



Saint Cecilia Parish

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

170 Mechanic Street, Leominster, Massachusetts 01453 — 978-537-6541 — stceciliachurch.net

Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 10am to 3pm.



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Claire Neas

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cantor



Jamie Camire

rectory cook

Deacon Ronald J. Aubuchon, Deacon emeritus

Weekend Masses: Vigil Mass 4:00pm Saturday, Sunday Masses at 7:00am, 9:45am and 11:15am.

Weekday Masses: Monday through Saturday at 9:00am; Wednesday at 6:00pm.

Sacrament of Penance: Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 9:30am, Saturday at 9:30am and 3:00pm.

Rosary: Monday through Friday at 3:00pm; Wednesday at 7:00pm.

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



WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

This weeks column offers a couple brief reflections for your Epiphany prayers from one of my favorite writers, Caryll Houselander. They are taken from her wonderful book, *A Child in Winter: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*.

“Christ asks for a home in your soul, where he can be at rest with you, where he can talk easily to you, where you and he, alone together, can laugh and be silent and be delighted with one another.”



“The way to begin healing the wounds of the world is to treasure the Infant Christ in us; to be not the castle but the cradle of Christ; and, in rocking that cradle to the rhythm of love, to swing the whole world back into the beat of the Music of Eternal Life.”

“It is about the Christ who was born in a manger and who will come again at the end of time to lead us home, being born again in my heart and in yours.”

From Pope Leo XIV's Christmas Greetings to the Roman Curia

22 December 2025

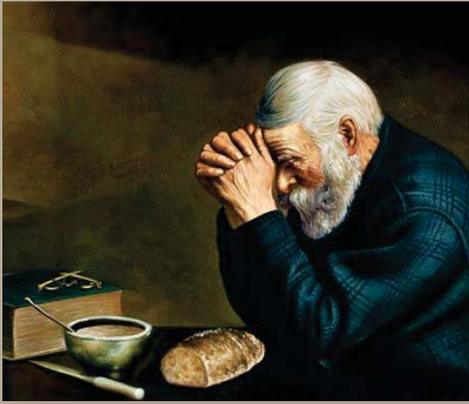
While the mystery of Christmas celebrates the mission of the Son of God among us, it also contemplates its purpose, namely that God has reconciled the world to himself through Christ and in him made us his children.

At times, beneath an apparent calm, forces of division may be at play. We can fall into the temptation of swinging between two opposite extremes: uniformity that fails to value differences, or the exacerbation of differences and viewpoints instead of seeking communion. Thus, in interpersonal relationships, in internal office dynamics, or in addressing questions of faith, liturgy, morality and more besides, there is a risk of falling into rigidity or ideology, with their consequent conflicts. Yet we are the Church of Christ, his members, his body. We are brothers and sisters in him.

I would like to recall what Saint Augustine wrote in his *Letter to Proba*: “In all human affairs, nothing is truly cherished without a friend.” Yet he asked, with a note of bitterness: “But how seldom in this life is such a person found whose spirit and conduct may be trusted with full confidence?” At times this bitterness finds its way among us as well, when we observe with disappointment that certain dynamics – linked to the exercise of power, the desire to prevail, or the pursuit of personal interests – are slow to change. We then ask ourselves: is it possible to be friends? To have relationships of genuine fraternal friendship? Amid daily toil, it is a grace to find trustworthy friends, where masks fall away, no one is used or sidelined, genuine support is offered, and each person's worth and competence are respected, preventing resentment and dissatisfaction. Such relationships call for a personal conversion, so that Christ's love, which makes us brothers and sisters, may shine through.

This becomes a sign also, in a world wounded by discord, violence and conflict, where we also witness a growth in aggression and anger, often exploited by both the digital sphere and politics. The Lord's birth brings the gift of peace and invites us to become its prophetic sign in a human and cultural context that is too fragmented. We are not mere gardeners tending our own plot, but disciples and witnesses of the Kingdom of God, called in Christ to be leaven of universal fraternity among different peoples, religions and cultures. This happens if we ourselves live as brothers and sisters and allow the light of communion to shine in the world.





