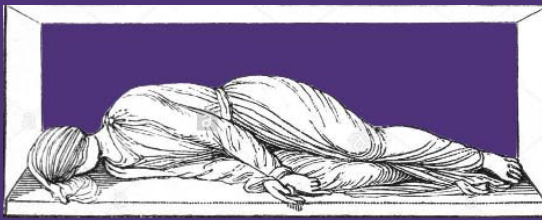




# SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

Prepare the Way of the Lord, by Annibale Carracci



## WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

The origins of the text are obscure at best, but from the late Middle Ages it is a favorite of composers, perhaps because of its deep spiritual meaning:

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums,  
nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by his gown.  
But his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.

Appropriately, in this Advent Season, it speaks of the coming of the Lord Jesus in glory. Many Medieval texts reflect on how to recognize the Lord when he comes to judge the living and the dead. All Jesus tells us is that he will be coming on a cloud from the East. So how will we know what he looks like? How will we know that it is him?

It is the question which gave rise to the practice of painting an image of Jesus on the inside lid of your coffin so that when you awake for the last judgement you will have a last minute reminder of what your judge looks like! It is the question we ask every day, as reflected by the Psalmist: “Who is the King of Glory?” (Psalm 24:8).

Jesus answers that question and invites us to encounter him in the Sacraments. In the Sacrament of Penance we can hear the judge forgive our sins. All we need to do is be sorry and go to confession. In the Holy Eucharist we can receive the Body and Blood of the one who will come at the end of time, resting assured that he who eats the flesh of the Son of Man and drinks his blood will have life eternal and the Lord will raise him up on the last day (cf. John 6:54).

Jesus answers the question again by telling us that we can meet him in the hungry, the naked, the ill and the poor and that whatever we do for them we do for him. (Cf. Matthew 25: 31-46).

When we find him in the Sacraments or in those who need us we will recognize him as the Good Shepherd who comes to save lost sheep, calls the weary and burdened to rest in his gentle and humble heart. (Cf. Matthew 11: 28-30). For, as the ancient poem portends: “his presence known shall be by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.”

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney

# LOTS GOING ON AT YOUR FAVORITE CHURCH

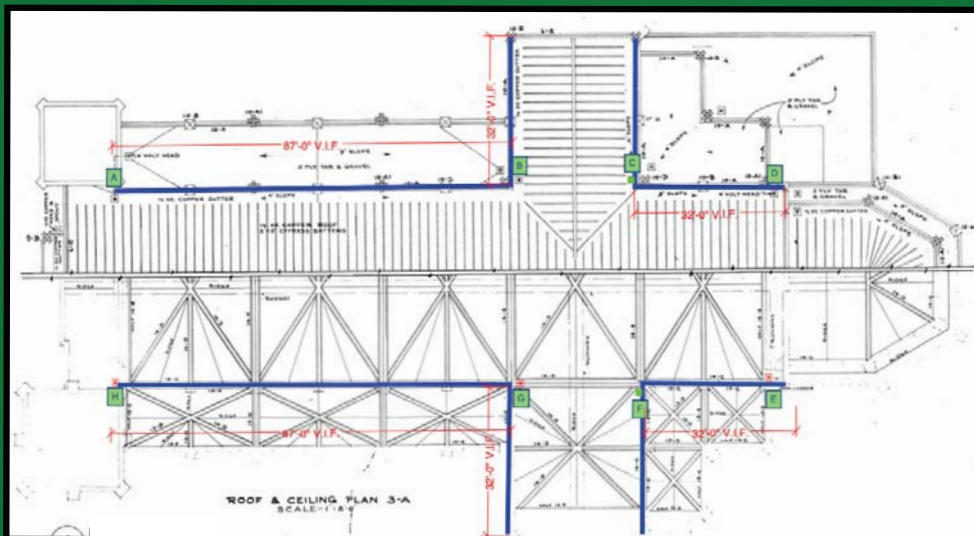


Blessing the Advent Wreath



Leaning on the new gutter surface

## WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THOSE LIFTS OUT THERE?



With the help of MJE Engineering and Cole Construction, the gutters of Saint Cecilia's Church are being entirely replaced.

Masonry is being repaired, new drains with screens are being installed and state of the art materials are being used to line the entire gutter system.

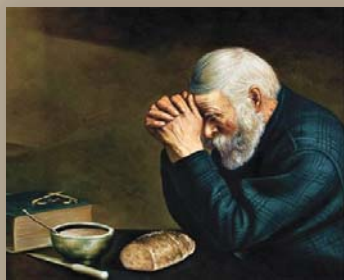
Next spring, all secondary roofs will be entirely replaced and the East Tower (the tallest one) will be restored, with special attention to roofing, concrete, masonry and window integrity.

This is the first of several phases envisioned for the complete restoration of the exterior of Saint Cecilia's Church.

