



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

L'adoration des mages, by James Tissot



WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

What a wonderful Christmas Season God gave us at his little Church on French Hill!

From the glorious music to the magnificent decorations and the wondrous liturgies, people came from all around to join us for our celebrations of the Christmas mysteries.

Thanks to all those people whom you invited to return to Church, we had record crowds, with an increase of more than 8% over last year's pew count. The largest crowds were on Christmas Eve and at Midnight Mass! The increased numbers in combination with your generosity resulted in extraordinary collections of \$9,483 at Christmas and \$14,245 for last Sunday.

These wonderful signs of health grow from a vibrancy and excitement which characterize these days at Saint Cecilia's in Leominster, and it is all thanks to you.

As we begin the new year, we will be exploring ways in which to invite benefactors and foundations from outside the parish to support the exciting work which God is doing in Leominster. As you read last week, we are also extending the opportunities for purchasing Memorials for the renovation of the interior of the Church. In this regard, you will find another copy of the Memorial Brochure in this week's bulletin.

If you know of anyone who has not yet received a brochure, please let us know, and I will write to them. Pledges for Memorials will be accepted all the way through May 1, 2024. Finally, if you know the names and addresses of any former parishioners who might like to hear from me, please send me a note or an email.

Finally, we have a little thank-you gift for you at the entrances to the Church. The book, Beautiful Eucharist is a lovely collection of stories on the greatest treasure of the Church: the very Body and Blood the Lord, which is the source and summit of our lives. Please take one for yourself and for any of your friends you think might enjoy one.

And let us be one in prayer that the Lord who has begun such wonderful things in 2023, will bring them to fulfillment in the coming year. God is too good to us!

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney



First Calendar Drawing Winners



01/01 Michael Bangrazi

\$50 Brady's Restaurant Gift Card & \$400 cash

01/02 Mr. & Mrs. James Peloquin

\$100 cash

01/03 Peter Reynolds

\$50 Brady's Restaurant Gift Card & \$100 cash

01/04 Delima M. Pelletier

\$100 cash

01/05 Marie-Andree LaFond

\$100 cash

01/06 Cecile D. Hastings

\$50 Brady's Restaurant Gift Card & \$100 cash

01/07 Bill Buswell

\$100 cash

01/08 Elodie and Jacqueline Maillet

\$50 Brady's Restaurant Gift Card & \$100 cash

01/09 Tom Landon

\$100 cash

NEXT CALENDAR RAFFLE DRAWINGS

Wednesdays at 4pm on

St. Cecilia's Church Facebook Page

JANUARY 10 - Draw for January 10-16

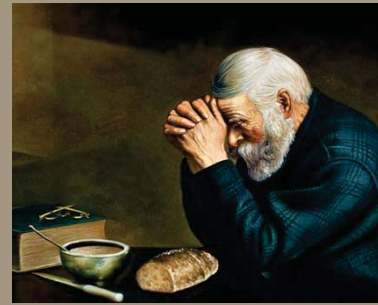
JANUARY 17 - Draw for January 17-23

JANUARY 24 - Draw for January 24-31

All winners will receive a phone call.

Good Luck to All!

PRAY WITH US!



Pray for all who are sick, and especially for:
Stephanie Matthews, Rhea Girouard, Annie Moore, Ken Lavoie, Francis Wada and Judith Arnold.

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. 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 and we will add them to our prayer list for the next several weeks.



Bunko is back on **Sunday, January 21st at 1:30 pm.**

Bunko is an easy, fast paced, highly sociable game. Never played or need a refresher?

No problem, our expert teacher will be on hand to show you how easy it is to play starting at 1:15 pm. Cost is \$6.00 per person, refreshments are served at halftime and cash prizes are awarded at the end.

Registration is required.

Please call Deanne at **978-537-4774** to secure your spot.



thank you!

**Last Weekend's
Parish Collections
totaled \$7,817.**



LIVING A CATHOLIC LIFE

Ordinary and Extraordinary Means

“Living a Catholic Life” is a collaboration between dioceses, parishes, Knights of Columbus councils, grassroots organizations, and The National Catholic Bioethics Center to educate the laity on principles of the moral life and their application.

In 1595, the Dominican theologian Domingo Banez made a classic distinction in medical ethics between ordinary and extraordinary means. In commenting on St. Thomas Aquinas’s article in the *Summa Theologiae* on mutilation, Banez asks whether one is obligated to undergo an amputation of a limb. (Remember, anesthesia was unavailable in the sixteenth century.) He affirms that ordinary means of preserving life and conserving health are morally obligatory because of the responsible stewardship humans are charged with by God. He continues, “Although a man is held to conserve his own life, he is not bound to extraordinary means but to common food and clothing, to common medicines, to a certain common and ordinary pain: not, however, to a certain extraordinary and horrible pain, nor to expenses which are extraordinary in proportion to the status of this man. . . . Although that means [amputation] is proportioned according to right reason and from the consequence is licit, it is, however, extraordinary.”

