



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

The Ascension by John Singleton Copley

Saint Cecilia Parish

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

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



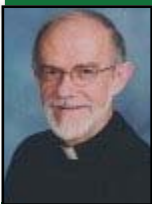
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Parochial Vicar



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Deacon



Reverend Leo LeBlanc
Resident



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Deacon Ronald J. Aubuchon
Deacon emeritus



Paula Doucet
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Director of Religious Education



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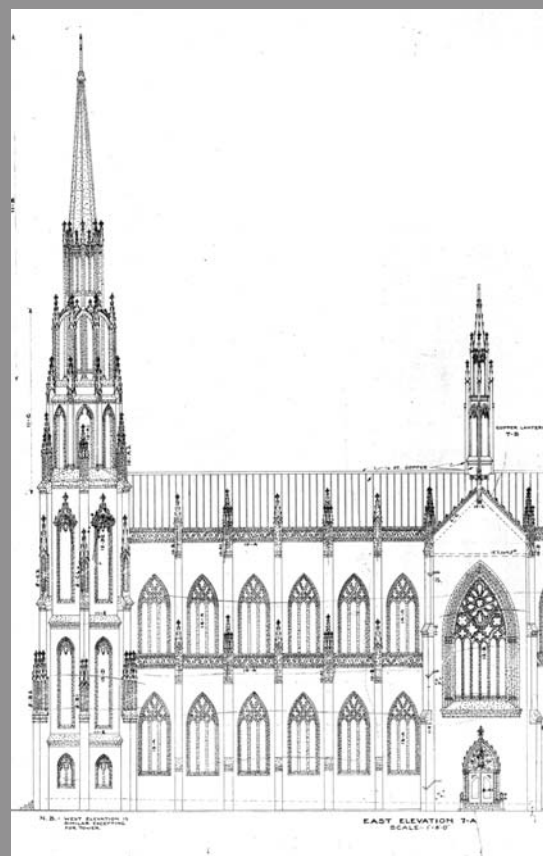
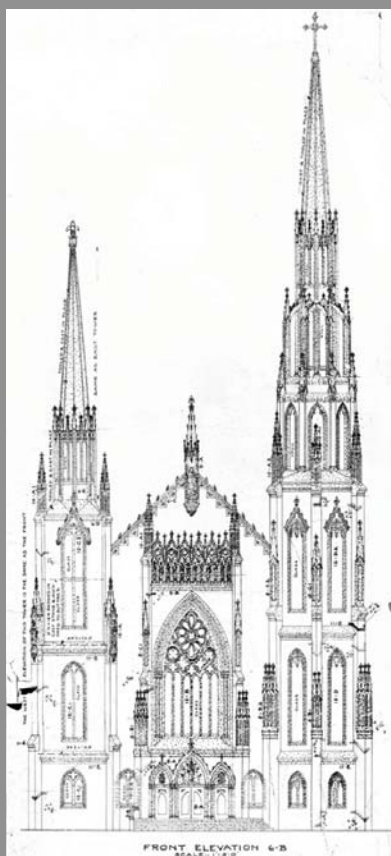
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Director of Continuing Education



David Lasky
davelasky@msn.com
Organist



Jamie Camire
Rectory Cook





WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

All kinds of good news this week. The engineers have finished their study of our beloved Church. Work will begin during the coming weeks on the gutters and lower roofs and I will share the full report with you after meeting with the Diocesan Building Commission. The analysis is so thorough, that they have recommended a fourteen year plan to bring Saint Cecilia's to exterior perfection.

Speaking of perfection, Bishop McManus has approved our plans for the interior restorations and those will be announced shortly, as well. We will have a dedicated website with an introductory video and Memorial Brochures in all the Bulletins. Stay tuned!

I've also been speaking with the Holy Cross Brothers and I am delighted to announce that the major relics of Saint Andre Bessette will be making a visit to Saint Cecilia's on September 24th. We will officially receive them at the 11:15 am Mass and schedule veneration throughout the rest of the day. Just last weekend, I was speaking to one of our parishioners who remembers meeting Brother Andre when she was a little girl. The effect he had on so many peoples' lives, bringing healing through the intercession of Saint Joseph, remains a great blessing to this day!

