



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

The Sower by Vincent Van Gogh

Saint Cecilia Parish

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

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



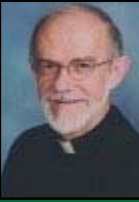
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msgr@stceciliachurch.net
Pastor



Father Paul Shaughnessy
father@stceciliachurch.net
Parochial Vicar



Deacon Robert S. Connor Jr.
deaconbob@stceciliachurch.net
Deacon



Reverend Leo LeBlanc
Resident



BettyAnn Harrington
bettyann@stceciliachurch.net
Executive Assistant

Deacon Ronald J. Aubuchon
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pd@stceciliachurch.net
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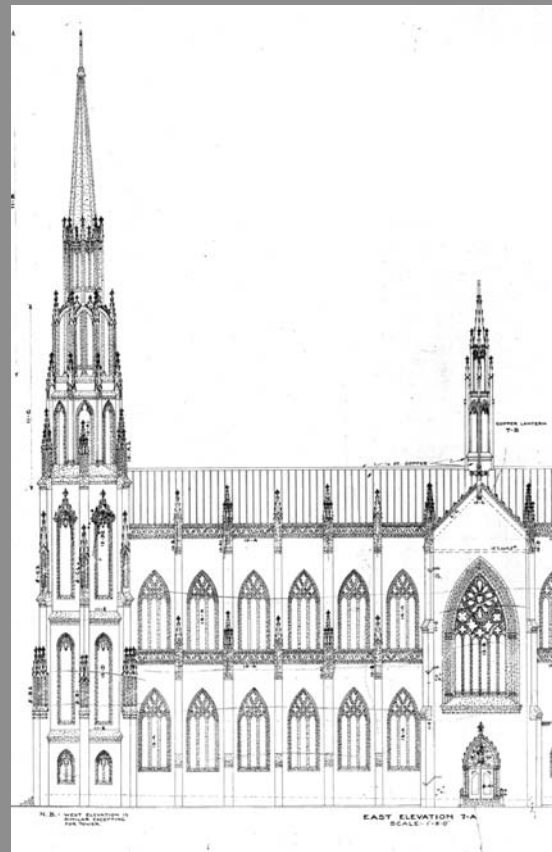
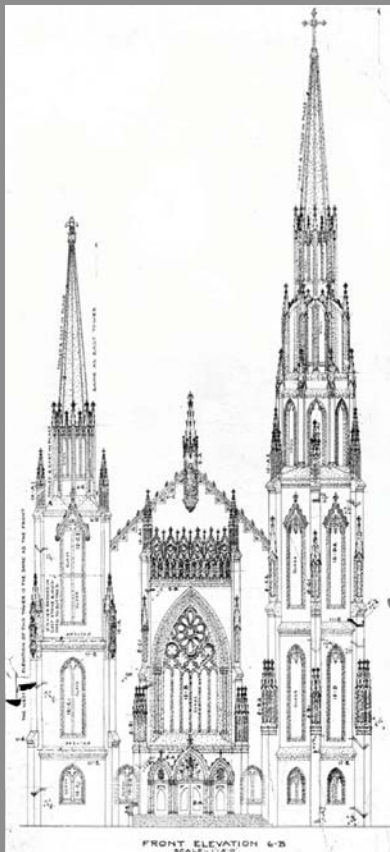
Patricia Secino
psecino@stceciliachurch.net
Director of Continuing Education



David Lasky
davelasky@msn.com
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WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

This week's guest column is taken from a 2011 reflection on parable of the sower by Pope Benedict XVI.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Gospel parables are brief accounts that Jesus uses to proclaim the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. Using imagery from situations of daily life, the Lord “wants to show us the real ground of all things. He shows us the God who acts, who intervenes in our lives, and wants to take us by the hand.

The subject of this Sunday's Gospel is, precisely, the Kingdom of Heaven. “Heaven” should not be understood only in the sense that it towers above us, because this infinite space also takes the form of human interiority. Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a field of wheat to enable us to understand that something small and hidden has been sown within us which, nevertheless, has an irrepressible vital force. In spite of all obstacles, the seed will develop and the fruit will ripen. This fruit will only be good if the terrain of life is cultivated in accordance with the divine will.

For this reason in the Parable of the Weeds [tares] among the good Wheat (Mt 13:24-30). Jesus warns us that, after the owner had scattered the seed, “while men were sleeping, his enemy” intervened and sowed weeds among the wheat. This means that we must be ready to preserve the grace received from the day of our Baptism, continuing to nourish faith in the Lord that prevents evil from taking root. St Augustine commenting on the parable noted “many are at first tares but then become good grain”, and he added: “if these, when they are wicked, are not endured with patience they would not attain their praiseworthy transformation”

Hence if we are children of such a great and good Father, let us seek to be like him! This was the aim Jesus set himself with his preaching; indeed, he said to those who were listening to him: “You... must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48). Let us turn with trust to Mary, whom we invoked yesterday with the title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel so that she may help us to follow Jesus faithfully, and so live as true children of God.

