

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. Kelly Cacella
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

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 (Sept. to June)

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 (Sept. to June)

ST. MONICA NOVENA: Last Saturday after 8:00 am Mass.

Parish Summer Office Hours:

Starting after Memorial Day until Labor Day
Monday thru Thursday: 8:30—4:00
(Lunch 12:00—1:00)
Friday: Closed

Monday, August 26, Weekday

6:30 am — Frederick & Mary Brussell req. by McDonnell Family

8:00 am - Florence Njeze req. by Umeukeje Family

Tuesday, August 27, Saint Monica

6:30 am — Joan McDonnell req. by McDonnell Family

8:00 am — Sister Stephanie Olek req. by Carol & Gary McGotty

Wednesday, August 28, Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

6:30 am — Veronica O'Keefe req. by Latuja Family

8:00 am — Walter & Grace Peplowski req. by Fr. Zig

Thursday, August 29, The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

6:30 am — George Robert Haas req. by Dorsey Family

8:00 am — Deceased Members of the Heedles Family

Friday, August 30, Weekday

6:30 am — Holy Souls in Purgatory req. by Agnes Maye

8:00 am — Frederick & Mary Brussell req. by McDonnell Family

Saturday, August 31, Weekday

8:00 am — Philip Laterza req. by his Father

Sunday, September 1, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm — Martin DiGuseppi req. by the Zayac/Waskas Family

Philomena Killeen req. by Marie Wahlstrom

7:00 pm — Michael Bahnatka

8:00 am — Brian Comacho req. by Amor Baldovino

Eileen Traino req. by Joan Callahan & Family

9:15 am — Merrill Conner req. by Family

Lois Batson req. by Graner Family

10:45 am — Berardino Squeo req. by wife, Marie

Wayne Faulkner req. by Isabel & Jim Rattay

12:15 pm — John & Margaret Starkes req. by Rosalie & Bob Marmara

Anna Wahlstrom req. by Carol McGotty

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALSWeek Ending : August 18, 2024

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 11,909.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 5,562.50
<u>Total Weekly Collection</u>	\$ 17,471.50

Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	\$ 785,000.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 14,313.73

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 3,157.77
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,686.92

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC

FAMILY & *faith*
©JPPC

LABOR DAY MASS – Only one Mass will celebrated in our parish on Labor Day, Monday, September 2nd at 9 o'clock in the morning. The Holy Mass will be celebrated at the parish cemetery, weather permitting. Don't forget to bring your lawn chair. In the event of rain the Mass will take place in the church. The regular mass schedule resumes on Tuesday, September 3rd.

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, 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, 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, Colin Brown, Anthony Gerardi, Olivia Gerardi, Katherine Lynn.



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

FROM FATHER MATT - "Tuesday Morning Bible Study with Fr. Matt" invites everyone to join in reflecting and learning the Word of God every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This fall session we focus on the Gospel of Saint John. The material for the study is taken from "Ignatius Catholic Study Bible" and contains Commentary, Notes and Study Questions. Our classes begin on **September 10th at 9:30 am**. Join us to know more what the Lord Jesus shared with us for our salvation.

CEMETERY NEWS – The Stations of the Cross at the parish cemetery are showing wear and are in need of replacement. Over the next several weeks the Stations will be removed and new fixtures will be installed with the same memorial designation as on the previous Stations. The renovated stations will be installed at a future date to be announced in the spring of 2025. - Fr. Zig

NEW MUSIC MINISTER – Mrs. Alison Ervin has accepted the position of music minister at our parish beginning September 8th. She replaces Chuck Linnell who has served us for the past 7 years. Chuck and his family are members of our parish. I will continue to look for his participation in our music program although in a different capacity. Alison has served as a music minister in parishes within the Diocese of Paterson and the Diocese of Metuchen. I am happy that she will be with us to lead us in song as we praise God in the house dedicated to Saint Cecilia, the patroness of church music.

WELCOME ALISON! – Father Zig

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.

**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 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

OCIA (formerly RCIA) BEGINS SOON

Have you been worshipping with us, but have never officially taken the step to become Catholic? Are you seeking a relationship with Jesus, but have not been Baptized or Confirmed or have not received First Communion? Are you married to a Catholic, but just don't know the next step to become Catholic? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is newly translated and updated as the OCIA. It is a process by which nonCatholics learn and normally enter the Catholic Faith. OCIA is also for baptized Catholics who missed receiving Eucharist or Confirmation. Register in September. Contact Sister Diane at the Parish Office.

KIOSK – The kiosk located in the church vestibule has been recently refreshed with new materials for your spiritual edification and devotion. Your donation for the material may be placed in the receptacle located at the bottom of the kiosk.

SIGN UP TO FLOCKNOTE

If you would like to receive emails or text messages with important information regarding our parish life PLEASE SIGN UP TO FLOCKNOTE. This is all totally free for you to use, you don't even have to download anything or create a password in order to participate. You just take a couple minutes to sign up and it lets you receive email or text messages from the groups and ministries that you choose. Your info is kept totally private and, again, it lets you choose precisely which groups and ministries you want to get email and text messages from here at St. Cecilia Church. To register simply text SCC2020 to 84576 OR go to the home page of our website: st-cecilia.org and there you will find other ways to register for this important communication tool.

