



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
Cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption, Moncton



WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

At the conclusion of my pilgrimage to the Archdiocese of Moncton for the solemnity of the Assumption, patronal feast of Acadia, I am filled with gratitude for this deeply spiritual and rewarding time. The cover of this week's bulletin shows the shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Moncton Cathedral.

On Friday, after praying for your intentions in more than twenty parishes, I gathered with parishioners and friends of Saint Cecilia's for a Mass at the Cathedral. This week's column is the homily I preached at that Mass.

I came to Acadia this past week as a pilgrim, praying for the forebears of the flock I have been sent to shepherd on French Hill in Leominster. And I made this pilgrimage because we are, you and I, people of the exile. Exiles not just from forests primeval, scattered like dust and leaves at the whim of powerful men, but exiles from Eden, wandering through all the valleys of tears which the earth has to offer.

I think of the orphaned teenager Alfred Bessette, who took the train to New England 160 years ago, and for the next three years wandered from state to state in search of work. We are told that he would spend days alone in his room in prayer, longing for God to show him the way home. Years later, he became the little old doorkeeper who worked miracles, and I suspect he must have remembered those lonely nights in New England, thanking the God who had led him home to Mount Saint Joseph, where he was supposed to be.

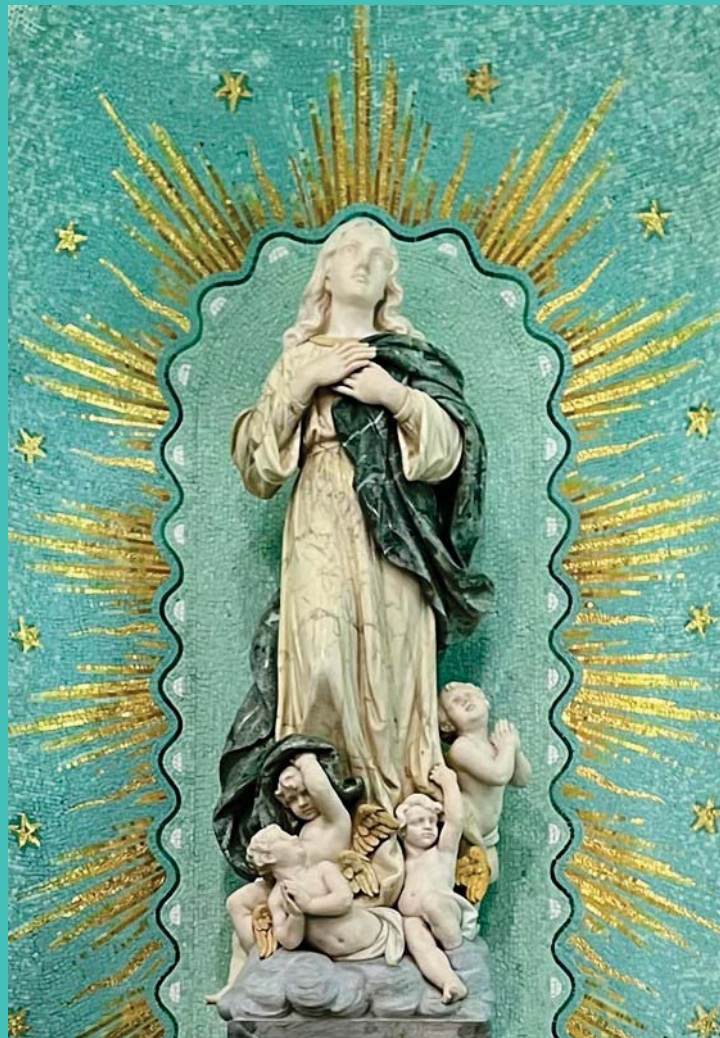
I think of so many people who fled the shores of Acadia a hundred years and more ago, sometimes with nothing but the tattered clothes on their back. Those same people who built one of the largest churches in New England in the depths of the depression and whose faith thrives in their children and their grandchildren. Their love of this land perdures, as does their gratitude to God that he has led them out of exile to where he wanted them to be.

