

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, December 18, Late Advent Weekday

6:30 am—Special Intention: Kathleen Sheridan req. by her sister, Peggy

8:00 am—Departed Members of the Cables Family

Tuesday, December 19, Late Advent Weekday

6:30 am—Special Intention: Kathleen Sheridan req. by her sister, Peggy

8:00 am—Jeanne Gallagher req. by Marge Lesica

Wednesday, December 20, Late Advent Weekday

6:30 am—Special Intention: Kathleen Sheridan req. by her sister, Peggy

8:00 am—Leo P. & Helen Vitcuskey req. by their daughter

Thursday, December 21, Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

6:30 am—Special Intention: Kathleen Sheridan req. by her sister, Peggy

8:00 am—Bill & Jeanne Gallagher

Friday, December 22, Late Advent Weekday

6:30 am—Special Intention: Kathleen Sheridan req. by her sister, Peggy

8:00 am—Philipp L. Cables, Birthday Remembrance

Saturday, December 23, Saint John of Kanty, Priest

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

Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30 pm—Joseph Bartholomew req. by Wife & Daughter Edward Breslauer req. by Noreen

7:00 pm—Special Intention: Carmela Cragin req. by Marie & Ted Wahlstrom

8:00 am—Msgr. Denis Hayes

10:00 am—Msgr. Charles Powers

Sunday, December 24, Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity

3:00 pm—For the parishioners of St. Cecilia Church

4:30 pm—For the parishioners of St. Cecilia Church

7:00 pm—For the parishioners of St. Cecilia Church

9:30 pm—Christmas Carols

10:00 pm—For the parishioners of St. Cecilia Church

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, 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 Cummiskey, Dennis O'Brien, Steven Simmons, Ariel, James DiStaiso, Marty Mackin, Brian Bosworth, Dennis Dilger, Robyne LaGrotta, 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, Michael Hafke, Tyler Bascharow, Kevin R. Bruno, II, Larry Gatzke, Jeremiah O'Brien, Lanie Bruno, Jill Breslin, Joan Apgar, Richard Sala, Richard Cortese, Kathleen Sheridan.

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : December 10, 2023**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 9,836.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 4,044.00
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 13,880.00

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (158.46)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (10,729.19)

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC



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

Jack Zayac

Requested by his Family



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

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

We have begun this year's process of welcoming adults to RCIA (preparation for Baptism) and including adults seeking Confirmation and Eucharist in the Catholic Church. Our four inquiry sessions are now completed. But it's not too late to join us.

For this preliminary period our focus topics overviewed Catholic understanding of these basics for potential members before they make any commitments.

Living Baptism – (about Sacraments)

Knowing and Meeting Jesus – (about Scripture)

Looking at the Apostles Creed – (about Doctrine)

Living Catholic – Commandments & Beatitudes – (about Moral teachings)

New members can review this material at home under the direction of the RCIA Director and discern their readiness to join the preparation process.

The Catechumenate Community begins on December 3rd at the 10:45 am Mass followed by a meeting in the parish office until 12:30 pm. For more information or to register, leave a message for Sister Diane at the parish office - 973.627.0313 ext. 14 with your phone number and email.

MONDAY NIGHTS – The Monday evening Bible study will resume on January 8th in Hayes Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. Our course of study and conversation is entitled, "Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism." This 7 week video series is open to all adults. Workbook cost is \$35. For additional information please contact Chuck Malaniak at cmalaniak@gmail.com.

2024 CALENDAR – Many thanks to the Kanapaux Funeral Home on East Main Street in Rockaway for the donation of the 2024 Liturgical Calendars for our use. The calendars may be found on the table in the church vestibule.

RORATE MASS – The 6:30 a.m. weekly Mass during the season of Advent will be celebrated in honor of the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary. This Mass is known as the "Rorate Mass" which is a custom centuries old in the Western Church. Rorate is the Latin word for the term "to drip moisture" which comes from the Old Testament regarding the prediction of the coming of the Messiah.

**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:**



BAMINELLI BLESSING – The blessing of the Baminelli (Baby Jesus from the crèche) will take place at all masses on Saturday and Sunday, December 16 and 17. This is an Italian custom in which the faithful bring to the church the Baby Jesus from their home Nativity display. This is a wonderful event in which the children can participate and learn about the faith through their parent's encouragement.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Our parish Christmas Concert will take place in the church on Sunday, December 17th at 7 o'clock in the evening. Join us for what will be a beautiful evening of choral and instrumental music.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE – 8 priests will be with us for our annual Advent penance service on Monday, December 18th beginning at 7 o'clock. This will be the final time to go to confession prior to Christmas so that our soul may be prepared to welcome our Savior.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE AT CHRISTMAS – There will be only ONE DAILY MASS AT 8 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, Tuesday, December 26 through Friday, December 29th. NO 6:30 MASS! The regular daily Mass schedule (6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.) returns on Tuesday, January 2nd!!

