

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)

OCIA—ORDER 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 23, Saint Pius of Pietreicina, Priest

6:30 am – Irene Shucavage req. by Agnes Maye

8:00 am – Louise Zayac req. by Zayac/Waskas Family

Tuesday, September 24, Weekday

6:30 am – Special Intention

8:00 am – Joseph Francesco Stango req. by Mary from
Zen Parlour**Wednesday, September 25, Weekday**

6:30 am – For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:00 am – Sister Stephanie Olek req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

Thursday, September 26, Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

6:30 am – Deceased Members of the Cables Family

8:00 am – Charles Cirella req. by Noreen Breslauer

Friday, September 27, Saint Vincent de Paul Priest

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

8:00 am – Millie DiGuseppi req. by Pat Zayac

Saturday, September 28, Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr, Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs, BVM8:00 am – Cecilia & Florentino Berdin req. by Berdin &
Baricuatro Family**Sunday, September 29, Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**4:30 pm – Anna Lucia Zangari req. by Servidio Family
Linda Donatoni req. by Barbara & Ed Higdon

7:00 pm – Joanna & Walter Lech req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

8:00 am – Amelia Curran req. by Elaine & Tom Potkalesky

9:15 am – Merrill Conner req. by Rosemary Matis
Noreen O'Neill req. by Haynes Family

10:45 am – Michael A. & Bernadette Miller

Joseph Sala req. by Sala Family

12:15 pm – Marie Shubilla req. by Rosemarie Hester

Anna Wahlstrom req. by Marilyn Whelan

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : September 15, 2024**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 10,400.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 4,866.50
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 15,266.50

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 952.77
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (2,436.98)

*We are **thankful** for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPK*

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

RESERVED PEW IN FRONT – The first pew on the right hand side of the church in front of the Altar of Saint Joseph has been altered so as to allow easy access for those entering the church with a wheelchair. Walker, crutches, etc. This pew is reserved for them (and caregiver). My thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Pane who donated the cost for this alteration. – 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, Sophie Boylan.



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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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? Sister Diane will be in the front of the Church after most of the Masses to answer your questions and give out take home registration materials. Check the parish website and register soon. The first session is September 29, after the 9:15 Mass and ending before the 10:45 Mass. Contact Sister Diane at the Parish Office, extension 14.

ROSARY PROCESSION WITH BISHOP – You are invited to join Bishop Kevin Sweeney and the faithful of the diocese for a Rosary procession which will take place on Sunday, October 6th beginning at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at Saint Vincent Martyr Church in Madison (26 Green Village Road). The intention is to pray the Rosary for our country. The event will occur rain or shine. Please check the bulletin board in the vestibule for additional information.

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!*

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 23, 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 is no cost to attend.** However, if you want a workbook, there is a \$40.00 cost that covers the workbook. For more information or to register, contact Charles Malaniak cemalania@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!

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Monday, September 23

7:00 pm—Holy Hour (Church)

7:30 pm—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

Tuesday, September 24

9:30 am—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

7:00 pm—Confirmation Begins (DMA)

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

Wednesday, September 25

7:00 pm—2nd Grade Parents Meeting (Hayes Hall)

7:30 pm—Choir Practice (Church)

Thursday, September 26

7:00 pm—St. Cecilia Presents..... (Hayes Hall)

Friday, September 27

6:00 pm—Altar Server Training (Church)

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

Saturday, September 28

8:00 pm—After Cana (Church & Hayes Hall)

Sunday, September 29

OCIA Talk after the Masses

3:00 pm—5th Sunday Rosary (Sacred Heart Church)

8:00 pm—LTP (Hayes Hall)

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.

Pope John XXIII High School will be hosting our Fall Open Houses on Thursday, October 3rd and Wednesday, October 30, 2024 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Students and their families are invited to meet members of our high school community and learn about our academic, athletics and extracurricular programs. Grounded in Catholic tradition and through our campus ministry program, Pope John prepares its students to be well-rounded, confident citizens who can meet the demands of higher education and the challenges of the world beyond. Come see what it means to be a Lion!

Prospective families are asked to RSVP at www.popejohn.org/admissions/open-house or email admissions@popejohn.org. We look forward to meeting you and sharing our wonderful community with your family.

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

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!

Sacred Heart/St. Cecilia Rosary Society Annual Induction & Communion Breakfast

Saturday, October 5, 2024, begins at 7:30am at St. Cecilia Church Breakfast will follow at Riverside Shoppe - Cost \$25.00. Flyers are on the table in the back of the church. Please return the form & your check to the parish office no later than Monday, September 30, 2024. For more information contact Pat 973 627-1732 or by email at pattyannmarie64@yohoo.com.

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!*

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”.