Monday, August 26**Tuesday, August 27**

9:00 am—DMA STEM (Diocese Center)

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

Wednesday, August 28

8:30 am—DMA Faculty Meeting (School)

Thursday, August 29

8:00 am—Faculty Retreat (Hayes Hall)

Friday, August 30**Saturday, August 31****Sunday, September 1****GOLD and SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS**

Couples, were you married in 1999 or 1974? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 50th or 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held:

Sunday, November 17, 2024 at 3:00pm.

Arrangements can be made by contacting your parish office. **The deadline to register is Wednesday, October 16, 2024.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. *Congratulations on this joyous occasion!*

St. Therese, The Little Flower Ministry would like to invite you to an event with Bishop Kevin Sweeney. The event will be on Sunday, September 29th at 1:45 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 10 N. Pocono Rd. in Mountain Lakes. It is not a Mass. We will celebrate two feast days, St. Therese the Little Flower and St. Michael the Archangel (which is the actual feast day of St. Michael). We will have the Knights of Columbus, two bagpipers, a NYC Broadway singer, the organist and choir director from St. Catherine's Church. **All are welcome!**

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, September 12, 2024 at 7:30pm; **NEW LOCATION**: 427 Franklin Road, Denville, NJ, Union Hill Presbyterian Church/Pre-School- All Purpose Room (Back Entrance; Enter Through Kitchen). Program for September 12, 2024:

"The Person I have Become VS. The Person I Was"

Registration for Religious Education classes for 2024-2025 is open now. Please go to the web site to register under the Faith Formation tab.

st-cecilia.org

Divine Mercy Academy News

NEW PRINCIPAL – I would like to welcome our new principal to Divine Mercy Academy, Mrs. Kelly Cacella. Mrs. Cacella's teaching career has only been in Catholic education within the Archdiocese of Newark with both elementary and high school experiences serving as teacher and administrator. I look forward to her leadership as we begin our new school year on September 3rd and our pre-school on September 4th.

Father Zig

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year at Divine Mercy Academy in Rockaway is now open!

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 & library, with technology integrated throughout the curriculum. Aftercare and extracurricular activities available.

Transfer Grants and Scholarships are available to eligible students.

Full day & Half Day Pre-K3 & Pre-K4 programs available. Full Day Kindergarten. We are located at 87 Halsey Avenue in Rockaway. Visit our website at www.dmarockaway.org or call 973-627-6003 for more information.

ST. FAUSTINA SCHOLARSHIP –The second annual appeal for the Saint Faustina Scholarship fund is currently underway. The scholarship benefits children who are enrolled at Divine Mercy Academy and are in need of assistance to attend our school. The program is managed by our principal and in concurrence with Father Zig. A second basket will be located at the baptismal font to accept donations for the Saint Faustina Scholarship Fund. Checks should be made out to: SAINT CECILIA CHURCH with the memo: SCHOLARSHIP. The appeal will conclude on the feast of Saint Faustina, October 5th. Your donation is a sign of your support for Catholic education. Please be generous! May God bless you!

We are online: www.st-cecilia.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION TO BEGIN – *Monday, September 8th* will begin the adult faith formation opportunities we have at Saint Cecilia Parish. Every Monday evening beginning at 7:30, in Hayes Hall, we will commence with the series entitled, SYMBOLON, which is produced by Ascension Press. The 10 week program begins with a video presentation followed by discussion. The focus is the faith of the Church and its Apostolic foundations. The program is led by Chuck Malaniak. *Tuesday, September 9th* will resume the Bible Study Group led by Father Matt. The weekly sessions are held in Hayes Hall beginning at 9:30 in the morning. The topic: THE GOSPEL OF SAINT JOHN. *Thursday, September 26th* will be the first installment of “Saint Cecilia Presents...” This is a monthly presentation made by a guest speaker on a timely topic. The first presenter is Bishop Emeritus Arthur Serratelli who will speak on the topic: RELIGION AND POLITICS. The presentation will begin at 7 o’clock in the evening in Hayes Hall. On October 17th “Saint Cecilia Presents...” Father Marc Mancini, Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Paterson, whose presentation is entitled, “Exorcisms”. All adults are welcome to these opportunities of faith formation and fellowship!

HELP NEEDED—Volunteers are needed to assist in the laundering of the linens used during the Holy sacrifice of the Mass. You would be put on a schedule once every 4 to 6 weeks. If you are interested or **need more information**, please call or stop by the parish office—973-627-0313. Thank you!

DANIEL – The Sight and Sound production of DANIEL will be shown in a number of movie theaters on Friday, August 30 to September 2. Tickets can be purchased for the theater showings (check AMC at the Rockaway Mall). You can go to the Sight and Sound website for additional information.

