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

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 "WeShare". It is the responsibility of the individual to meet these requirements as listed in the Code of Canon Law , #874.

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

Ms. Susan Brennan
TRUSTEE

Mr. 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
RCIA—RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION— FOR ADULTS:
Please contact Sr. Diane @ 973-627-0313 ext: 14
ROSARY PRAYER GROUP: Monday through Sat. @ 7:30 am
FEMININE GENIUS PROJECT: 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:00 pm in the parish office.
ST. JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP: 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at 6:00 am in the parish office.
PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP: 1st Wednesday of the month; 10:00 am in the church
ST. MONICA NOVENA: 4th Saturday after 8:00 am Mass.

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

Monday, December 26, Saint Stephen, The First Martyr
8:00 am—Kathleen Merz Felten req. by Ed & Mary Merz
Tuesday, December 27, Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
8:00 am—Eileen Digby req. the McDonnell Family
Wednesday, December 28, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
8:00 am— Holy Souls req. by Agnes Maye
Thursday, December 29, Fith Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
8:00 am—Ed Kowalski req. by Pat Degnan
Friday, December 30, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
8:00 am—Mario Zambrano req. by Helen Zambrano
Saturday, December 31, Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
8:00 am— Frances Spilman
Sunday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord
4:30 pm—Bernard & Joan McDonnell req. by the McDonnell Family
Keith Cusick, Sr. req. by Jim & Mary Ann Deegan
7:00 pm—Helen DiStefano req. by Gino Spataro
8:00 am— For the parishioners of St. Cecilia Church
9:15 am— For the parishioners of St. Cecilia Church
10:45 am—For the parishioners of St. Cecilia Church
12:15 pm—For the parishioners of St. Cecilia Church

There will be no 6:30 am Mass the week of Monday, December 26th through Monday, January 2nd

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Ethan Chandra, Dean Wayne Campbell, Doris Cusick, Jane Gorcica, Sam Sessa, 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, 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 Cummiskey, 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, 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, Franco Maida, John Sandelli, Alan Zenkert, Fran Gatzke, Bob Nielsen, Gert Taylor, Walter Zelinski, Landon Wierks, Clo Callahan, Michael McClain, David Saggioli, Tommy Slockbower, Michael Hafke, Tyler Bascharow, Wendy Hoppock, Joseph Hoppock, Kevin R. Bruno, II, Larry & Edna Gatzke.

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS
Week Ending : December 11, 2022

Collection—Checks & Cash	$	10,378.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	$	4,746.50
Total Weekly Collection	$	15,124.50
Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	$	760,000.00
Weekly Goal	$	14,000.00
Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	$	524.50
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	$	(26,629.07)

St. Cecilia Church Collection Goals
Week Ending: December 18, 2022

Due to the early publication of the bulletin, the collections totals for the week will be shown next week.
Thank you!

The Sanctuary Candle burning on our altar this week is in loving memory of
Francis J. Goritski, Jr.
Req. by his wife, Angela & daughter, Susan

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.** 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

MERRY CHRISTMAS – Father Matt, Sister Diane, Sister Marlene, Sister John Paul all join with me in wishing you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas and happy New Year! – Father Zig

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – Next Sunday, January 1st is Sister Marlene's birthday. We wish Sister a very happy birthday. May the Lord shower her with great and abundant blessings!

NO HOLY HOUR – Holy Hour will not take place on Monday, December 26th and January 2nd. Holy Hour resumes on Monday, January 9th at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Our Condolences to the Family of:
Jack Zayac, Gloria Benedict,
Joseph Calcano and Edward David
Eternal Rest Grant to him O Lord

YOUR SUNDAY OFFERING CODE – A "QR CODE" is displayed on the bulletin board in the church vestibule, as well as printed in the Sunday bulletin for your use in making an offering to Saint Cecilia's. Some parishioners have indicated that this is a more convenient way for them to make their Sunday offering and so I would like to accommodate them! Your weekly and generous offerings to the Lord are what keep our ministries alive. Thank you for your kindness! – Father Zig

It's Safe, It's Simple & It's Convenient
Give online with WeShare

Support St. Cecilia Parish today using your debit or credit card or checking or savings account: Visit www.st-cecilia.org and click Donate Online. Select the collection or event of your choice. Set up your donation or payment. That's it! **OR SCAN HERE**:

EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL – The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has inaugurated a *EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL* for our country to promote a better understanding, reverence and devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ who is present body, soul and divinity in the Most Blessed Sacrament. This revival will encompass three years focusing on diocesan, parish and national events which will assist the faithful in this graced time. Here at Saint Cecilia's I hope to present a variety of opportunities which will benefit us in this revival. I continue to consult with our parish staff as to how we might best incorporate the revival in our parish. To begin our participation, I would like to publish short reflections in the bulletin from the adults and children of our parish each week starting around Labor Day. Please consider sharing your thoughts on "What the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist mean for my life" Your reflections should be short (fewer than 100 words) and given to me or sent via email: speplowski@optonline.net. Share your testimony to open other hearts to the healing power of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Father Zig

HALLOW is here!

