

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
YOUTH PROTECTION &
SAFE ENVIRONMENT
COORDINATOR

Mr. James Clancy
DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Mr. Nikolaos Brown
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mrs. Diane Boykow
CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR
STAFF ASSISTANT

Mrs. Kelly Cacella
PRINCIPAL



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 @ 3:00—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 — sdmoughan@gmail.com

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, December 9, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

6:30 am — Fr. Stanley Skrzypek req. by Fr. Zig

8:00 am — Jack Zayac req. by his Family

10:00 am — Divine Mercy Academy School Mass

7:00 pm — For the Parishioners of our parish

Tuesday, December 10, Our Lady of Loreto

6:30 am — Miriam Cruz-Soto req. by Karina Patterson

8:00 am — Alice & Walter Lech req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

Wednesday, December 11, Saint Damasus I, Pope

6:30 am — Juan Abreu req. by Jim Mainardi

8:00 am — Irene Shucavage req. by Ron Piaskowski

Thursday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:30 am — Special Intention for the DeBari Family

8:00 am — Patricia Zayac req. by Noreen Breslauer

Friday, December 13, Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

6:30 am — Special Intention for Derek Pepple req. by Al Habjan

8:00 am — Isabel & Alex Blazejewski req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

Saturday, December 14, Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am — John Goginsky req. by the St. Cecilia Seniors

Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

4:30 pm — Pat Zayac, Birthday Remembrance req. by the Maulbeck Family

Russell Colditz req. by his wife, Ana

7:00 pm — Peter Joseph Laurino req. by Kelly & Mark Kelly
Jeanne & Bill Gallagher req. by their daughter, Jan

8:00 am — Carolyn Killeen req. by Carol & Frank Desmond

9:15 am — Caterina Lena Carey req. by the Graner Family
Thomas Boykow req. by his Family

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

12:15 pm — Bill Whelan req. by Family

Frank Brescher req. by Nick & Jeanine Losito

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, John Sandelli, Alan Zenkert, Fran Gatzke, Bob Nielsen, Gert Taylor, Walter Zelinski, 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, Michael Gatzke, Philip Colombrito, Esperanza Vertucci, Molly Mack, Michele Murray, Jimmy Olgeluie, Mark Howarth.

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS

Week Ending : November 24, 2024

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 9,854.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 5,486.25
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 15,340.25

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,026.52
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 6,469.87

St. Cecilia Church Collection Goals
Week Ending: December 1, 2024
Due to the early publication of the bulletin,
the collections totals for the week will be
shown next week. Thank you!



*The Sanctuary Candle burning on our altar
this week is in loving memory of*
Jack Zayac
Req. by his Family



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 THE PASTOR – During this anniversary year I have ordered a statue of our patroness, Saint Cecilia which will be placed in the church. The 4 foot statue is made of linden wood and is being crafted in Italy. The statue will arrive sometime in February or March. I am looking for a donor for this statue which will be a beautiful addition to our church and an ever present reminder to us of our patroness and the generosity of the donor which will be memorialized. If you would like information regarding this donation I invite you to contact me in person or by calling me at the parish office, 973.627.0313 x12. This will be a wonderful commemoration of our parish's 150th anniversary! – Father Zig

PARISH MISSION SCHEDULE – The “Parish Mission” schedule is as follows: Father Joseph will speak at all the Masses for the Lord's Day on Saturday and Sunday, December 7th and 8th. Father will also speak at the Masses on Monday morning at 6:30 and 8 o'clock, as well as the evening Mass at 7 o'clock. Father will also speak to the students of Divine Mercy Academy on Monday morning at a private school Mass at 10 o'clock in the morning. Tuesday is the final day of the “Parish Mission” with Father Joseph speaking at the morning Masses at 6:30 and 8 o'clock and the evening service at 7 o'clock.

The Saint Monica's Guild will provide hospitality in Hayes Hall following the evening services on Monday and Tuesday. This will be an opportunity for you to meet our guest preacher.