PRAYER APP FOR \$1 – Our parish has purchased 500 partial subscriptions to the # 1 Catholic prayer app, HALLOW! You can access a treasure of resources through this app: thousands of prayers, meditations, and music play lists for you to enjoy and enhance your personal prayer life. These partial subscriptions are a \$40 value and are available to you for only \$1. Please visit the parish website, st-cecilia.org to learn about how to claim your subscription and start praying today with Hallow!

YOUR SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE! – Our parish's 150th Anniversary Committee is seeking suggestions as to how we might celebrate our 150th anniversary which will run December 1, 2024 to November 22, 2025. You may go to the parish website, st-cecilia.org, to send in your suggestions OR by placing them in the 'suggestion box' located on the table in the church vestibule.

We are online: www.st-cecilia.org

WINTER POLICY - 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.

Monday, December 18

10:00 am—DMA Confessions (Church)

7:00 pm—Penance Service (Church)

Tuesday, December 19

9:30 am—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

7:00 pm—Confirmation Class (DMA)

7:45 pm—Light of Christ Prayer Group (HH)

Wednesday, December 20

8:30 am—Soup Kitchen (Hayes Hall)

Thursday, December 21

6:00 pm—DMA 8th Grade Dance (Hayes Hall)

Friday, December 22

12:00 pm—DMA & Parish Office half day

6:00 pm—Church Decorating for Christmas

Saturday, December 23**Sunday, December 24*****Divine Mercy Academy News*****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.

BISHOP SERRATELLI—Bishop Emeritus Arthur Serratelli is recuperating from cardiac surgery. Please keep the bishop in your prayers for a speedy recovery. Should you like to send him your prayers and best wishes you can do so by mailing your card to:

Bishop Arthur Serratelli
c/o: Holy Family Rectory
1 Lloyd Avenue
Florham Park, NJ 07932

ADVENT TREE – Our annual ADVENT TREE PROJECT is an opportunity for us to provide a gift for needy individuals and families who come to Catholic Charities seeking our services during difficult times. You are invited to take a tag from the tree and purchase the designated item. Please return the gift (WITH TAG ATTACHED) to the altar of Saint Joseph no later than Sunday, December 17th. May God bless you for the generosity you show to those in need!

BABY BASSINET – Our annual BABY BASSINET PROJECT is another opportunity to show generosity in this season of giving. BIRTH HAVEN is a residence in Newton which provides care for pregnant girls and young women providing transitional living and resources to help young mothers in desperate situations. Although their facility has experienced a fire, none the less the organization is still providing help to moms in need. They have asked for the donation of gift cards only, from the following: Amazon, Home Goods, ShopRite and Marshall's. Your donation may be placed in the bassinet located at the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary prior to Sunday, December 17th.

MOMMY'S ADVENT BIBLE STUDY – Join mothers for a 3 week series of preparation for Advent-Christmas on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11 o'clock at Sacred Heart of Jesus Rectory Basement beginning December 7th. Please contact Gail Egan at: gailandjohn616@gmail.com for additional information and a digital copy of the prayer workbook.

Men's Cornerstone XXIV Retreat

"Do you want to be healed?" is 24-hours of Sharing, Praying 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 to be healed, 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. January 26 & 27, 2024 at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church, Cedar Knolls, NJ (Begins 5:30pm Friday evening and culminates at the Saturday 5pm Holy Mass)

Registration online: www.ndcarmel.com or contact:
Allwyn Colaco: Allwyncolaco@gmail.com
(732) 322-4920
Phil Lamoureux: plamoureux7@gmail.com
(973) 615 6371

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

Our women and men religious offer gratitude—A sister shares, “I thank the Lord for all who give. I don’t think we would make it without them.” Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious.

To learn more about how your gift helps, visit
retiredreligious.org

OPLATEK – The bread which is used at the vigil supper on Christmas Eve is available at the altar of Saint Joseph. Your donation is appreciated.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE—The St. Monica Guild is sponsoring a Christmas Bake Sale on December 16th & 17th in Hayes Hall following all Masses. A wide variety of cakes, cookies and other treats will be available for your holiday gift giving and entertaining.

Please Help Support Catholic Charities
We need gently used:

- Clothing • Bedding • Shoes • Small household items Have a clothing donation too big to fit in the box?
- Just call our Toll Free number to arrange for a free pickup at your home. 1-877-343-3651
- Throughout the year, Catholic Charities distributes much needed food through local food pantries and provides many other types of services and assistance including day care for children, day care for elderly persons, counseling, computer training, ESL utility bill assistance, flood assistance, drug/alcohol detox, drug/alcohol treatment, day and residential programs for adults with developmental disabilities and more. Money raised from these donations helps support these and other Catholic Charities programs.

DROP BOX IS LOCATED IN PARISH PARKING LOT BEHIND THE RECTORY

BUY YOUR TREE HERE – The Benedictine Monks of Saint Paul Abbey in Newton have thousands of Christmas Trees ready to choose n cut 7 days a week from now until December 21st from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Abbey Gift Shop also has a variety of items which would make great Christmas gifts including: books, statues, jewelry and more. The Abbey is located at 289 Route 206, 1 mile south of Newton. The monks will appreciate your support!

