## 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.

## **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

#### **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

### **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 Page 2 May 19, 2024 Pentecost Sunday

## Monday, May 20, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

6:30 am - Special Intention

8:00 am - Jimmy Carroll req. by Pat Degnan

Tuesday, May 21, St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

6:30 am - Fred Slanovec req. by McDonnell Family

8:00 am – Linda Donatoni req. by Noreen Breslauer

Wednesday, May 22, Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious

6:30 am - Samuel & Theodore Kobylar req. by Fr. Zig

8:00 am – Janet McCarthy req. by Peggy McKinney

Thursday, May 23, Weekday

6:30 am – Mary Reynolds

8:00 am – Janet McCarthy req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

Friday, May 24, Weekday

6:30 am - Joseph Grabiec req. by Fr. Matt

8:00 am – Jillian Breslin req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Saturday, May 25, Saint Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Saint Gregory VII, Pope; Saint Mary Megdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin, BVM

8:00 am – Ernest & Berta Juretschke req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Sunday, May 26, The Most Holy Trinity

4:30 pm — Linda Donatoni req. by Montalto-Rook Family Jillian Jae Breslin req. by Susan Brennan

7:00 pm – Mary Simard req. by Audrey Scholtz Joke Merkies req. by Trudy Simmons

8:00 am – Mary Wulf req. by Montalto-Rook Family Carmela Turngren req. by Jim & Isabel Rattay

9:15 am – Patricia Zayac req. by Matthew Graner Ernesto Feliciano req. by Marcos F. Bengson

10:45 am – Jack Wright req. by Cox Family
Narcisso "Nick" Domenico Ambrosi req. by Jean &
Joseph Simon

12:15 pm – Helen Torres req. by Maria Zeta Torres Louise Velotta req. by Rosalie & Bob Marmara

## 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, 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, 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.

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS		
<u>Week Ending : May 12, 2024</u>		
Collection—Checks & Cash	\$	8,977.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$	5,487.50
Total Weekly Collection	\$	14,464.50
Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	\$	785,000.00
Weekly Goal	\$	14,038.46
Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$	426.04
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$	2,439.19
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The Sanctuary Candle burning on our altar
this week is in loving memory of
Angela & Francis Goritski

Requested by their daughter, Susan Brennan



Our Altar Flowers are in loving memory of Angela & Francis Goritski Req. by their daughter, Susan Brennan

MEMORIAL DAY MASS – Holy Mass on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> will be celebrated at the parish cemetery at 9 o'clock in the morning. This is the only Mass scheduled for this day. Don't forget to bring your lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather the Mass will take place in the church.

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 Odjerno, Cpl. Kong V. Nguyen

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

Page 3 May 19, 2024 Pentecost Sunday

YOUR SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE! – Our parish's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is seeking suggestions as to how we might celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

PICNIC AND PROCESSION—Sunday, June 2nd is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi and our annual parish picnic held in conjunction with Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. The festivities begin with the 12:15 pm Mass followed by the serving of "picnic food" in Hayes Hall beginning at 1:15 pm. At 2:30 pm we will gather in the church to begin our procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament to Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on East Main Street. We will walk on the sidewalks in our Eucharistic procession which will include our clergy and religious; this year's First Holy Communion children; children and adults of both Saint Cecilia and Sacred Heart of Jesus parishes. This event, which will conclude at Sacred Heart Church, will be a public demonstration of our Catholic faith in the Lord Jesus present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. We will do in Rockaway that which is being done in cities throughout our nation during this year of the Eucharistic Revival namely, bringing our Eucharistic Lord into the streets for His blessing upon our community. PLEASE JOIN US FOR FOOD AND FAITH ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd!

## 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:



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

PARISH ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE – In conjunction with our parish's 150<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> thanking God for this wonderful experience. – Father Zig

PADRE PIO PRAYER MEETING – The Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 o'clock in the morning in the votive chapel located off the church vestibule. All are welcome to join us for prayer and reflection in the spirituality of Padre Pio. This will be the final meeting until the fall. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.



<u>MAY DEVOTIONS</u> – The Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be prayed during the month of May following the 8 o'clock morning Mass, Monday through Friday. The month of May is dedicated to the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary.

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.

Page 4 May 19, 2024 Pentecost Sunday

Monday, May 20

7:00 pm—Hour Hour (Church)

7:30 pm—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

Tuesday, May 21

9:30 am—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

12:00 pm—Seniors Meeting (Hayes Hall)

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

Wednesday, May 22

6:30 pm—Pro-Life Meeting (Parish Office)

7:00 pm—Confirmation Rehearsal (Church)

Thursday, May 23

7:00 pm—Vocations Committee meeting (Hayes Hall)

Friday, May 24

7:00 pm - Confirmation Mass (Church)

Saturday, May 25

Knights of Columbus Door Collection after the Masses

Sunday, May 26

Knights of Columbus Door Collection after the Masses



# PENTECOST

<u>DEFIBRILLATOR</u> – Through the generosity of an anonymous parishioner a new defibrillator has been purchased to replace the former one which is beyond repair. This device is a life-saver for someone who is experiencing a serious cardiac event. All public buildings have such a device which can be operated by the average person following the instructions given when the device is activated. The defibrillator will be mounted in the church vestibule, near the fire extinguisher, with the proper signage. We are most grateful for this donation which is estimated at \$2,000.

