



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

Peter Receives the Keys by Lorenzo Veneziano



WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

As I write this column, I have just returned from a wonderful pilgrimage to Acadia, where I was honored to take part in celebrations of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin and pray for you at Moncton's Cathedral, which bears the same name!

Along the way I not only visited all kinds of beautiful villages and churches, but met so many wonderful people, as well. I was delighted I had the opportunity to visit several of your elderly relatives, as well! Below, you will see the picture of some of the folks at the Mass I celebrated on the last day of the pilgrimage!



We are making preparations for the visit of the major relic of Saint Andre Bissette to Saint Cecilia's on Sunday, September 24th. The relic will arrive here at 8am and be present through the 11:15am Mass, with a period of Eucharistic adoration, a talk on the good Saint's life and anointing with Saint Joseph oil throughout the morning. Please mark your calendars for this momentous event.

Finally, please consider taking part in Pat Secino's course on the Holy Spirit or Father LeBlanc's on Saint Therese of Lisieux, as indicated in this week's bulletin. Later this Fall, I will be offering an Introduction to Liturgical Arts through the ages, and next spring we will have courses in Church History and an Introduction to the Catechism. They should all be great fun!

In the meantime, I pray you will have a chance to get away for a few days as the summer winds down. You can sense the change in seasons with the cool nights. May God be blessed for all these great blessings!

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney





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



*Welcome
Nathan John Illsley
to your
Parish Family!*

Be the *face* of CHRIST *and his helping hands*



Catholic Campus Ministry at WPI



If you have not already donated we ask your kind consideration of a gift to the 2023 Annual Partners in Charity Appeal. Many Families Have Already Donated and for those gifts we are truly grateful. Saint Cecilia's is currently \$18,550.00 away from reaching goal.

You can easily offer your gift online (partners-charity.net/donate) or you can submit one of the donor envelopes which you can find in the pews.

Your gift will help the Diocese implement its essential charitable, pastoral and educational works in the year ahead. Tens of thousands of people are the beneficiaries of our charitable giving.

We hope you'll be generous in making a gift which reflects your gratitude to God for all you have. Thank you!



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.

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.



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:

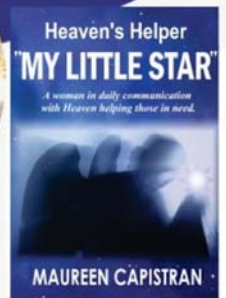
Msgr. James Moroney

Rev. Laurence Brault

Deacon Stephen Mullaney

Maureen Capistran *Author of:*

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



St. Cecilia Church

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978-537-6541

office@stceciliachurch.net



Last Weekend's Parish Collections totaled \$8,356.99. Thank You!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CARE OF CREATION

SEPTEMBER 1ST



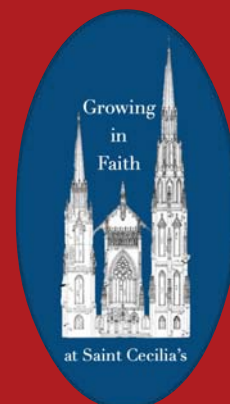
PilotBulletins



God, our Father, is the Creator of the heavens and
the earth! God has entrusted creation to the care of
humankind. We are called to cultivate and steward
the earth with wisdom, manage its resources well,
and respectfully care for the creatures of the earth.



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



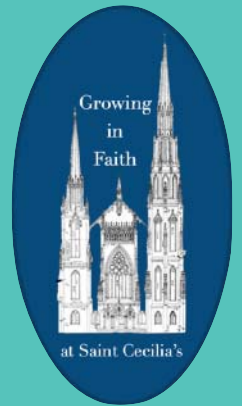
popular teacher, she previously served as Coordinator of Religious Education for eighteen years.

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

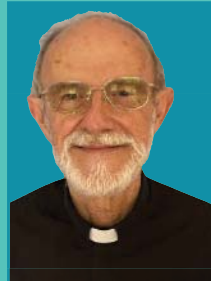


This four-week interactive course on St. Therese's spirituality of the little way is offered in the 150th anniversary year of her birth and will explore:

- 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.

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A CATHOLIC GUIDE TO END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS⁴

Thanks to The National Catholic Bioethics Center, we are publishing a series of in-depth articles explaining Church teaching on some very important questions facing Catholics who may be approaching the end of their lives and those who love them. This, the last of four bulletin articles in this series, addresses Catholic teaching on euthanasia in the light of the Resurrection.

