

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. 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, January 1, the Octave Day of the Nativity of The Lord**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

8:00 am – For the Parishioners of our church

10:00 am – For the Parishioners of our church

Tuesday, January 2, Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors

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

8:00 am – Joseph A. Belli req. by his daughter

Wednesday, January 3, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

6:30 am – For the Service Men & Women listed in our bulletin

8:00 am – Jeanne Gallagher req. by Marilyn Whelan

Thursday, January 4, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

6:30 am – Vincent Turco

8:00 am – Arthur Johnson req. by his wife, Sally

Friday, January 5, Saint John Neumann, Bishop

6:30 am – Olumbe Jelani Bryan

8:00 am – Eleanor & Thomas Sullivan req. by Dianne & John Sullivan

Saturday, January 6, Saint Andre Bessette, Religious

8:00 am – Deceased Members of the Rosary Society

Sunday, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord

4:30 pm – Mario Zambrano req. by Family

Robert M. Bernsten req. by Mary C. Mackey

7:00 pm – Charlie Peterson req. by Trudy Simmons

8:00 am – Chris Slattery req. by John & Margaret Byrne

9:15 am – Lois & Ed Drozd req. by Cullen Family

John Brussell, Sr., req. by McDonnell Family

10:45 am – Ellen Flynn req. by Harry & Kate

Jeanne Gallagher req. by Carol Parillo

12:15 pm – Evelyn Trapasso req. by Phyllis Smith

Jason Krochalis req. by O'Neill & Sons

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : December 17, 2023**

Collection—Checks & Cash \$ 10,352.23

WeShare Electronic Giving \$ 4,044.00

Total Weekly Collection \$ 14,396.23

Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET) \$ 785,000.00

Weekly Goal \$ 14,038.46

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit) \$ 357.77

Year To Date Surplus (Deficit) \$ (10,371.42)

St. Cecilia Church Collection Goals**Week Ending: December 24, 2023**

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

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC

HAPPY NEW YEAR – As we are about to welcome the New Year 2024 I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a blessed, happy and healthy New Year. Father Matt, Sister Diane, Sister Marie Pauline and Sister Chiara Marie join with me in extending this greeting to all our beloved parishioners. – Father Zig

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 Cumiskey, 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, Jeremiah O'Brien, Lanie Bruno, Jill Breslin, Joan Apgar, Richard Sala, Richard Cortese, Kathleen Sheridan.



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.

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE – The 150th Anniversary Committee will meet on Thursday evening, January 11th at 7 o'clock in Hayes Hall. We are forming plans for our anniversary celebration which will begin on December 1, 2024. All are welcome to our planning meeting on the 11th!

HOLY HOUR – Holy Hour will not take place on Christmas Day nor New Years Day. Monday evening Holy Hour resumes on January 8th at 7 o'clock. Please note that Holy Hour **will not** take place the following week, January 15th due to the national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SISTER MARLENE – Sister Marlene, who resided in our convent, has been reassigned to the Motherhouse in Mendham effective immediately. We wish Sister the best and we send birthday greetings to her (January 1st). Her address is: Sister Marlene Weitzel, Mallinckrodt Convent, 350 Bernardsville Rd., Mendham, NJ 07945-0800.

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.

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.

THANK YOU – Father Matt, Sister Diane, Sister Marie Pauline and Sister Chiara Marie join with me in expressing sincere thanks to all those who remembered us during the Christmas celebration. Your gifts and greetings fill us with joy! Be assured of our prayers for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year! – Father Zig

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.

Monday, January 1st, 2024

Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
At 8:00 & 10:00 am.

