

Saint Cecilia Parish

90 Church Street
Rockaway, New Jersey 07866

Parish Office: 973-627-0313

Website: www.st-cecilia.org

Fax: 973-627-4811

To Contact: Fr. Zig: Ext. 12 or speplowski@optonline.net

Fr. Cerilo: Ext 14 or cjavinez@gmail.com – Fr. Matt: Ext 15 or frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com

School: 973-627-6003

CCD Office: 973-627-0313 Ext. 17

Rev. Sigmund Peplowski
PASTOR

Rev. Cerilo Javinez
PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Mateusz Darlak
PAROCHIAL VICAR

Deacon Paul Willson

Mrs. Janet Maulbeck
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
and YOUTH PROTECTION/
SAFE ENVIRONMENT
COORDINATOR

Mr. James Clancy
DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Mrs. Ann Mitchell
PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Diane Boykow
CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Charles Linnell
MUSIC DIRECTOR



CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

All Catholic Churches in the United States require from Catholics serving as a Godparent for Baptism or a sponsor for Confirmation a certificate of eligibility. This document certifies that the Godparent/sponsor is a registered member of the parish, attends Holy Mass, approaches the sacraments regularly and contributes to the support of the Church via the Sunday offering envelope program or "Parish Pay". It is the responsibility of the individual to meet these requirements as listed in the Code of Canon Law, #874.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

A Pre-Baptismal Class is held the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the parish office. To register for the class, please call 973-627-0313. Both parents are encouraged to attend the class before the birth of the baby. The Sacrament of Baptism is administered weekly at the 12:15 pm Mass and a Baptismal Ceremony at 1:30 pm. Families are required to be active, contributing parishioners of St. Cecilia's Parish for 2 months prior to the child's baptism date.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements are to be made at least ONE YEAR in advance. The date should not be set until the priest has been consulted.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Urgent calls will be attended to at any time of the day or night. If there is anyone at home or in the hospital who cannot get to Mass and the Sacraments because of illness or old age, please inform one of the priests or call the Parish Office.

MASSES

Weekends

Saturday: 4:30 pm, 7:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:15 am
10:45 am and 12:15 pm
5:00 pm (Vietnamese)

Holydays

Vigil 7:30 pm
6:30 am, 8:00 am, & 7:30 pm

Weekday Schedule:

Monday - Friday
6:30 am & 8:00 am

Saturday

8:00 am followed by Novena

Confessions

Saturdays 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm
and 6:30 pm
Any time by appointment

Susan Brennan
TRUSTEE

James Gallagher
TRUSTEE

PARISH PRAYER LIFE

NOVENA: OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL AND OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Saturday morning after the 8:00 am Mass

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday @ 9:30 am, Monday Night Bible Study
@ 7:30 pm, Mommy Bible Study @ 9:30 am on Thursdays

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday evenings at 7:45 pm (Hayes Hall)

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Wed. @ 7:00 pm (PO)

HOLY HOUR: Monday @ 7:00 pm

ADULT FAITH FORMATION RCIA: Sunday @ 9:00 am for
children & parents, 11:45 am for adults (PO)

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP: Monday through Sat. @ 7:30 am

Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
Closed for lunch: 12:00 to 1:00



Mass Intentions

Monday, September 10, Weekday

6:30 am — Steve Rusinack req. by the Seniors

8:00 am — Florence Swan req. by the Waskas Family

Tuesday, September 11, Weekday

6:30 am — Special Intention

8:00 am — Veronica Morgante req. by Sr. Mary Martha

Wednesday, September 12, The Most Holy Name of Mary

6:30 am — Luigi Santiago req. by the Clancy Family

8:00 am — Florence Swan req. by Vee Fiorelli

Thursday, September 13, Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

6:30 am — Joseph Talar req. by Fr. Zig

8:00 am — Florence Swan

Friday, September 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

6:30 am — Special Intention

8:00 am — Denis Klus req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

Saturday, September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 am — Florence Swan req. by Rosa & Conrad Orta

Sunday, September 16, Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm — Paul Weeks req. by Melinda, Eleta, Laura & Brie