The Specter of Euthanasia

Anne shares her hospital room with a woman whose condition is similar to her own. Recently, a stranger visited her roommate and the two of them had a long discussion together. After he left, Anne was surprised to learn that the man was an advocate of euthanasia. Apparently he knows of a doctor who has already helped some sick people to end their lives. He is trying to convince Anne's roommate to do the same.

Human life is a precious and inviolable gift from God. Our love of God and His creation should cause us to shun any thought of violating this great gift through suicide or euthanasia. We read in Wisdom, “God did not make death, nor does He rejoice in the destruction of the living. For He fashioned all things that they may have being” (1:13). St. Paul reminds us, “If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord” (Rom. 14:8).

When formulating an advance directive or discussing end-of-life issues, we should avoid using the expression “quality of life.” Life itself is always a good, and this is a quality that can never be lost. Our focus should be not on whether someone’s life has enough “quality” to it (quality will always be diminished during sickness or disease), but rather on whether a proposed medical treatment would be unduly burdensome and insufficiently beneficial for his or her particular circumstances. “Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment” forms can also raise ethical concerns. POLST forms may be written to permit the withholding of antibiotics, nutrition and hydration, and other easily provided

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medical care. Signed by a medical professional, they mandate compliance by health-care workers, including emergency responders. Catholics should exercise great caution before agreeing to be bound by such documents. Euthanasia was defined by Pope John Paul II, in *The Gospel of Life*, as “an action or omission which of itself and by intention causes death, with the purpose of eliminating all suffering” (n. 64). Supporters of euthanasia often justify it, along with physician-assisted suicide, on the grounds that the pain of terminal illness is too great for the average person to bear. They hold that it is more merciful to kill the suffering patient.

The prospect of intractable pain may be frightening, but such extreme distress rarely occurs. The physician almost always can minimize or eliminate the pain that may accompany terminal illness. Most people, in fact, die peaceful deaths. *The Gospel of Life* holds that “*euthanasia is a grave violation of the law of God*, since it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of a human person” (n. 65, original emphasis). Fundamentally, it is an unreasonable act. Although it is certainly preferable to die in a conscious state of prayer, no one should feel obliged to forgo medications and pain relief even though they may bring about disorientation or produce unconsciousness. The Church encourages appropriate treatment for pain, even when such treatment may indirectly shorten life, so long as the intent is not to hasten death. What is chosen is pain relief. This is an application of the principle of double effect. The Church asks only that appropriate conditions exist before such medication be taken.

Hope of the Resurrection

At death, we do not cease to exist but continue to live by God’s grace as we await the resurrection of the body. Though we will be united with our bodies once again, the Church encourages us to consider deceased organ donation. Care should be taken to ensure that a proper determination of death is made, that the donation is not used for commercial purposes, and that the body is not trivialized in any way. When we direct organ and tissue donation to the personal good of others, we share the gift of life. We hope that these explanations of the moral teachings of the Catholic Church have been helpful to you. Christians should approach death with the joyful anticipation of a new life with our Blessed Lord. In order to prepare themselves to see God face to face, Catholics should try to confess their sins to a priest before death. Efforts should be made to assure that the dying can receive the Sacrament of the Sick, and the blessing of Viaticum, our Lord’s body and blood as “food for the journey.” When our loved ones have passed on from this life, we should remember our obligation in charity and justice to pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed—and in this way remain in communion with our beloved family members and friends.



THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA

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)