Once this first phase is completed in the first half of 2024, the building will be water-tight, and restoration of the interior of the Church will begin.

**YOU ARE INVITED** to be a part of this important work of preparing Saint Cecilia's for service to future generation of Catholics in Leominster.

Please consider a contribution to the **ROOF FUND** or give a **MEMORIAL GIFT** to the interior restoration of Worcester County's largest Church!



## PRAY WITH US!

### **Pray for all who are sick, and especially for:**

Annie Moore, Ken Lavoie, Francis Wada, Judith Arnold, Elaine Nasal, Yvonne Champagne and Linda Kinsey.

Pray for all who live in the Holy land, that God might bring peace to that troubled land .

Join us in praying for those who have died recently: Joseph J. Testa. Pray for their families, as well, that they may be consoled by the promises of Christ.

If you know someone who needs prayers, call the rectory or email [office@stceciliachurch.net](mailto:office@stceciliachurch.net) and we will add them to our prayer list for the next several weeks.

## HERE'S A RIDDLE FOR YOU!

WHAT MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT  
AND HELPS TO HEAT THE CHURCH AT THE SAME TIME?



**Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a  
ticket for the Saint  
Cecilia Christmas  
Raffle! I could win  
up to \$5,200 in  
cash prizes and  
gift cards!**

The SAINT CECILIA CHRISTMAS CALENDAR RAFFLE was just mailed to all parishioners this week. Each ticket you purchase gets you a chance to win \$5,200 in prizes. Each day for the thirty- one days in January we will be drawing a winner, live on our Facebook Page. Prizes range from \$100 to \$1,100 in cash or gift cards from local merchants. We suggest a donation for each raffle ticket of \$15, or three for \$40!

If you need more copies of the CHRISTMAS CALENDAR RAFFLE, call us at 978-537-6541 or stop by and see us during office hours, from 10am-3pm, Monday through Friday. Just return the stubs and donations in an envelope marked RAFFLE. You can drop them in the collection basket, mail them or drop them in the mail slot at the rectory. Checks should be made payable to "Saint Cecilia Church."

As we continue to prepare for Christmas this Advent, we are excited to present our Christmas Pageant with some of our youngest parishioners reminding us to stop and reflect about the love and joy the Christmas Season offers us to partake in.

Plan to join us at the 11:15 Mass next Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> as the children perform the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ before the recessional hymn.



## Help us spread some Christmas Cheer.

On Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00am, we will be decorating our beautiful Church for Christmas. We need your assistance. Please call Adam at the rectory 978-537-6541 to let him know you'll be there to help.



Thank you to everyone who took tags from our Giving Trees this year. Please mail Gift cards for the seminarians to the address on the envelope. All other gifts can be placed, unwrapped, under or near the Christmas trees by next weekend.

**Please return your gifts no later than next weekend, December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>** so they can be distributed to the families in plenty of time for Christmas. God bless you for your kindness and generosity.

St. Cecilia's St. Vincent de Paul Conference

thank you!

**Last Weekend's  
Parish Collections  
totaled \$9,891!**



Looking for Volunteers to Send Christmas cards this Advent season to our shut-ins and elderly.

Please call the rectory or email us at [office@stceciliachurch.net](mailto:office@stceciliachurch.net) if you could help us out on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the parish center.



If you or someone you know could use a little Christmas love, please call the rectory or email us at [office@stceciliachurch.net](mailto:office@stceciliachurch.net) with their name and address.



## LAST CHANCE TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS MEAT PIE

Must be received by December 11<sup>th</sup> — Limited Quantities

How many do you want?

Baked \_\_\_\_\_

Unbaked \_\_\_\_\_

@ \$15 each

I enclose payment for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable Saint Cecilia Parish. You may drop this form off at the rectory or put it in the collection basket in an envelope marked MEAT PIE ORDER. Additional order forms can be downloaded from our website [stceciliachurch.net](http://stceciliachurch.net). Mark you calendar, pickup is on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 11am to 5pm.

Ladies of St Anne wish to thank everyone for their support in their recent Scratch Ticket Raffle. A special thank you goes to the Catholic Financial Life NE chapter 296 for Sponsoring them. Pictured below are Joe O'Donnell and Jerry Aubuchon who pulled the winning ticket. And the winner is.... Marie Richard, Congratulations!



