

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: Last 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, October 9, Saint Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs, Saint John Leonard, Priest

6:30 am – For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:00 am – Scott Townsend req. by Roberta Vitcuskay

Tuesday, October 10, Weekday

6:30 am – Robert Duffy

8:00 am – Valerie Kershaw

Wednesday, October 11, Saint John XXIII, Pope

6:30 am – For the sick listed in our bulletin and their caregivers

8:00 am – Patricia Bath req. by Maulbeck Family

Thursday, October 12, Blessed Carlo Acutis

6:30 am – Joanne Houser req. by Fr. Zig

8:00 am – Al Cuneo req. by Ag Struble & Family

Friday, October 13, Weekday

6:30 am – Davidson Jean-Francois req. by his sister, Viviane

8:00 am – Helene Welch req. by Roberta Vitcuskay

Saturday, October 14, Saint Callistus I, Pope

8:00 am – Luis Felice req. by Rivera Family

Sunday, October 15, Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm – Robert C. Mills req. by Swanick Family

Mary Honecker req. by Roberta Vitcuskay

7:00 pm – Gary Kufall req. by Karen Kufall

8:00 am – Midas Jean-Francois req. by his daughter, Viviane

9:15 am – Donald & Lorraine Schneelock Family

10:45 am – Renato Sebastian & Antonita DeJesus req. by Family

12:15 pm – Millie Velotta req. by Rosalie & Bob Marmara

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS

Week Ending : October 1, 2023

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 9,028.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 5,014.00
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 14,042.00

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 3.54
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (5,941.64)

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC

NO HOLY HOUR – As is our practice for national holidays, Holy Hour and Monday night Bible study will not take place on Monday, October 9th in observance of Columbus Day. Both return next week, October 16th.

FATHER MATT – Father Matt will be on vacation visiting his family in Europe. We wish him good travels and anxiously await his return on October 25th.

Our Condolences to the Family of:

Thomas Schottinger

Eternal Rest Grant to him Lord

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, 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, Claire Wasacz, Emilio Viola, James Deegan, Martha Salvesen, Ramiro Hinojosa, Jimmy Buckley, Emily Gatzke, Clare Desmond, 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, Kevin R. Bruno, II, Larry Gatzke, Jeremiah O'Brien, Lanie Bruno, Ben Duphiney, Jill Breslin, Nick Auriemma, Joan Apgar, Richard Sala.



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

RCIA COMMUNICATIONS 2023

INVITATION TO RCIA— Have you been worshipping 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 meetings begin on Sundays starting in October in the St. Cecilia Parish Office. Interested in more info? Leave a message with your phone number and/or email address for Sister Diane at the Parish Office: 973-627-0313 ext. 14.

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.

We are online: www.st-cecilia.org

FESTA PLANNING MEETING – A planning meeting for the November FESTA CECILIA will take place on Tuesday, October 10th at 7 o'clock in Hayes Hall. The meeting is open to all interested parishioners.

“SAINT CECILIA PRESENTS...” - Next in our series will be a presentation by Professor Dawn Eden Goldstein on her recently published book, Father Ed: The Story of Bill W's Spiritual Sponsor. The presentation will take place on Thursday, October 19th in Hayes Hall beginning at 7 o'clock. Please join us in hearing about this remarkable story of faith and support.

**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:**



2023 Diocesan Ministries Appeal “I Have Called You By Name”

There are a number of ways to support the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Parishioners can make a one-time gift, a pledge payable over five months, or a recurring monthly gift to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. By making a recurring gift, you are helping ensure that your donation continues not just monthly but from year to year. You can adjust or cancel your recurring gift any time. For more information, please call the Diocesan Development Office at 973-777-8818, ext. 263. Please know that any way you contribute to the 2023 Diocesan Ministries Appeal is a blessing to all the people that are served. May God bless you for your support!

Visit www.2023appeal.org to make a gift today.

Volunteers Needed! As we begin a new school year we also begin a new faith formation year for the children of the parish. We are in need of volunteer catechists to help teach in the classrooms. If you have ever considered serving in this very important ministry, please reach out to Jim Clancy at the parish office. Serving as a teacher of religious education is a vocational calling, and I would ask you to please prayerfully consider what God might be calling you to do. Classes are held on Sunday mornings and Tuesday nights. Please see the parish website for more details.

Jim Clancy - StCecilia.FaithFormation@gmail.com

"Do you want to do a good deed? Teach the young! Do you want to perform a holy act? Teach the young! Do you want to do a holy thing? Teach the young! Truly, now and for the future, among holy things, this is the holiest." – St John Bosco

FESTA CECILIA – Our second annual FESTA CECILIA will take place on Friday, November 10th in Hayes Hall from 5:30 to 8 o'clock. Based on an Italian festival our gathering celebrates our patroness Saint Cecilia who lived and was martyred in Rome. Our festival will begin with Italian food being available from 5:30 to 7 o'clock followed by a program of music and activities for all ages. A \$20 donation is asked per family and may be submitted at the door. Registration is required and must be done on the parish website no later than Friday, November 3rd. **JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN AND FAITH!!**

Children's Liturgy—9:15 Mass: Children's liturgy at the 9:15 Mass has resumed for the 2023-2024 year. All children ages 4-10 are invited to participate. Adult readers, homilists and aides are needed for this ministry. Please call the parish office or Denise at 973-462-3795 for information.