And I think of your patron, our Lady of the Assumption, fleeing into Egypt with a newborn child and an elderly husband, afraid that the powers that be might take it all away. This most blessed among women knew well the aching heart of the exile. But she knew too that the Son she had carried in her womb would lead us all home, to a place that no one could ever take from us again.

For we are each a people of the exile, children of those who wept in the land of Canaan, the sands of Egypt and the waters of Babylon. And sometimes we too feel tears streaming from our hearts, when the uncertainties of life cut so deeply or our sins blanket us with despair, that our minds just can't make any sense of it anymore...We know what it's like to feel like exiles from God.

But always remember the secret of the exile: God's mercies are never spent and his faithfulness endures forever. If we cling to the "affection that hopes, endures, and is patient," then some day we will return to God's paradise in heaven, a city set on a hill where there is no more pain or suffering or crying out, but a place of refreshment, light and peace, where we will sing with the angels before the beautiful radiance of God's glory.

And I imagine that on that day, we'll probably think we're dreaming, for the one whose mercy endures forever, will have come to take us home, we sons and daughters of Acadie, we unemployed orphans, and sinners with quivering hearts. But be glad and rejoice, my brothers and sisters, "for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to just such as these."



PICTURES FROM A PILGRIMAGE





TUESDAY
10am Concelebration of the Mass for the Assumption
Cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption
226, St. Georges Street, Moncton

WEDNESDAY
PARISH VISITS ON THE NORTHERN ROUTE
Ste-Anne-de-Kent, Richibouctou-Village, Richibucto, Saint-Louis-de-Kent, Saint-Ignace,
Acadieville, Rogersville Shrine, Saint Paul, St-Antoine,
Sainte-Marie-de-Kent

THURSDAY
PARISH VISITS ON THE SOUTHERN ROUTE
Shediac, Dieppe, Moncton, Pre-d'en-Haut, Memramcook, Scoudouc,
Cap-Pelé

FRIDAY
10am - Mass for deceased members of Saint Cecilia Parish
Cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption
226, St. Georges Street, Moncton





Do you like to garden and plant seeds and watch a plant grow?

We need gardener's who will plant and nourish seeds of faith with our youth! Please think about nourishing our youth with your faith and love of God. You, being Jesus' humble servant could be the water, sunshine, or rich soil that a child needs for his/her faith to grow! We need a 5th & 6th grade catechist. Want to find out more? Call Paula 978.537.5596 or email pd@stceciliachurch.net.

RCIA

Have you thought about becoming Catholic?

Did you receive Baptism, but never received First Communion and Confirmation?

Are you married or engaged to a Catholic and wonder what they believe?

A series of Inquiry classes will begin on Sunday, September 10th at 9:30 AM as part of the RCIA process. If you would like to know more, please contact Pat Secino at 978-537-6541 or email psecino@stceciliachurch.net



Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults

The Sympathies of the parish community are extended to the family and friends of **Charlene L. Davis and Arline J. Ouellette** whose Funeral Masses were held recently. Please remember them in your prayers.



Saint Cecilia's
RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE
asks you to save the date of September 9th
Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary



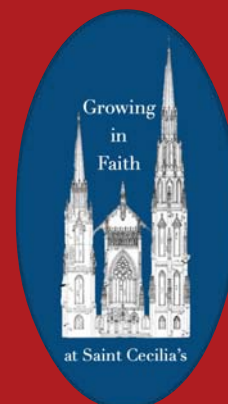
Please join us for Mass at 9am followed by a
Birthday Party for the Blessed Mother*
and a talk by Irene and Deacon Bob Connor
on the work of First Concern

*You can bring a Birthday gift for The Blessed Mother in the form of gift cards for First Concern (for car seats for moms in need) and baby gifts (diapers, clothing) for Catholic Charities.

Last Weekend's Parish Collections totaled \$6,258.99. Thank You!



THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BIBLE



Christian belief in the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity was not officially defined by the Church until the fourth century. But centuries earlier, the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament were already describing the action and presence of God's Spirit. In this study we will explore the activity of the Spirit at creation, within Israel, and the ministry of Jesus and the early Church.

