

# SAINT CECILIA'S CHURCH

Jesus Heals the Leper (Rembrandt)



## WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent begins this week, which means it's time for more prayer, more fasting and more almsgiving. All so that we can celebrate the Paschal Mystery at Easter with pure minds and hearts. Indeed, we might say that the whole purpose of Lent is to repent of our sins and receive the mercy of God.

If you've been to confession recently, you know the almost unimaginable feeling of having your sins forgiven. When the priest says, "I absolve you" in the name of the Blessed Trinity, we know our sins are forgiven by the one who said to his apostles, "what you loose on earth is loosed in heaven!"

Confession is the only remedy for sin, but it is humbling. It is, in the words of the Liturgy, being 'bowed down by our conscience.' For when we truly listen to our conscience and realize how petty and small our selfish little hearts can be, and how infinite is God's love for us, we cannot help but be lifted up by his mercy.

We are little and God is big. We are weighed down with our sins, and he is ever lifting us up with his mercy.

Do you remember the words we pray in dialogue with the priest before the great Eucharistic Prayer? "Lift up your hearts," he says to us. But we cannot lift up our hearts by ourselves, we need the power of God, the power of his infinite mercy to pick us up from the dunghill of our selfishness and sin.

Confession, then, is the way to be raised up from our sins. That's why we celebrate this Sacrament four times a week at Saint Cecilia's: on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm, Thursday mornings at 9:30am and on Saturdays at 9:30am and 3:00pm.

We are so blessed that in Leominster there are Confessions heard every day of the week (except Sunday)! You will find a listing of all those opportunities to get to Confession or Pray the Stations or Adore the Eucharist on the **Lenten Devotion Finder** in this week's bulletin!

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney



#### A LETTER FROM BISHOP MCMANUS

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY 2024**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When a young man is ordained, you, his parishioners, become his family and he becomes your spiritual father. Through the joys of Baptisms, First Holy Communions, Confirmations and weddings, the priest is at the heart of parish and family life. When sickness, strain, tragedy and death strike, your spiritual father is there to steady you, reassure you and give you hope by pointing to Jesus Christ and to the mystery of his suffering, death, and resurrection.

As family members, we grow with our priests. In time, we or they move on, but their love, support and lessons remain with us. Like every family there comes a time when those who have nourished, nurtured, and supported us grow old and need our support.

On Ash Wednesday we will hold a collection at all Masses for the support of our forty-nine priests who have retired in good standing. Our expenses for retired priests include a monthly stipend, medical insurance, nursing care and, for some assisted living and nursing home costs. Last year our total cost for priest retirement was \$2,390,298.

These retired priests have served with dedication, fidelity, and love. Many continue to serve. Four remain in parishes full time as senior priests. Others have stepped in to administer parishes and say daily Mass. Still others regularly fill in on weekends, cover vacations and serve in prison ministry and on Diocesan Boards and the Tribunal.

Our forty-nine retired priests and senior priests have served in 77 of our 89 parishes (or their predecessors). They are Bishop Emeritus Daniel P. Reilly, Monsignors Richard E. Collette, Anthony S. Czarnecki, John E. Doran, Michael G. Foley, and Francis D. Kelly; Fathers Ernest P. Allega, Roger R. Boucher, Paul F. Campbell, James F. Carmody, George A. Charland, William N. Cormier, Andre E. Dargis, Ralph A. DiOrio, David E. Doiron, Charles J. Dumphy, George A. Dunkley, John A. Dwyer, Thomas F. Egan, Lawrence J. Esposito, John J. Foley, David B. Galonek, Raymond M. Goodwin, Bernard J. Grochowski, J. Andre Guenette, John F. Hamm, John E. Horgan, James A. Houston, Joseph J. Jurgelonis, Theodore R. Laperle, Leo-Paul LeBlanc, Richard P. Lewandowski, Joseph A. Marcotte, Thirburse F. Millott, Chester J. Misiewicz, Charles F. Monroe, Son A. Nguyen, Paul T. O'Connell, Emerito Ortiz, James B. O'Shea, Conrad S. Pecevich. Andre N. Remillard, Francis J. Roach, Michael Roy, Edward M. Ryan, William F. Sanders, Thaddeus X. Stachura, James M. Steuterman, Paul J. Tougas, and Peter H. White. On their behalf, I thank you for your prayers and support of them in their retirement years.

With every prayerful best wish I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert g. Mc Manus

Bishop of Worcester



#### **PRAY WITH US!**

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

Greta Vaillette, Marie Cyr, Francis Wada, Maureen Sullivan, Charles LeBlanc and Stephanie Matthews.

