

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 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, September 2, Weekday

9:00 am — For the Faithful Departed (Cemetery)

Tuesday, September 3, Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

6:30 am — Steven "Skip" Dachisen req. by Salvesen Family

8:00 am — Eleanor & Thomas Sullivan req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

Wednesday, September 4, Weekday

6:30 am — Frederick J. Slanovec req. by McDonnell Family

8:00 am — Jim & Catherine Carroll req. by Pat Degnan

Thursday, September 5, Weekday

6:30 am — Fredrick J. Slanovec req. by McDonnell Family

8:00 am — The Deceased Members of the Scruggs Family

Friday, September 6, Weekday

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

8:00 am — Andrew & Jack Zayac req. by Family

Saturday, September 7, Weekday

8:00 am — Deceased Members of the Rosary Society

Sunday, September 8, Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm — Denis Klus req. by his wife, Darlene

Patricia Zayac req. by Rosary Society

7:00 pm — Russell Colditz req. by his wife, Ana

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

9:15 am — Lorraine & Donald Schneeloch req. by family

Marie Neander req. by Barbara Tillyer

10:45 am — Renato Sebastian & Antonita DeJesus req. by Family

Jerzy Glazewski req. by Barbara Quinby

12:15 pm — James Dragone req. by Rosalie & Bob Marmara

Francesa Perazzi req. by David & Cheryl Sproul

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALSWeek Ending : August 25, 2024

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 7,628.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 5,562.50
<u>Total Weekly Collection</u>	\$ 13,190.50

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,123.23)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 563.70

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©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.

Happy Labor Day

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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 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, 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.

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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

WELCOME ALISON – Our new music minister, Alison Ervin, will begin her service in our parish at next week’s Masses celebrating the Lord’s Day. Alison has served as a music minister in parishes in the Diocese of Paterson as well as in the Diocese of Metuchen. I welcome her to Saint Cecilia’s and look forward to working with her. – Father Zig

THANK YOU CHUCK – For 7 years we have been blessed with the music ministry of Chuck Linnell. This is not a farewell because Chuck is not going anywhere; he and his family are parishioners and will remain active in our parish community. On behalf of the parish I thank Chuck for his wonderful service to Saint Cecilia’s in which he has brought wonderful sounds of praise to this house dedicated to Saint Cecilia, our patroness and the patron saint of church music. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** – Father Zig

**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:**



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.

Symbolon: The Faith of the Church

“Symbolon: The Faith of the Church” presents the central teachings of the Catholic faith in their unity, beauty, and vitality. In the early Church, the Creed expressed these beliefs, identifying the Church’s faith and defining the identity of the Christians who professed it. This series sticks close to the Creed. It shows its inner logic, reveals the beauty of its teachings, and highlights the fruits it has brought into the world and continues to bear in the lives of those who profess it.

Sixteen episodes combine expert instruction, lived witness, and stunning cinematography to bring the ancient faith vividly into the contemporary world. Each episode weaves together Scripture, Tradition, history, and prayer. This tapestry of teaching is faithful to the Magisterium while remaining approachable and winsome. Viewers are taken on pilgrimage to locations across the globe to discover that the Church and her faith are alive and ever young. Some sites are grand; other, humble. Some distant, while others are familiar. But together, these locations remind us that the Sites both grand and humble, both distant and accessible, remind us that the extraordinary faith of the Church breaks into our ordinary lives, beckons us, and transforms us still today.

Symbolon echoes our Lord’s proclamation two thousand years ago, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mt 4:17). It shows this proclamation still resounds and calls us today. It invites us to seek the face of God and to discover that, all along, he has been seeking us.

This Study Set includes:

The Full-Color Workbook – Provides session overviews, home reading assignments, engaging study questions, responses, and talk notes for the video presentations.

This exciting series will begin on Monday September 9, 2024, at 7:30pm in Hayes Hall. We will meet for 16 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 \$40.00 cost that covers the workbook. For more information or to register, contact Charles Malaniak at

cemalaniak@gmail.com.

Monday, September 2**Labor Day**

DMA and Parish Office are closed today

Tuesday, September 3**First Day of School**

12:00 pm—*Seniors Meeting (Hayes Hall)*

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

Wednesday, September 4

10:00 am—*Padre Pio Prayer Group (Church)*

7:00 pm—*Pro Life Meeting (Hayes Hall)*

Thursday, September 5**Friday, September 6****Saturday, September 7**

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

12:00 pm—*Backpack Blessing (Church)*

Sunday, September 8

9:15 am—*Children's Liturgy*

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!*

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

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"

Divine Mercy Academy News

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!

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 worshipping community.