The terms of the question changed with the introduction of anesthesia and antisepsis at the beginning of the twentieth century. All moralists agreed that because of more effective pain control, amputation was no longer considered extraordinary. Also, the deprivation of physical integrity could be compensated for, in some measure, by artificial limbs. While concurring with this opinion, Fr. Augustinus Lehmkuhl makes the distinction between pain and horror, maintaining that one is not bound to undergo an operation that one views with a great deal of repulsion, even though, from a medical perspective, it would be ordinary.

It is important to note the significance of this development in moral theology, namely, that the moral significance of physical pain diminished, and the psychological state of the patient (horror and repulsion) was given more consideration. Consequently, a means is now understood to be ordinary if it is beneficial, useful, or not unreasonably burdensome (physically or psychologically) to the patient. There is a consideration of reasonable cost as well.

Pope Pius XII gave magisterial expression to the distinction between ordinary and extraordinary means in his 1957 address to Catholic physicians and anesthesiologists:

Normally one is held to use only ordinary means—according to the circumstances of persons, places, times and culture—that is to say, means that do not involve any grave burden for oneself or another. A stricter obligation would be too burdensome for most people and would render the attainment of the higher, more important good too difficult. Life, health, all temporal activities are in fact subordinated to spiritual ends. On the other hand, one is not forbidden to take more than the strictly necessary steps to preserve life and health, as long as one does not fail in some more serious duty [e.g., if one is not reconciled with God or if the lives of others depend on the life of the patient]. The Pope understands the distinction to be determined by the relevant circumstances of the case in its clinical and personal dimensions. He further notes that there is no moral difference between withholding extraordinary means and withdrawing them once begun.

In light of the theological tradition and the Magisterium, then, the following common elements are employed by theologians to determine whether something is ordinary means in a given case: hope of benefit, “common use” (i.e., not experimental or exotic), “according to one’s status” (financially and psychologically), not difficult to use, and not otherwise unreasonable.

In 1980, the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued its Declaration on Euthanasia, which introduced a modification to the distinction by replacing *ordinary* and extraordinary with proportionate and disproportionate, because the former distinction “is perhaps less clear today, by reason of the imprecision of the term and the rapid progress made in the treatment of sickness.” In other words, the moral distinction is best understood in the language of proportion, in the sense that *proportionate* is a term used in common parlance to mean “reasonable, all things considered.”

The distinction between ordinary and extraordinary means is applied throughout the entire range of treatment options. An example in a non-life-threatening situation is that for some, tooth extraction is preferable to root canal, for others the opposite is true—and the choice is not confined to clinical criteria. The traditional example in chronic illness is the case of asthma. If the fortunate citizen of Milan can control his asthma only by a move to Palermo, many Milanese would find the means to restore health quite extraordinary.

The clearest examples of the use of the distinction in terminal conditions are decisions about do-not-resuscitate orders or removing life support. Certainly, the most difficult are the latter two categories, where patients, families, and caregivers grapple with poor prognoses and so on.

The bottom line of this distinction is that a decision to forgo extraordinary means rests on a recognition that the means of preserving life or restoring health are no longer beneficial, are no longer useful, or are too burdensome. It is not a decision that the life of the patient is no longer one worthy of being lived.

This column was adapted from Russell E. Smith, “Ordinary and Extraordinary Means,” *Ethics & Medics* 20.4 (April 1995).



**THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC
BIOETHICS CENTER**

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS!



**DEACON LUKE
JOHNSON**

Theology IV • SJS
DOB: July 31
St. Edward the Confessor,
Westminster



**DEACON STEPHEN
MULLANEY**

Theology IV • PSJXXIII
DOB: May 5
St. Leo,
Leominster



**JONATHAN
AMIDON**

Theology III • MSM
DOB: September 21
St. Peter,
Worcester



**ZACK
SULLIVAN**

Theology III • SJS
DOB: July 7
St. John, Guardian of Our Lady,
Clinton



**CHRISTOPHER
AUBREY**

Theology II • PSJXXIII
DOB: September 8
Holy Cross,
Templeton



**RAFAEL
LONGHINI**

Theology II • MSM
DOB: January 20
St. John, Guardian of Our Lady,
Clinton



**CHRISTOPHER
KOPACKO**

Theology II • MSM
DOB: September 3
Saint Paul,
Warren



**JOHN
SULLIVAN**

Theology II • MSM
DOB: August 25
St. John, Guardian of Our Lady, St. John, Guardian of Our Lady,
Clinton



**ISAAC
CROSS**

Theology I • MSM
DOB: December 19
St. John, Guardian of Our Lady,
Clinton



**BRIAN
JAMES**

Theology I • PNAC
DOB: September 24
Saint Louis,
Webster



**CONNER
MORGAN**

Theology I • MSM
DOB: September 26
St. Peter,
Worcester



**JAKOB
POHLMAN**

Theology I • PNAC
DOB: January 20
St. Patrick,
Whitinsville



**RICARDO
REYES**

Theology I • SJS
DOB: July 31
Our Lady of Providence,
Worcester



**CHRISTOPHER
TILLOTSON**

Theology I • PNAC
DOB: June 9
St. Joseph,
North Brookfield



**LIAM
DAIGLE**

Basselin III • TC
DOB: June 4
St. Mary,
Shrewsbury



**WYLIE
MALCOLM**

Pre-Theology II • SJS
DOB: January 20
Chapel of the Holy Spirit,
Assumption College



**DANIEL
MORRISSEY**

Pre-Theology II • SJS
DOB: September 17
St. Ann,
North Oxford

Grant, Lord, that all who are called to the ministerial priesthood may be ever more conformed to you, the Divine Master. May they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear conscience. Let them be shepherds according to Your own Heart, single-minded in service to You and to the Church and shining examples of a holy, simple and joyful life.”