We have recently purchased 1,000 'Holy Day' subscriptions from the #1 Catholic prayer app available! HALLOW is a wonderful resource with lots of amazing content to help you in your daily prayer life. To claim your free subscription to HALLOW (Christmas to Easter) follow the link on our parish website. This is available to the first 1,000 people who sign up. Don't wait!

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.

Christmas Office Hours:

December 26th & December 27th: closed
December 31st: closed
January 2nd: closed

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS – Donations of food are gratefully accepted to help supply the two food pantries being assisted by our parish, the Rockaway Food Closet and Hope House (Catholic Charities in Dover). Your donations may be brought to the designated area in the stairwell of the church (side closest to the parish office) or left in the church vestibule. May God bless you for the generosity you show to the needy!

Monday, December 26
DMA & Parish Office closed
Tuesday, December 27
DMA & Parish Office closed
7:45 pm—Light of Christ Prayer Group (Hayes Hall)
Wednesday, December 28
DMA closed
Parish office open
Thursday, December 29
DMA closed
Parish office open
Friday, December 30
DMA & the Parish Office is closed
Saturday, December 31
New Year's Eve
Sunday, January 1
Happy New Year

2023 LITURGICAL CALENDAR – Copies of the 2023 Liturgical Calendar have been supplied to our parish through the generosity of the Kanapaux Funeral Home located on East Main Street in the Borough. We are most grateful for their kindness and generosity.

SAINT MONICA NOVENA – The Saint Monica Novena will be prayed following the 8 o'clock morning Mass on Saturday, December 31st. The novena prayers are offered especially for family members in need of prayer.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP – The next gathering of the Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group will be on Wednesday, January 4th. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the votive chapel located in the rear of the church. All are welcome to attend.

MARCH FOR LIFE – The annual Rockaway March for Life will take place on Saturday, January 21st. We begin with the 8 o'clock Morning Mass followed by a brief program in Hayes Hall. The March around Park Lake begins about 9:30 with the praying of the Holy Rosary for the defense of human life from conception to natural death. Join us in this witness to the sanctity of human life in Rockaway!

ONE DAILY MASS—The 6:30 am Mass will not be celebrated from Monday, December 26th through Monday, January 2nd. During this time only one Mass will be celebrated in the morning at 8 o'clock. The 6:30 morning Mass returns on Tuesday, January 3rd, along with the 8 o'clock Mass.

Divine Mercy Academy News

Divine Mercy Academy, a PreK3 to Grade 8 elementary school located in Rockaway has the following openings for the 2022-2023 school year:

After-care aide
Part-time in-class teacher/support aide
Early childhood aide

If interested, please contact Annie Mitchell, Principal at amitchell@dmarockaway.org or call 973-627-6003. In addition, please send your cover letter, resume, and certifications to amitchell@dmarockaway.org.

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

INTERNATIONAL PARISH EVENT – ***"Every Nation on Earth"*** is the name of the international parish event which will take place on Sunday, January 15th in Hayes Hall to celebrate the Epiphany. International food and music will be part of this FOOD, FUN and FAITH EVENT similar to the very successful Festa Cecilia event held in November. Registration for the January 15th event is a must and will be limited to 180 people. The suggested donation is $20 per family. Registration may be done by calling the parish office (973.627.0313) or on line by going to the parish website: (st-cecilia.org). Deadline for registration is Tuesday, January 10th. The event will begin at 1:15 pm and conclude no later than 3:30 pm. Bring the family for this celebration of various cultures. (A gift from the Holy Land will be given to each participating family!)

ATTENTION MEN – A men's CORNERSTONE RETREAT will take place on Friday and Saturday, January 27 & 28 at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church, 75 Ridgedale Avenue in Cedar Knolls. The event begins at 5:30 pm on Friday and concludes at the 5 pm Mass on Saturday. Register on line at: https://ndcarmel.com OR contact Allwyn Colaco at 732.322.4920 OR Brent Lynch at 973.476.0487. Come and experience 24 hours of sharing prayer and reflection. Listen to powerful testimonies of men that bring our faith to life. Reflect upon experiences that demonstrate how God is present in our lives, how He is calling you and how He is the cornerstone. Join us in this great opportunity to meet other men who seek a conversion of the heart and strengthening through the Holy Spirit.

BIBLE STUDIES – The Monday evening Bible Study will resume on January 9th at 7:30 p.m. The Tuesday morning Bible Study will resume on January 17th at 9:30 a.m.

St. Cecilia Senior Citizens Club:
Next meeting—January 3rd - 12:00 pm
All are welcome!

Pregnant? Need Help? Know someone who needs help?

