

Saint Cecilia Parish

90 Church Street
Rockaway, New Jersey 07866

Parish Office: 973-627-0313

Website: st-cecilia.org — Office: stcec@optonline.net

Fax: 973-627-4811

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

Fr. Matt: Ext 15 or frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com

School: 973-627-6003

CCD Office: 973-627-0313 Ext. 17

Rev. Sigmund Peplowski
PASTOR

Rev. Mateusz Darlak
PAROCHIAL VICAR

Deacon 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.

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

MASSES

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

Saturday @ 3:30—4:00 pm &

6:15-6:45 pm (when Mass is

celebrated in the church) &

Monday during Holy Hour

7:00—8:00 pm

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

HOLY HOUR : Monday @ 7:00 pm

RCIA—RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION— FOR ADULTS:

Please contact Jim Clancy @ 973-627-0313

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

FEMININE GENIUS PROJECT: 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month at 7:00 am in the parish office.

ST. JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP: 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at 6:00 am in the parish office

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, September 6, Weekday

9:00 am – (Cemetery) Linda Merz Waters req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Tuesday, September 7, Weekday

6:30 am – Veronica Perez req. by Jeniffer Medoza & Family
8:00 am – Ernest & Berta Juretschke req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Wednesday, September 8, The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 am – For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
8:00 am – George & Gerard Cunningham req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Thursday, September 9, Saint Peter Claver, Priest

6:30 am – Persecuted Christians
8:00 am – Margaret Mary Curran req. by the Ritz Family

Friday, September 10, Weekday

6:30 am – Bishop Frank Rodimer
8:00 am – Andrew Zayac req. by Pat & Jack Zayac

Saturday, September 11, Weekday

8:00 am – Katherine Marie Buonocore req. by the Men's Society

Sunday, September 12, Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm – Danielle Kirrane req. by the Pirog Family
7:00 pm – For the parishioners of St. Cecilia Church
8:00 am – Edward W. Merz req. by Ed & Mary Merz
Veronica Morgante req. by husband, Paul
9:15 am – Chris Marino req. by the Ritz Family
Samantha Garcia req. by her mom
10:45 am – Renato Sebastian & Antonita DeJesus req. by Family
Robert Willis req. by Stephen & Pauline O'Donnell
12:15 pm – Denis Klus req. by his wife, Darlene
Robert Cole req. by the Basanese Family

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS

Week Ending : August 29, 2021

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 9,443.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 3,671.90
<u>Total Weekly Collection</u>	\$ 13,114.90

Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	\$ 730,000.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 13,137.25

<i>Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)</i>	\$ (22.35)
<i>Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)</i>	\$ 1,534.21

THE WORD OF GOD

128: Is 35:4-7a Ps 146:7-10 Jas 2:1-5 Mk 7:31-37

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY – His Excellency, Bishop Kevin Sweeney is inviting us to participate in a special collection this Sunday, September 4-5, to assist those in Haiti who continue to suffer from the recent earthquake and hurricane. Also included in this collection will be assistance to the people of Cuba. The collection will go to Catholic Relief Services and organizations that can assist the Haitian people as well as the Cuban people in their struggle for liberty and emergency relief. Please make your check payable to: ST. CECILIA CHURCH and in the memo: SECOND COLLECTION.

We are online: www.st-cecilia.org



Ethan Chandra, Dean Wayne Campbell, Doris Cusick, Carol Centonze, Jane Goricca, 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 Rattay, 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, 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, George Stitik, Stephen Goordman, Cecilia Donofrio, Deidra Zink, Ray Wiest, Anthony Pane, Victoria Zuber, Keith Newman, Francis Sanchez, Raymond Fullam, Paul Waldek.



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

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE – Father Zig will serve as the spiritual director for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land sponsored by 206 Tours, February 28 to March 9, 2022. There are about 9 parishioners who have already registered for this pilgrimage which will be made up of people from throughout the United States. All information and registration must be done through 206 Tours and not the parish office. Please see the website at: www.pilgrimages.com/frpeplowski. This 10 day pilgrimage is entitled, “Explore the Holy Land From Jerusalem” and is a Catholic tour with daily Mass and devotions at the holy sites.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR – The Little Sisters of the Poor will be visiting our parish on Saturday and Sunday, September 11 and 12 to hold a “door collection” to assist them in their ministry to the elderly and sick. Should you like to give them an offering by check, please make it payable to: Little Sisters of the Poor. God bless you!

