

Saint Cecilia Parish

90 Church Street
Rockaway, New Jersey 07866

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

Fax: 973-627-4811

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. Jaime Ann Patel
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.

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

Ms. Susan Brennan
TRUSTEE

Mr. 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 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 Summer Office Hours:

Starting after Memorial Day until Labor Day
Monday thru Thursday: 8:30—4:00 (Lunch 12:00—1:00)
Friday: Closed

Monday, August 21, Saint Pius X, Pope

6:30 am — Edith Zelaya req. by Ismael & Lillian Franqui

8:00 am — Bill Gallagher req. by his wife, Jeanne

Tuesday, August 22, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 am — Special Intention

8:00 am — Special Intention for Michael Sebastian req. by Amy Sebastian

Wednesday, August 23, Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin

6:30 am — Diane Milo

8:00 am — Manuel Sebastian req. by Carmen Faber

Thursday, August 24, Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

6:30 am — Zigmund Peplowski req. by Fr. Zig & Brothers

8:00 am — Blanche Gray req. by Family

Friday, August 25, Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest

6:30 am — Frederick & Mary Brussell req. by McDonnell Family

8:00 am — Angela Goritski req. by Lee Ann & Marty Mackin

Saturday, August 26, Weekday

8:00 am — Frederick & Mary Brussell req. by McDonnell Family

Sunday, August 27, Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm — Jack Zayac req. by Linda & Bob Zayac

Angela Goritski req. by Roberta Vitcusky

7:00 pm — Irene M. Holzschuh req. by Ag Struble

8:00 am — Dennis & Judy Connelly req. by Donna & Dave Robertson

Rosine Joyce Fenners req. by Patrick & Sandra Castellano

9:15 am — David Shapiro req. by the Donnelly Family

Joan McDonnell req. by McDonnell Family

10:45 am — Joshua George Egan req. by HIS Home-Base Community

Vincent Scriveri req. by the Plateroti Family

12:15 pm — Gerald Pagano, Sr. req. by Family & Friends

James Dragone req. by Rosalie & Bob Marmara

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : August 13, 2023**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 6,833.50
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 7,059.25
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 13,892.75

Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	\$ 785,000.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 14,038.46

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (145.71)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (6,139.66)

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

Our Condolences to the Family of:
Marion Cables, Sharon Kunzer and Mildred Passarella
Eternal Rest Grant to him O Lord

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Ethan Chandra, Dean Wayne Campbell, Doris Cusick, Jane Gorica, 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, Mike Murray, Helene Turner, Michael Turner, Ruben Lorenzo, Michael Alvarez, Mina Simmons-Jones, Joe Maulbeck, Mary Merz, 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, Emilio Viola, James Deegan, Martha Salvesen, 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, Jeremiah O'Brien, Lanie Bruno, Ben Duphiney, Jill Breslin.



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

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 (862-251-3914) AND LEAVE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER CLEARLY AND A PRIEST WILL RESPOND. Please note that the hospital does not call the parish office to notify the priest if a parishioner is admitted. This becomes the families responsibility.

2023 - 2024 Faith Formation Registration

Details for next year's programs are available on the parish website. Here are just some of the programs we look forward to launching again in the fall

- 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
- and lots more! REGISTER TODAY!

PARISH CEMETERY NEWS – Due to an increase in costs the rates for burial at our parish cemetery will also increase beginning on September 1st. This includes both traditional in-ground AND columbarium burials. For information regarding our parish cemetery please contact Diane Boykow by calling the parish office at 973.627.0313 X 11 OR stceciyacemetery@gmail.com.

