



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

# SAINT CECILIA PARISH

170 Mechanic Street, Leominster, Massachusetts 01453 — 978-537-6541 — [stceciliachurch.net](http://stceciliachurch.net)

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



Monsignor  
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Cantor



Jamie Camire  
Rectory Cook



Reverend Leo LeBlanc  
Retired Priest in Residence

Deacon Ronald J. Aubuchon, Deacon emeritus

**Weekend Masses:** Vigil Mass 4pm on Saturday. Sunday Masses at 7am, 9:45am and 11:15am

**Weekday Masses:** Monday through Saturday at 9am; Wednesday at 6pm

**Sacrament of Penance:** Wednesday at 6:30pm; Thursday at 9:30am; Saturday at 9:30am and 3pm

**Rosary:** Monday thru Friday at 3:00pm; Wednesday at 7pm

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30am to noon



## WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

Advent is well spent, and next week it will be Christmas, the feast which reminds us of the three comings of Christ: in the manger, in our hearts and at the end of time to judge the living and the dead.

Advent has been particularly insistent on reminding us of the last judgement, which will come at a time we do not expect. So before Christmas gets here, we have one last chance to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord. Preparing to receive the newborn Christ at Christmas time is a task that takes time. Charitable works, self-sacrifice, prayer, penance and study are all a part of such a preparation.

But perhaps the most important way in which I can prepare my heart to receive the Lord is by confessing my sins and getting rid of the selfish filth that clutters up my heart and my mind. Unfortunately, many Catholics have given up the practice of preparing their hearts for Christmas. Recent studies by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate reported the sad fact that almost half of all adult Catholics have abandoned the practice of going to confession.

I mourn for those Catholics who now deprive themselves of the inestimable consolations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Just imagine the heavy burdens of sin that they are carrying around all by themselves. Imagine the pain that results from convincing yourself that you can never be forgiven for having done that terrible thing. Just because they cannot forgive themselves, they refuse to accept the mercy that Christ won for them by the Sacrifice of the Cross.

But how can you and I get to confession before Christmas? It's simple. Here at Saint Cecilia's we have confessions Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Thursdays at 9:30am, and Saturdays at 9:30am and 3:00pm. And there are confessions at the other Leominster parishes, as well, as listed on their parish website, indicating where a priest is waiting to welcome you home for Christmas.

But whatever you do, come home to God's mercy this Christmas. The Lord is waiting for you.

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney



Here is a copy of a letter that was sent by parishioner to a friend,

I say friend, but I really think of you as a brother or sister. I enjoy taking to you and I'm not too sure how to say this, but...Please come to Church this Christmas.

I know it may have been a long time since you've been to Church, and it's confusing when to stand up and sit down and what to say at the right times. But please come sit next to me and I'll show you what to do.

Because I really do believe that Jesus was born for you and for me, and I really want you to feel the consolation, the hope and the joy of Christmas. We are all sinners, and none of us are perfect, but that is precisely why the Son of the Living God through whom all things were made chose to be born as a weak little baby in a manger...to show how much he loves us.

Please think of being with us at Saint Cecilia's on Sunday night at the 4pm or midnight (you'll be tired, but it is so beautiful) or on Christmas morning at 9:45 or 11:15am.

He came not just for shepherds and magi, but for you and for me. Come and drink deeply of the comfort and joy!

**Help us spread some Christmas Cheer.**

this 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!**

**Last Weekend's  
Parish Collections  
totaled \$11,673!**



# COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

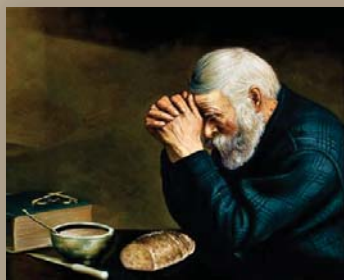
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES</b> 4pm and MIDNIGHT	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES</b> 9:45am and 11:15am
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**WELCOME HOME TO SAINT CECILIA CHURCH!**



**St. Vincent de Paul donations are greatly needed. You will find donation boxes at each entrance to the church.**

Due to this year's storm, with all the flooding damage, the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Cecilia Parish has received a record number of calls for help. With your donations they are 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. Sincere thanks go to our generous and largely anonymous benefactors for helping them to help others.



## PRAY WITH US!

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

Rhea Girouard, 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, especially: Lee W. Tucker. 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."