**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.

We are online: www.st-cecilia.org

## Dívíne Mercy Academy News

Join us for our Open House & Academic Showcase on Sunday, May 19th from 10:30am to 12:30pm! Come see the difference an academically excellent Catholic education makes! Divine Mercy Academy is a Catholic elementary school offering a comprehensive Pre-K through 8th grade faith-based education. We offer a safe, secure & compassionate environment with a high level of individualized attention; certified teachers; weekly liturgies & daily Religion class; academic curriculum with all core subjects; STEM; physical education; music; art; Spanish; Social Emotional Learning & library, with technology integrated throughout the curriculum. Aftercare and extracurricular activities available. Full day & Half Day Pre-K3 & Pre-K4 programs available. Full Day Kindergarten. Transfer grants available for public school students transferring into grades 1-8. We are located at 87 Halsey Avenue in Rockaway. Visit our website at www.dmarockaway.org or call 973-627-6003 for more information.

## 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@dmarockaway.org aservidio@dmarockaway.org dmarockaway.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.

## MASS CARDS

We are asked to pray for the dead. The best way to do this is to have a mass celebrated in memory of a loved one.

Call the Parish Office 973-627-0313

~Offering \$15.00~

Page 5 May 19, 2024 Pentecost Sunday

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

<u>CONFIRMATION</u> – His Excellency, Bishop Kevin Sweeney will confer the sacrament of confirmation to 36 of our young parishioners on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 o'clock in the evening. We pray that the Holy Spirit will inflame the confirmands with a lively faith making them true disciples of Jesus Christ.

<u>DOOR COLLECTION</u> – Member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 514, will conduct a door collection after Masses on Saturday and Sunday, May 25 and 26 to benefit Veteran programs. Your donation is in appreciation for their military service.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY FATHER – On Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> Father Peter Tran will celebrate his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood at the Vietnamese Mass at 5 o'clock. Father Tran is the pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in South Plainfield (Diocese of Metuchen) and celebrates the Vietnamese Mass in our parish every Sunday. The Vietnamese community is a part of our parish and I would like to thank Father Peter for the service which he gives to our parish. May the Lord bless him with many happy and healthy years! AD MULTOS ANNOS! – Father Zig

Our Condolences to the Family of Sister Stephanie Olek, Vivian Deeds And Sister Stanislaus Surgoft Eternal Rest Grant to them Lord



The "Daniel" trip to the Sight and Sound Theater has been cancelled. Sorry for any inconvenience!

ANNUAL DIOCESAN FOOD DRIVE — The annual diocesan Corpus Christi Food Drive is currently underway to replenish the various food banks run by Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Paterson. Once again our parish has been asked to donate the following items: pancake mix, pancake syrup and shampoo. These items may be placed on the designated tables in Hayes Hall prior to Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. ALSO, the diocese is appealing for monetary donations to benefit this cause. You may go to the diocesan website (www.patersondiocese.org); our parish website (st-cecilia.org); OR by placing your check payable to "St. Cecilia Church" and in the memo: "food drive" in the offering basket on Sunday.

A SPACE FOR THE HANDICAPPED – Through my pastoral observations and experiences I have concluded that a suitable space is needed in our church for our handicapped parishioners. Accommodation must be made to allow those who use walkers, wheelchairs and other aids to attend Divine Services safely and comfortably. At the recent meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops the hierarchs reaffirmed their concern that the disabled to be part of the worshipping community and that every effort should be made to accommodate them. I have met with the company which services our pews and have agreed with their proposal that the first pew on the right side (Altar of Saint Joseph) be altered. The entire first seat will be removed so as to provide sufficient access for walkers and wheelchairs. Signage will indicate that this pew is reserved for the handicapped only! This work will begin in the next few weeks. – Father Zig

OFFERING BASKET – It has been recommended to me that a second offering basket be positioned near the altar of Saint Joseph for the sake of those who enter the church through the side entrance for the deposit of the Sunday offering. Beginning next Sunday a basket will be placed near the side entrance for the convenience of those who enter the church there. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND YOU OF THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR WEEKLY AND GENROUS OFFERING TO THE LORD. Your sacrificial gift each week helps us to meet our expenses and maintains Saint Cecilia's fiscal integrity. God bless you my good people! – Father Zig

Page 6 May 19, 2024 Pentecost Sunday



My dear parishioners,

This Sunday we mark the leave-taking of Easter with today's Solemnity of Pentecost. Acts of the Apostles tells us that on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the Lord Jesus' holy Resurrection the promised gift of God the Holy Spirit occurred at 9 o'clock in the morning. The Holy Spirit's arrival was accompanied with wind and fire which filled the Upper Room where the Mother of God, the Apostles, women disciples and men disciples where gathered in novena prayer. Today's first reading describes this" gentle force "which propelled those gathered in the Upper Room into the streets proclaiming that *Jesus Christ is Lord*. Their joyous witness brought many into the Church that day as Acts of the Apostles tells us. This enthusiastic energy was the result of the Holy Spirit's coming into their receptive hearts transforming them into MISSIONARY DISCIPLES.

