

# Saint Cecilia Parish

90 Church Street  
Rockaway, New Jersey 07866

Parish Office: 973-627-0313 Website: [st-cecilia.org](http://st-cecilia.org) — Office: [stcec@optonline.net](mailto:stcec@optonline.net) Fax: 973-627-4811  
To Contact: Fr. Zig: Ext. 12 or [speplowski@optonline.net](mailto:speplowski@optonline.net)  
Fr. Matt: Ext 15 or [frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com](mailto:frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com) - Fr. Adam: Ext 14 or [fradamwasowski@hotmail.com](mailto:fradamwasowski@hotmail.com)  
School: 973-627-6003 CCD Office: 973-627-0313 Ext. 17

**Rev. Sigmund Peplowski**  
PASTOR

**Rev. Mateusz Darlak**  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

**Rev. Adam Wasowski**  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

**Seminarian Angel Torres**

**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.

## 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 4:30 pm  
6:30 am, 8:00 am & 7:00 pm

### Weekday Schedule:

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

### Saturday

8:00 am followed by Novena

### Confessions

Saturdays @ 6:15 pm  
Any time by appointment

**Susan Brennan**  
TRUSTEE

**James Gallagher**  
TRUSTEE

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Arrangements for the Sacrament of Baptism can be made by calling Fr. Matt at extension 15.

## 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 @ 973-627-0313.

**EMERGENCY PHONE:**  
**862-251-3914**

## PARISH PRAYER LIFE

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

Saturday morning after the 8:00 am Mass

HOLY HOUR : Monday @ 7:00 pm (Beginning Sept. 21st)

### RCIA—RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION— FOR ADULTS:

Please contact Jim Clancy @ 973-627-0313

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 2:00 pm

Closed for lunch: 12:00 to 1:00

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, December 7, Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

6:30 am — Florence Neglio

8:00 am — Mary Kulawiec req. by Pat Degnan

4:30 pm — For the Parishoners of St. Cecilia Parish

### Tuesday, December 8, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 am — Laura Buro req. by Family

8:00 am — Linda Struble req. by Ag Struble

7:00 pm — For the Parishoners of St. Cecilia Parish

### Wednesday, December 9, Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

6:30 am — Anna Marianacci

8:00 am — Alice &amp; Walter Lech req. by Dianna &amp; John Sullivan

### Thursday, December 10, Our Lady of Loretto

6:30 am — Teresa Raskulinec

8:00 am — Linda Struble req. by Pat Degnan

### Friday, December 11, Saint Damasus I, Pope

6:30 am — Eleanor Dillon

8:00 am — Michael J. Fahey, Sr., req. by Jeanne O'Carroll

### Saturday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 am — Mary Kulawiec req. by Pat &amp; Jack Zayac

### Sunday, December 13, Third Sunday of Advent

4:30 pm — Mary Brussell req. by the McDonnell Family

John D. &amp; Mary Ann Cusack req. by the Cusack Family

7:00 pm — Thomas Haltigan req. by Gary & Carol McGotty  
Isabel & Alex Blazejewski req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

8:00 am — Robert &amp; Rena Benjamin req. by Bob &amp; Tom Benjamin

9:15 am — Madeline Lusardi req. by Vic, Rose & Peter Palumbo  
John McVey req. by Marie Wahlsrom10:45 am — Michael E. Wynn, 15th Anniversary, req. by Mom  
John Toohey Jr., & Elena Parillo Bridi req. by Carol Parillo12:15 pm — Robert Privitera req. by wife, Anne  
Justina Njeze req. by the Umeukeje Family