LABOR DAY MASS – Holy Mass on Labor Day, Monday, September 4th will be celebrated at the parish cemetery beginning at 9 o'clock in the morning. Those attending should bring a lawn chair for the service. In the event of rain the Mass will take place in the church. The 6:30 and 8 o'clock morning Masses will not take place on Labor Day but will resume the next day, Tuesday, September 5th.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE – On Saturday, October 14th the Diocese of Paterson will have a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Buses will be departing from various locations in the diocese for this event. We hope to fill a bus from Rockaway and registration for the trip is currently taking place. For registration and additional information please call Pat Zayac at 973.625.4572. An overnight option for this event is also available. Let's join Bishop Sweeney, the clergy and over a thousand faithful from the diocese as we journey to "Mary's House" in the nation's capital.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION – Our adult faith formation opportunities begin in the parish next month. **MONDAY EVENING** we will begin a series entitled, "*What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith*", starting September 11th, which will meet in Hayes Hall beginning at 7:30 in the evening. **TUESDAY MORNING** Father Matt will conduct a Bible Study which begins on September 12th at 9:30 in the morning. **THURSDAY EVENING** a new series will be offered entitled, "*Saint Cecilia Presents...*" which begins on September 21st starting at 7 o'clock in the evening. This series will be composed of 6 gatherings which will address various topics presented by guest speakers. The list of dates and topics may be found on the bulletin board located in the vestibule as well as in the Sunday bulletin.

HOLY HOUR RETURNS – Monday evening Holy Hour returns on Monday, September 11th from 7 to 8 o'clock. Prior to the conclusion of Holy Hour the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed. Confession also takes place during this time.

MASS IN HAYES HALL – The Air Conditioning system in the church is only partially functioning and I am in the process of meeting with various companies to replace our aging system. In the event of extreme heat during the summer months, Holy Masses will be celebrated in Hayes Hall (which has a separate cooling system). – Father Zig

LOW GLUTEN – Those who cannot tolerate wheat products can receive the Holy Eucharist via a low gluten host which is approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Person(s) must make themselves identified to the priest no later than 10 minutes before Mass begins by going to the priest sacristy so that the preparation may be made for Mass.

FESTA CECILIA – Our second annual FESTA CECILIA will take place in Hayes Hall on Friday, November 10th. A planning meeting for this event will take place on Hayes Hall on Thursday, September 7th beginning at 7 o'clock. Anyone interested in helping to plan this fun-filled event is invited to attend.

MISSION APPEAL – Donations are still coming in for the MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE APPEAL which was taken last Sunday. Father Michael, a priest of the Holy Ghost Fathers from Nigeria, was here to tell us about the assistance they need and how important are our prayers and offerings. Next week's bulletin will report the amount collected for this cause.

Monday, August 21
Tuesday, August 22
 7:45 pm—*Light of Christ Prayer Group (HH)*
Wednesday, August 23
Thursday, August 24
Friday, August 25
 6:00 pm—*St. Monica Event (Rector)*
Saturday, August 26
Sunday, August 27

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. Your weekly and generous offerings to the Lord are what keep our ministries alive. Thank you for your kindness! – Father Zig



FILIPINO SAINTS CELEBRATION: 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, 2023 (Saturday).

The celebration’s highlight 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. Praying of the rosary and novena to the Filipino Saints will start at 10:30 AM.

Please get in touch with Elmer at (973)664-1949 or email DCCFM at dccfmevents@gmail.com for more information. Thank you.

Beyond The Beacon Podcast with Bishop Kevin Sweeney
 Join Bishop Kevin Sweeney and Communications Director Jai Agnish of the Diocese of Paterson, N.J., as they discuss current events and topics relevant to the local Church in Paterson and the global Catholic Church. Bishop Sweeney answers questions from listeners, interviews guests, and shares reflections and insights helpful for all striving to live a life of faith, hope, and love. All are invited to send questions for the bishop and podcast topic suggestions to beyond@patersondiocese.org. You can listen where you find your favorite podcast or visit <https://beyond.beaconnj.org>.

Divine Mercy Academy News



New student registration is now open for 2023!

Call or email us to schedule a tour, shadow day or for more information:

aservidio@dmrockaway.org or call us at 973-627-6003

BACK PACK BLESSING FOR STUDENTS – All young people of the parish are invited to a blessing of school back packs on Saturday, September 16th. The ceremony will take place in the church at 12 noon followed by ice cream in Hayes Hall. Let’s begin the new school year with God’s blessing upon our school work!

