

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
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, April 15, Easter Weekday

6:30 am—Special Intention: Birthday for Suzanne

San Giovanni's req. by Ryder Family

8:00 am—Linda Donatoni req. by The Rosary Society

Tuesday, April 16, Easter Weekday

6:30 am—April Southern req. by Sophie Boylan

8:00 am—Linda Donatoni req. by Marge Lesica

Wednesday, April 17, Easter Weekday

6:30 am—Dolores Socha req. by Fr. Zig

8:00 am—Irene Holzschuh req. by Maulbeck Family

Thursday, April 18, Easter Weekday

6:30 am—Theodore, Christine & Rose Kobylar req. by Fr. Zig

8:00 am—Kathleen Sheridan req. by Peggy McKinney

Friday, April 19, Easter Weekday

6:30 am—Veronica Morgante

8:00 am—Millie DiGuseppi req. by Zayac/Waskas Family

Saturday, April 20, Easter Weekday

8:00 am—Stella Rychlicki req. by St. Monica Guild

Sunday, April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter

4:30 pm—Dorothy DeLiberto req. by Elaine & Tom Potkalesky

Michael Miller req. by Family

7:00 pm—Mary Tallman req. by Zilvetiz Family

Scott J. Sirvent req. by Bozza Family

8:00 am—Patricia Zayac req. by Claire & Phil Wasacz

9:15 am—Daniel Petraski req. by Barbara Quinby

Jane Laner req. by Graner Family

10:45 am—Esther M. Donovan req. by her daughter, Phyllis

Claire Mildred Dowling req. by John Family

12:15 pm—Marcel Romito req. by Mark & Elaine Romito

Stanley & Dolores Wyrwa req. by Debbie Fremeth & Family

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : April 7, 2024**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 8,508.13
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 6,360.88
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 14,869.01

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 830.54
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,893.13)

Diocesan Ministry Appeal**2023 St. Cecilia Parish Goal: \$42,885.00****Cash received as of March 11, 2024: \$103,748****Amount over-goal: \$60,863****March rebate: \$30,432**

Our Condolences to the Family of:
Louis Nguyen and Mary Ellen Lusardi
 Eternal Rest Grant to them Lord

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS**

Ethan Chandra, Dean Wayne Campbell, Doris Cusick, Jane Goricca, 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, 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, Joan Apgar, Richard Sala, Richard Cortese, Kira Woyce, Anthony D'Alessio.



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

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

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.

PHOTOS – Our Parish 150th Anniversary Committee is searching for photos from past events which took place at Saint Cecilia's. If you would like to have your photos included or displayed on our parish website, please drop them off or send them to the parish office (90 Church St. Rockaway, 08866) or our parish website (st-cecilia.org). Please include name, event, date and year (if known), phone number and email. All photos will be carefully handled and returned. For additional information please call Rosalie Marmara at 973.625.3836.

We are online: www.st-cecilia.org

MAY ROSARY DEVOTION—The Rosary Society invited you to join with them in opening the month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, with the praying of the Holy Rosary on Wednesday evening May 1st at 7:00 pm at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on East Main Street. ALSO, to conclude the month of May the Holy Rosary will be prayed in Saint Cecilia Church on Friday, May 31st at 7:00 pm.

**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:**



PARISH ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE – In conjunction with our parish's 150th anniversary celebration next year I will be leading a pilgrimage to Italy. We leave from Newark International Airport on Monday, April 21 (2025) for our 11 day visit to Rome, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo (St. Padre Pio), Bari (Shrine of St. Nicholas) and many more stops. This 11 day pilgrimage coincides with the Holy Year Jubilee in which we will also visit and celebrate Mass in the Basilica of Saint Cecilia. The cost per person is \$5,384. Please visit the 206 TOURS website and enter tour #sp042125 for the itinerary, registration and other information. I hope you will join me on this faith-filled tour! We return on Thursday, May 1st thanking God for this wonderful experience. – Father Zig

THANK YOU – My thanks to Ron Gatzke and his brother Russell for the taking care of some shrubs on the parish property. May the Lord bless them for their labor! – Father Zig

A PLACE FOR THE DISABLED – I am currently investigating the accommodation which can be offered to the handicapped in church. Currently it is very difficult for those using walkers or wheelchairs to find a place in our liturgical assembly. I am working with a pew company to conform our present furniture into handicapped accessible seating. I will be sharing information with you in the coming weeks regarding this project. – Father Zig

TODAY'S SAINTS – Today, April 14th is the feast day of Saint Cecilia's husband, Valerian and her brother-in-law Tibertius (Valerian's brother). Valerian and Tibertius were executed after being identified as Christians as they were burying the bodies of Christians who were killed during this time of persecution in 3rd century Rome. Saint Valerian is pictured with Saint Cecilia in the stained glass window located in our choir loft.