**PRAY** Ethan Chandra, Dean Wayne Campbell, Doris Cusick, Carol Centonze, Jane Gorcica, Sam Sessa, Carol Ferrante, Jim Golden, Karen Niles, Noel Wadleigh, David Cicchine, Teresa D'Atria, Derek Bascharow, Debbie Malc, Grace McDermott, Joe Horvath, Jr., Elvira Bugaoan, Owen Peter Byrne, Tia Maddaloni, Mason Walker Steussing, Susan Mejia, Derek Bascharow, Jim Rat-tay, Tom Hull, Kathleen Fazio, Kristin Wich, Kyle Johnson, Kate Darlington, Jake Michael Miraldi, Cheryl Anne Bornemann, Sean Nolan, Maryann Hughes, Peggy Eileen Miers, Ray Kennedy, Richard Corcoran, Madison Rose Leslie, Demetrius Barbee, Lucille Bardi, Frances Finn, Dorothy Murray, Victoria Santana, Stephanie Lewis, Kimberly Dugan, Gale Sessa, Marguerite Buggy, Mike Murray, Helene Turner, Michael Turner, Ruben Lorenzo, Michael Alvarez, Mina Simmons-Jones, Joe Maulbeck, Mary Merz, Marion Cables, Patricia Smith Schulman, Vincent Fortunato, Joyce Turner, Tom Cumiskey, Dennis O'Brien, Steven Simmons, Ariel, James DiStaiso, Marty Mackin, Brian Bosworth, Dennis Dilger, Robyne LaGrotta, Dave Lewis, Christopher Darlak, Frieda Solow, Claudia Fontanella, Jimmy Carroll, Claire Wasacz, Peggy Traino, Emilio Viola, James Deegan, Diann Bulfone, Martha Salvesen, Robyn Duvall, Ramiro Hinojosa, Jimmy Buckley, Emily Gatzke, Clare Desmond, Rosemary DeFilippo, Craig Huffman, Paul Kurceski, George Stitik.

### ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS

#### Week Ending : November 22, 2020

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 7,307.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 3,830.53
<u>Total Weekly Collection</u>	\$ 11,137.53

Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	\$ 839,000.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 14,901.96

<i>Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)</i>	\$ (1,999.72)
<i>Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)</i>	\$ (3,939.63)

### ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS

#### Week Ending : November 29, 2020

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 7,031.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 3,830.53
<u>Total Weekly Collection</u>	\$ 10,861.53

Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	\$ 839,000.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 14,901.96

<i>Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)</i>	\$ (2,275.72)
<i>Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)</i>	\$ (6,215.35)

### THE WORD OF GOD

5: Is 40: 1-5, 9-11 Ps 85:9-14

2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8



*The Sanctuary Candle burning on our altar  
this week is in loving memory of*

**Laura Buro**

*Req. by her parents,  
Charles & Marylou McGrath*



The people of St. Cecilia Parish are asked to pray for the following people serving our country in the armed services: **SmE3 Andrew Clifford, 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 Colon, PFC Marylyn Rivera-Sachez, Cpl. Edward C. Thompson, Major Kevin M. Nash, Lt. Amy Cronin, 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 Sgt. 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.**

580-St. Cecilia

## PARISH EVENTS

**FLOCKNOTE**—If you haven't signed up for FLOCKNOTE please do so today. It's easy, it's confidential and it keeps you instantly informed of significant parish events. Notices can be sent as a text to your cell phone or email to your computer. Stay with the flock, stay informed!

**THURSDAY NIGHT FAITH FORMATION FOR DECEMBER**—We will conclude the series on the Sacraments presented by Bishop Robert Barron in December. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> we will view the section on "Penance and Anointing of the Sick." On December 17<sup>th</sup> we will view the final session on "Matrimony and Holy Orders." Our gatherings begin at 7 o'clock in the evening in Hayes Hall. We conclude at 8 o'clock. All are welcome.

**FATHER JESUS' PARISH FUND RAISER**—Our former parochial vicar, Father Jesus Peralta, now pastor of Saint Brendan & Saint George Parish in Clifton, is conducting a car raffle with the drawing taking place on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The car is a 2020 Ford EcoSport, retail price at \$25,242.41. Ticket cost is \$100. To purchase tickets, please call 973.772.1115.

Our Condolences to the Family of:  
*Kenneth Williams, Wladyslaw Ortyl,  
Terence Farrelly, Minviluz Imperial and  
Shirleu Imperial*  
Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord

**The Feminine Genius Project:** A prayer and discussion ministry for mothers. We will meet every first and third Saturday of the month in the parish office from 7:00 am to 8:30 am. This group serves mothers with school age children. For more information, please contact Armi Clancy at [armicielo.clancy@gmail.com](mailto:armicielo.clancy@gmail.com)

**MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**—After following the footsteps of Jesus through the Holy Land, Monday Night Bible Study will resume on January 11, 2021 at 7:30 PM in Hayes Hall. The new topic will be the Ascension Series, "Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of St. John." The \$25.00 cost for the program includes a study workbook and access to online streaming. If you are interested, please notify [savondollen@gmail.com](mailto:savondollen@gmail.com) by Dec. 31. Checks are to be payable to St. Cecilia. Let's use this opportunity to grow in relationship with the Lord.