FILIPINO CELEBRATION – The Diocesan Commission for Catholic Filipino Ministries will celebrate the memory of two Filipino Saints, San Lorenzo Ruiz De Manila and San Pedro Calungsod De Cebu on Saturday, September 28th at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on East Main Street in Rockaway. The ceremony begins with the praying of the Holy Rosary and Novena at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Holy Mass at 11:00 a.m. His Excellency, Bishop Kevin Sweeney will serve as the Principal Celebrant and Homilist. Refreshments will follow the serve in the church hall. Parking is available at the Skylands Medical Building across the street from the church. Filipino attire is encouraged. **MARAMING SALAMAT PO!!!**

PADRE PIO – The Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday, September 4th at 10 o’clock in the morning in the votive chapel located in the rear of the church. The hour long gathering includes praying the Holy Rosary and discussing the monthly meditation material sent from San Giovanni Rotondo in Italy. All are welcome to attend!

HOLY HOUR – Holy Hour resumes on Monday, September 9th from 7 to 8 p.m. The praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet concludes Holy Hour. Confessions are heard during Holy Hour.

Please visit the kiosk in the vestibule of the church to see our nice selection of CD’s that has been updated
\$4.00 a CD.

HANDICAPPED SEATING – Work will begin shortly in altering the first pew in front of the altar of Saint Joseph to accommodate persons with walkers and wheelchairs. This space will be designated for those persons who need a little extra room to participate in the liturgy as part of the worshiping community.

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.

Come join the **Sisters of Christian Charity** for their 11th Annual Golf Outing and Inaugural Pickleball Clinic and Round Robin at Fiddler’s Elbow Country Club, Bedminster, NJ, on Monday, September 23, 2024. For more information go to <https://www.sccus.org/golf>.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

WHO: Hosted by MARCH FOR LIFE – ALL ARE WELCOME

WHAT: Paterson Diocese New Jersey March for Life
Where: Trenton, NJ

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

Mass: 9:30 AM **Rally:** 11:00 AM **March for Life:** 12:00 PM
The Dobbs Decision of June 24, 2022 reversed the Roe V. Wade decision of 1973. Come join us in our March for Life in Trenton as we peacefully rally and march for the dignity of the human person.

HOW: RSVP and reserve a roundtrip bus ride, go to insidethe walls.org/njmarchforlife

A head count is needed to reserve the buses.

Please register ASAP.

Roundtrip bus: \$35.00 person

Enter payment as a student donation.



My dear parishioners,

Today we gather on the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time to commemorate the Lord's Day with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Today we conclude our month-long reading of the 6th chapter of the Gospel of Saint John known as the "Bread of Life Discourse." For these past 4 weeks we have listened to the instruction Our Lord had given to His disciples regarding the Eucharist and His coming as the "Bread of Life." After the "murmuring" and the rejection of His words some part from the Lord's company. They cannot and will not accept the truth that He is the One sent by God to give life to the world. So they return to their former way of life with their spiritual hunger prevailing.

The affirmation of the Eucharistic theology announced by Jesus is publicly made by the Apostle Peter who speaks on behalf of the Twelve, *"You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."* The Undivided Church (East and West) has held to this belief. Unfortunately this belief was challenged during the Reformation and is still a source of division among Christians today. However for the Catholic and Orthodox Churches (Oriental as well) the faith of the Lord Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist has been upheld from the beginning.

As we look at the Scripture texts for this Sunday the word FIDELITY emerges. In the Old Testament reading Joshua inquires of the Israelites, whom he is leading into the Promised Land, if they will be faithful to the Lord who has guided them and nourished them in their journey. They respond, *"...we will serve the Lord, for He is our God."* In the epistle reading the Apostle Paul writes to the Ephesians about the fidelity which should define marriage and which calls spouses to embrace sacrificial love. This attitude is the one of Christ who loves His spouse the Church.

Fidelity to Christ's words means that we are in His company. We do not challenge the Lord for that would put us with those in today's Gospel who *"...no longer accompanied Him."* Our desire to remain with our Blessed Lord is shown in our fidelity to receiving the Holy Eucharist. Participation in the Sunday celebration of the Holy Mass is a sign of our belief in the Lord's words, *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."*

Fidelity is proven in Eucharistic participation. Challenge is shown in Eucharistic indifference!

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

ST. ROSE OF LIMA, Virgin
August 23 — Patroness of South America

ISABEL DE FLORES Y DEL OLIVA, called Rose by her mother because of her red cheeks and confirmed with that name by St. Turibius de Mogrovejo, was the first person in the Americas to be canonized as a Saint. Born at Lima, Peru, in 1586, she worked long and hard to help support her family, growing flowers and doing embroidery and other needlework.

Having taken a vow of virginity early in life, she consistently refused to marry and at twenty years of age became a Dominican Tertiary, and lived in a summerhouse in the garden of her home. Here she practiced extreme penance and mortification, modeling her life after that of St. Catherine of Siena.

St. Rose bore her many and great adversities with heroic patience and consoled the sick and suffering among the poor, Indians, and slaves. Consequently, she is regarded as the originator of social service in Peru. She died in 1617 at thirty-one years of age and was canonized in 1671 by Pope Clement X.

PRAYER God, You filled St. Rose with love for You and enabled her to leave the world and be free for You through the austerity of penance. Through her intercession, help us to follow her footsteps on earth and enjoy the torrent of Your delights in heaven. Amen.

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

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