This Monday, May 22nd, we will be welcoming Bishop McManus for the celebration of the sacrament of confirmation. 93 candidates will be confirmed from Saint Cecilia's, Holy Family, Holy Trinity, Our Lady of the Lake, Saint Anna's, Saint Leo's, Immaculate Heart of Mary and Saint Boniface parishes. Please join us for this wonderful celebration!

A week from Monday is Memorial Day . On that morning at 9:30 AM we will celebrate Mass in the cemetery, weather permitting. I hope many of you can join us to pray, especially for those who have died in the past year and rest in peace at Saint Cecilia's cemetery.

Finally, I hope you are enjoying this wonderful weather as summer becomes more and more evident with each passing day! I hope you are also able to plan some free time to rest and relax in the coming months.

May God grant you much joy!

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney

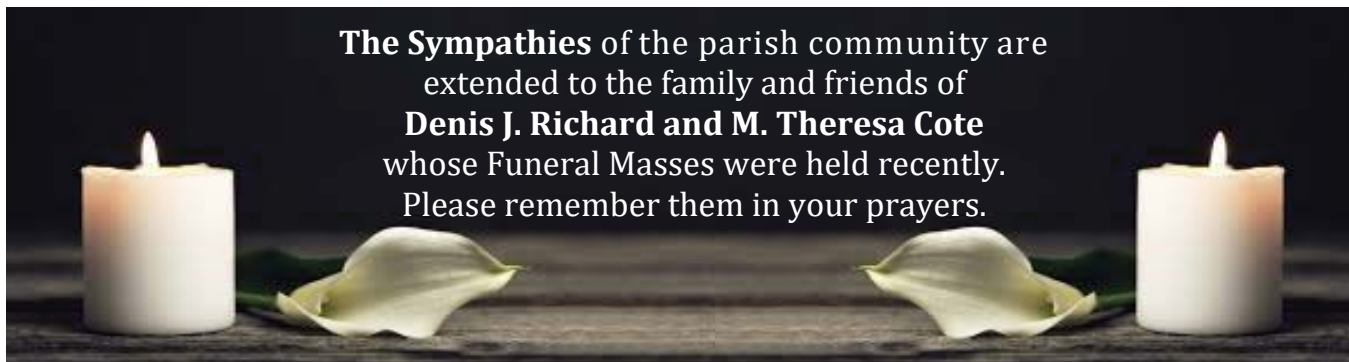


Please pray for those who are ill, especially:

Mark Rancourt, Lillian Papadopoulos, Jennifer, John Nelson, Viola Cyr and Dolores Garceau. 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
Denis J. Richard and M. Theresa Cote
whose Funeral Masses were held recently.
Please remember them in your prayers.

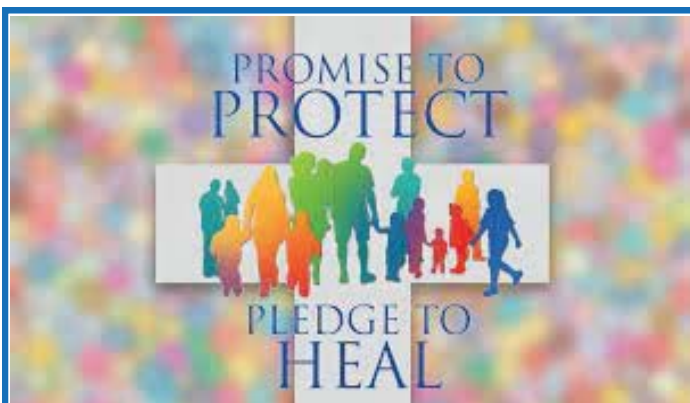


St. Cecilia's Memorial Day Services
will be held on **Monday, May 29**
at **9:00 am** at the Cemetery.
Weather permitting (not raining)
Monsignor Moroney will celebrate
Mass at 9:30 am at the cemetery.

Plan to attend this brief service as a family!
Each year many St. Cecilia's parishioners
and friends attend the services in truly
impressive numbers which is a beautiful
tribute to the deceased family members,
and to the Veterans of the Armed Services
who have served our country.