Agnes Pokluda req. by Angela Goritski & Susan Brennan

7:00 pm — Florence Swan req. by Ann Whalen

Cresencia Manaois req. by Kenneth & Maricel Bowe

8:00 am — Jacqueline & Michael Zuber req. by Family

Camillo Giovanna Tironi req. by Bob & Tom Benjamin

9:15 am — Frances Zadzilko req. by Roberta Vitcuskay

Donald Jardine req. by Jeanne Gallagher

10:45 am — Ruth L. Petsko Jakimer req. by Pam & Mike Masucci

Agnes Gallagher req. by Maureen Cox

12:15 pm — James Iannielli req. by Cassidy Family

Steve Rusinack req. by American Legion Post #344

*please
pray for
the sick*

Ethan Chandra, Dean Wayne Campbell, Doris Cusick, Carol Centonze, Jane Gorcica, Sam Sessa, Hank Brown, Carol Ferrante, Jim Golden, Karen Niles, Noel Wadleigh, Joanna Sacco, David Cicchine, Teresa D'Atia, Derek Bascharow, Debbie Malc, Grace McDermott, Joe Horvath, Jr., Elvira Bugaoan, Pat Heady, Owen Peter Byrne, Tia Maddaloni, Mason Walker Steussing, Susan Mejia, Derek Bascharow, Isabel Rattay, Donna Cooke, Tom Hull, Kathleen Fazio, Kristin Wich, Kyle Johnson, Kate Darlington, Jake Michael Miraldi, Cheryl Anne Bornemann, Sean Nolan, Maryann Hughes, Peggy Eileen Miars, Ray Kennedy, Richard Corcoran, Madison Rose Leslie, Demetrius Barbee, Lucille Bardi, Frances Finn, Dorothy Murray, Virginia Cousins, Madlyn Long, Stephanie Lewis, Florence Clements, Kimberly Dugan, Gale Sessa, Marguerite Buggy, Mike Murray, Carmen Liuzza, Jr., Helene Turner, Michael Turner, Ruben Lorenzo, Michael Alvarez, Mina Simmons-Jones, Victoria Santana, Joe Maulbeck, Mary Merz, Dolores Faulkner, Marion & Philipp Cables, Patricia Smith Schulman, Vincent Fortunato, Joyce Turner.

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS

Week Ending 9/2/18

Collection—Checks	\$ 2,313.00
Collection—Cash	\$ 7,825.00
ParishPay Electronic Giving	\$ 2,259.90
<u>Total Weekly Collection</u>	<u>12,397.90</u>

Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	\$ 814,000.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 14,705.88

<i>Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)</i>	<i>\$ (\$2,397.98)</i>
<i>Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)</i>	<i>\$ (\$6,999.15)</i>

THE WORD OF GOD

Here are the readings for next Sunday

443: 1 Cor 11:17-26,33 Ps 40:7-10,17

Lk 7:1-10

**RCIA: Registration and 1st class will begin
October 7th @ 11:45 am in
St. Cecilia Parish Office!**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD – Children's

Liturgy of the Word resumes next Sunday, September 16th.

Each Sunday during the 9:15 a.m. Mass our young children (ages 3-7) are brought downstairs to Hayes Hall, accompanied by adult catechists, to learn about the Scripture readings which are proclaimed at Mass for that Sunday.