YEAR END GIVING – As the end of the year approaches many charitable organizations will send requests for a year end donation. The benefit of these donations to the giver is, in our case, the amount may be beneficial for income tax reporting and having the joy of knowing that your gift is a gift to the Lord. As you know, here at Saint Cecilia's we have a special Christmas Mass Offering which encourages you to make a special end of the year donation to our parish in honor of Our Lord's Nativity. For some individuals the best way to make a special donation may be to donate securities in lieu of cash. If you are in a position to contribute securities, please contact the parish office for further information to pass along to your broker to complete your donation. As always, our parish (your spiritual home) is most grateful for your contributions at this time and throughout the year! – Father Zig

RORATE MASS – The 6:30 morning Mass, Monday through Friday, will be celebrated in honor of the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary. This Advent Mass is known as the “Rorate Mass” which is Latin for “drop down dew...” taken from Isaiah 45:8. This Mass is celebrated before the sun comes up with a special candle lighted before the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

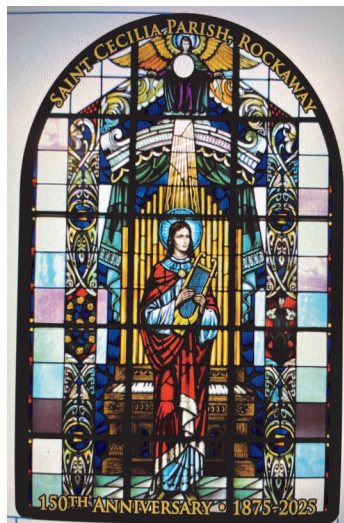
BEWARE OF SCAMS – Be on the alert of scams which say they are from me. THEY ARE NOT!!! Please call me at the office (973.627.0313x12) if you have **doubt** about a text, email, etc, which is supposedly from me asking for money, gift cards, favors, etc. PLEASE DO NOT BE FOOLED!!!

Fr. Zig

UPCOMING DAY OF OBLIGATION – The Holy See has decreed that the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, transferred to Monday, December 9th is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. December 8th, the date of the Solemnity, will be observed as the Second Sunday of Advent. Holy Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be on Monday at 6:30 and 8 o'clock in the morning and 7 o'clock in the evening.

SAINT CECILIA PRESENTS... – The fourth and final program of our fall “Saint Cecilia Presents...” series will take place on Thursday evening, December 19th in Hayes Hall at 7 o'clock. Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC will speak on the 1,700 anniversary of the Council of Nicea and the Nicene Creed. Sister is the Assistant President at Assumption College for Sisters in Denville and the Director of Formation for the wives of the Diaconate in the Diocese of Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) as well as a contributor to the *Catholic Witness*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Harrisburg.

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.



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT – In honor of our parish's 150th Anniversary a commemorative Christmas ornament has been produced and is on sale for \$20. The glass ornament is a representation of the Saint Cecilia stained glass window which is located in our church choir loft with the name of the parish and the anniversary designation 1875-2025. This is a limited edition so get yours today!

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Monday, December 9*Holy Day of Obligation**10:00 am—Divine Mercy Academy School Mass (Church)**7:00 pm—Parish Mission (Church)***Tuesday, December 10***7:00 pm—Parish Mission (Church)***Wednesday, December 11***7:00 pm—Steering Meeting (Parish Office)***Thursday, December 12***7:00 pm—Anniversary Meeting (Hayes Hall)***Friday, December 13***6:00 pm—DMA Winter Wonderland (Hayes Hall)***Saturday, December 14***8:30 am—Men's Society Meeting (Hayes Hall)**5:00 pm—Fish "N" Chips Dinner (Hayes Hall)***Sunday, December 15***7:00 pm—Christmas Concert (Church)**8:00 pm—LTP (Hayes Hall)*

FISH AND CHIPS DINNER – The annual Fish and Chips Dinner sponsored by the Men's Society will take place on Saturday, December 14th in Hayes Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. Eat - in or take- out available. The event is catered by "Tastefully British" providing us with quality fish and chicken. The cost is \$18 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$9 for children. Fish/chicken, French fries, cole slaw, dessert and beverage is included. It's a great deal! Please support our parish society in this fund raising event. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS TUESDAY BY CALLING THE PARISH OFFICE!!

Retirement Fund for Religious: Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

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

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.

