

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

Mrs. Alison Ervin
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 9, Saint Peter Claver, Priest

6:30 am — Joseph & Angelina Rossi req. by Zayac/Waskas Family

8:00 am — Linda Merz Waters req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Tuesday, September 10, Weekday

6:30 am — Russel Colditz, Birthday Remembrance req. by Fran & Steven

8:00 am — George & Gerard Cunningham req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Wednesday, September 11, Weekday

6:30 am — Marge Benson & Liam Callahan

8:00 am — Steve & Anne Haran req. by Peggy McKinney
John Sierchio req. by Family**Thursday, September 12, The Most Holy Name of Mary**

6:30 am — Dorothy Mathews req. by Sophie Boylan

8:00 am — Leon & Elizabeth Degnan req. by Pat Degnan

Friday, September 13, Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

6:30 am — Marie Eva Jean-Francois req. by Viviane

8:00 am — Edward W. & Mary A. Merz req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Saturday, September 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 am — Luigi Santiago req. by Santiago Family

Sunday, September 15, Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm — Vermette & Therrien Families req. by Marie Wahlstrom

7:00 pm — Scott J. Sirvent req. by Bozza Family
Marci Benson req. by Trudy Simmons8:00 am — Eileen Traino req. by Neil & Leah VanScoy
Dolores Socha req. by Fr. Zig9:15 am — Merrill Conner req. by Family
Jenn Suto req. by Linda & Carline Kuhlmeier10:45 am — Ilse Villanueva req. by Carol & Gary McGotty
Mike Traynor req. by Rosalie & Bob Marmara12:15 pm — Robert Petruska req. by Turner Family
Eileen Traino req. by Mary & Kevin McAloon**ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS****Week Ending : September 1, 2024**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 7,640.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 4,866.50
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 12,506.50

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,807.23)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,243.53)

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC



The Altar Flowers are in memory of
Mary Caraglia's 100th Birthday

Donated by
The Bieksha Family

Our Condolences to the Family of
Margaret Fath
Eternal Rest Grant to her Lord

WELCOME ALISON — It is with great joy that I welcome Mrs. Alison Ervin to Saint Cecilia Parish and her new role as music minister. I look forward to collaborating with her and the members of our parish choir so as to continue the fine music program in our parish. — Father Zig

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Ethan Chandra, Dean Wayne Campbell, Doris Cusick, Jane Gorica, Sam Sessa, Karen Niles, Noel Wadleigh, David Cicchine, Teresa D'Atria, Derek Bascharow, Debbie Malc, Grace McDermott, Joe Horvath, Jr., Elvira Bugaoan, Owen Peter Byrne, Tia Maddaloni, Mason Walker Steussing, Susan Mejia, Derek Bascharow, Jim Rattay, Tom Hull, Kathleen Fazio, Kristin Wich, Kyle Johnson, Kate Darlington, Jake Michael Miraldi, Cheryl Anne Bornemann, Sean Nolan, Maryann Hughes, Peggy Eileen Miars, Ray Kennedy, Richard Corcoran, Madison Rose Leslie, Demetrius Barbee, Frances Finn, Dorothy Murray, Kimberly Dugan, Gale Sessa, Mike Murray, 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.

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JOIN OUR CHURCH CHOIR - Church choir will be starting up again on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. The first rehearsal will be on September 18th at 7:30pm. Rehearsals will take place in the choir loft. The choir sings at the 10:45am Mass each week, as well as for Holy Days and special events. Everyone is welcome to join! You don't need to be a professional—just bring your love for singing and a desire to contribute to our parish community. As St. Augustine said, “To sing is to pray twice.” If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our music director, Alison, at 908-319-7403 or ervinalison@gmail.com.—
Alison Ervin, Music Director

CONSIDERING BECOMING CATHOLIC?

If you or an adult you know has been leaning toward becoming a Catholic, you are invited to get more information about what is involved with no expectations or pressure. Sister Diane will be in the front of the Church after most of the Masses in September with take home registration materials. Check the parish website. Look for OCIA. “The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.” The updated translation of the original English version of what we know as the RCIA. It is the process by which unbaptized adults can learn about and prepare for Baptism, and those already baptized Catholic can prepare to complete their membership in the Church by the Sacrament of Confirmation. We also welcome into the same into our OCIA community, Christians already baptized and now choosing to take a new step in their relationship with God by coming into full communion with the Catholic Church, receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

SEPTEMBER 11TH – This year marks the 23rd anniversary of the terrorist attacks in our country which killed over 2,000 Americans and among them two of our parishioners: Marge Benson and Liam Callahan. Wednesday's 6:30 a.m. Mass will be offered for the repose of their souls and all those who died on that tragic day.



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:**



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.

BISHOP SERRATELLI “ON FIRST” – Our Bishop Emeritus, the Most Reverend Arthur Serratelli will serve as the first speaker at our fall monthly series entitled, “Saint Cecilia Presents.” The Bishop will speak on a very timely topic, “RELIGION AND POLITICS.” The event will take place in Hayes Hall on Thursday, September 26th beginning at 7 o'clock. Join us for this informative and lively presentation!