For those who pre-ordered Christmas Meat Pies, don't forget to pick them up this Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> between 11am and 5pm at the Parish Center lower hall.

A special thank you to Jeannine Brideau and her crew, who work so hard keeping this Acadian Christmas Tradition going by making these delicious meat pies!







POPE FRANCIS'S APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION  
ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF  
SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS  
EXCERPTS - PART THREE



Before entering the Carmel, Therese had felt a remarkable spiritual closeness to one of the most unfortunate of men, the criminal Henri Pranzini, sentenced to death for a triple murder for which he was unrepentant. By having Masses offered for him and praying with complete confidence for his salvation, she was convinced that she was drawing him ever closer to the blood of Jesus, and she told God that she was sure that at the last moment he would pardon him "even if he went to his death without any signs of repentance." As the reason for her certainty, she stated: "I was absolutely confident in the mercy of Jesus." How great was her emotion when she learned that Pranzini, after mounting the scaffold, "suddenly, seized by an inspiration, turned, took hold of the crucifix the priest was holding out to him and kissed the sacred wounds three times!" This intense experience of hoping against all hope proved fundamental for her: "After this unique grace, my desire to save souls grows each day."

Therese was conscious of the tragic reality of sin, yet she remained constantly immersed in the mystery of Christ, certain that "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Rom 5:20). The sin of the world is great but not infinite, whereas the merciful love of the Redeemer is indeed infinite. Therese testifies to the definitive victory of Jesus, through his passion, death and resurrection, over all the powers of evil.

The act of love – repeating the words, "Jesus I love you" – which became as natural to Therese as breathing, is the key to her understanding of the Gospel. With that love, she immersed herself in all the mysteries of the life of Christ, making herself his contemporary and placing herself within the Gospel together with Mary and Joseph, Mary Magdalene and the apostles. "When I see Magdalene walking up before the many guests, washing with her tears the feet of her adored Master, whom she is touching for the first time, I feel that her heart has understood the abysses of love and mercy of the Heart of Jesus, and, sinner though she is, this Heart of love was not only disposed to pardon her, but to lavish on her the blessings of divine intimacy, to lift her to the highest summits of contemplation."





# THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



**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 (Rector)

**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

**Monday**      **December 18**      **Advent Weekday**

**9:00am Mass** for Robert Doiron, by his wife (Chapel)

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

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

**Tuesday**      **December 19**      **Advent Weekday**

**9:00am Mass** for Alan Bergeron, by a friend (Chapel)

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

**Wednesday**      **December 20**      **Advent Weekday**

**9:00am Mass** for Clarence Quiet (32<sup>nd</sup> anniv.), by his family (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 Beverly Farias (2<sup>nd</sup> anniv.), by Anne-Marie and Jean-Noel Bernard (Chapel)

6:30pm Confessions (Church)

7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)





**Thursday      December 21      Advent Weekday**

**9:00am Mass** for Fidele Richard (15<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by his sons (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 22      Advent Weekday**

**9:00am Mass** for Deceased members of the Amenta families, by the family (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 23      Advent Weekday**

**9:00am Mass** for Deceased members of the Tellier and Gordon families, by the family (Chapel)  
 9:30am Confessions (Church)

**Saturday      December 23      Vigil***Breaking Bread, page 41*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)  
**4:00pm Mass** for James and Theresa Provo, by Mr. and Mrs. James E. Provo (Church)

**Sunday      December 24      Fourth Sunday of Advent***Breaking Bread, page 41*

**7:00am Mass** for Leo Bolduc (8<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by Cecile and Larry Gladding (Church)  
**9:45am Mass** for Gloria Lefebvre (2<sup>nd</sup> anniv.), by her family (Church)  
 9:45-11:00am No Religious Education Classes Today (Parish Center)  
 10:00-11:00am No RCIA Meeting Today (Rectorry)  
**11:15am Mass** for Gerald Allain, by the Allain family (Church)

**Sunday      December 24      Christmas Eve***Breaking Bread, page 43*

**4:00pm Mass** for Romeo Porier, by Valeria Ermini (Church)  
**Midnight Mass** for Monsignor Francis Goguen and Father Robert Bruso





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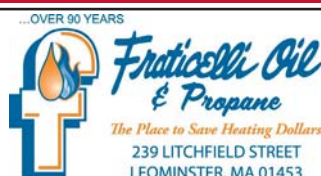
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