The people of St. Cecilia Parish are asked to pray for the following people serving our country in the armed services: **SmE3 Andrew Clifford**, **LCpl. Aleksandr Killeen**, **Joseph Giannetti US Navy**, **Lance Corporal Dennis Wuest**, **Capt. Kelley E. Robbins**, **Pvt USMC, Diego Usma**, **Major Glenn E. Martinez**, **Sgt. Brian Whalen**, **Capt. Anthony Odierno**, **Cpl. Kong V. Nguyen**, **Cpl. Jim Van Valen**, **LCPL Anthony Eresman**, **Sgt. Paul J. Willson**, **PFC Cano Janeth**, **Sgt. Bob Autrey**, **Col. William Paliwada**, **Sgt 1st Class (E7) Sam Colton**, **PFC Marylyn Rivera-Sachez**, **Cpl. Edward C. Thompson**, **Major Kevin M. Nash**, **Lt. Amy Cronin**, **Lt. Col. John L. Medeiros, Jr.**, **Sgt. Daniel Healy**, **Marine Keith Leitner**, **Sgt. Spencer Lopez**, **PFC Taryn Kemp**, **Jeffrey Braunhausen**, **E7 Joseph Grimsey**, **Bill Maloney**, **Greg Bloete**, **Gian Carlo Bruzzese**, **Spc. Christopher Little**, **PFC Brittany Martindell**, **PO1 (E6) Matthew Fitzgerald**, **SA Justin C. White**, **Matthew & Daniel Rosica**, **Mark Leonard**, **Sr. Armn. Ashley Valetta**, **Sgt. John Wisnofsky**, **Cpl. T.J. Finn**, **Sgt. Kristopher Faber**, **Capt. Vincent Presto**, **Airman First Class William Kussler**, **Spc. Gregory Villaneuva** and **Cpl Casey W. Lyness**. We ask God the Father of us all, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, to protect all the men and women in our Armed Forces, to bless them in their efforts toward bringing peace and justice to our world. May they be brought back safely to those they love.

PARISH EVENTS

CEMETERY WORK UNDERWAY – The work has begun at the parish cemetery to add paving stones to the area of the columbarium as well as the walkway leading to the Crucifix. An altar will also be built near the columbarium for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. When this project is completed we will plan for the blessing of this work as well as the celebration of the Holy Mass.

St. Cecilia Christmas Cards will once again be sold by the Men's Society after all the Masses this weekend! The beautiful cards of our sanctuary will be on the bulletin boards as you exit the church to preview. The cost is \$10.00 for a packet of 15 cards!

Craft and Vendor Fair

The Rosary Society will be hosting their annual craft & vendor fair on Saturday, November 10th, from 9:00 am—2:00 pm in Hayes Hall. Any questions please call 973-886-8023 or saintceciliarosarysociety@gmail.com.

BLESSING OF PETS – Our parish will join with Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish on East Main Street for this year's blessing of pets which will be held on Saturday, October 6th. The blessing service will take place in the backyard of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church beginning at 12 Noon. Father Pawel and Father Matt will preside at this blessing held in honor of the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi whose memory is celebrated on October 4th.

HOLY HOUR – Holy Hour resumes on Monday evenings beginning on September 10th. Holy Hour begins at 7 o'clock and concludes following the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7:45. A priest is available during holy hour for confession. Join us for some quiet time of adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP – The Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday evening, October 17th in the parish office at 7 o'clock. The meeting will begin with Holy Mass and devotions followed by a time of learning and sharing. The prayer group will be lead by one of our three priests throughout the year and will include the following subjects: *Capuchin Order, Stigmata, San Giovanni Rotondo Monastery, Franciscan Spirituality, Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza Hospital, Spiritual Maxims of Saint Pio, Miracles of Saint Pio-Part 1 and Miracles of Saint Pio-Part 2*. All are welcome to attend and explore the wonders of this most powerful intercessor - Saint Padre Pio.

Monday Night Bible Study

The Monday Night Bible Study will resume at 7:30 PM on Monday Sept. 10th in Hayes Hall. For 9 weeks, we will study St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians. If you are interested, please bring a \$25.00 check for the study guide, to the Parish Office by Sept. 4th. (made payable to St. Cecilia) "Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil." (Eph. 6:11)

2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Here I Am, Lord!

The 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal is officially kicking-off this weekend with the theme *Here I Am, Lord!* Please support this important annual cause that helps so many people throughout our Diocese.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal supports the work of our Catholic Charities; seminarian education; priests' extraordinary health-care needs as well as Nazareth Village, our diocesan priests' retirement residence and our urban elementary schools. These are all critically important ministries that touch many lives, and so you are invited to make a pledge today. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

SAINT PADRE PIO RELICS COMING TO OUR DIOCESE –

The relics of Saint Padre Pio will be present at Saint Peter the Apostle Church in Parsippany on Thursday, September 20th from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm. At 7 o'clock in the evening Holy Mass will be celebrated. Please see the information located on the bulletin board for more details.

ST. CECILIA SENIOR CLUB NEWS AND EVENTS

Please be advised that all the "Senior Events" are open to everyone 55 and over from

St. Cecilia & Sacred Heart Parishes!