HEALING MASS – The Christian Care Committee will sponsor our annual Healing Mass for the Sick and Their Care-Givers on Saturday, May 11th at 11 o'clock in the morning. During the Mass the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered. Following the liturgy a light reception will take place in Hayes Hall to which all are invited.

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.

Monday, April 15

7:00 pm—Hour Hour (Church)

7:30 pm—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

Tuesday, April 16

9:30 am—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

12:00 pm—Seniors Meeting (Hayes Hall)

7:00 pm—Confirmation Class (DMA)

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

Wednesday, April 17

8:00 am—DMA 8th Grade Retreat (Hayes Hall)

8:30 am—Soup Kitchen (Hayes Hall)

7:00 pm—Anniversary Meeting (Hayes Hall)

Thursday, April 18**Friday, April 19**

7:00 pm—Catacombs Youth Group (Church & Hayes Hall)

Saturday, April 20

8:30 am—St. Monica Guild Meeting (HH)

Sunday, April 21

10:30 am—CCD Class (DMA)

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

PLANNED GIVING FOR OUR PARISH – Planned giving is the practice of designating a gift to a charitable organization during one's lifetime or as a part of an estate plan. The gift could include cash, wills, bequests, stocks, retirement assets, real estate, life insurance, annuities equity or personal property. This act of philanthropy serves as a meaningful way to honor your Catholic faith and create a memorial. Donors can minimize capital gains tax when transferring assets as part of a planned gift, further maximizing the contribution to charity. As you think about such matters I hope you will remember our parish, your spiritual home. – 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

ROSARY CARDS – You are invited to participate in a nation- wide Rosary crusade which begins this month and concludes in September at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Learn more about this event at rosarypilgrimage.org. Prayer cards for this event may be found on the table in the church vestibule.

Divine Mercy Academy News

DMA PRINCIPAL – I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Jaime Patel who had served as our school principal this past year. Under her leadership many positive changes have occurred at Divine Mercy Academy for which I am most grateful. Our new principal will be announced in June. – Father Zig

Help Wanted

Divine Mercy Academy, a PK3-8th grade elementary school located in Rockaway is in need of part-time Aftercare Aides. Applicants are required to be 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent and are required to complete the diocesan background check and Protecting God's Children training program. Ideal candidates should have some experience working with children and/or an early childhood or elementary education background. Candidates will assist with afternoon snack, homework, indoor and outdoor play experiences and tend to the needs of our young students. The Aftercare program runs from Monday – Friday, 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm during school days. If interested, please email the principal: jpatel@dmrockaway.org

New student registration ongoing for 2024-2025

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



973-627-6003

jpatel@dmrockaway.orgaservidio@dmrockaway.orgdmrockaway.org

Registration for Religious Education classes for 2024-2025 will be opening soon. Be sure to check the web site for more details under the Faith Formation tab.

st-cecilia.org

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP—Save the date for Summer Bible Camp for children ages 4 to 12. Bible Camp will be held on June 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Registration will be forthcoming in the bulletin and on our web-site.

DROP BOX IN PLACE— A “drop box” has been positioned near the right side of the front door of the parish office. The box will serve as a place where communications can be picked-up or left-off after office hours.

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

SISTERS OF CHARITY GOLF OUTING—April 29th at the Cedar Hill Golf & Country Club, Livingston, NJ. For more information visit their website at SCNJ.org or text SCNJGOLF2024 to 41444.

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

SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, May 18th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
St. Cecilia Church Parking Lot
90 Church Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866
Sponsored by Men's Society
\$ Donations Accepted \$

NIGHT OF SPORTS AND FELLOWSHIP—Young men of high school age are invited to participate in a night of sports, games, fellowship and more at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 179 Baldwin Road, Parsippany, NJ. The event is on Friday, April 19th, from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm. This event is called "The Jeremiah Project" sponsored by the Diocese of Paterson Office of Vocations. For more information, please contact: patersonvocations.org or 973-777-8818 ext: 715

YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT FR. ZIG OR FR. MATT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT LISTED ABOVE.

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 Janet at the parish office, 973-627-0313

REOPENING OF ST. THERESE MINISTRY
TUESDAY, MAY 7TH AT 1:00 P.M.