PRAY WITH US!

Pray for all who are sick, and especially for: Chase Tieper, Lucille Croteau, Marion Cronin, Albert Thebeau, Richard L., Bob Allan, Harold LeBlanc, Emily, John Richard, Barbara Casey and Al Lamoureux.

Join us in praying for those who have died recently, especially; Conrad Peloquin, John DiRusso and Mark Amirault. 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.

Parish Collections Totals

Weekend of December 20th & 21st
\$12,392.

December 24th & 25th for Christmas
\$12,138.

Weekend of December 27th & 28th
\$10,611.



We will be holding our Bible Study on **Thursday, January 15th at 9:30am at the Parish Center Hall.** Our study will be on the **Book of Job.** How can it be that good people suffer and yet God is just? Please join us as we reflect on this question and explore innocent suffering, divine silence and the human quest for understanding.

Last Chance to get your tickets in for the St. Cecilia's January Calendar Raffle, thirty-one days of prizes ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 in cash and or gift cards totaling \$5,000! Each calendar is \$15 or three for \$40. Calendars can be purchased and returns can be made at the parish office this week until noon time on Wednesday. Drawings will be held on Wednesdays, first drawing January 7th and will be streamed on our parish website and Facebook page. Good Luck to All!

**A PERFECT WAY TO START THE NEW YEAR IS BY VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME.
WE ARE ASKING FOR ONLY A FEW HOURS A MONTH.**



**An Invitation to Serve:
Become an Altar Server!**

Do you feel called to serve God and His Church in a special way? Our Ministry of Altar Servers welcomes young people (and adults!) who wish to serve the Lord at His altar during Mass. It is our goal to beautify our liturgies by having 3 servers per each Mass.

- **Who Can Join?** Boys and girls who are registered parishioners, have received First Holy Communion, and are in 4th grade or above (ages 9-10+). Adults are also welcome! **We would love to have adult servers at each Mass as well, particularly those who serve at weekday Masses.**
- **What You'll Do:** Assist the priest with the Cross, candles, incense, gifts, and more, helping the community worship reverently.
- **What's Required?** A spirit of prayer, reverence, commitment, and a willingness to learn. You can choose how many times per month you can choose to serve.
- **Training Provided:** No prior experience? No problem! We offer comprehensive training to prepare you for this important role.
- **Next Step:** Contact Colin McNabb at (978) 870-6442 or email at colinmmcnabb@gmail.com



**An Invitation to Serve:
Become a Friday Night Bingo Volunteer!**

We are asking for your help, just once a month. What are we looking for?

A person who is good at counting money and selling a high volume of tickets.

4:45- 6:30pm walk around and help sell pull tab tickets to players

4:45-6:30pm sit at desk and sell pull tab tickets to players.

Office personnel who are comfortable counting money and would be beneficial if they had basic knowledge of excel although not required willing to train.

4:30-9:30pm pull tab ticket counter, work in the office to count money and tickets and enter values into the computer.

5:00-10:00pm: assistant bookkeeper, count money and enter in values into the computer. Should be comfortable with excel or willing to learn

Prize Payout Person who is comfortable counting money to Bingo Winners.

8:00-10:00pm: take money from the office and payout to bingo winners.

A Year-End Gift from the Heart

As we enter these final weeks of the year, our hearts naturally turn toward giving—grateful for the greatest gift of all, the birth of Christ at Christmas. This is also a time when many families review their charitable contributions while preparing for the coming year’s taxes. We invite you to prayerfully consider making a year-end gift to our beloved Saint Cecilia Parish. Your generosity strengthens our ministries, supports our parish family, and helps us continue proclaiming the Gospel with joy. Thank you for all the ways you share your blessings with our community.