*This year's Solemnity is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation as determined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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:**



OUR CHILDREN – Children should be accompanied by a parent or adult when using the restrooms in the parish hall. We want to make sure that our children return to Mass promptly and safely. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Monday, January 1

*Happy & Blessed New Year
DMA & Parish Office closed*

Tuesday, January 2

12:00 pm—Seniors Meeting (Hayes Hall)

Wednesday, January 3

10:00 am—Padre Pio Prayer Meeting (Church)

7:00 pm—Steering Committee (Hayes Hall)

Thursday, January 4**Friday, January 5****Saturday, January 6**

8:30 am—Rosary Society Meeting (Hayes Hall)

Sunday, January 7

10:30 am—CCD Class (DMA)

10:45 am—RCIA (Church & Parish Office)



YOUR GENEROSITY – The generosity of Saint Cecilia parishioners has once again shown itself in an overwhelming response to the annual ADVENT TREE and BABY BASSINETTE PROJECTS which support Catholic Charities Father English Community Center in Paterson and Several Sources Home for Young Mothers in Sussex. Over 300 gifts were given in the Advent Tree Project and over 50 donations to the Baby Bassinette Project. May God bless you! – Father Zig

SAVE THE DATE – Although it's early, you may want to save the date for "DANIEL" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Pennsylvania. The Saint Monica Guild will conduct a bus trip to view this highly rated production on Friday, September 20, 2024. For information please call Pat Zayac at 973.625.4572.

THANK YOU to everyone for all the birthday wishes. I feel very blessed to have each and every one of you in my life. The most beautiful gift I could receive on my birthday was to have your greetings and good wishes. I love and appreciate you all very much. May God Bless You—Fr. Matt

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

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

COOK BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED – The Saint Monica Guild has embarked upon the production of a cook book which will be published later in the year. Now is the time for the gathering of your favorite recipes which the Saint Monica Guild would like to include, especially your ethnic specialties. Soon a representative from the Saint Monica Guild will speak to us at Sunday Mass regarding this project which will help introduce our parish anniversary celebration!

BRING YOUR CONTAINER NEXT SUNDAY—Next Sunday, January 7th, is the Feast of the Epiphany. Water will be blessed at all Masses to celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord which is associated with the Feast of Epiphany. Holy Water will be available for you to take home for your devotional purposes. Along with water, chalk will be blessed for the traditional blessing of the home also associated with this Feast. Next Sunday's bulletin will contain the liturgical service which you can pray along as a family in your home.
K + M + B + 2024

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*

“Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism”

Have you ever been unable to explain the “why” of Catholic beliefs? Have you ever wondered why the Old Testament sounds so different from the New Testament? In the Old Testament, God began building a plan and laying a foundation for the beautiful traditions of the Catholic Faith. That plan was fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament. Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism is an apologetic approach to sharing the Catholic Faith using the Old Testament Tabernacle as a blueprint for God's plan. Fulfilled will reignite your love of Scripture and help you share and defend the Catholic Faith with the Word of God. Part One – Called into His Presence focuses on elements of the outer sanctuary of the Tabernacle and how they connect to the liturgical calendar, the priesthood, purgatory, baptism, and more.

Written and presented by Sonja Corbitt, this series will help you:

- Explain how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament.
- Share the Catholic Faith concisely.
- Acquire a thorough knowledge of the Tabernacle's design and its function as a blueprint for the Faith.
- Learn how to answer incomplete and non-Catholic interpretations of the Bible.
- Examine your own faith and grow deeper in your relationship with Christ!

This Study Set includes:

- The Full-Color Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism Workbook – Provides session overviews, home reading assignments, engaging study questions, responses, and talk notes for the video presentations.
- The Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism 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 January 8, 2023, at 7:30pm in Hayes Hall. Participants will meet for 7 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, book, and online video access. Registration ends on December 20th. For more information or to register, contact Charles Malaniak cemalaniak@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Craft & Vendor Fair—St. Cecilia Church Hall
90 Church Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866
Saturday, March 2nd, 2024
9:00 am—2:00 pm
For further information, email:
saintceciliariosarysociety@gmail.com



My dear parishioners,

We gather to celebrate the Lord's Day on the 7th day in the Octave of Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Gospel reading for this day recalls the day on which the young couple, Joseph and Mary, took the Child Jesus to present Him in the temple. On that day they encountered two senior citizens, Simeon and Anna, who raised their voices in praise of God after beholding the Child Jesus. In their advanced years they demonstrated their ability to rejoice in the hope of seeing the Messiah and making known His coming to those whom they met. From these seniors came the credible witness of faith which they did not hesitate to share.