**MEMORIAL DAY FLAGGING
OF VETERANS' GRAVES
AT ST. CECILIA'S CEMETERY...
COME HELP ON SATURDAY, MAY 27
BEGINNING AT 7:30 A.M.**



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.

*"The Church loves all her children like a loving
mother, but cares for all and protects with a
special affection those who are smallest and
defenseless." - Pope Francis*

Last Weekend's Collection was \$7,620.29.
Thank You!

*"Like good stewards of the varied graces of
God, use whatever gift each one of you has
received to serve one another." 1 Peter 4:10*



Mark your calendars and join us for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) from Monday, July 10th thru Friday, July 15th. The question will be will we have Rocky Railway at our parish (9:00AM- 12:00PM) or join with Holy Family for Totus Tuus.



Rocky Railway or Totus Tuus



For us to offer Rocky Railway at our parish we will need your help. Here are some ways to help:

- Junior crew members- to guide/lead the younger children (grades 6-8)
- Crew members-Journey through the adventure with the children (Great Community Service hours!)
- Crew leaders- Share the message of the day- guidance and script provided (You don't need to memorize it or say it word for word. The script is your tool to use as a guide.)
- Crew techy- Able to take pictures and create short re-cap of the day video

If you can help every day, a few days or if you have some questions reach out to Paula at 978-537-5596 or pd@stceciliachurch.net or complete the form below and return it to the rectory -170 Mechanic St. via the collection basket, email, postal mail or dropping it off.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

I am interested in helping as a:

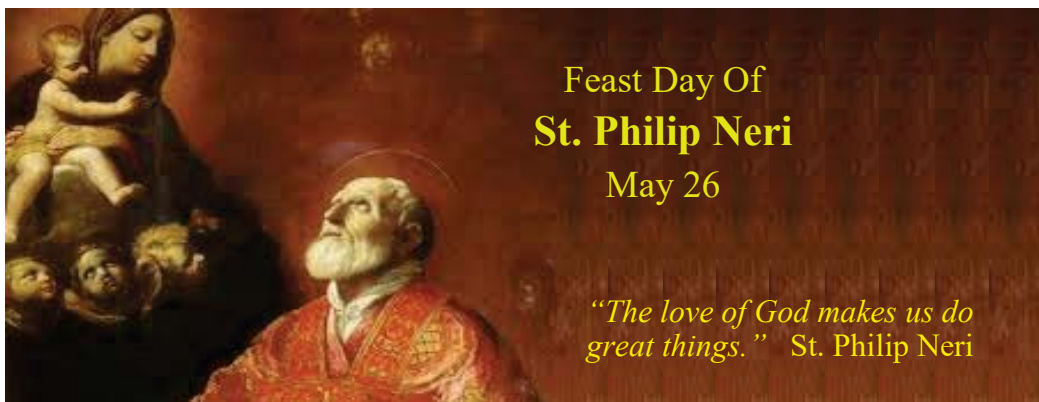
_____ Crew Member

_____ Crew Techy

_____ Crew Leader

_____ I'll help wherever you need me

VBS offers us the opportunity to break away from the traditional classroom learning environment. It allows us to create and grow in relationship with Jesus, our forever friend!





Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2023

THE STRENGTH OF THIS SAVING FOOD

The closing prayer for today's Mass asks God to increase in us "the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food."

The Eucharist as a source of strength. This is a repeated theme in the prayers of the *Roman Missal*, wherein the Eucharist is described as "strength for the weak,"¹ the Bread of Life which "restores our strength,"² and gives us "strength to face future trials with fortitude."³ The Eucharist strengthens concord,⁴ unity and peace⁵ and the love of husband and wife for each other.⁶

Strengthened by the blessing of your Sacraments, we pray, O Lord, that through them we may constantly be cleansed of our faults and, by following Christ, hasten our steps upward toward you.⁷

Jesus' remarkable prayer for Saint Peter at the Last Supper sheds light on the Eucharist as a source of strength. At the end of the meal, he says: "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren,"⁸ Jesus' prayer for Simon is that through the Eucharist he has just received, the sharing in the Lord's Paschal dying and rising, he may be strong.