Monday, September 9

7:00 pm—Holy Hour (Church)

7:30 pm—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

Tuesday, September 10

9:30 am—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

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

Wednesday, September 11

7:00 pm—Finance Board Meeting (Parish Office)

Thursday, September 12

6:30 pm—Holy Hour (Church)

7:00 pm—Vocations Meeting (Hayes Hall)

Friday, September 13**Saturday, September 14**

8:30 am—Men's Society Meeting (Hayes Hall)

Sunday, September 15

9:15 am—Children's Liturgy

10:30 am—Faith Formation Staff Meeting (DMA)

8:00 pm—Leadership Training Program (HH)

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

KofC, Our Lady of the Lakes Council #3359 Golf Outing – October 11, 2024—Join us for the Knights of Columbus Golf Outing on Friday, October 11, 2024, at Rock Ridge Golf Course. This exciting event supports Divine Mercy Academy and various KofC community initiatives. All are welcome to participate in a day of golf while contributing to a great cause. For more details, please contact Vinny Lusardi at 319-270-9610 or Jeff Zuber at 973-727-9010. You can also find a flyer with additional information at www.kofc3359.org. Donations are also welcome!

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

BLESSING OF ANIMALS – The blessing of pets will take place on Saturday, October 5th beginning at 12 Noon at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church yard located on East Main Street. This traditional blessing is done in commemoration of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi whose memory is celebrated on October 4th.

CEMETERY NEWS – The Stations of the Cross located in the parish cemetery will be replaced due to deterioration. New Stations will be installed in the spring and will be formally blessed at the outdoor Mass on Memorial Day, May 26, 2025. The Stations will bear the same donation donors as on the previous.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING – The next general meeting of the parish 150th Anniversary Committee will take place on Wednesday, September 18th in Hayes Hall beginning at 7 o'clock. Current members are asked to be in attendance as we draw near to the commencement of our anniversary celebration on December 1st. An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to assist us on the committee to join us. – Father Zig

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!!!**

AFTER CANA – “After Cana” is an invitation for all couples, whether married 50 days or 50 years. Each event will begin with a short prayer and presentation in the church. Couples will then have time alone to discuss and share their thoughts and insights together. Lastly, we will all gather for some fellowship, food and drinks in Hayes Hall. Online registration is required. \$25.00 per couple. Sign up at www.st-cecilia.org/aftercana. The first session is Saturday, September 28th beginning at 8:00 pm (till 9:30 pm) on the topic: “The need for God in marriage”.

SOCKS IN THE BOX – RiseUp is collecting new socks for Homeless Men, Women and Children. The box will be in the church vestibule. Socks will only be accepted up until September 29th. *Thank you!*



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/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,

We come together as a parish family to join the Universal Church to celebrate the Lord's Day. This is the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time and the Scripture texts which are given to us speak about the ability to "listen." Sometime the ears of our heart are clogged with the concerns of the world that we cannot hear the voice of the Lord. God continuously whispers our name calling us to a deeper relationship with Him despite the noise which surrounds us and deafens us to the Divine Voice of the One who said, "Ephphatha."

In the Old Testament lection the Prophet Isaiah speaks of the Messianic time when those who are handicapped with disabilities which prevent them from living a richer life will be healed by the Lord who brings salvation. In the Gospel we find the Lord Jesus, the Messiah, who inaugurates the Kingdom of God with the healing of the man who was deaf and as a result of this disability was unable to speak clearly. With his ears now open the formally deaf one can now hear plainly the voice of God. The Lord desires that we listen to His voice and respond with faith and devotion.

In the final verses of today's epistle reading we read the words of the Apostle James: "*Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.*" Sometimes listening is difficult for us, not only because of the noise from the world but, because we are too occupied with our own concerns. We are always talking about what we want that we are hardly ever silent so as to be alert to the voice of God. In our listening to the Lord we are then able to speak words which announce the Kingdom of God. In our listening we become grounded in the Gospel and are strengthened to go forth and do the works which the Lord Jesus calls us to perform in His Name.

Taking time to be silent and place ourselves in the presence of the Lord is what disciples are called to do so as to listen, learn and witness. Now that Labor Day has come and gone we resume our regular schedule of faith formation opportunities here at Saint Cecilia for both adults and children. All of us, without exception, are summoned by the Master to take time to sit at His feet and listen to Him. This listening is demonstrated in prayer and through learning opportunities which open the ears of our heart to the voice of God who is calling us to witness in His Name.

May everyone in our parish, old and young, enter into deeper prayer and avail themselves to faith formation opportunities this year so that we may respond to the voice of God!

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

**ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Sept. 13—Patron of Sacred Orators**

Saint John, named Chrysostom (golden-mouthed) on account of his eloquence, came into the world of Christian parents, about the year 344, in the city of Antioch. His mother, a widow at the age of twenty, was a model of virtue. He studied rhetoric under Libanius, a pagan, the most famous orator of the age.

In 374, he began to lead the life of an anchorite in the mountains near Antioch, but in 386 the poor state of his health forced him to return to Antioch, where he was ordained priest.

In 398, he was elevated to the See of Constantinople and became one of the greatest lights of the Church. But he had enemies in high places and some were ecclesiastics, not the least being Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who repented of this before he died. His most powerful enemy, however, was the Empress Eudoxia, who was offended by the apostolic freedom of his discourses. Several accusations were brought against him in a pseudo-council, and he was sent into exile.

In the midst of his sufferings, like the Apostle St. Paul whom he so greatly admired, he found the greatest peace and happiness. He had the consolation of knowing that the Pope remained his friend, and did for him what lay in his power. His enemies were not satisfied with the sufferings he had already endured, and they banished him still further, to Pythius, at the very extremity of the Empire. He died on his way there on September 14, 407.

PRAYER God, You are the strength of those who hope in You. You gave Your Church St. John Chrysostom, Your Bishop, who was endowed with great eloquence and was able to withstand great sufferings. Let us learn from his teaching and be inspired by the example of his patience. Amen.

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

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