Benedict PP XVI



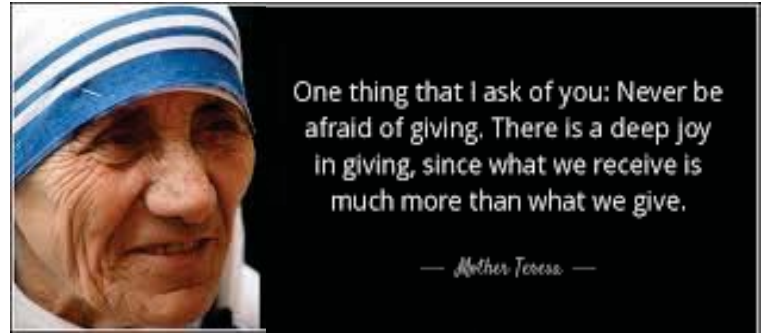


The “Baby Bottle Drive” to benefit First Concern Pregnancy Center is coming to a close. If you have taken a baby bottle home with you for collecting spare change over the past month, it is time to bring them back – whether full or not.

Bottles can be handed in with the collection, or dropped off in the sacristy, or at the rectory. Thank you for your help in saving unborn lives!



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.



It has been a busy year so far for St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Cecilia Parish. Sincere thanks go to our generous and largely anonymous benefactors for helping us to help others. With your donations we have been able to provide food, emergency shelter, rental assistance, gas money, heating expenses, and aid in avoiding utility shut-off as well as several other services to individuals and families with children in our area.

Pope Francis said “generosity enlarges the heart”. May God abundantly bless your large, generous hearts for allowing us to do His work in service to others. Please be assured that you are in our prayers.

Saint Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Cecilia's Parish

“Whoever has ears ought to hear.” Is the Lord inviting you to know, love and serve Him more closely in the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at (508)-630-4473 or email: dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

2024 Mass Book Now Open

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 either come to the rectory or call on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10am and 3pm, we will be happy to assist you.

Last Weekend's Parish Collections totaled \$9,664.98 Thank You!

“The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.”(Matthew 13:22)

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

HOW WE RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION



The reception of Holy Communion is one of the most intimate moments in the life of every Catholic. The great mystic and Doctor of the Church, Saint Therese of Lisieux, writes eloquently of the first time she ever received Holy Communion:

I knew that I was loved and said, "I love You, and I give myself to You forever." Jesus asked for nothing, He claimed no sacrifice. Long before that, He and little Therese had seen and understood one another well, but on that day it was more than a meeting-it was a complete fusion. We were no longer two, for Therese had disappeared like a drop of water lost in the mighty ocean. Jesus alone remained-the Master and the King.

While every reception of Holy Communion cannot be expected to meet the spiritual and emotional heights of Saint Therese, her experience reinforces the importance of preparing our hearts to receive Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament. We do this just before receiving Holy Communion by praying fervently on the most holy mystery we are about to receive. But even before we come to church, we confess our sins and receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance, especially if we are aware of any serious sins. For at least an hour, we fast from eating anything at all.

When we go to receive Holy Communion, we never go alone. The Communion Procession is one of the three great processions of the Mass. The first is the Entrance Procession, where we come to recognize that we are a royal priesthood gathered by Christ our High Priest. The second is the Presentation of the Gifts, where we join our lives to the Sacrifice about to be offered by the Priest. Now, singing a Eucharistic hymn, we come forward as Christ's own people to be fed by him with his own Body and Blood.

As you approach the minister to receive the consecrated bread, bow your head as a sign of veneration of the consecrated bread. The minister will hold the consecrated host before you and say, "The Body of Christ," to which you respond, "Amen."

From the first days of the Church, Christians have spoken this "Amen" with conviction and faith. It is, in the first place, an affirmation of Christ's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, whereby, in the words of Saint Ambrose, "you acknowledge in your heart that you are receiving the Body of Christ."

But it is also an acceptance of the consequences of eating his Body and drinking his Blood, as Saint Augustine reminds the fourth-century residents of Hippo:

If you are the body and members of Christ, then what is laid on the Lord's table is the sacrament (*mysterium*) of what you yourselves are, and it is the sacrament of what you are that you receive. It is to what you yourselves are that you answer *Amen*, and this answer is your affidavit. Be a member of Christ's body, so that your *Amen* may be authentic.