Monday, October 9*DMA & Parish Office closed today***Tuesday, October 10***7:45 pm—Light of Christ Prayer Group (HH)***Wednesday, October 11***2:00 pm—DMA Lectors Club (Church)***Thursday, October 12****Friday, October 13****Saturday, October 14***8:30 am—Men's Society Meeting (Hayes Hall)**Diocesan Pilgrimage—Washington DC**Life Runner Tee Shirt Sale after all the Masses***Sunday, October 15***Life Runner Tee Shirt Sale after all the Masses**9:15 am—Children's Liturgy (Hayes Hall)**10:30 am—CCD Class (DMA)**3:00 pm—Vivere Christus Est Awards (Cathedral of St. John the Baptist)*

SUMMER PROJECTS FUND – We conclude the “summer projects fund” by acknowledging the recent donation of \$300 from the Men’s Society. The fund was established to help finance the reconstruction of the retaining wall behind the rectory as well as other projects which had to be addressed this past summer. I am most grateful to all those who made a donation to this appeal. Please know that repairs to our ageing buildings is a constant issue and your generous contribution to the CHURCH REPAIRS ENVELOPE which appears this month is most greatly appreciated! – Father Zig

From Our Lady of the Mountain Church in Long Valley—Join us on our trip to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. We will be seeing a great performance of the Christmas Show which will be truly amazing. The performance will be on November 10th. The bus leaves from Our Lady of the Mountain Church in Long Valley at 9:15 a.m. and returns around 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$155 for adults, children 12 and under are \$88. This includes the bus trip, show, and an Amish-style lunch. For registration please contact the Parish office at 908-876-4395.

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.

Divine Mercy Academy News**Divine Mercy Academy is hiring!**

We have an open position for a part-time reading specialist. Experience in Orton-Gillingham and/or Wilson Reading System a plus. Send resume to jpatel@dmrockaway.org.

We also have opening for part-time aftercare staff. Please call the school if interested @ 973-627-6003.

Divine Mercy Academy's Grandfriends in Faith Program

We are delighted to announce the revival of our *Grandfriends in Faith Program*. Ms. Roberti and her fourth grade students would like to extend a warm invitation to senior parishioners to join this wonderful intergenerational program. The goal of this program is to promote love, unity, and warm fellowship between youth and senior adults. The fourth grade class and their Grandfriends will meet throughout the school year in DMA's all purpose room to form a lasting friendship, join creative forces in a craft or activity, and grow in faith. Of course the meeting is never complete without delicious treats provided by the fourth grade parents. Please note that all Grandfriends will be required to complete the Diocesan “Protecting God’s Children” process prior to participation. If you are interested in joining Grandfriends in Faith, please contact Mrs. Patel at

jpatel@dmrockaway.org.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS – Mrs. Jaime Patel and I would like to thank all those who have made donations to the newly established Saint Faustina Scholarship Fund to aid Divine Mercy Academy. All donations will be acknowledged personally by the school and will be published in the upcoming days. God bless you! – Father Zig

RUN FOR A NUN – The Sisters of Christian Charity will conduct the 10th Annual RUN FOR A NUN. The event will take place at the scenic Natirar Park in Peapack Gladstone. Check-in and registration opens at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 14th. To register for the run or to make a donation in memory/honor of a Sister visit the website: <https://sccus.org/runforanun>. Your support of this fund raiser for the Sisters is greatly appreciated.

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

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:

saintceciariosarysociety@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 60th, 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!*

TUTOR A CATHOLIC SISTER!

Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, NJ, is in need of volunteers to tutor Sister students in person. We are also seeking a volunteer fluent in French to assist a Sister recently arrived from Burundi. Please call 973-957-0188 X 102 or email president@acs350.org. THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE SISTERS FIND SUCCESS!

TUESDAY NIGHT LECTURE SERIES

Assumption College for Sisters invites you to the Tuesday Night Lectures Series, *Honoring Seasons of Life*. Schedule and topics: Sept. 26, *Season of Creation*, "How can we celebrate and advocate for God's gifts of creation?" with Sr. Patrice Owens, SSC; October 24, *Seasons of Wholeness*, "What are the Eastern Catholic Churches?" with Fr. Sigmund Peplowski; Nov. 14, *Season of Abundance*, *America's Indigenous Peoples*, "What can their heritage, spirituality teach us?" with Sr. Maire Pauline Demek, SCC and Sr. Carol Schuyler, SCC; Dec. 12, *Season of Emmanuel*, "Our place at the Advent/Christmas table with the Holy Family" with Mr. John Ward. Times: 7 - 8 pm, all lectures via LIVE STREAM. To register contact registrar@acs350.org indicating lectures you wish to attend and include a phone number. Free will offering. All are welcome!