The course will be presented twice on every Thursday (beginning September 7th) from 9:30am-11:00am and a second time from 6:00-7:30pm. The main text to be used is *The Holy Spirit in the Bible* from the Little Rock Scripture Study. For more information, email psecino@stceciliachurch.net.

Pat Secino holds a Degree in Catholic Studies and Theology from Anna Maria College and is presently Director of Continuing Education for Adults and the RCIA at Saint Cecilia's Parish. A skilled and



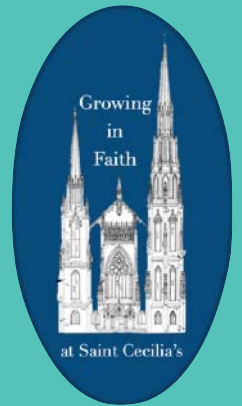
popular teacher, she previously served as Coordinator of Religious Education for eighteen years.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

TO SIGN UP FOR THIS COURSE, ONLINE OR IN PERSON, SEND AN EMAIL TO msgr@stceciliachurch.net.
A DONATION OF \$25 PER REGISTRATION IS SUGGESTED.



COME TO THE FEAST OF THE LITTLE WAY OF ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX



This four-week interactive course on St. Therese's spirituality of the little way is offered in the 150th anniversary year of her birth and will explore:

- How to become fascinated with Jesus and letting ourselves be seduced by him.
- We will be challenged to accept our poverty, vulnerability and sinfulness as the path in desiring to become saints.
- How do we find light and peace in the midst of darkness and in the storm of life.
- The little way invites us to love and trust, and to allow God to transform us to be who we are: child of God.

The course will meet every Monday evening starting September 11 until October 2 from 6:30 to 8 PM. The main text to be used is 15 Days of Prayer With St. Therese of Lisieux by Constant Tonnelier, OCD.

For more information, please call Fr. Leo at 508-450-0281.



Fr. Leo LeBlanc, a priest for over 44 years is now retired and in residence at St. Cecilia's Parish in Leominster. He has done spiritual direction and retreats for over twenty-five years. He also was a clinical social worker for about thirty years, working with children and adults.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

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St. Cecilia Church

*invites you
to a Morning of Healing*

Saturday September 16, 2023

Holy Mass 9:00 am

followed by

Benediction

Healing Service

Confessions



With:

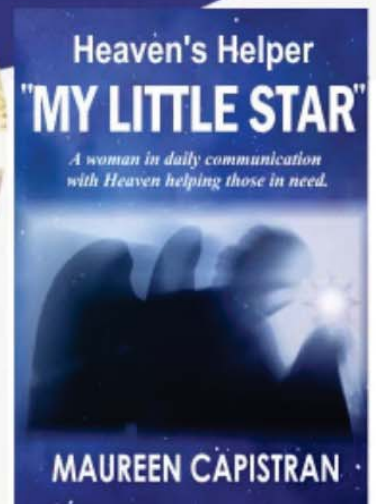
Msgr. James Moroney

Rev. Laurence Brault

Deacon Stephen Mullaney

Maureen Capistran *Author of:*

Heaven's Helper My Little Star *Available on Amazon*



St. Cecilia Church

**180 Mechanic St
Leominster, MA 01453**

978-537-6541

office@stceciliachurch.net





THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA

Saturday August 19 Vigil *Breaking Bread*, page 190

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

4:00pm Mass for Marguerite (Maggie) Cormier, by Bernice Williams (Church)

Sunday August 20 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Breaking Bread*, page 190

7:00am Mass for John Amico, by the family (Church)

9:45am Mass for Daniel Simard, by the family (Church)

11:15am Mass for Victorine and Roland Aubuchon and their children, by the family (Church)

12:30pm Baptism of Nathan Illsley

Monday August 21 Saint Pius X

6:30am Mass for the Living Beverly Hanson, by Wil Gariepy (Chapel)

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

Tuesday August 22 Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30am Mass for Parishioners of St. Cecilia's Parish (Chapel)

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

Wednesday August 23 Weekday

6:30am Mass for Father Robert E. Gariepy, by last will (Chapel)