Father Shaughnessy celebrates the Baptism of Anne Marie Catherine Marabello and Leo David DiBenedetto





# LADIES OF SAINT ANNE CHRISTMAS PARTY





# THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



**Saturday**      **December 9**      **Vigil**      *Breaking Bread, page 36*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

**4:00pm Mass** for Lucille Tucker (22<sup>nd</sup> anniv.) and Lee Tucker, by their family (Church)

**Sunday**      **December 10**      **Second Sunday of Advent**      *Breaking Bread, page 36*

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

**9:45am Mass** for Rita Richard (8<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by her daughter and family (Church)

9:45-11:00am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and other classes through Grade 6 (Parish Center)

10:00-11:00am RCIA Group (Rector)

**11:15am Mass** for Wilfred Richard (14<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by Anne-Marie and Jean-Noel Bernard (Church)

**Monday**      **December 11**      **Advent Weekday**

**9:00am Mass** for Raymond Leclerc, by his wife Lorraine and son Richard (Chapel)

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

7:00-8:15pm Religious Education classes, grades 7 through 10 (Parish Center)

**Tuesday**      **December 12**      **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**9:00am Mass** for Pamela Gordon, by a friend (Chapel)

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

**Wednesday**      **December 13**      **Saint Lucy**

**9:00am Mass** for Paulette Gronroos, by a friend (Chapel)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass

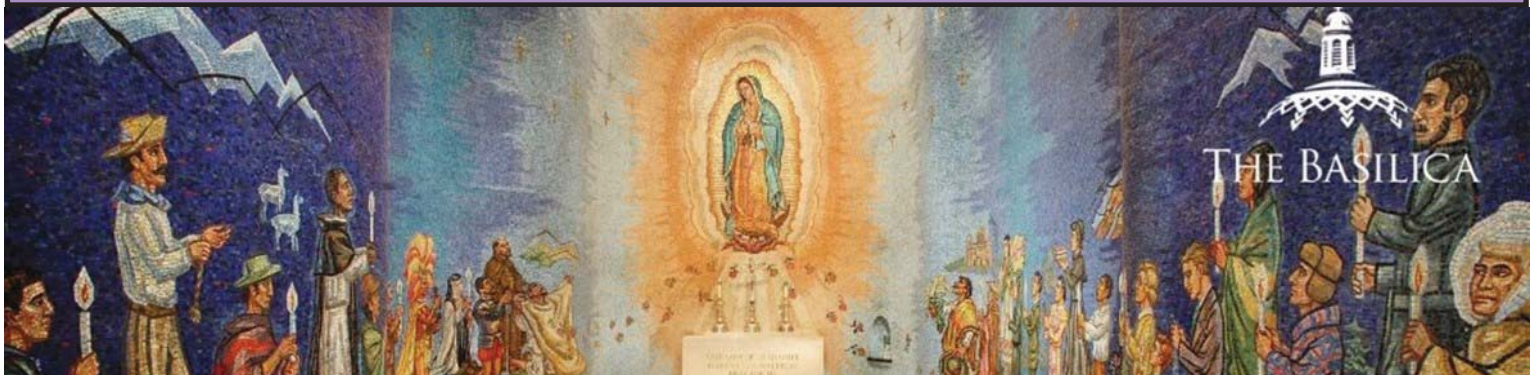
Noon Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)

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

**6:00pm Mass** for Helen Fortier, by a friend (Chapel)

6:30pm Confessions (Church)

7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)



**Thursday      December 14      Saint John of the Cross****9:00am Mass** for Deceased members of the Cronin family, by the family (Chapel)

9:30am Confessions (Church)

9:30-11am Bible Study about our Catholic Faith (Parish Center)

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

**Friday      December 15      Advent Weekday****9:00am Mass** for Claire Quiet (30<sup>th</sup> day), by Kevin and Michele Mack, Simard's (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      December 16      Advent Weekday****9:00am Mass** for Robert Doiron (30<sup>th</sup> day), Kevin and Michele Mack, Simard's (Chapel)

9:30am Confessions (Church)

**Saturday      December 16      Vigil***Breaking Bread, page 39*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

**4:00pm Mass** for Martha Eagle (21<sup>st</sup> anniv.), by Betty Sims (Church)**Sunday      December 17      Third Sunday of Advent***Breaking Bread, page 39***7:00am Mass** for Jean Leger (6<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by his wife and children (Church)**9:45am Mass** for Alfred Bernard (25<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by Anne-Marie and Jean-Noel Bernard (Church)

9:45-11:00am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and other classes through Grade 6 (Parish Center)

10:00-11:00am RCIA Group (Rectorry)

**11:15am Mass** for Danny Gould (30<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by Gerald McDonald and family (Church)

With Our Christmas Pageant

12:30pm Baptism of Quinn Kelly Bailey and Garrett Joseph Bailey





# THANKS TO THESE SPONSORS WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH YOUR BULLETIN **FREE EACH WEEK**

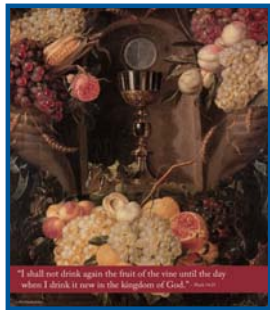
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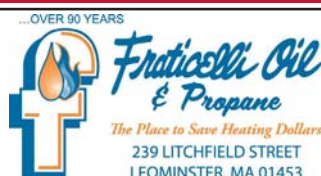
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