Tuesday, Sept. 11th – Mohegan Sun Casino

Price: \$25 – Slot Play – \$25 – Food – \$5

Tuesday, September 25th – Regular Meeting

11 am set up; 12-1 social hour, coffee & cake

1-2pm meeting, bingo & cards afterward

Thursday – October 18 – Hunterdon Hills

Day trip for full course meal & play "Run For Your Wife"

Price – \$65 for members & \$70 for non-members

For more info re: Casino Trip call Lorraine @ 973-366-6871

For more info re: Hunterdon Hills trip – Carol @ 973-537-5529

Don't forget about the St. Cecilia Seniors

Adventure of The Seas on May 17, 2019

For more info: Call Alice Koller @ 973-627-8558

BAPTISM CLASS – A meeting of all those wishing information and scheduling for a baptism will meet on Monday evening, September 17th in the Saint Cecilia Parish office at 7 o'clock in the evening. Father will be present to conduct the information session and answer questions regarding the celebration of the sacrament.

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA COMES TO ROCK-AWAY – The relics of Saint Anthony of Padua will come to Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on East Main Street on Sunday, October 14th. The relics of this 13th century Franciscan saint will come from his shrine in Padua, Italy and will be accompanied by Father Mario Conti, a Friar from the shrine. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 3 o'clock followed by veneration of the two and precious relics from the Pontifical Basilica in Padua, Italy.

GOD BLESS YOU, LADIES – My sincere thanks and appreciation to Deidra Zink, Louise Naclerio and Denise Montalto-Rook for the gardening work they had done at the church and Divine Mercy Academy. May the Lord reward them for their service. – Father Zig

VIVERE CHRISTUS EST AWARD – On Sunday, September 9th, Bishop Arthur Serratelli will present the *VIVERE CHRISTUS EST AWARD* to Diane Boykow from Saint Cecilia Church AND Pat and Jack Zayak from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. The awards will be given at Vespers beginning at 3:30 pm in the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist located on Grand Street in Paterson. All are welcome to attend as we congratulate these active Rockaway parishioners! May God bless them for all that they do for our Church in Rockaway!

ATTENTION MEN – A new men's group called FATHERS OF ST. JOSEPH will be meeting every other Saturday morning at 5:30 a.m. in the St. Cecilia Office Building. The sole aim and purpose of the group is to labor for the restoration, revitalization and redemption of human fatherhood, in order that it may become what it has been created to be: an efficacious icon that directs the human family to its Father. The Fathers of St. Joseph gatherings are not so much meetings as they are mini retreats, whose aim is to communicate the spirituality of fatherhood in a manner that encourages and inspires fathers to embrace, engage and – by the power of the Holy Spirit – sanctify their vocation. **Our next meeting is September 8th.**

2018-2019 Faith Formation Registration

K-8th Grade Traditional CCD,
9th & 10th Grade Confirmation & Generations of Faith
Registration for all religious education classes are now open. Forms and program details are available on the parish website and in the parish office. Class sizes are limited and are on a first come first serve basis.
If you have any questions, please contact Jim Clancy at 973-627-0310 ext 17
or at stcecilia.faithformation@gmail.com.

Our Condolences to the Families of:
Florence Haskin
Tabbie Williams
Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord

The Rockaway Catholic Right to Life Ministry and the Faith Formation Ministry present

Fr. Pawel Tomczyk, Ph.D, Adjunct Professor of Moral Theology, Seton Hall University
"End of Life Moral Decisions"

What are our Catholic Church's teachings regarding the tough questions?

Tuesday—October 9, 2018 7:00 pm—9:00 pm
Hayes Hall—St. Cecilia Church

SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1968 or 1993? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th or 50th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Serratelli will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held: **Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 3:30pm**. Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. **The deadline to register is Monday, October 15, 2018.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. *Congratulations on this joyous occasion!*

CELEBRATION OF FILIPINO SAINTS

The Diocesan Commission for Catholic Filipino Ministries (DCCFM) is inviting you to the annual celebration honoring our two Filipino Saints: San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod, on September 23, 2018 (Sunday). The highlight of the celebration will be a concelebrated mass presided over by Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli at 3:30 in the afternoon at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, 381 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505. A "Merienda cena", a Filipino light snack reception and fellowship at the Bishop Rodimer Center immediately follows the mass. Free parking is available at the multi-level County Garage across the Bishop Rodimer Center. Please email Elmer Maximo at dccfmevents@gmail.com, for more information. Thank you.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, September 10