Monday August 28 Saint Augustine

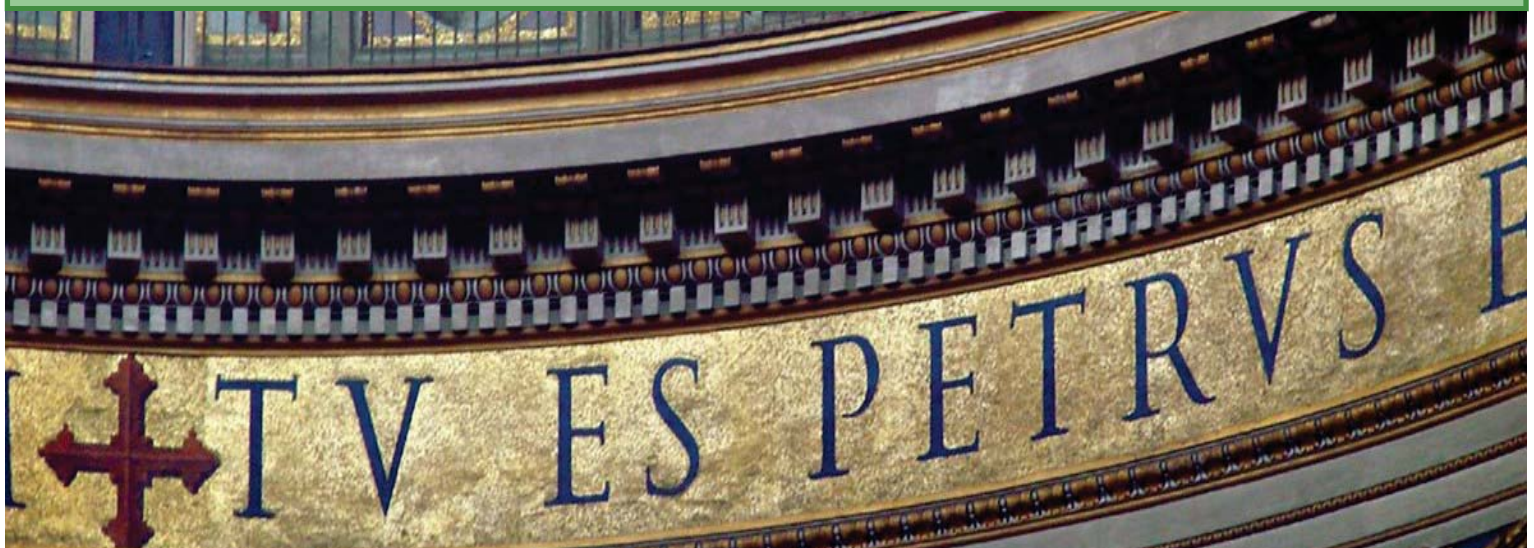
6:30am Mass for the Jeannette Brow, by last will (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

Tuesday August 29 Passion of Saint John the Baptist

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

Wednesday August 30 Weekday

6:30am Mass for Parishioners of St. Cecilia's Parish (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Dolores Valeri, by Andrew, Karen and Phillip (Chapel)
6:30pm Confessions
 7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)



Thursday August 31 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Roland (Midnight) Cote, by Al & Claudette Guilmette (Chapel)
3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Charles and Mildred Bilodeau, by last will (Chapel)

Friday September 1 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Richard H.J. Brow, by last will (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 September 2 Weekday

9:00am Mass for David and Gloria DiGeronimo, by Michael and Joanne Bangrazi (Chapel)
9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday September 2 Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 194

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Rick Baron (28th anniv.), by Mom, Dad and Michael (Church)

Sunday September 3 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time *Breaking Bread, page 194*

7:00am Mass for Lien (Theresa) Le, by the family (Church)
9:45am Mass for David Constant (10th anniv.), by Joyce and Paul Latuga (Church)
 First Holy Communion for Alex Gonzalez
11:15am Mass for Rita Gould (22nd anniv.), by Gerald McDonald and family (Church)



Let us pray.

Please pray for those who are ill, especially: Janet Coleman, Kathy, Lucille DeRosa, Claire Beaudoin, Rita Brodeur, Pius Yun, Paulette Rancourt Catrona and Ebony Gosselin and Lynne Petrone. 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



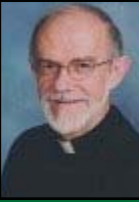
Monsignor James P. Moroney
msgr@stceciliachurch.net
Pastor



Father Paul Shaughnessy
father@stceciliachurch.net
Parochial Vicar



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



Reverend Leo LeBlanc
Resident



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bettyann@stceciliachurch.net
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Deacon Ronald J. Aubuchon
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Paula Doucet
pd@stceciliachurch.net
Director of Religious Education