You are not alone! The Catholic Church wants to help you and your baby through your pregnancy and after! The following link will take you to the Paterson Diocesan website for sources of help for women who find themselves in crisis pregnancies: https://rcdop.org/resources-for-moms-in-need

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Christmas Mass Schedule – 2022
Saturday, December 24th:
3:00 pm – Christmas Holy Mass
4:30 pm – Christmas Holy Mass
7:00 pm – Christmas Holy Mass
9:30 pm – Christmas Carols
10:00 pm – Christmas Holy Mass
Sunday, December 25th:
8:00 am – Christmas Holy Mass
9:15 am – Christmas Holy Mass
10:45 am – Christmas Holy Mass
12:15 pm – Christmas Holy Mass
Saturday, December 31st:
8:00 am – Holy Mass; 4:30 pm & 7:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday, January 1st, 2023:
8:00 am – Holy Mass
9:15 am – Holy Mass
10:45 am – Holy Mass
12:15 pm – Holy Mass

WHEN A PRIEST IS NEEDED—When a family member is sick and in need of a priest for the sacraments please call the parish office so that a priest will be notified of the request. ON THE WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS AND EVENINGS AFTER OFFICE HOURS, PLEASE CALL THE EMERGENCY NUMBER (862-251-1229) AND LEAVE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER CLEARLY AND A PRIEST WILL RESPOND. The emergency number is given at the beginning of the announcement when calling the parish office after hours as well.

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.

INVITATION TO RCIA— Have you been worshiping with us, but have never officially taken the step to become Catholic? Are you seeking a relationship with Jesus, but have not been Baptized or Confirmed or have not received First Communion? Are you married to a Catholic , but just don't know the next step to become Catholic?
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which non-Catholics learn and normally enter the Catholic Faith. RCIA is also for baptized Catholics who missed receiving Eucharist or Confirmation. Group sessions begin on Sundays starting in October in the St. Cecilia Parish Office. Interested in more info? Leave a message for Sister Diane at the Parish Office: 973-627-0313 ext. 14.

YEAR END GIVING – As the end of the year approaches many charitable organizations will send requests for a year end donation. The benefit of these donations to the giver is, in our case, the amount may be beneficial for income tax reporting and having the joy of knowing that your gift is a gift to the Lord. As you know, here at Saint Cecilia's we have a special Christmas Mass Offering which encourages you to make a special end of the year donation to our parish in honor of Our Lord's Nativity. For some individuals the best way to make a special donation may be to donate securities in lieu of cash. If you are in a position to contribute securities, please contact the parish office for further information to pass along to your broker to complete your donation. As always, our parish (your spiritual home) is most grateful for your contributions at this time and throughout the year! – *Father Zig*

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear parishioners,
Today is a double solemnity, the Lord's Day and the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. There are three sets of Scripture readings for this Sunday namely, MIDNIGHT, DAWN and DURING THE DAY. All three sets are proclaimed with the "Midnight" readings on Saturday; the "Dawn" readings at the 8 and 9:15 am Sunday Masses; and the "During the Day" readings at the 10:45 and 12:15 Masses. All three sets of readings give us a wonderful perspective on the feast of our salvation when the Christ Child was born in Bethlehem which was a cosmic event impacting human history.
With today's feast we begin the OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS, meaning that for the next 8 days this feast is celebrated as if it were one long day. Throughout this coming week we will also remember the first martyr, Saint Stephen; the last Apostle to die and the only non martyr of the group, Saint John. We will remember the Holy Innocents who were killed by King Herod, along with Saint Thomas Becket and Saint Sylvester – a very active liturgical week! On Friday we will observe the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the household of Joseph, Mary and the Child Jesus. This day will invite us to reflect on family life and the call to holiness which is extended to parents and children. In our challenging world where family is being assaulted, we ask for strength from the Holy Family to witness in our culture to the importance of traditional family of father, mother and children.
We pray for families gathered to celebrate Christmas and who seek the blessings of the Lord during this most holy time of the year:
We bless Your Name, O Lord, for sending Your own Incarnate Son to become part of a family, so that as He lived its life, He would experience its worries and joys. We ask You, Lord, to protect and watch over our family, so that in the strength of Your grace we may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of Your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to Your glory.
May the Lord Jesus, who lived with His Holy Family in Nazareth, dwell also with our family, keep us from all evil, and make all of us one in heart and mind. AMEN
Next Sunday we observe another double solemnity: the Lord's Day and Mary, Mother of God since next Sunday will be January 1st.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Father Zig

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs
December 28—Patrons of Choirboys

To the male children of two years and under that were killed in Bethlehem and its environs by order of King Herod, Sts. Irenaeus, Augustine, and other early Fathers give the title of Martyrs, and as such they have been commemorated from the lst century and honored in the liturgy of the Church. In the Western Church, the Mass of the Holy Innocents is celebrated like those of Advent and Lent, without festal chants.

These innocent victims gave testimony to the Messiah and Redeemer, not by words but by their blood. They triumphed over the world and won their crown without having experienced the evils of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

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

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Fr. Matt: Ext 15 or frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com
School: 973-627-6003 CCD Office: 973-627-0313 Ext. 17