ATTENTION: EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION – Due to the ongoing pandemic it is unlikely that the service of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will be necessary. We will continue the practice of the priests, deacon and religious sisters distributing Holy Communion at Holy Mass. – Father Zig

ATTENTION: ALTAR SERVERS – Fr. Matt will meet with all those who are interested in serving at the altar on Saturday, September 11th at 10:00 am in the church. The ministry of acolyte is open to all males and females from age 8 to 18. For addition information, please contact Fr. Matt at frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com.

HOLY HOUR TO RESUME – Monday evening Holy Hour will resume on September 13th from 7 to 8 o'clock. A priest will be available for confession during this time. At 7:45 the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Christian Care Committee brings Holy Communion to homebound parishioners. If you or someone you know would like to receive the Eucharist weekly, please call the parish office @ 973-627-0313. Eucharistic ministers are also invited to become a member of the committee. If you are interested, please call the parish office as well. Thank you and God bless!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY RESUMES—Volunteers are needed for Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:15 Mass. It will be starting up on September 26th for all children ages 4—10. Please call the parish office for more information. (973-627-0313)

Faith Formation 2021-2022

Welcome back! We have missed you!

Registration is now open for all programs. Please see the parish website for program details, printable registration forms, and a calendar of classes for the upcoming year. If you have questions about registration, please contact Jim Clancy at StCecilia.FaithFormation@gmail.com.

Volunteer teachers are also needed. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jim Clancy.

- First Communion sacrament prep for 2nd graders
- Confirmation sacrament prep for 7th & 8th graders
- Catechesis for all children and families ages 5 and up
- Youth Ministry—middle school & high school
- Weekly Bible Studies
- RCIA

THE CHOSEN—I highly recommend a series on the life of Jesus entitled “The Chosen”. The series is in its second season and may be viewed by installing a free app on your cell phone. Just go to the app store and type in “The Chosen” for free viewing. The actor who plays Jesus is a devout Catholic and I am sure you will find the series of great spirit benefit. It is well worth it! - Fr. Zig

BLESSING OF PETS – This year's blessing of pets in commemoration of the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi will take place on Saturday, October 2nd at Sacred Heart of Jesus Churchyard on East Main Street. This ceremony, combining both Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Cecilia Parish, will begin at 12 Noon with Father Matt and Father Pawel officiating.

CHRISTIAN CARE COMMITTEE – The Christian Care Committee is a group of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who assist the priests in distributing Holy Communion each week to the homebound of the parish. Should you like to be a part of this important ministry, I invite you to our meeting on Wednesday morning, September 15th at 9 o'clock in Hayes Hall. ALSO....If you have a family member, friend or neighbor who is homebound and cannot come to Mass the Christian Care Committee is at your service! A member of our ministry team will bring Holy Communion each week. Should you like to register or for further information, please call the parish office at 973.627.0313, x 12. We would be happy to visit! – Father Zig

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS – Many thanks to those who make donations of food to our local food pantry. Your donation may be placed in Hayes Hall or simply given to one of the ushers when you enter the church. May the Lord bless you for helping those who are in need.

**Monday, September 6***Parish Office Closed***Tuesday, September 7***7:30 am—Divine Mercy Academy First day of School**7:00 pm—Choir Rehearsal (Church)**7:00 pm—Light of Christ Prayer Meeting (Church)***Wednesday, September 8****Thursday, September 9***6:00 pm—Alpha meeting (Hayes Hall)***Friday, September 10****Saturday, September 11***8:30 am—Men's Society Meeting (Hayes Hall)**10:00 am—Altar Servers meeting (Church)**Little Sisters of the Poor door collection***Sunday, September 12***Little Sisters of the Poor door collection*

SAVE THE DATE: Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, **November 20th** from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm in St. Cecilia Church Hayes Hall. For further information, please email: saintceciliarosarysociety@gmail.com

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB – I am happy to announce that the first meeting of the Saint Cecilia's Senior Citizens club will be held on Tuesday, September 14th beginning at 12 Noon in Hayes Hall. This is the first meeting of the organization since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020. I plan to be present for the meeting to share with the membership some information regarding future meetings. – Father Zig

BAKE SALE – The Saint Monica Guild will hold a BAKE SALE on Saturday and Sunday, September 18-19 in Hayes Hall. A delicious variety of cakes, cookies, candy, etc will be on display for your purchase. Your support of this fund raiser will be greatly appreciated and assists the society in their ministry.

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!!! Fr. Zig

St. Monica Guild—St. Monica's Guild will meet on Saturday, September 18th, after the 8:00 am Mass in Hayes Hall. New members are welcome to attend.