Adam Cormier
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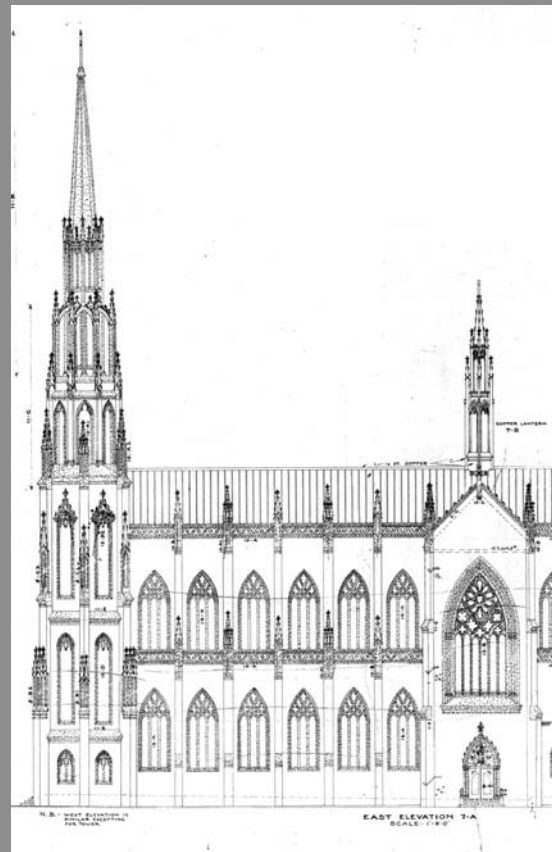
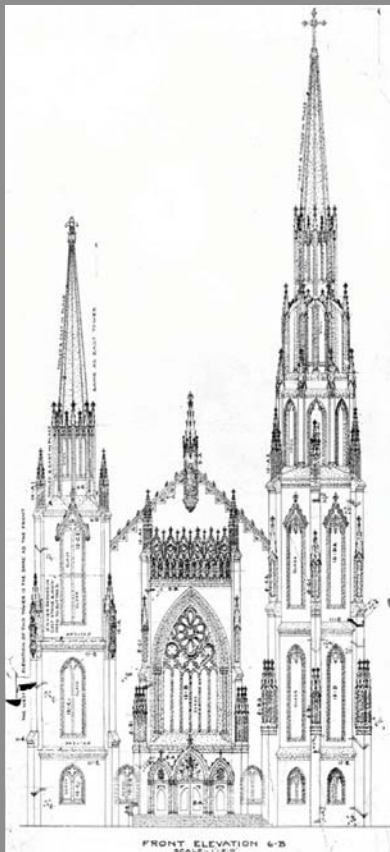
Patricia Secino
psecino@stceciliachurch.net
Director of Continuing Education



David Lasky
davelasky@msn.com
Organist



Jamie Camire
Rectory Cook





BIBLE DETECTIVE

See what you can discover for yourself about the background to the readings.

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah was one of the most famous of Israel's prophets. What do we know about him?

Can you find out who Shebna was? Why was God displeased with him?

When did Isaiah and Shebna live? Who was the king of Israel at the time?

What great enemy came against Jerusalem at about this time? See if you can find the story, and how Jerusalem was miraculously saved.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus gave Simon Peter authority over his Church. Who has that authority today? Who has "the keys of Peter?"

FILL IN THE GAPS

The sentences below are missing key words. Can you find the correct ones? (They are all in today's readings.)

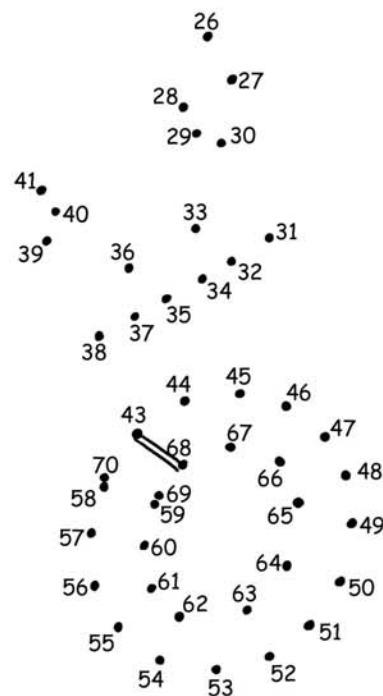
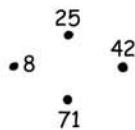
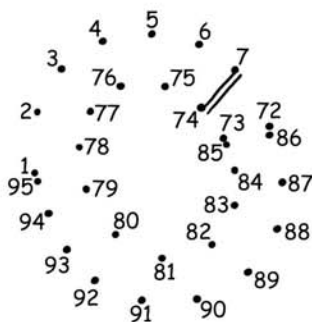
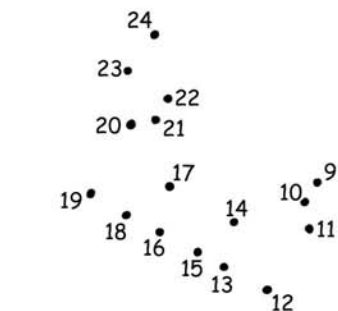
1. I will _____ you from your _____ and pull you down from your _____.
2. Lord, your _____ is _____; do not forsake the _____ of your hands.
3. How deep are the _____ and the _____ and the _____ of God!
4. No mere _____ has _____ this to you, but my heavenly _____.
5. I will _____ to you the _____ of the _____ of heaven.

ANSWERS

1. thrust, office, station 2. love, eternal, work
3. riches, wisdom, knowledge 4. man, revealed, Father
5. entrust, keys, kingdom

CONNECT THE DOTS

READING: MT 16, 13-20



David Fielding



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