Perhaps a donation to help keep us warm this winter

Heating all three parish buildings during December alone costs more than **\$23,000**. Your gift can make a real difference in meeting this essential need.

Perhaps a donation to assist with insurance and diocesan obligations

Each month, Saint Cecilia Parish pays **\$14,443** in Diocesan Insurance and Cathedraticum. Your support helps us meet these required responsibilities faithfully and on time.

Perhaps a donation toward our roofs, gutters, and tower

Over the past four years, we have invested more than **\$1 million** to water-proof our beloved church. After four years of work, the roofs and gutters are nearly complete, but the tower still awaits restoration. Your generosity will help us finish this crucial work.

**In all things, we trust in your prayers—
the greatest gift of all!**

✂ — — — — — **YEAR-END APPEAL RESPONSE FORM** — — — — — ✂

Dear Monsignor Moroney,

Please find enclosed my year-end donation to Saint Cecilia Parish. Please apply this donation to the following area(s):
(✓ Please check all that apply.)

- Heating Costs**
- Diocesan Insurance & Cathedraticum Bills**
- Gutters, Roofs, and Tower Restoration**
- Wherever it is most needed**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Thank you for your prayers and generosity!





THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



Saturday January 3 Vigil *Breaking Bread, page 57*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Rheal J. Boudreau (1st anniv.), by Jeannette and Jean (Church)

Sunday January 4 The Epiphany of the Lord *Breaking Bread, page 57*

7:00am Mass for Lawrence and Barbara Gallant, by Richard and Cheryl Gallant (Church)
 9:30-11:00am OCIA Group Meeting (Rectory)
9:45am Mass for Norman Vautour, by Yvonne Richard (Church)
 9:45-11:00am Religious Education for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through Grade 6 (Parish Center)
11:15am Mass for Michael Albert (1st anniv.), by his family (Church)
 6:00-8:00pm Sunday Night Card Players (Parish Center)

Monday January 5 Saint John Neumann

9:00am Mass for Pamela Petricca, by her husband and children (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
 7:00-8:15pm Religious Education for Grades 7 through 10 (Parish Center)

Tuesday January 6 Christmas Weekday

9:00am Mass for Kevin Moran, by Giselle (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

Wednesday January 7 Christmas Weekday

9:00am Mass for Georgette Beliveau, by Florian (Chapel)
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass - Benediction at Noon (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Pius Yun, by his family (Chapel)
 6:30pm Confessions (Church)
 7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)



Thursday January 8 Christmas Weekday

9:00am Mass for Father Thomas F. Egan (Chapel)
 9:30am Confessions (Church)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
 7:00-9:00pm Haitian Prayer Group (Chapel)

Friday January 9 Christmas Weekday

9:00am Mass for Deceased members of Plourde and Brow families, by last will (Chapel)
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass - Benediction at Noon (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
 6:30pm BINGO Doors Open at 4:00pm; Games start at 6:30pm (Parish Center)

Saturday January 10 Christmas Weekday

9:00am Mass for Father Peter White (Chapel)
 9:30am Confessions (Church)

Saturday January 10 Vigil *Breaking Bread, page 59*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Marguerite Poirier (4th anniv.), by the Daigle family (Church)

Sunday January 11 The Baptism of the Lord *Breaking Bread, page 59*

7:00am Mass for Wayne Gariepy, by Wil (Church)
 9:30-11:00am OCIA Group Meeting (Rectory)
9:45am Mass for Irene Lamoureux (28th anniv.), by Terry, Al and family (Church)
 9:45-11:00am Religious Education for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through Grade 6 (Parish Center)
11:15am Mass for Loreley Romero, by Anne Marie and Jean Noel Bernard (Church)
 1:00pm Baptism of Jacob Matthew Gallant (Church)
 6:00-8:00pm Sunday Night Card Players (Parish Center)





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