As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit we are mindful that we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Baptism and that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were sealed within us at Confirmation, our personal Pentecost. The sacrament of Confirmation enables us to go forth as missionary disciples into the world. God sends us out equipped with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to witness in His Name before all peoples. These gifts are: WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, KNOWLEDGE, COUNSEL, FORTITUDE, PIETY, and FEAR OF THE LORD. These gifts allow us to live a holy and good life. These gifts are first

**FORTITUDE, PIETY, and FEAR OF THE LORD.** These gifts allow us to live a holy and good life. These gifts are first spoken of in the Old Testament in the Book the Prophet Isaiah (11:2-3). We gain strength from these gifts which allow us to evangelize and speak about our faith before others without intimidation. It was these gifts which made the martyrs brave and the faithful victorious in their efforts at witnessing to the truth.

All those who live by the Holy Spirit are the recipients of His fruits or blessings. The Apostle Paul lists these blessings in his Letter to the Galatians in chapter 5, verses 22-23: LOVE, JOY, PEACE PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GENEROSITY, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS and SELF CONTROL. What wonderful blessings one receives from God the Holy Spirit when we abide in His presence. Yes, God is rich and gracious in bestowing His blessings upon us who present receptive hearts.

This week His Excellency, Bishop Kevin Sweeney will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation to a group of 36 young people of our parish on Friday evening at 7 o'clock. We pray that they will welcome with sincere hearts the Holy Spirit as He comes to them with divine gifts and blessings. May they bear the mark of Christ in the manner in which they live so that all may be drawn to the Savior who suffered, died and rose to life for our salvation.

COME HOLY SPIRIT – FILL THE HEARTS OF THE FAITHFUL ALLELUIA! Father Zig

## ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA, Priest May 20 – Patron of Advertisers

THE Republic of Siena was the country of St. Bernardine. He was born at Massa in that territory in 1380. Left an orphan at an early age, he was educated by his pious aunt, who loved him as if he had been her own son. Even his first years were brightened by his proficiency in study.

As a member of the Confraternity of Our Lady, he served the sick in the hospital; nor did he desist when the great pestilence broke out in 1400. He even persuaded other young men to share these arduous labors. Four years later he entered among the Fathers of the Strict Observance of the Order of St. Francis.

On becoming a priest he devoted himself to the office of preaching. For fourteen years his labors were confined to his own country, where devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, which he extolled, became widespread. As his reputation spread, however, he gradually became the apostle of Italy in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In 1427, he refused the Bishopric of Siena; in 1431, that of Ferrara; and again, in 1435, the diocese of Urbino. The wondrous results of his sermons became a byword.

Though he was followed by honors and applause, the most sincere humility appeared in his actions, and he always sought to conceal the talents with which God had endowed him. In 1435, he was appointed vicar-general of the Strict Observance, but after five years he obtained his release from this office and in his old age continued the work of preaching in Romania, Ferrara, and Lombardy. He died in 1444 and was canonized in 1450 by Pope Nicholas V.

PRAYER God, You gave St. Bernardine Your Priest an exceeding love for the Name of Jesus. Through his merits and prayers grant that we may ever be inflamed with love for You. Amen

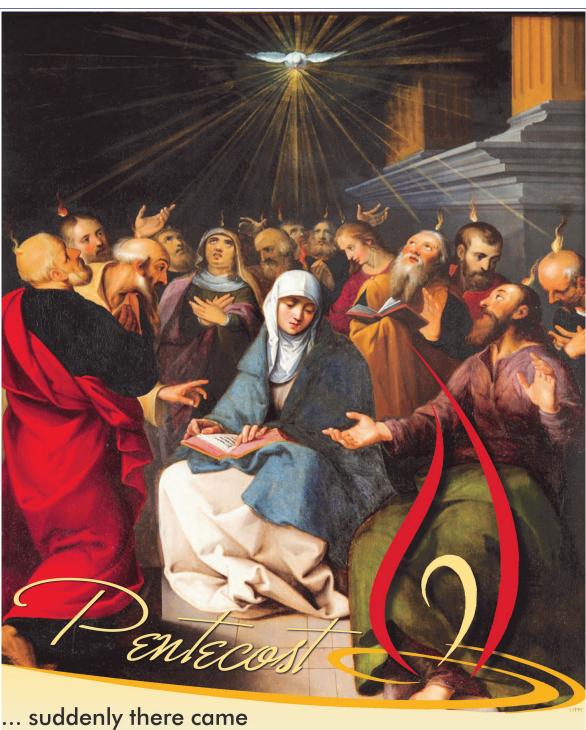
Taken from, Lives of the Saints; Catholic Booking Publishing Company, 1999, New Jersey

## 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

CCD Office: 973-627-0313 Ext. 17 School: 973-627-6003



from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house... Cuts 2:2