Jesus prays for us as well, and offers us a share in the same Eucharist through which he prayed that Saint Peter might be strengthened. He prays that the Eucharist may become for him "strength for those who are weary, worn-out and bewildered."⁹ Thus, in the words of our beloved Pope Emeritus, "by participating in the Eucharist, we experience in an extraordinary manner the prayer that Jesus prayed and prays ceaselessly for every person so that the evil which we all encounter in life may not get the upper hand and that the transforming power of Christ's death and Resurrection may act within us."

When we celebrate the Eucharist, then, in memory of the Lord, we are united to his prayer and with his Paschal Sacrifice, offered for our salvation.

¹ Prayer after Communion, Mass for the Dead.

² Prayer after Communion from Masses for Various Needs: For Giving Thanks.

³ Prayer after Communion from Masses for Various Needs: In any Need B.

⁴ Prayer over the Offerings from Masses for Various Needs: For the Preservation of Peace and Justice.

⁵ Prayer after Communion from Masses for Various Needs: For Holy Church PAC.

⁶ Prayer after Communion, For the Celebration of Marriage.

⁷ Prayer after Communion, Fifth Week of Lent.

⁸ Lk 22:31-32.

⁹ Pope Benedict XVI, 11 January 2012.



SUNDAY FUNDAY

QUIZ

Can you choose the correct endings?

1. After Jesus ascended, the apostles returned:
(a) to Galilee (b) to Jerusalem (c) to Bethany?
2. The apostles devoted themselves to constant:
(a) reflection (b) activity (c) prayer?
3. Rejoice, insofar as you share Christ's:
(a) sufferings (b) glory (c) power?
4. The Lord said: I will not leave you:
(a) for long (b) yet (c) orphans?
5. They have known that in truth:
(a) we will conquer (b) I came from you
(c) I am their friend?

ANSWERS

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

WORDSEARCH

Can you find and circle the words listed below the wordsearch grid?