## REVISED CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Due to the pandemic a revised Mass schedule has been established for Saint Cecilia Parish for this year. Please be advised of this new schedule:

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Eve:** Holy Mass will be celebrated at the following times: 3:00 PM, 4:30 pm, 7:00 pm, and 10:00 pm. Holy Mass will be celebrated in both the church and Hayes Hall at these times.

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Day:** Holy Mass will be celebrated at the following times: 8:00 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am and 12:15 pm. Holy Mass will be celebrated in both the church and Hayes Hall at these times.

Seating will be observed on a "first come, first serve" basis.

Please note that I have added two extra Masses to our schedule (3 pm on Christmas Eve and 9:15 am on Christmas Day). With the extra Masses and the Masses in two locations I am sure we will be able to accommodate the faithful for the celebration of Our Lord's Nativity. – Father Zig

## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION –

Our Nation's patronal feast, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is December 8<sup>th</sup>. A vigil Mass for this feast will be celebrated on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. Holy Mass for Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, will be celebrated in the morning at 6:30 and 8 o'clock. An evening Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday at 7 o'clock.

## CHECK OUT SOCIETIES REPORT ON PARISH WEBSITE

—Please go to the St. Cecilia web-site ([st-cecilia.org](http://st-cecilia.org)) to find a video report regarding our parish societies and their fall activities. There will be a report from the Rosary Society, the Men's Society, and the St. Monica Guild. Hear what will happen and not happen in our parish for the remainder of 2020 on this video presentation.

## Retirement Fund for the Religious—Help Our Elders:

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

**CHRISTMAS TREES:** St. Paul's Abbey, on Route 206 one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n' cut 7 days a week from November 27 to December 20, 10 AM to 3 PM. They also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more.





**Monday, December 7**

**Tuesday, December 8**

*Divine Mercy Academy & the Parish Office - closed*

**Wednesday, December 9**

7:00 pm—2nd Grade Sacrament Prep Class (Church)

**Thursday, December 10**

**Friday, December 11**

7:00 pm—Catacombs (Hayes Hall)

8:30 pm—"Arise" - (Hayes Hall)

**Saturday, December 12**

8:30—10:00 am—Confessions (Church)

**Sunday, December 13**

*Knights of Columbus Food Drive from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm*

**OPLATEK** – Oplatek, Christmas wafers used for the traditional Christmas Eve Supper, are available at the altar of Saint Joseph. Your offering will be appreciated and can be placed in the basket located near the oplatek.

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS** – The sacrament of penance will be celebrated in the church on Saturday morning, December 12 and 19, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Our priests will be available for confessions at this time in addition to the afternoon schedule beginning at 3:30. Let us prepare our souls for the coming of Our Lord at the Christmas celebration.

**RORATE MASS IN ADVENT** – Join us for the 6:30 morning Mass, Monday through Friday, for the "Rorate" Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This traditional Mass during the Advent season is celebrated in the early morning before the sun rises recalling the Blessed Virgin Mary's role in our salvation.

**2020 Diocesan Ministries Appeal—"Love Thy Neighbor"**

As the year comes fast to an end, and many are planning on how to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has the most impact, please consider the many lives that are helped because of the support given to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. These are your neighbors, your friends, our senior priests and seminarians and urban school students. All of us can play a part in the Diocesan Ministries Appeal—as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its missions—and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Diocesan Ministries Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or on-line at [www.2020appeal.org](http://www.2020appeal.org).

## *Divine Mercy Academy News*

Gift cards make great Christmas gifts, and there are gift cards from hundreds of stores available for purchase at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)! Go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com), follow the simple instructions to set up an account, and use Enrollment Code 1E2EC2AA28814. A percentage of your purchases will be donated to Divine Mercy Academy. Physical gift cards and ecards are available. Thank you for your support!

Divine Mercy Academy's New Year's Cash Bash 50/50 raffle tickets are for sale. Tickets are \$10 each. The raffle will feature 5 winners to be drawn on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be available from the gift card sellers after Masses. Or contact the school office at 973-627-6003.

**We are online: [www.st-cecilia.org](http://www.st-cecilia.org)**

**BIRTHRIGHT** – Due to COVID-19, donations for Birthright will not be accepted this year. Thank you for your past support and generosity.