You may receive the consecrated host either on the tongue or in the hand, at your discretion. For many centuries Christians have received Holy Communion on the tongue as a sign of reverence for this awesome mystery. In the earliest days of the Church, and in our own time, Christians typically received the consecrated host in their hands and then reverently eat it. Saint Cyril taught the newly baptized of fourth-century Jerusalem how to receive Holy Communion in the hand in a passage still used by the Church today:

When you approach, do not extend your hands with palm upward and fingers apart, but make your left hand a throne for your right hand, the latter is to receive the King; then, while answering "Amen," receive the body of Christ in the hollow of your hand. Next ... take it in your mouth, being watchful that nothing of it is lost. If you were to lose part of it, it would be like losing one of your own members. If someone were to give you some flakes of gold, would you not guard them very carefully and see to it that you did not lose any and suffer a loss? Should you not therefore watch far more carefully over an object more valuable than gold or precious stones, lest you lose a crumb of it? Then, after receiving the body of Christ, approach his blood

As they receive Holy Communion, a Communion chant or song is sung, by which the faithful praise God in one voice as they process together to receive their Eucharistic Lord. The Communion song is a processional song, ideally sung by all who approach the altar to receive Holy Communion. After receiving Holy Communion all pray quietly or sing a psalm or hymn together.

From *The Mass Explained*, by Monsignor James P. Moroney. Catholic Book Publishing Company (<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/>)



SUNDAY FUNDAY

TRUE or FALSE ?

1. God's word returns to him void; empty.
2. Seed that falls on good ground yields a good harvest.
3. The sufferings of the present are as nothing compared to our future glory.
4. Creation was made subject to futility.
5. We do not care about the redemption of our bodies.
6. Jesus walked along by the lakeshore.
7. He spoke to the people in parables.
8. He told a parable about a farmer sowing seed.
9. None of the seed was any good.
10. Some of the seed failed to flourish.

ANSWERS 1 false, 2 true, 3 true, 4 true, 5 false, 6 false, 7 true, 8 true, 9 false, 10 true.

CROSSWORD

(Most answers are in today's readings)

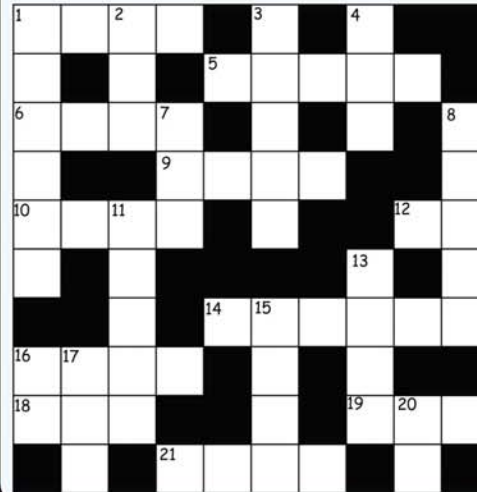
CLUES ACROSS

1. Carries people across water
5. It is ground into flour
6. Ceased to live
9. Not close, distant; far
10. Not hard
12. A refusal
14. A reward; also a ship famous for mutiny
16. Care, notice. Take
18. The finish
19. are you?
21. It is sown

Last week's wordsearch

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

CLUES DOWN



1. Our physical parts
2. Consumed food
3. Made from flour
4. Disobedience to God
7. Follows night
8. Intense pain
11. Put into the soil
13. White, cold, falls from the sky
15. One time only
17. Same as 18 across.
20. Masculine of she

PICTURE PUZZLE

THE READING: MT 13, 1-23 or 13, 1-9

CAN YOU FIND THESE HIDDEN ITEMS?





THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA

Saturday July 15 Vigil *Breaking Bread*, page 176

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

4:00pm Mass for Louise Boucher by Georgette, Gisele and Ginette (Church)

Sunday July 16 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Breaking Bread*, page 176

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

9:45am Mass for Glenn Reynolds (1st anniv.), by his wife and children (Church)

11:15am Mass for Pamela Petricca (6th anniv.), by her husband and children (Church)

Monday July 17 Weekday

6:30am Mass for Edith Moore, by Jeanne Conte (Chapel)

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

Tuesday July 18 Weekday

6:30am Mass for Randy Cormier, by the family (Chapel)

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

Wednesday July 19 Weekday

6:30am Mass for Lena Albert, by John Albert and family (Chapel)

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

6:00pm Mass for Bernice Bangrazi, by Michael and Joanne Bangrazi (Chapel)

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)



Thursday July 20 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Romeo Poirier, by Ginny and Pete Valeri (Chapel)
3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Joseph Rivard, by the family (Chapel)

Friday July 21 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Viola Cyr (30th day), by Dale and Marie (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

Saturday July 22 Saint Mary Magdalene

9:00am Mass for Jean Maillet, by Anne-Marie and Jean-Noel Bernard (Chapel)
9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday July 22 Vigil *Breaking Bread*, page 179

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Donald Cormier, by Bert and Ginette LeBlanc (Church)

Sunday July 23 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Breaking Bread*, page 179

7:00am Mass for Romeo Poirier, by Mario and Joanne Poirier (Church)
9:45am Mass for Antoinetta Powell-Thompson, by her family (Church)
11:15am Mass for Lucille and James Fernandes, by the family (Church)



**Christ appearing to
Mary Magdalene**

Let us

Pray
for you

Please pray for those who are ill, especially:

Faith Warchol, Larry Gagne, Stephanie Matthews, Arnold Baron and Mark Rancourt. 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.

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