- Pope Benedict XVI

LORD'S DAY MASS FINDER
LEOMINSTER (UPDATED OCTOBER, 2023)

Saturday

4:00pm - Saint Cecilia, Holy Family, Saint Leo, Saint Anna
5:00pm - Our Lady of the Lake
6:30pm - Holy Trinity Chapel (Spanish)

Sunday

7:00am - Saint Cecilia
7:30am - Saint Leo
8:00am - Holy Family, Saint Anna, Our Lady of the Lake
9:45am - Saint Cecilia
10:00am - Saint Anna
10:15am - Holy Family
10:30am - Our Lady of the Lake
11:00am - Saint Leo
11:15am - Saint Cecilia
12:00pm - Saint Anna
1:00pm - Holy Family (Spanish)
5:30pm - Holy Family
6:00pm - Our Lady of the Lake
6:30pm - Saint Anna (Brazilian)

CONFESSION FINDER

Tuesday

8:30am - Saint Anna

Wednesday

6:30pm - Saint Cecilia

Thursday

9:30am - Saint Cecilia

Friday

7:00pm - Our Lady of Lake

Saturday

9:30am - Saint Cecilia
10:00am - Holy Family
2:30pm - Saint Leo
2:45pm - Saint Anna
3:00pm - Saint Cecilia
4:00pm - Our Lady of Lake

WEEKDAY MASS FINDER
LEOMINSTER

Monday

7:30am - Saint Anna
8:00am - Our Lady of the Lake
8:30am - Saint Leo
9:00am - Saint Cecilia

Tuesday

7:30am - Saint Anna
8:00am - Our Lady of the Lake
7:15pm - Saint Anna (Brazilian)
8:30am - Saint Leo
9:00am - Saint Cecilia

Wednesday

7:30am - Saint Anna
8:00am - Our Lady of the Lake
8:00am - Holy Family
6:20pm - Holy Family
8:30am - Saint Leo
9:00am - Saint Cecilia
6:00pm - Saint Cecilia
6:20pm - Holy Family

Thursday

7:30am - Saint Anna
8:00am - Holy Family
9:00am - Saint Cecilia

Friday

8:00am - Holy Family
9:00am - Saint Cecilia

Saturday

9:00am - Saint Cecilia

ADORATION FINDER

Tuesday

8am-10am Saint Anna

Wednesday

9:30am-noon - Saint Cecilia

Friday

8:30am-9am - Holy Family
9:30am-noon - Saint Cecilia



THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



Saturday January 6 Vigil *Breaking Bread, page 57*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

4:00pm Mass for Marguerite Poirier (2nd anniv.), by Betty Sims (Church)

Sunday January 7 The Epiphany of the Lord *Breaking Bread, page 57*

7:00am Mass for Frank Regan, by Wayne and Patrice Hall (Church)

9:45am Mass for Julia Sullivan (2nd anniv.), by the family (Church)

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

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

11:15am Mass for Deceased members of the George Dallaire family, by Jeanne (Church)

Monday January 8 The Baptism of the Lord

9:00am Mass for Deceased members of the Desilets family, by Paul & Louise Desilets (Chapel)

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

7:00-8:15pm Religious Education Classes for Grades 7 through 10 (Parish Center)

Tuesday January 9 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Father Robert E. Gariepy, by last will (Chapel)

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

Wednesday January 10 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Charles and Mildred Bilodeau, 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)

6:00pm Mass for Richard H.J. Brow, by last will (Chapel)

6:30pm Confessions (Church)

7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)



Thursday January 11 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Paul J. Roy, by the Bunko Squad (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 January 12 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Deceased members of the Plourde family, 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 January 13 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Winnie Martin, by Idora LeBlanc and family (Chapel)
 9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday January 13 Vigil *Breaking Bread, page 59*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Jeannette Brow, by the family (Church)

Sunday January 14 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time *Breaking Bread, page 59*

7:00am Mass for Frank Regan, by Wayne and Patrice Hall (Church)
9:45am Mass for Henryk and Henryka Kempa, by their daughter and family (Church)
 9:45-11am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and other classes through Grade 6 (Parish Center)
 10:00-11:00am RCIA Group (Rector)
11:15am Mass for Frank Conte, by his wife, Jeanne (Church)
 1:00pm Baptisms of Arya Rose Schofield and Landon Carter Solomonides (Church)





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