7:00 pm – Holy Hour (Church)

7:30 pm – Monday Night Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

Tuesday, September 11

7:00 pm – Finance Committee Meeting (Parish Office)

7:45 pm – Charismatic Prayer Group (Hayes Hall)

Wednesday, September 12

7:30 pm – Pro-Life Meeting (Parish Office)

Thursday, September 13**Friday, September 14****Saturday, September 15**

8:30 am – St. Monica Guild (Hayes Hall)

Sunday, September 16

8:00 am – Catechetical Sunday (Hayes Hall)

DIVINE MERCY ACADEMY NEWS

Grandfriends in Faith

DMA's *Grandfriends in Faith* program is about to enter its third year. Mrs. Patel and her new third grade students would like to extend a warm invitation to senior parishioners to join this wonderful intergenerational program. The goal of this program is to promote love, unity, and warm fellowship between youth and senior adults. The third grade class and their Grandfriends will meet every other month in DMA's all purpose room to form a lasting friendship, join creative forces in a craft or activity, and grow in faith together. Of course the meeting is never complete without delicious treats provided by the third grade parents. If you are interested in joining Grandfriends in Faith, please contact Mrs. Jaime Ann Patel at grade3@dmrockaway.org or 973-627-6003.

VISIT ROME AND THE AMALFI COAST IN 2019:

Father Zig is leading a trip to Rome and the Amalfi Coast of Italy September 5-14, 2019. A presentation for all those interested in this trip will be held on **Tuesday evening, September 18th in Hayes Hall beginning at 7:00 pm.** A representative from Collette Tours will make the presentation and answer all questions related to this wonderful trip. Brochures for the trip are now available from the parish office or the church vestibule.

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Paterson and the Archdiocese of Newark

“providing help-creating hope”!

Supportive Services for Veteran Families in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Sussex & Union County Veterans.

Are you a Homeless Veteran?**Going to Lose your Housing?****We can help!**

**Call our confidential helpline 24 hours a day @
855-767-8387**

We can help with: Rental Assistance—moving costs—
Utility payments—Childcare Expenses-Security Deposits-
Transportation Costs-Supportive Services!

RCIA:

Have you been worshipping with us or in another Catholic Parish,

but have never officially taken steps to become Catholic?

Is another family member Catholic, but not you,
and you wonder what is the Faith they are practicing?

Were you baptized in the Catholic Church,
but have not been attending Catholic Mass for some time?
Are you seeking a deeper personal relationship with Jesus,
but have not been Baptized, or have not received First Com-
munion,

or have not been Confirmed in the Catholic Church?

Are you dating or engaged to a Catholic person,
and concerned what the effect of marrying a Catholic would
be?

Are you married to a Catholic and attend Mass,
but just don't know what the next step is in becoming a
Catholic?

Are you or your spouse a Catholic,
but do not have a Catholic wedding?

If any of the above questions apply to you,
contact Deacon Paul Willson at 973-551-0749,
Or leave contact information with Parish Office,

Or send an email to paul.d.willson@gmail.com.

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS – Our parish offers a number of opportunities for adults to learn and share their faith here at Saint Cecilia's: **MONDAY EVENINGS at 7:30** in Hayes Hall a Bible Study is held incorporating a DVD program exploring the New Testament Letter to the Ephesians. The sessions begin September 10th. **TUESDAY MORNINGS at 9:30** a Scriptural Faith Sharing is held led by Father Matt and Father Pawel in Hayes Hall. The sessions begin on September 25th. **THURSDAY MORNINGS at 9:30** Mommys Bible Study is held in the Parish office assisted by Father Cerilo. The sessions begin on September 20th. **THURSDAY EVENINGS at 7 o'clock** a faith formation class is held in Hayes Hall ranging on a variety of topics which change each month and are advertized on the church bulletin board. The sessions begin September 20th. You are invited to come and explore the faith which has been handed down to us from the Apostles.



