



SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

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, SJ
father@stceciliachurch.net
Parochial Vicar



BettyAnn Harrington
bettyann@stceciliachurch.net
Executive Assistant



Patricia Secino
psecino@stceciliachurch.net
Director of Continuing
Education



Adam Cormier
Special Projects Manager



Paula Doucet
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Director Religious Education



David Lasky
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Organist



Denis Leger
Property Manager



Claire Neas
cmkakosgarrity@aol.com
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,

Looking back on our first really snowy weekend in a long time, I am grateful to our whole staff for helping to prepare. Adam and BettyAnn made sure you were well briefed on our plans by Flocknote and Facebook, while Denis (and his new helper, John) were here at 2am to begin clearing the driveways and sidewalks for the first Mass. Will opened up the Church and the fifteen people at the 7am walked or drive carefully across the snow covered streets. Thanks to a lull in the morning, a bunch of brave folks came to the other Masses, with the 4pm at several hundred. All in all, we still did quite well thanks to them and to you.

There's a lovely poem I came across a number of years ago about how the Church is our refuge when the storms of life (actual and metaphorical) begin to snow on us. Its author signs his name, simply, DM W.

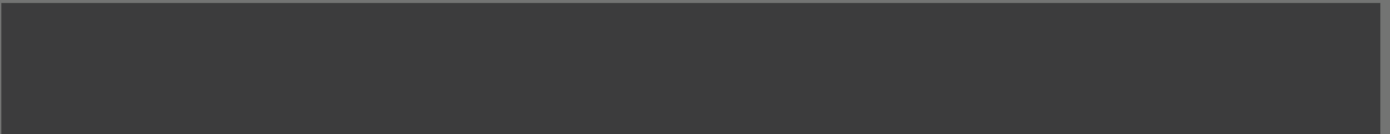
The church in winter is sanctuary
For those who are often bereft of hope.
It lies behind strange, black skeletal trees
And snow-laden ground. At the very close
Of day, its soft lights gently glow. It seems,
Although we suffer daily, we can be
Redeemed. It's not merely the stuff of dreams.
Prayers can work wonders. Indeed, it feels
Good to know that when winter hits us hard,
There are such places of warmth and love,
That hold us flawed beings in deep regard.
O We know true blessings come from above!
And like seeds, under snow, slowly stirring,
Our hearts and minds will always dream of spring.

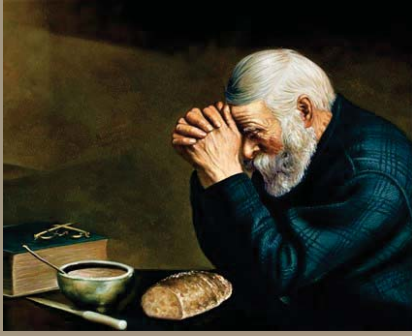


I hope you stay safe and warm this week, and whenever it seems a little too stormy, stop by our little Church at the top of a snowy French Hill. It's nice and warm inside (especially in the Chapel!).

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney





PRAY WITH US!

Pray for all who are sick, and especially for:

Charles LeBlanc, John Ciccolini, 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.



HOW TO INVITE PEOPLE TO CHURCH

Tell them what Mass means to you.

Invite them for a particular Sunday.

Sit with them and explain things to them.

Give them a ride or meet them in the parking lot.

Introduce them to potential new friends.

If you can, go to lunch with them afterwards.

Take any "no" as a "not right now."



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 \$7,927.**





Second Calendar Drawing Winners

Melvin Bailey

Jan. 10 - \$25 Cristina's Restaurant gift card
and \$150 in cash

Nick Bergeron

Jan. 11 - \$100 in cash

Mark and Cheryl Lewandowski

Jan. 12 - \$50 Brady's Restaurant gift card
and \$100 in cash

Colleen Perry

Jan. 13 - \$100 in cash

Elodie and Jacqueline Maillet

Jan. 14 - \$100 in cash

Sabrina Congram

Jan. 15 - \$50 Bourbeau's Market gift card
and \$150 in cash

Dick Bushnell

Jan. 16 - \$100 in cash

NEXT CALENDAR RAFFLE DRAWINGS

Wednesdays at 4pm on

St. Cecilia's Church Facebook Page

JANUARY 17 - Draw for January 17-23

JANUARY 24 - Draw for January 24-31

All winners receive a phone call.

Congratulations!



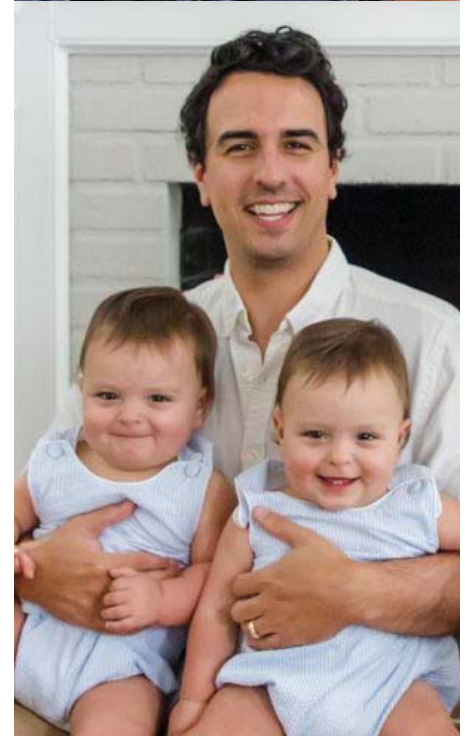
January 2024

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord.