2024 Diocesan Ministries Appeal “United In Faith, Hope, Love” The 2024 Diocesan Ministries Appeal is officially kicking-off this weekend. The theme of this year’s Appeal is “United in Faith, Hope, Love”. It is a reminder that when we come together as people of faith, united in Christ’s love, we can accomplish great things for God’s people. The Diocesan Ministries Appeal supports the work of our Catholic Charities programs and ministries, priests’ healthcare needs, Nazareth Village, our diocesan priests’ retirement residence, urban Catholic education and seminarian formation. These are all critically important ministries that touch many lives, so please make a pledge today. It is good to know that funds from the Appeal are used only for the causes described in the campaign materials and for no other purpose. Thank you in advance for your generous support! Please consider a donation to the 2024 Diocesan Ministries Appeal.

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!



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

Morris County Right to Life, is organizing a 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil this fall. It will run daily from Sept 25 through Nov 3rd between 7am and 7pm in front of the Planned Parenthood at 196 Speedwell Avenue in Morristown. Please consider signing up to join us for 1 or more hours per week to pray for the protection of babies in the womb who are routinely lost at this clinic. Prayer and presence have been proven effective in saving babies' lives. You can sign up online at: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/vigil-search.aspx> or by contacting Frances Spilman at: 44lifeus@gmail.com

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.



My dear parishioners,

Today marks the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The theme which comes forth from the Sacred Texts for this Sunday is similar to that which was presented last Sunday namely, the suffering of Christ. His Passion is foretold in the Old Testament Book of Wisdom which is proclaimed today. Sinners are at odds with the “Just One” whose selflessness and humility is an offense to them and their evil designs. He suffers greatly at their hands but will be rescued by the Lord who delights in His faithfulness.

In Mark’s Gospel we journey with Jesus and His Apostles on their way to Jerusalem where He will suffer greatly for the salvation of all. On their way it becomes apparent that there arose among the Apostles the question as to which of them is the greatest. Their arguing troubles Jesus who continues to instruct them about the kind of followers He is calling. He tells them that greatness comes through selflessness and service. This will require sacrifice and the virtue of humility. The Lord demonstrates this by putting His arms around a little child and presents this little one as so very important. Just as a “side bar”, tradition holds that this little child was Saint Ignatius who will become the Bishop of Antioch and one of the first martyrs of the Church.

The behavior of the Apostles in arguing among themselves regarding importance may be addressed in the epistle reading for today from the Letter of James. In it we read, “*Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice.*” The Apostles were in the school of discipleship and it was Jesus who instructed them in the humble service which is the key to greatness. Conducting oneself in this manner is a sign of wisdom and regarding this James writes: “*But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.*”

Yes, in the Passion of Christ we see humility which is the bases for selfless service which comes at the price of suffering. This is the lesson which all disciples must learn and incorporate into their daily lives. By so doing we are encouraged by the words of today’s Responsorial Psalm: THE LORD UPHOLDS MY LIFE. Indeed God is ever at our side to strengthen us and comfort us as we offer ourselves in humble service. This is the basis of the peace we experience and the confidence we possess that “*God is my helper; the Lord sustains my life.*”

The school of discipleship for our young people begins this week with our CCD program and Confirmation classes. Adults likewise are called to attend the school of discipleship by attending the various faith formation classes available in our parish. Let us learn our lessons well at Saint Cecilia’s so that we may become true disciples of Jesus Christ!

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

**STS. LAWRENCE RUIZ AND COMPANIONS,
Martyrs—September 28**

From 1633 to 1637 sixteen martyrs shed their blood out of love for Christ in the city of Nagasaki, Japan. They included members and associates of the Order of Preachers: nine priests, two religious, two virgins, and three lay people, one of whom was Lawrence Ruiz, the father of a family from the Philippine Islands. All had, at different times and under varying circumstances, preached the Christian Faith in the Philippines, Formosa, and Japan. They manifested the universality of the Christian religion and sowed the seed of future missionaries and converts.

The list of these martyrs is as follows: Dominic Ibanez de Erquicia, priest; James Kyushei Gorobioye Tomonaga, priest; Luke Alonso, priest; Hyacinth Ansalone, priest; Thomas Hioji Rokuzayemon Nishi, priest; Anthony Gonzalez, priest; William Courtet, priest; Michael de Aozaraza, priest; Vincent Schiwozuka, priest; Francis Shoyemon, religious; Matthew Kohioye, religious; Madeline of Nagasaki, virgin; Marina of Omura, virgin; Lawrence Ruiz, husband and father; Michael Kurobioye, layman; and Lazarus of Kyoto, layman. They were canonized in 1987 by John Paul II.

PRAYER Lord God, You are the strength of all the Saints. You called Sts. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions to eternal life through the cross. Grant us, through their intercession, perfect fidelity to keep the Faith until our death. Amen.



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