Please join Morris County Right to Life in Morristown this fall between Sept 27th and Nov. 5th for 40 Days for Life. We are looking for volunteer to pray in front of the Planned Parenthood at 196 Speedwell Avenue for an hour or so between 7am and 7pm. Many babies lives are lost at this location every week. Prayers save lives! Please contact Frances Spilman at 44lifeus@gmail.com for more information. You can also sign up at: 40DaysforLife.com/ Morristown

Morris Catholic High School Open House

Morris Catholic High School in Denville, NJ, is accepting applications for the Class of 2028 and transfer students for this academic year. Learn more about Morris Catholic by attending our fall Open Houses: Sunday, October 22, 2-4 pm Register for this event at www.morriscatholic.org/openhouse/ Contact admissions@morriscatholic.org to learn more about Morris Catholic and this event!

St. Cecilia's LIFE Runners'

THOMAS A HALTIGAN MEMORIAL PRO-LIFE 5K

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Run, Walk or Jog. All Age Groups for the Protection and Sanctity of Human Life from the Moment of Conception until Natural Death: **Where:** Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, 91 Maple Ave., Morristown, NJ. Participants should arrive by **1:30 PM to sign in for 5K, which commences at 2:30 PM** immediately following prayer gathering. Light refreshments - Entry Fee: \$25. (Check payable to St. Cecilia Church. Write LIFE Runners in memo section of check. Write your name(s) and LIFE Runners via Venmo @StCecilia-FaithFormation) Fundraiser for *Rockaway Denville Catholic Respect Life Ministry-*

Registration & More Info:

John Byrne:

e-mail: jaidanbyrne@optonline.net

Jim Gallagher: e-mail

e-mail: jamesfgall@aol.com

Phone/Text: 973-529-4699

Walk-Ins Accepted. Jerseys available on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. You can also wear your own pro-life jersey. **5K is via sidewalks and pedestrian crossings of Morristown, NJ and is NOT timed.** Registration and Jerseys for sale at weekend Masses, October 14 & 15 (\$25 pp). Donations accepted if you wish to support this \$5K but can't attend **REGISTRATION Online** via Parish Website: www.st-cecilia.org





My dear parishioners,

We gather in church today to welcome the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The image of the VINEYARD is prominent in the liturgy of the Word in which all are called to labor for the building up of the Kingdom of God. This work is continually being stifled by the devil who uses those with evil intentions to level harm upon the Kingdom's laborers. The workers in the vineyard work to gather a harvest for the divine landowner, God, knowing that they have been called to this work despite its hardships. Others have come before as prophets *"and finally He sent His Son to them."* Although He was treated shamefully and killed God raised Him on the third day and He *"has become the cornerstone...and it is wonderful in our eyes."*

Laboring faithfully in the vineyard of the Lord is a task to which all of us have been called. In today's epistle reading the Apostle Paul encourages the Philippian Christians of his day, as well as us, to be strong in our duties as followers of Christ. He wrote: *"Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you."* Working diligently for the Kingdom brings with it the reward of eternal life which was won by Christ's Holy Resurrection.

In his Apostolic Journey to the United Kingdom in 2010 Pope Benedict XVI said: *"Each of us is called to work for the advancement of God's Kingdom by imbuing temporal life with the values of the Gospel. Each of us has a mission, each of us is called to change the world, to work for a culture of life, a culture forged by love and respect for the dignity of each human person."* The late Pontiff's words challenge us today to labor without ceasing because this is our vocation.

Next Sunday His Excellency, Bishop Kevin Sweeney will present the annual VIVERE CHRISTUS EST AWARD to various people within the Diocese of Paterson who have distinguished themselves as faithful laborers in the Lord's Vineyard. I am happy to announce that JIM AND ARMI CLANCY are this year's recipients from our parish. The team work of Jim and Armi has been a wonderful contribution to the spiritual life of our parish community for which we are most grateful. The ceremony will take place in the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Paterson beginning at 3 o'clock. All are welcome to attend.

Let us encourage one another as we work in the Vineyard of the Lord!

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

**ST. PELAGIA, Virgin and Martyr
October 8**

Out of a maze of legendary tales connected with this name we can ascertain that the historical St. Pelagia was a devout Christian who lived in Antioch at the end of the 3rd century and the beginning of the 4th. About the year 305, when she was fifteen, the local persecutor of the Church learned of her Christian Faith and sent a group of soldiers to bring her to him for examination.

Despite her tender years, St. Pelagia was well aware of the outrages to which Christ's virgins were subjected in such cases. Therefore, when the soldiers reached her home, she declared that she had to put on her bravest apparel and excused herself from the room. Instead, she swiftly made her way to the roof of her house and flung herself headlong to the ground below in order to preserve her richest prize – the virginity she had vowed to Jesus.

The learned and saintly Doctors, St. Ambrose and St. John Chrysostom, both knew of her action and both concurred that it was a noble example of love of chastity. She is thus classified as a Virgin and Martyr by the Church.

PRAYER *All-powerful and ever-living God, You choose the weak in this world to confound the powerful. As we celebrate the martyrdom of St. Pelagia, may we like her remain constant in Faith. Amen.*



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

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