**BEWARE OF SCAMS** – Be on the alert of scams which say they are from me. THEY ARE NOT!!! Please call me at the office (973.627.0313x12) if you have doubt about a text, email, etc, which is supposedly from me asking for money, gift cards, etc. PLEASE DO NOT BE FOOLED!!! – Father Zig

**Gift Cards are available for purchase through the school, after the Masses and the parish office. Please help support this fund-raiser! Thank you**



**FUNDING OUR REPAIRS** – The work on reconstructing the parking lot drain has been completed along with the removal of the dead tree from the parking lot and the work on the rectory roof. Paying for these projects is indeed costly. I am happy to announce that as of this date \$28,880.00 has been donated to our repairs fund from 84 parish households. I hope that more of our parishioners will join in making a contribution so that these expenses can be paid. This is especially important during this time of decreased numbers at Sunday Mass and as a result, decreased offerings. Please consider making a donation as soon as possible. I am counting on your support! God bless you!! – Father Zig

**ADVENT TREE PROJECT** – Due to Covid 19 restrictions this year's Advent Tree project will take on a different format. You are asked to participate and help those who come to the Father English Community Center, run by Catholic Charities, for assistance. Please check the needed items and bring them UNWRAPPED to the designated areas in the church (or bring them to the parish office) prior to December 20<sup>th</sup>. May the Lord bless your generous Christmas spirit!

**FOOD DRIVE—CAN YOU HELP?** The Knights of Columbus, Council 3359, will conduct a food drive to benefit Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Paterson on Sundays, December 6th and 13th, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The Knights will accept the donations at the table located outside of the church. The food pantries of Catholic Charities are in desperate need of our help. May God bless you for your generosity and kindness.

**WINTER POLICY** - Now that we are in the midst of the winter season please be aware of the following: In the event of inclement weather and Divine Mercy Academy is closed, the parish office will be closed and the church will be open ONLY for the liturgical service scheduled. Also, all evening events will be cancelled.

**CARMELITE SISTERS FUNDRAISER**– The cloistered Carmelite Sisters of Morristown are devoted to praying more than eight hours a day for peace in our community and in the world. They are dependent on the goodwill of the community to meet their basic needs and unfortunately, the Assumption Church annual bake sale benefiting the Carmelite Sisters cannot be held this year due to the Covid pandemic. In lieu of the bake sale, volunteers have created a cookbook of desserts, "Sweet Carmel", which includes Catholic themed photos taken by a professional food photographer! There will be a limited number of printed copies available by mid-December. The 80+ page cookbook will be high end magazine quality with a bounded spine. There is also a digital version that can be downloaded immediately upon payment. Link: [www.carmelnj.org](http://www.carmelnj.org) Go to: Cookbook tab  
Contact: [carmelvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:carmelvolunteers@gmail.com)

### **RCIA 2020-2021**

#### **(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)**

RCIA is a program for adults that are interested in being received into the Catholic Church via Baptism, Holy Communion, or Confirmation. If you or someone you know has for whatever reason never received one of these sacraments, and would like to enter into the fullness of the Catholic Church, please reach out! This is a small group that works with each candidate to help prepare them for the reception of the sacraments and the fullness of participation in the life of the church. The program includes weekly classes on Thursday evenings from October through April.

For more information, please contact Jim Clancy at [StCecilia.FaithFormation@gmail.com](mailto:StCecilia.FaithFormation@gmail.com).

**Simbang Gabi**—You are cordially invited to join the Diocesan and parish-sponsored Simbang Gabi (Filipino for "Mass of the Night or Evening") celebration @ Sacred Heart of Jesus, 63 E. Main St., Rockaway:

**Sunday, December 20th**

**Eucharistic Celebration at 5:00 pm**

**Rev. Cerilo Javinez, Main Celebrant**

**Rev. Pawel Bala, Pastor**

For more info, please contact Elmer @ 973-664-1949

**MASSES IN TWO LOCATIONS** – Holy Masses to celebrate the Lord's Day will be offered at the same time in two locations: the church and Hayes Hall. You have to option to decide where you would like to go for Mass when you enter the building. The Sunday 12:15 pm Mass will continue to be celebrated at the parish cemetery for as long as possible. A FLOCKNOTE will be sent out if the Mass will not take place at the cemetery due to weather condition.