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

JESUS

SPIRIT

LORD

FATHER

APOSTLES

HEAVEN

SAID

GLORY

EARTH

MEN

JERUSALEM

SON

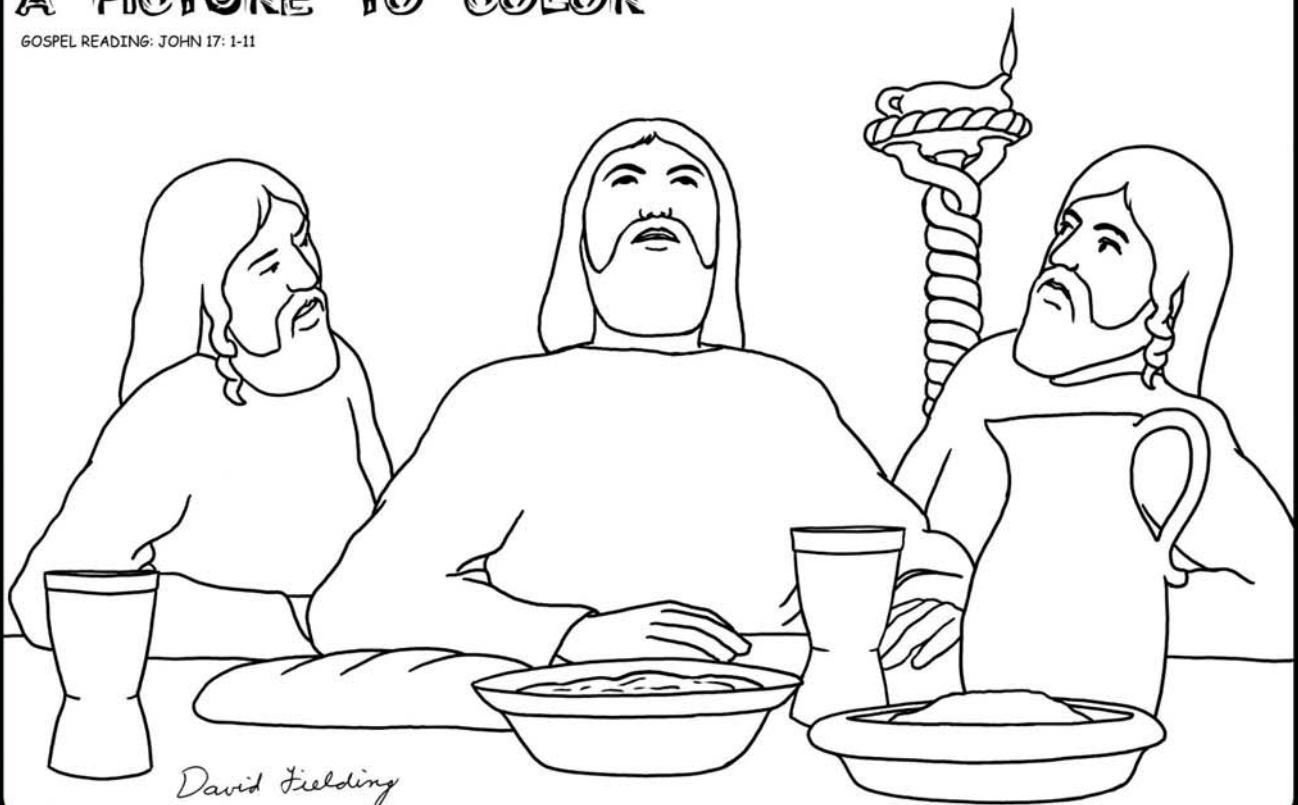
GOD

YOU

NAME

A PICTURE TO COLOR

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 17: 1-11





THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



Saturday May 20 Vigil *Breaking Bread*, page 152

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
 3:30pm Pray the Rosary (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Willie Daigle (14th anniv.), by the family (Church)

Sunday May 21 Seventh Sunday of Easter *Breaking Bread*, page 152

7:00am Mass for Bernadette Cormier (7th anniv.), by her husband and daughters (Church)
 7:30am Pray the Rosary (Church)
9:45am Mass for Andy, Maurice, Laura & John, by the family (Church)
11:15am Mass for Theresa (11th anniv.) and Maurice (2nd anniv.) Doucet, by the Doucet family (Church)
 3:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal (Church and Parish Center)

Monday May 22 Easter Weekday

6:30am Mass for Special Intention for Walter Hamel and family, by his mother (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
7:00pm Mass for Regional Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McManus

Tuesday May 23 Easter Weekday

6:30am Mass for Daniel Hamel (51st anniv.), by the Hamel family (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

Wednesday May 24 Easter Weekday

6:30am Mass for Deceased members of the Plourde and Brow families, by last will (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Gabe and Nancy DiFrancesco, by Laurie and David Newshutz (Chapel)
6:30pm Confessions
 7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)

Thursday May 25 Easter Weekday

9:00am Mass for Janice Albert Hanson, by Peggy Merrill (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Father Andre Gariepy (2nd anniv.), by his sister (Chapel)



Friday May 26 Easter Weekday

9:00am Mass for Romeo Poirier, by Yves and Sandy Poirier (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 27 Easter Weekday

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

9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday May 27 Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 154

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

3:30pm Pray the Rosary (Church)

4:00pm Mass for George, Irene, Paul and Ryan Hamel, by the family (Church)

Sunday May 28 Pentecost Sunday

Breaking Bread, page 161

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

7:30am Pray the Rosary (Church)

9:45am Mass for Hector Bilodeau (anniv.), by Priscilla Gates (Church)

11:15am Mass for Omer Constant (7th anniv.), by Joyce and Paul Latuga (Church)

St Cecilia's is participating in a Baby Bottle Fundraiser

supporting First Concern Pregnancy Resource Center,

First Concern helps expectant mothers who are abortion vulnerable, as well as families in need. Their services are Free and Confidential.

Do you know anyone who First Concern can help?

The fundraiser is easy! Running between Mother's Day to Father's

Day, just take a Baby Bottle home with you and put your spare change in it – or cash or a check - then bring it back for the collection on Father's Day! Please feel free to contact them

at www.FirstConcern.org or 978-365-9817





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1 John 4:8

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