On Monday, January 22, 2024, the Church throughout the United States will observe the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children". This observance is designated by the General Instruction of the *Roman Missal* (n. 373), as a particular day of prayer and penance, reminding us of our preeminent priority to pray and work for an end to the tragic scourge of abortion. All the faithful in dioceses throughout the United States of America are called to observe this day in a spirit of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

While the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the case *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health* thankfully overturned the infamous and unjust 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in the U.S. throughout all nine months of pregnancy, the issue of the legalized abortion has now returned to the states and our work is far from over. Fifty years of legalized abortion in this country has left an incomprehensible aftermath. With millions of lives lost, and countless women and men, mothers and fathers, grandparents, siblings, and friends who have been deeply wounded physically, emotionally, and spiritually by this tragedy, we need now more than ever to re-commit ourselves to defending life. I encourage our diocesan parishes and institutions, and all the faithful, to reverently observe the Day of Prayer and Penance on January 22nd both personally and within your communities.

Let us unite our hearts and minds through special acts of prayer, fasting, and sacrifice on this day and in the months to come, to uphold the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.



As we reflect on this unspeakable tragedy, we also recall how the Church for many years has continued to reach out to those who have been so sadly affected by the culture of death, particularly through ministries providing aid to women and families in crisis pregnancies, offering the healing love and mercy of Christ to those wounded by abortion through the ministry of Project Rachel, and by continuing to teach and preach the truth and beauty about love and life that bring authentic freedom and happiness. It is through our prayers, charitable works, and loving sacrifices that the culture can be transformed.

Let us take this opportunity of the January 22nd Day of Prayer and Penance to renew our resolve to live and proclaim the Gospel of Life. May we respond generously to the challenge Saint Pope John Paul II put forth in *Evangelium vitae*:

A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. May an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and Lover of life, from the heart of every believer.

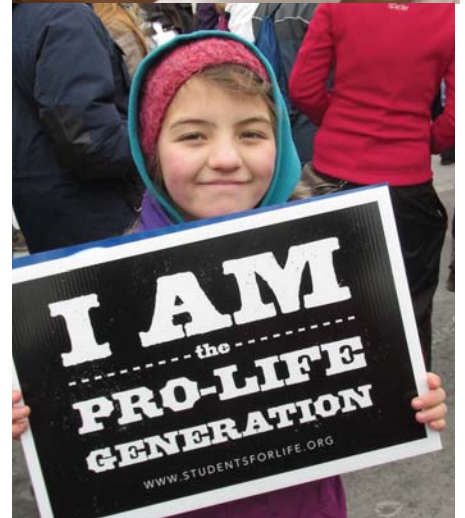
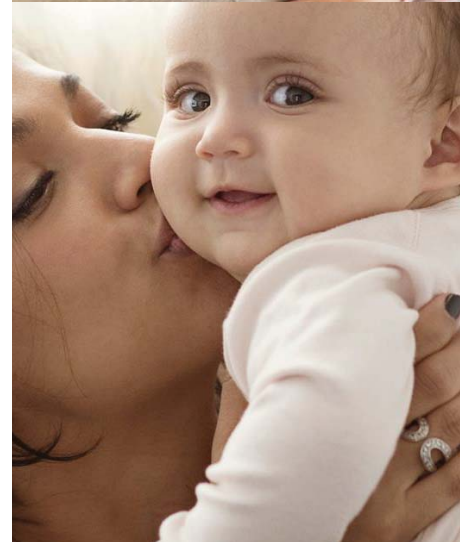
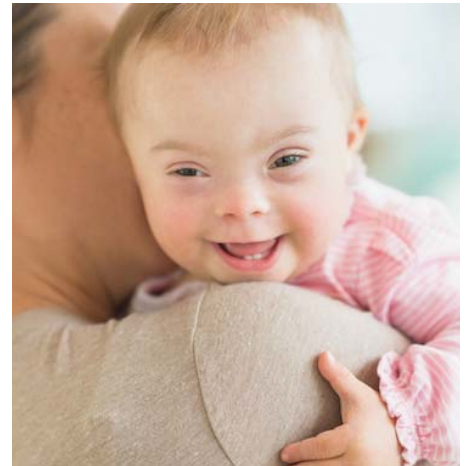
Our active participation in the shared commitment to the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person will, with God's grace, truly work toward the building up of a Culture of Life and a Civilization of Love.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert J. McManus

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester





THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



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)

Monday January 15 Weekday (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday)

9:00am Mass Robert Robideau (30th day), by the Gianakis family (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 16 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Marcel Guillemette, by his wife Pauline (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

Wednesday January 17 Saint Anthony

9:00am Mass for Kevin Leclerc, by his mother Lorraine and brother Richard (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 Victor Albert, by his family (Chapel)
 6:30pm Confessions (Church)
 7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)



**The Calling of
 Saints Peter and Andrew,**
 by Duccio di Buoninsegna

Thursday January 18 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Robert F. Dube, Sr. and Wilma Brideau Dube, by their children (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 19 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Victor Amenta, Jr., by his wife (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 20 Weekday

9:00am Mass for Lien (Theresa) Le, by her family (Chapel)
 9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday January 20 Vigil *Breaking Bread, page 61*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Anna and Anastase LeBlanc, by the family (Church)

Sunday January 21 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time *Breaking Bread, page 61*

7:00am Mass for Tami LeBlanc (2nd anniv.), by Alcide LeBlanc (Church)
9:45am Mass for Brian Thibeault (8th anniv.), by his wife and children (Church)
 9:45-11am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and other classes through Grade 6 (Parish Center)
 10:00-11:00am RCIA Group (Rectorry)
11:15am Mass for Jay and Doug Moore, by Jeanne Conte and family (Church)





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