The Compassionate Friends-Parsippany Chapter; A Self-Help group for bereaved PARENTS, SIBLINGS, and GRANDPARENTS, **ALL** meetings are held every **2nd Thursday** of each month, our next in-person scheduled meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 7:30pm; NEW LOCATION: 427 Franklin Road, Denville, NJ, Union Hill Presbyterian Church/School- Recreation Room (Back Entrance)**. Please join our **private** facebook page "The Compassionate Friends Parsippany Chapter" for more information regarding in-person meetings. **Program for September 14, 2023: "Speaker: Lisa Athen, MA; Grief Specialist"**

ARE YOU REGISTERED? – Saint Cecilia’s is the best parish in the Diocese of Paterson! I know that I am prejudiced but I truly believe this and I hope you do too! We welcome all people to our parish and are delighted each time new members join our faith community. My question is to all, **ARE YOU REGISTERED AS A PARISHIONER?** If you are not sure, please give the parish office a call (973.627.0313) and speak with Janet or Diane to check and to update any information regarding yourself, such as phone number and e mail address, etc. This information is most helpful for me in providing pastoral care to you and your family. Your parish registration is also necessary when you may be asked to submit a “certificate of eligibility” to serve as a godparent/sponsor. If I do not have your registration information then this can become a difficulty. The Registration form may be found on line by going to the parish website or by receiving a copy from the parish office. Your completed registration form may be mailed to the parish office or placed in the collection basket on Sunday. **Register and be counted** among those who love and support Saint Cecilia’s! – FATHER ZIG

FIRST FRIDAY VISITS—Father Matt and I visit the homebound on the first Friday of every month with the Holy Eucharist and the availability for confession as well. Should you or someone you know like for the priest to visit them on first Friday, please call the parish office and leave your name and phone number so that we may add you to our schedule. - Fr. Zig

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, favors, etc. PLEASE DO NOT BE FOOLED!!! Fr. Zig

Saint Cecilia Senior Club trips:

Wind Creek Casino - September 12th Cost \$35 (you will receive \$25 in free Slot play) Bus leaves St. Cecilia parking lot in Rockaway NJ at 9:00 a.m.

Silver Birches - September 13th Italian Festival Cost \$68 - includes: bus, Italian food all day - and a full day of fun! You must register and pay for trips at least 4 weeks prior to the event.

All are welcome - Call Carol Shanik at 201-919-4125 or call/ text Sophie Boylan at 973-652-0762 to make your reservation.

SAVE THE DATE
Craft and Vendor Fair
St. Cecilia Church Hall

90 Church Street
Rockaway, NJ 07866
Saturday, November 18, 2023
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

For further information email:
saintceciiliarosarysociety@gmail.com

GOLD and SILVER WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1973 or 1998? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 60+, 50th or 25th 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 12, 2023 at 3:00pm.**

Arrangements can be made by contacting your parish office. **The deadline to register is Wednesday, October 11, 2023.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. *Congratulations on this joyous occasion!*

"What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith"

Discover the Amazing Riches of the Catholic Faith.

What is the Catholic Church all about? What does it mean to be Catholic? What do Catholics actually believe?

The Catholic Church is extraordinary. Founded by Christ himself, the Catholic Church is where we encounter God in his Word, his sacraments, and his saints. The Church faithfully proclaims the fullness of faith, leaving no truth out. It proclaims the fullness of life, leaving no person out. It calls all to repent and to believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the source of all life and salvation.

Maybe you've been Catholic your entire life. Maybe you're just beginning to explore the Catholic Faith. Wherever you may be in your journey, you will be profoundly moved by the beauty and the richness of the Catholic Church.

Written and presented by Marcellino D'Ambrosio and Andrew and Sarah Swafford, *What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith* was filmed on location in Rome. In it you will discover:

What Catholics truly believe

Who Catholics truly are and how we are called to live

The blessings of Creation, redemption, and newness of life in the Holy Spirit

The profound gift of the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of our Faith

How to imitate Christ through prayer, through personal conversion, and through love for others

And more!

This Study Set includes:

The Full-Color What We Believe Workbook – Provides session overviews, home reading assignments, engaging study questions, responses, and talk notes for the video presentations.