In today's Old Testament reading from Genesis and the epistle reading from the Letter to the Hebrews two other seniors are spoken of, Abraham and Sarah, our grandparents in faith. From this old couple came forth a faith so dynamic that its effects are felt to this very day. Hoping beyond hope, they placed their trust in God who assured them that they would not remain childless but that a miracle would occur giving them the son for whom they longed. This birth would start the beginning of a family which would exist through the centuries and until the end of time. This is the family of faith-filled believers in the God who has saved us in Jesus His Only Begotten Son.

FAMILY and FAITH are the crucial words for this Sunday. It is in the family that faith is fostered and passed down to children so that they may be introduced to the Lord of creation. Parents and grandparents have a critical role in this task of strengthening faith within the family. This task is becoming more difficult to conduct within our secular culture which opposes the influence of religion within society. Young parents and grandparents are called by Christ to be faithful in their duty of maintaining religious life in the home, like Saint Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary AND like Simeon and Anna.

Parents and grandparents are reminded that children are watching and listening! It is important for us to live authentic Christian lives. Honesty, kindness, generosity, the pursuit of truth should be on our daily agenda so that our young people may imitate us in the ways of God. In this way the Church will grow, vocations to the priesthood and religious life will flourish and our country will remain true to the ideals which brought this nation into being.

The holy family must be your family, **AND YOU**, mom and dad & grandma and grandpa, must take up your important role in making this a reality for your family. Pray that Jesus, Mary and Joseph will help you in your task!

CHRIST IS AMONG US!

Father Zig

**STS. BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN,
Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

In the revision of the calendar the Church has seen fit to honor these two great Doctors of the Church and fast friends on the same day.

St. Basil the Great was born at Caesarea of Capadocia in 330. Both of his parents and several of his brothers and sisters are honored among the Saints. He attended school in Caesarea, as well as Constantinople and Athens, where he became acquainted with St. Gregory Nazianzen in 352. A little later, he opened a school of oratory in Caesarea and practiced law.

Eventually he decided to become a monk and founded a monastery in Pontus which he directed for five years. He wrote a famous monastic rule which has proved the most lasting of those in the East. After founding several other monasteries, he was ordained and, in 370, made Bishop of Caesarea. In this post (until his death in 379) he continued to be a man of vast learning and constant activity, genuine eloquence and immense charity. This earned for him the title of "Great" during his life and Doctor of the Church after his death.

St. Gregory was born at Nazianzen in Capadocia of parents who are both honored among the saints. He studied at Caesarea, Alexandria, and Athens, in which latter city he had as fellow pupils St. Basil and Julian the Apostate. On his return to Nazianzen he was baptized by his father and began to lead a most holy life. In 358, he joined St. Basil in the solitude of Pontus and remained until his father (who was Bishop of Nazianzen) recalled him shortly after and ordained him a priest, much against his wishes. He was appointed Bishop of Sasima, a small town, in 372 by St. Basil.

St. Gregory preferred a life of quiet solitude and reflection, but circumstances always conspired to call him away from it. In 379, he was made Bishop of Constantinople and remained there until 381 when he was finally able to resign and return to his solitude up to his death in 389. The depth of his theological knowledge and the vastness of his eloquence have made him one of the greatest Doctors of the Greek Church.

PRAYER Lord God, You desired to enlighten Your Church by the life and teachings of Sts. Basil and Gregory. Grant that we may learn Your truth with humility and faithfully put it into practice with love. Amen.

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

580-St. Cecilia

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