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christmas Mass Schedule – 2023

Saturday, December 23rd:

Holy Masses for the Lord’s Day at 4:30 & 7:00 pm
(4th Sunday of Advent)

Sunday, December 24th:

Holy Masses for the Lord’s Day at 8:00 & 10:00 am
(4th Sunday of Advent)

Holy Masses for the Solemnity of the Lord’s Nativity on Sunday,

December 24th: 3:00, 4:30, 7:00 & 10:00 pm
(Christmas Carols at 9:30 pm)

Monday, December 25th:

Holy Masses for the Solemnity of the Lord’s Nativity At 8:00, 10:45 am & 12:15 pm (NO 9:15 am Mass on Christmas Day)

Vietnamese Holy Mass: 4:00 pm

Saturday, December 30th:

Holy Masses for the Lord’s Day at 4:30 & 7:00 pm
(Feast of the Holy Family)

Sunday, December 31st:

Holy Masses for the Lord’s Day At 8:00, 9:15, 10:45 & 12:15 pm (Feast of the Holy Family)

Monday, January 1st, 2024

Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God At 8:00 & 10:00 am. *This year’s Solemnity if NOT a Holy Day of Obligation

As determined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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!

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*



My dear parishioners,

We assemble on the Lord's Day to commemorate the Third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday is known as GAUDETE SUNDAY and from the Ordo we find the following information: *The Third Sunday of Advent, is traditionally known as 'Gaudete Sunday', so called from the first word of the antiphon at the Introit. 'Gaudete' (Rejoice), taken from the Latin translation of Philippians 4:4-5, sets the tone of joyful expectation for the Lord's birth and Second Coming, as does the permitted use of rose colored vestments.* Although the question, WHO ARE YOU? posed to John the Baptist in the Gospel, the question is relevant in both the Old Testament and Epistle readings for today. The Baptist does not hesitate to admit he is not the Christ and speaks of He who is to come. In humility John speaks of himself being unworthy to even touch the "Holy One", for he sees himself only as His precursor. John's vocation is one of witness and obedient servant.

Hundreds of years before the birth of John the Baptist the Prophet Isaiah spoke of one whose vocation would be an initiator of "a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God." This one, anointed by the Lord, would be provided with the spiritual gifts which would give strength and dignity to the mission which he would be given. Likewise in the epistle, the Apostle Paul reminds his Corinthian parishioners that they have been anointed with the Holy Spirit (at Baptism, and sealed at Confirmation) to witness to what is good. They should, with thanks to God, avail themselves to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and avoid all that is evil so that they may remain holy until the coming of the Lord.

The question, WHO ARE YOU, is one not only asked of John the Baptist or the First Century Corinthian Christians but is one posed to us today, WHO ARE YOU? Our answer should be WITNESS TO CHRIST - SERVANT OF THE HOLY ONE. Fulfilling this vocation requires the strength which comes from above and for His faithful the Lord will indeed provide what is needed.

Our Advent season this year is very short due to Christmas Eve falling on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. As we begin this final full week of Advent let us be mindful of our spiritual preparation for Christmas by approaching the sacrament of penance which will be celebrated next Monday beginning at 7 o'clock in the evening for both adults and children. I have invited 8 priests to assist us in this sacramental activity so that we may be ready to offer our grace-filled hearts as worthy for Christ to dwell.

My sincere thanks to all those who participated in the ADVENT TREE PROJECT and the BABY BASSINET PROJECT. Your generosity is stunning and I know that the Lord will reward you for it!

COME LORD JESUS!
Father Zig

ST. JOHN OF KANTY, Priest
December 23

St. John was born in 1403 in a village, the name of which he bears, situated in the diocese of Cracow, Poland. His childhood was passed in innocence under the care of his virtuous parents. After finishing his studies he became professor in the University of Cracow, a position he occupied several years, endeavoring not only to train his pupils in science, but also to instill into their hearts the sentiments of piety with which he was himself animated.

Having been ordained to the priesthood, he distinguished himself by still greater zeal for the glory of God and his own perfection. The carelessness and indifference of so many Christians were for him a great source of affliction. As parish priest he became a true pastor of souls, severe toward himself and indulgent to others, showing himself the father of his people and their friend when they were in need. After some years he resumed his duties of professor, practicing at the same time prayer, love for the poor, and all Christian virtues.

Consumed by the desire of suffering martyrdom, he made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and preached "Jesus Crucified" to the Turks. Four times he made a journey to Rome on foot. His sleep was short and taken on the floor; his food barely sufficed to keep him alive. By means of fasting and severe discipline he preserved his purity intact. During the last thirty years of his life he abstained entirely from meat. Finally, after distributing to the poor all he had in his house, he died in 1474. He was canonized in 1767 by Pope Clement XIII.

PRAYER *Almighty God, help us to follow the example of Your Priest, St. John, in advancing in the science of the saints. May we show compassion to all who are in need so that we ourselves may obtain Your mercy. Amen*

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

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