFCB.

ANSWER

I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

A PICTURE FOR YOU TO FINISH



READING: JOHN 14: 1-12



THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



Saturday May 6 Vigil *Breaking Bread, page 145*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
 3:30pm Pray the Rosary (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Mary Florence Beaudoin (Church)

Sunday May 7 Fifth Sunday of Easter *Breaking Bread, page 145*

7:00am Mass for Rosena Thi (11th anniv.), by the family (Church)
 7:30am Pray the Rosary (Church)
9:45am Mass for Lena Albert, by Leo Boucher (Church)
11:15am Mass for Alina Goguen, by Patrick and Janice Goguen (Church)
 First Communion Mass

Monday May 8 Easter Weekday

6:30am Mass for Michael Cormier, by the family (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

Tuesday May 9 Easter Weekday

6:30am Mass for Baby Girl Bernard (1st anniv.), by Memere and Pepere Bernard (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
 7:00pm Introduction to the Sacred Liturgy (Rectory and by Zoom)

Wednesday May 10 Easter Weekday

6:30am Mass for Parishioners of St. Cecilia's Parish (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Lien (Theresa) Le, by her family (Chapel)
6:30pm Confessions
 7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)

Thursday May 11 Easter Weekday

9:00am Mass for Father Robert E. Gariepy, by last will (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Raymond Leclerc, by his wife, Lorraine and son, Richard (Chapel)



Friday May 12 Easter Weekday

9:00am Mass for Marcel Guillemette, by his wife, Pauline (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 May 13 Easter Weekday

9:00am Mass for Deceased members of the DeLisle family, by Jim & Gigi Grimley (Chapel)

9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday May 13 Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 148

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

3:30pm Pray the Rosary (Church)

4:00pm Mass for Deceased members of Plourde and Brow families, by the family (Church)

Sunday May 14 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Breaking Bread, page 148

7:00am Mass for Theresa Crochetiere (6th anniv.), by the family (Church)

7:30am Pray the Rosary (Church)

9:45am Mass for John Gaudet, by his mother (Church)

11:15am Mass for Theresa Provo, by Mr. & Mrs. James W. Provo (Church)



We look for ways to honor our deceased family members and friends, one of the best ways to do this is to have a Mass offered on their behalf. It is the greatest form of prayer we have available to us on earth. It's important to remember that once our loved ones have passed away, they can no longer pray for themselves. It's up to us to keep praying for their souls!

You can call 978-537-6541 or stop by the parish office on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10am-3pm at to schedule a date and time for your Mass requests.



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