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

6:00pm Mass for Donald and Denise Carter, by the family (Chapel)

6:30pm Confessions

7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)



Thursday August 24 Saint Bartholomew

9:00am Mass for Mary K. Rivard, by the family (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Lorraine Daigle, by Mariette Allain (Chapel)

Friday August 25 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Raymond Aubuchon, by Paul (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 August 26 Weekday

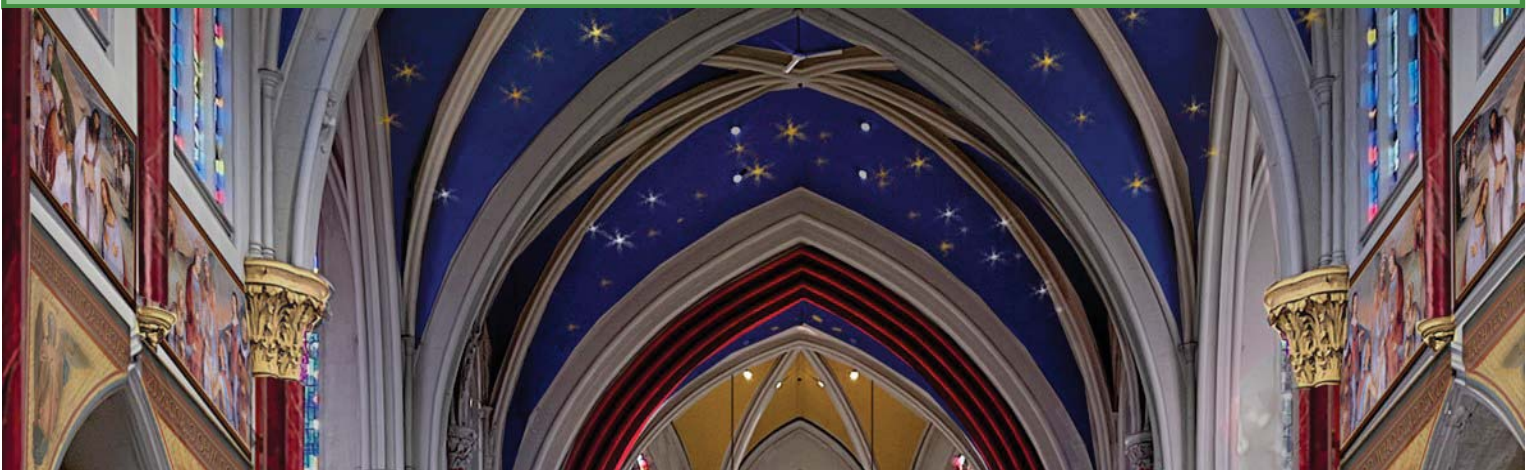
9:00am Mass for Richard Fontaine, by Michael and Joanne Bangrazi (Chapel)
 9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday August 26 Vigil *Breaking Bread*, page 192

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Taylor Bernard (4th anniv.), by Memere and Pepere Bernard (Church)

Sunday August 27 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time *Breaking Bread*, page 192

7:00am Mass for Arcade Richard (2nd anniv.), by the family (Church)
9:45am Mass for Madeline and Michelle Notturmo, by the family (Church)
11:15am Mass for Richard Girardin, by Roger and Janice St. Cyr (Church)



Let us pray.

Please pray for those who are ill, especially: Claire Beaudoin, Rita Brodeur, Pius Yun, Paulette Rancourt Catrona, Ebony Gosselin, Lynne Petrone, Faith Warchol and Larry Gagne. 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.