The reopening of the St. Therese Ministry begins on Tuesday, May 7th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Mountain Lakes. The address is 10 North Pocono Road. We will meet each and every Tuesday until the end of the year. We will once again be praying the Novena to St. Therese, a prayer for our nation, the Memorare and finish with the Rosary. America needs our prayers. Father Edward Rama, who is from the Diocese of Paterson, will be speaking. Come join us for fellowship and meet some wonderful people. We have many events planned for the ministry. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, September 29th at 1:45 p.m. when Bishop Kevin Sweeney will celebrate two feast days – St. Therese the Little Flower and St. Michael the Archangel. It will not be a mass – a presentation and celebration by the Bishop. It will be a spectacular event at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Mountain Lakes!! Any questions, please call Carol Bsarany 973-271-9252.

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, April 11, 2024 at 7:30pm; **NEW LOCATION**: 427 Franklin Road, Denville, NJ, Union Hill Presbyterian Church/School- Recreation Room (Back Entrance).

Program for April 11, 2024:
"Dealing with Anger, Guilt, and Fear"



My dear parishioners,

The Sacred Texts which are proclaimed on this Third Sunday of Easter speak of the repentance of sin required of all those who draw near to the Risen Christ. In the first lection from the Acts of the Apostles Peter testifies before those who gather before him in recognition of the miracle performed in Jesus' Name. Peter challenges them to repent of their sin in rejecting Jesus so that now they may receive forgiveness. Likewise in the epistle reading the Apostle John urges his readers to be truthful in acknowledging their sins so that they may know the Lord by keeping to His word. The Gospel pericope begins at the conclusion of the Emmaus story where once again the Risen Christ appears to the astonished Apostles convincing them that He is neither a ghost nor a figment of their imagination.

Evil produces SIN and the evil of sin manifested itself in the brutality that the Lord Jesus endured in His suffering and death. This He willingly accepted so as to break the powerful hold of sin by His death on the Cross so that death could be conquered in His Holy Resurrection. Christ mandated His Apostles to proclaim this message as we heard at the conclusion of today's Gospel account: *"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in His Name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to these things."*

Indeed the Apostles witnessed to these things as is evidenced in the books of the New Testament where we read of their faith and courage. In our Easter reading from the Acts of the Apostles each day we find accounts of the extraordinary witness these first Christian men and women gave to the world. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit they moved into the Roman world and beyond bearing the good news of Jesus' Resurrection and the invitation to repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Embracing this message of faith believers will share eternal life with "the Author of life", Christ the Savior.

Although the penitential season of Lent is now behind us we should never forget that our daily encounters with sin need to be rejected and that we should seek forgiveness in the sacrament of penance regularly. Staying close to the Risen Christ keeps us far from the wicked one who is always roaming around the world to steal souls. Let us stay close to Christ by being committed to our daily prayers, sacramental participation and works of mercy. Living in this manner will be a witness to others around us that we belong to the company of Christ, the One who was slain for our salvation.

CHRIST IS RISEN-TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Father Zig

St. Benedict Joseph Labre, Mendicant
April 16

St. Benedict Joseph Labre was born in France in 1748. He received a good education under the care of his pious parents and a priest of Amettes, the place of his birth.

From his childhood he performed various acts of penance for faults, even the most venial. In his twelfth year he began to learn Latin under the care of his uncle, a priest, and for four years he applied himself to this and other studies with pleasure. At sixteen, however, his thoughts turned so much to piety that a dislike of study seemed to gain upon him. Above all, he loved the Bible, and for the rest of his life always carried a copy.

At this period of his life he showed a desire to join the Trappists. Upon being refused, he next tried the Carthusians and remained six weeks among them; but such was not his vocation. Another trial of the monastic life, made among the Cistercians, was equally a failure. He now took to the life of a pilgrim and sanctified himself by living on alms and practicing extreme poverty.

The last years of his life were spent in Rome, where he made pilgrimages to different sanctuaries. Gradually his health declined. In 1783, he seemed to be dying and yet he would spend hours in prayer. Finally, he was taken into a house out of charity, and died on April 16 of the same year.

St. Benedict represents a Western example of the Eastern ascetical vocation of the mendicant pilgrim or wandering holy man—"the fool of Christ."

PRAYER God, by Your grace St. Benedict Joseph persevered in imitating Christ in His Poverty and humility. Through his intercession, grant that we may faithfully follow our vocation and reach that perfection which You held out to us in Your Son. Amen.

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