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.



Once again St. Cecilia's Parish will be holding its Lenten Food Drive starting next weekend. Flyers are available in church this weekend detailing which food items will be collected weekly. Please pick one up. As in the past, the weekly bulletin will also list the foods to be collected the following weekend. Donations of any size are gratefully accepted and all food collected will be given to Catholic Charities in Leominster. Next weekend we will be collecting: canned soup, canned stew (any type), peanut butter, jelly, marshmallow fluff and crackers.

Ash Wednesday Lenten Soup Lunch Serving 11am - 1pm and Supper Serving 4pm - 6:30pm

Minestrone Soup

Free will offerings will be accepted for the benefit of the St. Vincent de Paul





### thank you!

Last Weekend's Parish Collections totaled \$9,874.





# Join us at St. Cecilia's Parish Center for our Wednesday night Lenten Soup Suppers starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> through March 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:30pm

Includes beverage and dessert

On Ash Wednesday only, a soup lunch will be served from 11am-1pm.

Free will donation.

All proceeds go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.





# **LENT 2024**

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH



#### **WEEKDAY MASSES**

ASH WEDNESDAY - February 14<sup>th</sup> Mass with Distribution of Ashes 9:00am - MAIN CHURCH 12:15pm - MAIN CHURCH 6:00pm - MAIN CHURCH

WEEKDAY MASSES (CHAPEL) Monday thru Saturday 9:00am Wednesday 6:00pm

#### **WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER**

Each Wednesday evening from 4 - 6:30pm a simple Lenten supper will be served in the Parish Center. Free will offerings accepted for the benefit of Saint Vincent de Paul.

#### **CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday at 6:30pm Thursday at 9:30am Saturday at 9:30am and 3pm

#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am-noon (CHAPEL)

#### **DIVINE MERCY AND ROSARY**

Monday - Friday at 3pm (CHAPEL)

#### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT ROSARY**

7pm (Chapel)

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thursday at noontime (Note the new time!)

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING**

#### CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Each week, we will be collecting different canned and dry food stuff for the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. Watch the bulletin for what we are collecting each week.

#### **OPERATION RICE BOWL**

Pick up your "Rice Bowl" to benefit the poor and the hungry. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds will be distributed by Catholic Relief Services to support life-saving programs in over one hundred countries. Twenty-five percent of your donations will be used in programs to alleviate hunger and poverty in the Diocese of Worcester.

#### LEOMINSTER CATHOLIC MISSION

Prayer Together in Hope on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm

February 21<sup>st</sup> Our Lady of the Lake - Evening Prayer February 28<sup>th</sup> Holy Family - Stations of the Cross

March 6<sup>th</sup> St. Cecilia - Penance Service

March 13<sup>th</sup> St. Anna - Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

March 20<sup>th</sup> St. Leo - Closing Mass

"If he lives in us, he does so in order to motivate our lives and actions by his own love of his Father and his fellow men. In some he is momentarily transfigured, and afterwards it is certain that they will experience his desolation on the Cross. In some he lives a life approximating to his excited life in Egypt, in some his life as a worker, a preacher, a healer; in some he is homeless, in some he is in prison. In some he is stripped of his garments; in some he is nailed to the Cross; in some, those in mortal sin, he is dead waiting for the resurrection; and in some he is risen from the dead. If all in whom Christ lives, surrendered themselves to Him, resting in him, that he might rest in them, in each one of them redemption would begin as it began in Mary, the Mother of God. Christ is formed in us, and we are formed into Christ, when we rest in him and he rests in us."

Caryll Houselander



"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst... Repent and believe Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta



# LENT 2024

## LEMINSTER CATHOLIC DEVOTION FINDER



#### **CONFESSIONS**

Monday

5:30pm Saint Leo

Tuesday

8:15am Saint Anna 5:30pm OL Lake 6pm Saint Anna

Wednesday

6:30pm Saint Cecilia

Thursday

9:30am Saint Cecilia

Friday

4pm Holy Family

Saturday

9:30am Saint Cecilia 10:00am Holy Family 2:30pm Saint Leo 2:45pm Saint Anna 3:00pm Saint Cecilia 4:00pm OL Lake STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thursday noon Saint Cecilia

Friday 4pm Saint Leo

5pm Holy Family 7pm Saint Anna

7pm OL Lake

#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Tuesday 8am - 10am Saint Anna Wednesday 8:30am-6pm OL Lake 9:30am-noon Saint Cecilia 9am - 1pm Saint Leo Friday 8:30am-9am Holy Family Saint Cecilia 9:30am-noon **Holy Family** Saturday 10am-11am

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March 20<sup>th</sup> St. Leo - Closing Mass



"Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, a Bishop and a Martyr..."