Divine Mercy Academy News

Divine Mercy Academy in Rockaway is a Catholic elementary school offering a comprehensive Pre-K through 8th grade faith-based education. We offer full-day Kindergarten; full & half day Pre-K; after-care; STEM-based education; School Counselor; foreign language; music programs; extracurricular activities; and are AdvancED accredited. We are currently providing full-day, in-person instruction, with a livestreamed remote learning option.

Our mission is to provide an academically excellent Catholic education, and to instill within our students the virtues of mercy and compassion, forming them as true disciples of Jesus Christ.

If you would like more information, please call 973-627-6003 or email office@dmrockaway.org.

WELCOME BACK BOYS AND GIRLS – Divine Mercy Academy reopens on Tuesday for the 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR with great excitement and promise. We have an excellent Catholic school in Rockaway which serves our parish, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and children from neighboring towns. Our faith-based Catholic program cannot be found in any public or private school. Please call DMA for information regarding admissions at 973.627.6003. – Father Zig

CHURCH SOUND SYSTEM – I am so grateful to the few who have responded to my appeal for a donation to replace our "broken" sound system in the church. I have received estimates which average about \$10,000 to upgrade this important feature in our worship. If you have not yet made a donation I hope you might consider doing so soon. I have asked that you might donate what you would spend on a dinner at a nice restaurant, for example. PLEASE make your check payable to SAINT CECILIA CHURCH and in the memo: SOUND SYSTEM. May God richly bless the good people who have made donations which now total \$8090.00—Father Zig

SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1971 or 1996? 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 Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held:

Sunday, November 7th, 2021 at 3:00pm.

Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. **The deadline to submit your registration to your parish office is Thursday, October 7th, 2021.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. *Congratulations on this joyous occasion!*

RCIA 2021-2022**(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.

VOTIVE CANDLES – The Saint Padre Pio votive candle room has reopened after being closed since last March due to the pandemic. You are once again able to enter and light a candle for prayer. I ask that no more than 2 persons be in the room at the same time so that we can maintain social distancing. Please do not sit in the votive candle room during Holy Mass. – Father Zig

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES – The Jesuit Fathers of Loyola House in Morristown invite you to consider experiencing a retreat at their lovely facility located at 161 James Street in Morristown (not far from Assumption Church). There are a variety of retreats offered throughout the year that can build up your spiritual life. Why not investigate their website retreathouse@loyola.org.

EVENING IN THE LOYOLA GARDENS – The Jesuit community at Loyola Retreat House (161 James Street) in Morristown is inviting you to an “Evening in the Loyola Gardens” on Thursday, September 16th from 6:30 to 9 o’clock. A wonderful evening is planned with delicious food and drinks, music and an all wonderful time with the Jesuits and the many friends of Loyola House. Featured will be the Maestro Robert Butts and Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey. The donation is \$50 for single and \$90 for a couple. Please reserve your tickets by calling 973.539.0740 or retreat-house@loyola.org. Your support of this fund raiser assists in the Jesuit ministry at the retreat house.

Men of the Parish - The next meeting of the Men's Society is scheduled for September 11 after the 8 AM mass in Hayes Hall. This will be the first meeting of the new 'season' and all men of the parish are invited. The Men's Society assists in the well being of the parish and is involved in several projects. We are in search of new members so please if you are curious about any parish activity please join us for the meeting this month or any month a meeting announcement is listed in the bulletin. If you would like more info about the organization feel free to call Jim Gallagher at 973-366-9699.

CELEBRATION OF FILIPINO SAINTS

The Diocesan Commission for Catholic Filipino Ministries (DCCFM) is inviting you to the annual celebration of honoring two Filipino Saints: San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod, on September 25, 2021(Saturday). The highlight of the celebration will be a Mass presided by Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney at 11:00 in the morning at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, 381 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505. Filipino reception and fellowship at the Bishop Rodimer Center immediately follows the mass. Filipiniana attire is encouraged. 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.

SIGN UP TO FLOCKNOTE

If you would like to receive emails or text messages with important information regarding our parish life PLEASE SIGN UP TO FLOCKNOTE. This is all totally free for you to use, you don’t even have to download anything or create a password in order to participate. You just take a couple minutes to sign up and it lets you receive email or text messages from the groups and ministries that you choose. Your info is kept totally private and, again, it lets you choose precisely which groups and ministries you want to get email and text messages from here at St. Cecilia Church.