The What We Believe Chart – A visual overview of the life of Jesus plus a summary of Catholic beliefs concerning Christ.

The What We Believe Book – Dives into the rich heritage of our Catholic faith.

Online Access for One Year – Immediate access to the ten study videos and the online workbook.

This exciting series will begin on Monday September 11, 2023, at 7:30pm in Hayes Hall. Participants will meet for 10 weeks in a small group setting to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. There will be a \$35.00 cost that covers the workbook, chart, book, and online video access. Registration ends on August 28th. For more information or to register, contact Charles Malaniak cemalaniak@gmail.com.



My dear parishioners,

Today is the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time as we gather to celebrate the Lord's Day. In our Eucharistic assembly the Sacred Scriptures bring to our attention those who are sometimes called "foreigners." Most times this has a pejorative sound and labels people who don't belong. The Prophet Isaiah speaks positively regarding those who are not Jews because they show themselves as faithful servants of the Lord whom they love and serve. In the Gospel passage for today we hear about the Canaanite woman who shows great faith in Jesus and persists in making her request for her suffering daughter. She believes that Jesus can cure her of her malady. The Lord recognizes her faith and exalts her before His dismissive disciples.

The epistle reading for today concludes with the words by the Apostle Paul, "...that He might have mercy upon all." This is the point which the Scriptures are making, **ALL OF US ARE MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY, HOW COULD WE BE FOREIGN TO ONE ANOTHER?** God our Father has mercy on us all, His children who unfortunately wander into sin and away from one another. Our sins blind us to seeing one another as brothers and sisters. Our sins enable us to view others as "outsiders" and those who don't belong. As a result of this greater infractions occur such as prejudice, segregation, and name-calling which end in violence.

The words of the Responsorial Psalm are a wonderful reminder to us of how all people are called into the family of God, **O GOD, LET ALL THE NATIONS PRAISE YOU!** Yes, the Lord has created us individually and uniquely as reflections of His glory. We come from various cultures, keeping different traditions, speaking different languages but these should not estrange us from one another. Rather, these differences are invitations for us to learn about one another and so appreciate each other's heritage as we rejoice in the Lord.

Breaking down stereotypes is not easy today nor was it easy for Jesus either. However, the Lord continued to teach regarding this subject such as in the parable of the Good Samaritan or the return of the one cured Samaritan leper. Remember, Samaritans were FOREIGNERS, OUTSIDERS WHO DON'T BELONG and yet Jesus welcomed them and saw them as being members of the Kingdom of God.

How beautiful is our FAMILY OF SAINT CECILIA! Peoples of every nation, culture and language make up our parish family. We are so blessed to be a reflection of the Kingdom of God! I can hear the Lord say about Saint Cecilia's, "MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLES."

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

ST. BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle
August 24 – Patron of Plasterers

Many Scripture scholars identify (reasonably but not conclusively) St. Bartholomew with Nathaniel who was conducted to Christ by St. Philip. The name of Bartholomew signified son of Tolmai, and it was given to the Saint in the same sense that "Bar Jonah" was attached to St. Peter. He was chosen by our Lord Himself to be one of the Twelve Apostles.

According to Eusebius and other ancient writers, he preached the Gospel in the most barbarous countries of the East, penetrating as far as India. Eusebius relates that when St. Pantaeus, in the 3rd century, went to India, he still found the knowledge of Christ in that country, and a copy of the Gospel of St. Matthew in Hebrew was shown to him, which he was told had been brought there by St. Bartholomew.

St. John Chrysostom declares that St. Bartholomew brought the Faith to the people of Lycaonia. According to St. Gregory of Tours, the last field of his labors was Great Armenia, where preaching in a place obstinately addicted to the worship of idols, he suffered martyrdom. By some it is said that he was flayed alive; by others that he suffered crucifixion – both these opinions being reconcilable. The relics of the Saint are preserved in the church of St. Bartholomew on the island in the Tiber River near Rome.

PRAYER Lord, strengthen in us that Faith by which Your Apostle St. Bartholomew adhered to Your Son with sincerity of mind. Through his intercession, grant that Your Church may become a sacrament of salvation for all nations. Amen.

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

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