My Dear Parishioners,

In our celebration of the Lord's Day we mark the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. All of the Scriptural texts for this Sunday speak to us about the poor, the sick, the disabled, all those who suffer and can be easily forgotten. The sacred scriptures encourage us to be mindful of them and to be attentive to their needs, this is the just thing to do for "the Lord loves the just," as today's Responsorial Psalm reminds us.

The **2018 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL** begins today within the Diocese of Paterson. I am happy that Susan Brennan, one of our parish trustees, has agreed to serve as this year's Lay chairperson for this important event. Sue will tell you how crucial the Bishop's Annual Appeal is for so many people who count on us. Those who are spoken of in today's Scripture, the poor, the disabled, the sick and the disadvantaged, all wait for our generosity to help them in their sufferings and challenges. Our retired priests and young seminarians are also waiting for our help which comes from our support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Due to the publicity of clerical abuse within the Church, this year's appeal cannot afford our indifference. More than ever we need to defy the evil forces which are trying to destroy the work of the Gospel. We must stand with Jesus in combating the satanic powers which are at work and not surrender to the voices which are calling for our departure from the Lord's company. The Lord is continually inviting us to join forces with Him in eliminating evil from our midst through the good works we perform and the Gospel we preach. From the beginning, as recorded in Acts of the Apostles, the Catholic Church has been faithful in her commitment to the poor, the sick, the disabled and all in need. Now we continue that tradition by supporting the Bishop's Annual Appeal which assists those in need in the three counties of our diocese, Morris, Passaic and Sussex.

Next Sunday the Church in the United States observes **CATECHETICAL SUNDAY** to inaugurate the new season of faith formation within the parishes of our country. At next Sunday's 9:15 Holy Mass the catechists for this year's classes will be commissioned for this ministry. Our faith formation classes for our young people will begin the week of September 23rd. Faith formation classes for adults are also beginning and information regarding these classes I share with you in another section of this week's bulletin. Learning the faith is a life-long process and concludes on the day we die. Availing ourselves to these faith formation opportunities strengthens us to resist the assaults of the devil who tries to weaken our faith and scatter us from Christ's Church. Our faith makes us strong!!!

Congratulations to Diane Boykow, AND Pat and Jack Zayak who will receive the VIVERE CHRISTUS EST AWARD from Bishop Serratelli this afternoon at the cathedral in Paterson. Our gratitude to them for strengthening the work of the church in Rockaway!

God bless you!

Father Zig

TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

September 14

When the Sacred Body of Jesus was taken down from the Cross and carried to the grave on Calvary, the Cross on which He died was thrown into a ditch or well, and covered over with stones and earth, so that the followers of the Crucified Redeemer might not find it. Almost three hundred years later (312 A.D.), Constantine the Great, not yet a Christian, while battling with Maxentius for the throne of the Roman Empire, prayed to the God of the Christians to aid him in his struggle.

In answer to his prayer, a luminous cross or monogram of Christ appeared in the heavens bearing the inscription: "In This Sign You Will Conquer." In gratitude for victory, under this banner, over Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge, on October 28, 312, Constantine had the Sign of Christianity placed on the Roman standards and on the shields of his soldiers. Then came the finding of the True Cross at Jerusalem by St. Helena in 326, commemorated by a feast on May 3.

In the year 614, Chosroes II, King of Persia, invaded Syria and Palestine; he took and sacked Jerusalem, carrying off with other treasures the great relic of the True Cross. The Emperor Heraclius of Constantinople, at the head of a large army, invaded Persia, and forced the Persians to sue for peace and to restore the Sacred Cross, which Heraclius piously brought back to Jerusalem in 629. When he reached the city gate on the way that led to Calvary, the Emperor laid aside every robe and mark of royalty, and, clothed in sackcloth of penance and barefoot, carried the Cross up the ascent of Calvary and restored it to its place in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This event is commemorated by the Church on September 14 in the feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross.

PRAYER God, You willed that Your only Son should undergo crucifixion to bring about the salvation of the human race. Grant that we who have known His mystery on earth may deserve to reap the rewards of redemption in heaven. Amen.

Taken from, *Lives of the Saints*, Catholic Bookings Publishing Company, 1999 New Jersey

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