**THE CHOSEN** – A wonderful series on the life of Jesus is in production titled, The Chosen. Additional information regarding this series can be found by going on line and searching for, "The Chosen". You can also download a free app regarding this series. – Father Zig

**PRIESTS WILL MAKE HOUSE CALLS** – Father Matt, Father Adam and I are available to make house calls to our parishioners with the sacraments (penance, Eucharist and holy anointing). Please call the parish office (973.627.0313) and leave your information and we will be happy to visit you and pray with you. We will come and observe all the protocols that are recommended by the health officials. – Father Zig



My dear parishioners,

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent As we gather to celebrate the Lord's Day the Gospel reading is taken from the Beginning of the Gospel of Mark in which we are introduced to the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John. The Gospel of Mark is the oldest Gospel and the shortest. This Gospel will be our focus for the Sundays of this new Liturgical Year of 2021. I plan to tell you a little more regarding the Gospel of Mark and the Cycle B Lectionary at another time.

Today Saint John the Baptist is our temporary focus in the Gospel because he will soon exit so that the Lord Jesus may enter. John is the "voice crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" The prophet John was the one sent to make the announcement of the Lord's coming, he did the "prep work" so that those who believed would welcome Jesus, "Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

In the epistle reading from the Second Letter of Saint Peter we are reminded once again about waiting for the Lord. The delay of the coming of the Day of the Lord should not make us forgetful or unprepared but we must remain vigilant – He is coming! As we wait for that day we are also waiting with expectation for this year's celebration of Christmas, the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity. I think this year's Christmas will indeed play a very special role in our lives as we still struggle with the pandemic. The festivity of Christmas is the special vaccine the Lord is providing for us so that we will not grow despondent as a result of Covid 19 but rather hopeful and cheerful knowing that God is with us!

The coming of God's Only Begotten Son was made possible because of the faith of the all glorious and Ever Virgin Mary. Her YES to God brought salvation into the world. This week we will observe 3 Marian feasts: Monday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is the national feast day for the United States of America. Our Holy Father Pope Francis instituted a new feast to the calendar last year, the Feast of Our Lady of Loreto, which will be observed on Wednesday. This feast celebrates the home of the Holy Family at Nazareth. On Saturday we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the appearance of the Mother of God to the Mexican layman, Saint Juan Diego. This is the WEEK OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY and there is a lot to celebrate! I hope you can join us for Mass on these days to hear more about the feasts and their significance for our lives.

Today is December 6<sup>th</sup> and the Feast of Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra. Bishop Nicholas was one of the fathers gathered at the Council of Nicea who developed the Creed which contains our faith.

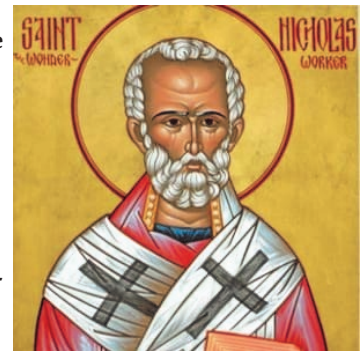
COME LORD JESUS!

Father Zig

**ST. NICHOLAS, Bishop**  
**December 6—Patron of Bakers and Pawnbrokers**

It is the common opinion that St. Nicholas was a native of Patara in Lycia, Asia Minor. He became a monk in the monastery of Holy Zion near Myra. Of this house he was made Abbot by the Archbishop, its founder. When the See of Myra, the capital of Lycia, fell vacant, St. Nicholas was appointed its Archbishop. It is said that he suffered for the Faith under Diocletian, and that he was present at the Council of Nice as an opponent of Arianism. His death occurred at Myra, in the year 342.

The characteristic virtue of St. Nicholas appears to have been his charity for the poor. It is also related that he was mortified and abstemious from his very infancy. St. Nicholas is regarded as the special patron of children, and our well-known Santa Claus is a derivative of St. Nicholas. The Emperor Justinian built a church in his honor at Constantinople in the suburb of Blacharnae, about the year 340.



He has always been honored with great veneration in the Latin and Greek Churches. The Russian Church seems to honor him more than any other Saint after the Apostles.

*PRAYER We call upon Your mercy, O Lord. Through the intercession of St. Nicholas, keep us safe amid all dangers so that we may go forward without hindrance on the road of salvation. Amen.*

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

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*90 Church Street  
Rockaway, New Jersey 07866*

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Fr. Matt: Ext 15 or [frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com](mailto:frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com) - Fr. Adam: Ext 14 or [fradamwasowski@hotmail.com](mailto:fradamwasowski@hotmail.com)  
School: 973-627-6003    CCD Office: 973-627-0313 Ext. 17

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