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!!!**

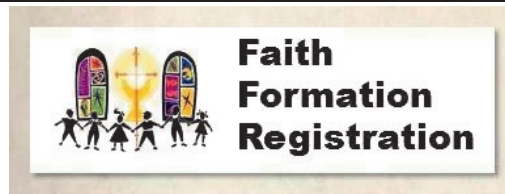
Fr. Zig

ADULT FAITH FORMATION TO BEGIN – *Monday, September 9th* 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 10th* 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 *Thursday, 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!

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.

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!!!**

CHILDREN’S LITURGY - Children’s Liturgy of the Word will resume next Sunday, September 8th at the 9:15 a.m. Mass. This children’s service will be offered each Sunday at the 9:15 a.m. Mass. Parents are welcome to accompany very young children to Hayes Hall where the service is conducted by our catechists. The children leave the church together following the Introit (Opening Prayer) and return to the church during the Offertory of the Holy Mass to rejoin their family.



Faith Formation 2024-2025

We are excited to begin a new formation year here at St. Cecilia's. Registration is open for public school students in grades K-8th. This includes sacrament preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

We also have a number of other Faith Formation opportunities for children and adults. Don't miss out on the great opportunity we have to receive and pass on the faith for ourselves and our children.

All program information and how to register is available on our website: www.St-Cecilia.org/FaithFormation

Please contact Jim Clancy if you have any questions.
StCecilia.FaithFormation@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed!!!

As we prepare for the upcoming Faith Formation year, we are still in need of several catechists. This is a great opportunity for someone that has a desire to share the gift of faith with our young parishioners. Teachers are needed in our Sunday morning CCD program and our Tuesday evening Confirmation program.

If you feel called by God to serve in this important and rewarding ministry, please contact Jim Clancy at StCecilia.FaithFormation@gmail.com

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/nj march for life

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 is the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time and as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist on the Lord's Day the Scripture texts speak to us about the Law. The Law is that which has been given by God to Israel and which is also known as the Commandments. The Law is highly regarded since it defines the people of Israel from other nations. The Lord gave the Law to Moses as the people were journeying from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land which we know today as Israel. Faithful adherence to the Law is an indication of the covenantal relationship between the people and the Lord God which distinguishes them from other nations.

In time there were additions to the Law which addressed almost every facet of life for the people. These regulations became almost impossible for the average person to fulfill. The religious establishment, composed of a few, were the only persons able to keep these regulations leaving most people under an oppressive burden.

However in the time in which our Savior appeared hypocrisy emerged in which the religious "elite" displayed a superiority over those who did not meet their criteria. This is evidenced in the Gospel passage for today in which Jesus' disciples are called out by the Pharisees and Scribes for not exactly following the prescriptions of the Law in regard to eating without the proper ritual washings before eating. This causes the Lord to rebuke them with these stern words: *"From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."* Clearly Jesus is more concerned about what comes forth from the mouth than what goes into it!

God's Law is important. All just laws are important. We need law to live as a civilized society. Today's Scripture texts remind us that we live under the law so that civility and order may facilitate us in honorable living as the Apostle James writes in today's epistle reading. The law helps us to remember that we do not live alone and that as a community we are mindful of others, especially the vulnerable.

The phrase, "laws were made to be broken" is careless, unless they are unjust. People of good will throughout the centuries struggled and had given their lives to overturn laws which terrorized citizens. Their efforts restored human dignity when totalitarian regimes sought to enslave.

Like Jesus, let us be mindful of the dignity of each and every person from the unborn child to the terminally ill elderly. The Apostle James reminds us today: *"He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of first fruits of his creatures."*

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

ST. ROSALIA, VIRGIN
September 4 – Patroness of Palermo

ST. ROSALIA, daughter of Sinibald, Lord of Roses and Quisquina, was a descendant of the great Charlemagne. She was born at Palermo in Sicily. In her youth, her heart turned from earthly vanities to God. She left her home and took up her abode in a cave, on the walls of which she wrote these words: *"I, Rosalia, daughter of Sinibald, Lord of Roses, and Quisquina, have taken the resolution to live in this cave for the love of my Lord, Jesus Christ."* She remained there entirely hidden from the world.

Rosalia practiced great mortifications and lived in constant communion with God. Afterward she transferred her abode to Mount Pellegrino, about three miles from Palermo, in order to triumph entirely over the instincts of flesh and blood, in sight of her paternal home. She is said to have appeared after death and to have revealed that she spent several years in a little excavation near the grotto. She died alone, in 1160, ending her strange and wonderful life unknown to the world. Her body was discovered in 1625, during the pontificate of Pope Urban VIII.

PRAYER Lord God, You showered heavenly gifts on St. Rosalia, Your Virgin. Help us to imitate her virtues during our earthly life and enjoy eternal happiness with her in heaven. Amen

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

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