A great **THANK YOU** to Nick Hosty, the Eagle Boy Scouts and all who were involved in the project to upgrade the playground behind Divine Mercy Academy's building. The work and commitment of young people such as Nick cannot be expressed with words. May our Lord of Light and Love richly bless you and all who were with you in this effort.



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS – Donations of food are gratefully accepted to help supply the two food pantries being assisted by our parish, the Rockaway Food Closet and Hope House (Catholic Charities in Dover). Your donations may be brought to the designated area in the stairwell of the church (side closest to the parish office) or left in the church vestibule. May God bless you for the generosity!

ADVENT CANDLELIGHT SERVICE—You are invited to join the Sisters of Christian Charity on Sunday, December 15th, at 4:00 pm, 350 Bernardville Road, Mendham, NJ, for a Candlelight Advent Service. Please RSVP: 973.230.5355

ADVENT TREE AND BABY BASSINETTE – As in past years we will once again try to provide some “Christmas cheer” for those who are in need. You are invited to take a tag from the ADVENT TREE located at the altar of Saint Joseph to benefit those being served by Catholic Charities in Paterson. ALSO, “baby needs” are being requested for Birth Haven: baby clothes size preemie to 9 months, womens underwear size small to xxl, womens pjs and robes size medium-xxl, body wash, body lotion, shampoo, conditioner, Shoprite gift cards, boppy pillows which may be placed in the bassinette located at the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Please do not bring diapers!) All donations must be brought to church no later than December 15th. May the Lord bless you for your generosity to those in need!

Morris County Right to Life will be holding their annual "Peace in the Womb" Christmas Caroling Day on Saturday, Dec. 14th at 10am. Please consider joining them at Planned Parenthood at [196 Speedwell Ave.](#) in Morristown to sing Christmas Carols honoring Our Lord's birthday while acknowledging the horror of abortion going on in our midst. Spread the word and bring a friend!

ANNIVERSARY LOGO – I am very grateful to Lori Lagitch for creating a variety of designs which will be used throughout the year to celebrate our parish's 150th Anniversary. The banner on the front exterior of the church is one example of her talent. God bless you, Lori! – Father Zig

NEW MUSIC MINISTER – I welcome NIK BROWN as our new music minister at Saint Cecilia Church. In addition to his wonderful voice, he is proficient in playing the organ and piano. I pray that he will be with us for many years leading us in our musical praise to God. – Father Zig

2024 SIMBANG GABI

The first night of the traditional Filipino novena Masses before Christmas will take place at **Sacred Heart of Jesus Church** on **Sunday, December 15, at 6:00 PM**. Rev. Fr. Vic Karljohn Leviste will be the principal celebrant. Fellowship and Filipino refreshments will follow the Mass.

PASKO: Misang Pinoy (Filipino Christmas Mass)

The **Filipino Christmas Day Mass** will be celebrated on **Wednesday, December 25, at 12:00 PM** by Rev. Fr. Cerilo Javinez. This is a **Holy Day of Obligation**.

These traditional Filipino Masses are sponsored by the **Diocesan Commission for Catholic Ministries (DCCFM) of Paterson**. For more information or to volunteer, please contact **DCCFM President, Elmer Maximo** at (973) 664-1949.

Maraming salamat po!

Christmas Trees—St. Paul's Abbey, on 289 Route 206, Newton, NJ 07860 (one mile south of Newton), has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose “n” cut. Open Thursday to Sunday from November 23rd to December 15th, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm (Close—Thanksgiving—11.28.24). The Abbey Gift Shop will be open with many items for Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry, and more.

2024 Diocesan Ministries Appeal “United In Faith, Hope, Love” - As the end of 2024 approaches, we invite you to consider making a year-end charitable contribution to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal, which serves tens of thousands of people in profound need. Your gift is a true blessing to both the contributor and the recipient. Please make the Diocesan Ministries Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, through gifts of securities, credit card or online. May God bless you for your support! Please consider a donation to the 2024 Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Visit www.2024appeal.org to make an online gift today.

NEW MOVIE – The AMC Theater at the Rockaway Mall will be showing a movie entitled, “I Am the Immaculate Conception.” The movie begins on December 12th. Advance tickets are on sale. Let's support faith based films in our community!