Saint Cecilia Parish

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

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



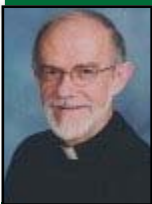
Monsignor James P. Moroney
msgr@stceciliachurch.net
Pastor



Father Paul Shaughnessy
father@stceciliachurch.net
Parochial Vicar



Deacon Robert S. Connor Jr.
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Deacon



Reverend Leo LeBlanc
Resident



BettyAnn Harrington
bettyann@stceciliachurch.net
Executive Assistant

Deacon Ronald J. Aubuchon
Deacon emeritus



Paula Doucet
pd@stceciliachurch.net
Director of Religious Education



Adam Cormier
Special Projects Manager



Denis Leger
Property Manager



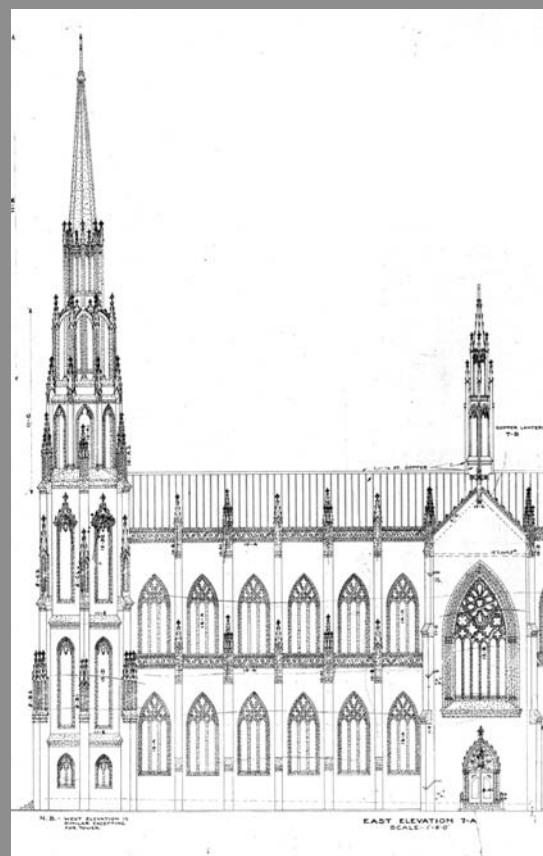
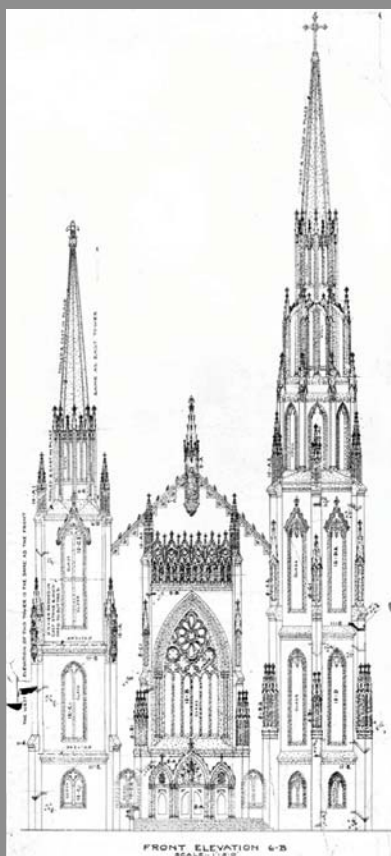
Patricia Secino
psecino@stceciliachurch.net
Director of Continuing Education



David Lasky
davelasky@msn.com
Organist



Jamie Camire
Rectory Cook



SUNDAY FUNDAY

FAITH FACTS

THE APOSTLES: PHILIP

The apostles left the Holy Land about twelve years after the Resurrection.

Unfortunately, we do not have reliable details about where Philip went. It seems that he probably preached in an area called Galatia, which was in what we know call Turkey. (It is the white area on the map.)

Early Christian traditions say that he was martyred in a town called Hierapolis at the age of 87.



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:
A = M, and W = I.

Crossword solution from last week

F	I	R	E		H	E	A	R	T
A		R		E		L		I	
C	L	O	A	K		L	O	R	D
E				I		N		E	
	O	U	T	S	I	D	E		
G			S		E			F	
H	O	S	T		P	E	A	C	E
O	L	L			P		A		
S	P	O	K	E		A	I	R	
T		W		T		M			

AM AWGGWCB WG CBZM

HC HVS ZCGH GVSSD CT

HVS VCIGS CT WGFO SZ.

ANSWER

My mission is only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

A PICTURE FOR YOU TO FINISH

READING: MT 15, 21-28



David Fielding

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