To register simply text SCC2020 to 84576 OR go to the home page of our website: st-cecilia.org and there you will find other ways to register for this important communication tool.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY – Respecting Life from Conception to Natural Death – 2021

On behalf of the Rockaway-Denville Catholic Respect Life Ministry, we would like to thank you, the parishioners and families of St. Cecilia Church and Sacred Heart Church, for the generosity you have given us for our Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser “in support of mothers and babies”. Thanks to both parishes we collected over \$4000.00. St. Mary Church, Denville, will be joining this fundraiser in the near future. Your contributions make it possible for many mothers to receive the help they need during a difficult time in their lives. **May God bless you and may He continue to bless our work! THANK YOU!**

SAINT JOSEPH HOLY HOUR—The monthly Saint Joseph Holy Hour will take place on **Wednesday, September 15th** at 8 o’clock in the evening in the church. The next episode of the series, “In the Breach,” produced by the Knights of Columbus on male spirituality will be shown followed by 20 minutes of Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to attend.



My dear parishioners,

We gather to celebrate the Lord's Day on the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the Gospel reading for today we find the Lord Jesus opening the ears and the mouth of a man who suffered from a disability which prevented him from hearing and speaking. The healing of these senses allowed him to hear the Lord's voice and to respond to Him with praise and thanksgiving. In the Old Testament lection for today we read from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah who foretells of the day when healing will become a reality so that blindness will be replaced by sight, deafness by hearing, silence by speech and dancing to replace being crippled. The Lord will allow all this to take place so that the forces of evil may be dismantled and that the glory of God may shine forth.

I am very excited that we begin ALPHA this week at Saint Cecilia's. YOU are invited to join us every Thursday evening for the next 11 weeks as we gather for food, fellowship and discussion in Hayes Hall from 7 to 8:30. You're invited to bring a friend with you, should you like to do so. After having some refreshments and socializing we will begin with showing a short DVD presentation which will serve as the point of discussion for the evening, although not restricted to it. Our sharing and conversations will no doubt prove beneficial and serve as the lure to attend the following week. I know that you will find ALPHA as a door which can open up to a new experience which will prove life-giving in the spirit.

There may be some of you who are apprehensive to attend ALPHA and it is to you that I quote the beginning of today's first lection: *"Thus says the Lord: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, Fear not!"* To you I quote the invitation of the Apostle Philip to the Apostle Nathaniel, *"Come and see!"* (John 1:46) The ALPHA experience has a stellar record in changing people's lives by changing their hearts. ALPHA's track record has brought countless numbers of people from around the world to exclaim with joy the words of today's Responsorial Psalm, PRAISE THE LORD, MY SOUL!

Allow your ears to be open and your tongue loose so that in hearing you may be able to speak and join in company with those who *"...show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ."* (Today's epistle reading)

With Labor Day comes the return of many of our activities which were on hold for the summer. I look forward to the resumption of our parish activities and I pray that you do too!

God bless you my good people!

Father Zig

ST. PETER CLAVER, Priest
September 9—Patron of the Black Missions

St. Peter Claver was born at Verdu, Catalonia, Spain, in 1580, of impoverished parents descended from ancient and distinguished families. He studied at the Jesuit College of Barcelona, entered the Jesuit novitiate at Tarragona in 1602 and took his final vows on August 8, 1604. While studying philosophy at Majorca, the young religious was influenced by St. Alphonsus Rodriguez to go to the Indies and save "Millions of those perishing souls."

In 1610, he landed at Cartagena (modern Colombia), the principal slave market of the New World, where a thousand slaves were brought every month. After his ordination in 1616, he dedicated himself to the service of the Black slaves—a work that was to last for thirty-three years. He labored unceasingly for the salvation of the slaves and the abolition of the slave trade, and the love he lavished on them was something that transcended the natural order.

Boarding the slave ships as they entered the harbor, he would hurry to the revolting inferno of the hold, and offer whatever poor refreshments he could afford; he would care for the sick and dying, and instruct the slaves through Black catechists, before administering the sacraments. Through his efforts three hundred thousand souls entered the Church. Furthermore, he did not lose sight of his converts when they left the ships, but followed them to the plantations to which they were sent, encouraged them to live as Christians, and prevailed on their masters to treat them humanely. He died in 1654 and was canonized in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII.

PRAYER God, You conferred on St. Peter Claver a remarkable love and patience to help Your enslaved people and bring them to a knowledge of Your Name. Through his intercession, help us to seek equality for all races. Amen.

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

Saint Cecilia Parish

*90 Church Street
Rockaway, New Jersey 07866*

Parish Office: 973-627-0313 Website: st-cecilia.org — Office: stcec@optonline.net Fax: 973-627-4811
To Contact: Fr. Zig: Ext. 12 or speplowski@optonline.net
Fr. Matt: Ext 15 or frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com
School: 973-627-6003 CCD Office: 973-627-0313 Ext. 17