CONCERT – A Christmas concert will take place in our church on Sunday evening, December 15th at 7 o'clock. The hour long program will consist of presentations by our parish choir, the Vietnamese Community choir of our parish and concluding with congregational singing. Please join us in this musical program.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE – An opportunity for all to go to confession prior to Christmas will take place on Monday evening, December 16th beginning at 7 o'clock. Eight priests will be present to celebrate the sacrament of penance for both adults and young people. Let us all avail ourselves to this time so as to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord at Christmas most worthily.

OPLATEK – This bread for the traditional (Eastern European) Christmas Eve supper is available at the altar of Saint Joseph. Your donation is greatly appreciated and may be placed in the basket.

ECUMENICAL ADVENT SERVICE – The 3rd Annual Rockaway Ecumenical Progressive Advent Service will take place on Friday evening, December 20th at 6 o'clock at Teabo United Methodist Church (47 Teabo Rd. Wharton). The Next stop will be the First Presbyterian Church (Church St.) and the final stop at the Rockaway United Methodist Church (Hoagland Ave.). The service will conclude there with cookies and hot cocoa. All are welcome!



My dear parishioners,

In our Eucharistic assembly we commemorate the Second Sunday of Advent as we celebrate the Lord's Day. In the Gospel the Evangelist Luke introduces us to the adult John the Baptist, a cousin of Jesus, who as a pre-born infant recognized Jesus as Lord in his mother's womb (LK 1:44). In today's reading the Baptist is engaged in the ministry of "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" as he fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah. John's role is significant in the economy of salvation for he will introduce the Savior who will fulfill all the prophecies regarding God's chosen one who will usher in the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God.

With the beginning of the New Year of Grace 2025 last Sunday the Church began its reading from the "C LECTIONARY." This year's Gospel readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke which was written around the year 85 by Luke, a Gentile physician who was close to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Luke's Gospel contains wonderful accounts in the life of our Savior not found in the other Gospels and brings to light Jesus' concern for those who were on the margins of society.

The call to holiness which the Baptizer John issued is the same which is being announced to us today. How blessed we are to welcome Father Joseph Tuscan, a Franciscan Capuchin priest, to be with us for these next 4 days calling us to a closer relationship with Christ in these days of Advent. Father will be speaking at all the Masses and services which will take place in our church from today and concluding on Tuesday evening. I pray that a spiritual renewal will blossom among us in this time of our 150th parish anniversary celebration. This renewal begins with our repentant hearts experiencing the grace of forgiveness in the sacrament of penance followed by our commitment to serve as missionary disciples. I know that Father Joseph's words will inspire and motivate us all to greater love for our Lord demonstrated in our words and deeds. This is the transformation the Lord Jesus was calling His disciples to experience as He modeled for them the manner in which disciples conduct themselves.

I pray that we will all be in church every day for the parish mission and that we open our hearts to receive the message of renewal in Christ. The parish mission is the first of our "150th Anniversary Events" which have been planned for this year of celebration. We begin on a very important point, the spiritual renewal which is crucial in the life of every disciple.

We thank God for sending us Father Joseph and we pray that the Lord will bless his ministry!

COME LORD JESUS!

Father Zig

**ST. LUCY, Virgin and Martyr
December 13—Patroness of the Blind**

ST. LUCY, a native Syracuse in Sicily, was from her cradle educated in the Faith of Christ under the care of her widowed mother, Eutychia. At an early age she secretly made a vow of virginity. She accompanied her long-suffering mother to the tomb of St. Agatha, and there her mother was cured of her disease. St. Lucy then disclosed to her mother the vow she had taken, and her mother, in gratitude for her recovery, left her free to follow her pious inclinations.

The young nobleman who had sought her in marriage was so enraged that he accused Lucy of being a Christian. She was imprisoned, but God gave her grace to overcome the tortures she was made to endure. About the year 304, during the fierce war waged against the Christians under Diocletian, St. Lucy met her death by the sword.

PRAYER Lord, may the intercession of Your Virgin and Martyr St. Lucy help us so that, as we celebrate her heavenly birthday on earth, we may contemplate her triumph in heaven. Amen.



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