MORE VIEWS FROM ABOVE...

Lenten Fish Dinner beginning Friday, Feb. 16 through Friday, Mar. 22 from 4:00 pm – 7 pm or until sold out at St. Anna Church Hall, 194 Lancaster St., Leominster.

Fridays

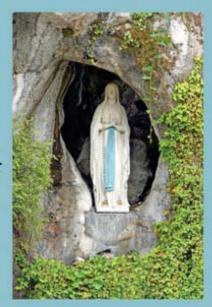
Adults \$13.00; Fish Dinner includes Baked Haddock, Cole
Slaw, Potato, Vegetable, Mac & Cheese or Pasta with Marinara Sauce, Dessert and Beverage;
Mac and Cheese or Marinara Sauce Pasta Dinner (all of above except haddock) \$6.00; also
serving Bowl of Chowder \$7.00. Wine available for \$4.00 per glass. Food available for takeout. Sponsored by the Ladies of St. Anna Society. For every full fish dinner ticket purchased,
you will be entered in a free drawing to win a 50 inch Phillips TV at the end of the six weeks!



#### PILGRIMAGE

Father Stephen Gemme, chaplain at Saint Vincent's Hospital and a good friend to Saint Cecilia's, is leading a PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA AND LOURDES from October 13-22, 2024.

For more information, please contact Lauren Maldonado at 508-277-4827 or laurenmm@msn.com.



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### THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



Saturday

February 10 Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 67

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

4:00pm Mass for Esther Picone, by Warren and Judith Arnold (Church)

Sunday

February 11

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Breaking Bread, page 67

7:00am Mass for Nelson Crochetiere (18<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by the family (Church)

9:45am Mass for Leo Tisdale (23<sup>rd</sup> anniv.), by his children and grandchildren ( (Church)

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

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

11:15am Mass for Richard Kozlowski (30<sup>th</sup> day), by the parishioners of St. Cecilia's Parish (Church)

Monday

February 12

Weekday

9:00am Mass Edward and Stella LeBlanc, by the family (Chapel)

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

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

Tuesday

February 13

Weekday

9:00am Mass for Charles and Mildred Bilodeau, by last will (Chapel)

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

Wednesday

February 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Breaking Bread, page 69

9:00am Mass for Margaret Barnaby, by Kathy Daelhousen (Church)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass

Noon Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)

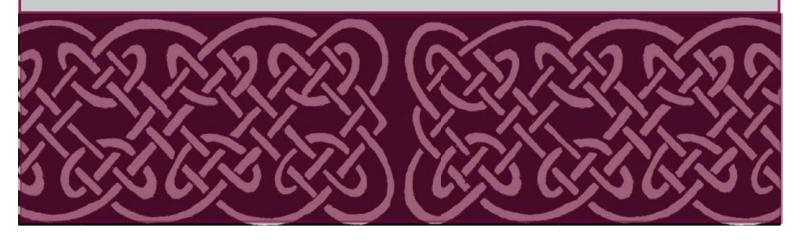
12:15pm Mass for Brian Garrity, by Kathy Daelhousen (Church)

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

6:00pm Mass for Father Francis Goguen (11<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by his cousins (Church)

6:30pm Confessions (Church)

7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)



Thursday February 15 Thursday after Ash Wednesday

9:00am Mass for Father Richard T. Carey (8<sup>th</sup> anniv.) (Chapel)

9:30am Confessions (Church)

9:30-11:00am Bible Study about our Catholic Faith Today

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

Friday February 16 Friday after Ash Wednesday

9:00am Mass for Josephine Joseph (9th anniv.), by her husband, Joseph (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 February 17 Saturday after Ash Wednesday

9:00am Mass for Rose Tedd, by her son, Ron and family (Chapel)

9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday February 17 Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 72

3:00pm Confessions (Church)

**4:00pm Mass** for Roger Mayer (3<sup>rd</sup> anniv.), by his wife (Church)

Sunday February 18 First Sunday of Lent

Breaking Bread, page 72

7:00am Mass for Parishioners of St. Cecilia's Parish (Church)

9:45am Mass for Helena and Leon Snioch, by their son 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 (Rectory)

11:15am Mass Andre Bergeron (30<sup>th</sup> day), by Emery and Marie Anne Richard (Church)





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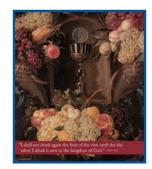
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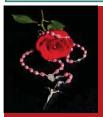
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