

Saint Cecilia Parish

90 Church Street
Rockaway, New Jersey 07866

Parish Office: 973-627-0313 Website: st-cecilia.org — Office: stcec@optonline.net
To Contact: Fr. Zig: Ext. 12 or speplowski@optonline.net
Fr. Matt: Ext 15 or frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com

Fax: 973-627-4811

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, February 3, Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, Saint Ansgar, Bishop

6:30 am – Special Intention

8:00 am – Kathleen Merz Felten req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Tuesday, February 4, Weekday

6:30 am – Raymond J. Wiest

8:00 am – Bella Kakaian req. by Susan Brennan

Wednesday, February 5, Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

6:30 am – Edward Wodzisiz req. by Family

8:00 am – Bella Kakaian req. by Didi Healy

Thursday, February 6, Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

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

8:00 am – Deceased Members of the Lafountain Family req. by Agnes Maye

Friday, February 7, Weekday

6:30 am – Sister Christina Marie Cables, SCC

8:00 am – Jean Asti req. by Karen Kufall & Susan Brennan

Saturday, February 8, Saint Jerome Emiliani; Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

8:00 am – Jimmy Duffin req. by Jerry & Val Dalia

Sunday, February 9, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm – John Janosik req. by Phyllis Smith

Robert M. Duphiney req. by Susan Brennan

7:00 pm – Eleanor & Thomas Sullivan req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

Scott Bridgman, Birthday Remembrance, req. by Barbara & Ed Higdon

8:00 am – Rose Elias req. by Donald Elias & Family

9:15 am – Patricia Willis req. by the Servidio Family

10:45 am – Mario Zambrano req. by Family

Allen Fye req. by Sean Connolly

12:15 pm – Robert Duphiney req. by Kate Lyness & Rosemary Matis

Jean Asti req. by the Friday Morning Rosary Group

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : January 26, 2025**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 7,097.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 6,806.00
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 13,903.00

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (410.73)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 13,352.75

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC

NEXT SUNDAY – The traditional blessing of the throat in commemoration of the Feast of Saint Blasé, Bishop and Martyr will take place at the conclusion of all Masses next Sunday, February 8th and 9th.

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

Tax Statements for Contributions

Tax Statements for envelope users have been mailed. Tax Statements for electronic users have been **emailed**, please check your “spam” mailbox as well. Thank you!

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Ethan Chandra, Dean Wayne Campbell, Doris Cusick, Jane Gorcica, 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 Miers, 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 Salvessen, Ramiro Hinojosa, Jimmy Buckley, Clare Desmond, Craig Huffman, George Stitik, Stephen Goordman, Cecilia Donofrio, Deidra Zink, 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, Katherine Lynn, Sophie Bocklan, Michael Gatzke, Philip Colombrito, Esperanza Vertucci, Molly Mack, Michele Murray, Jimmy Olgeluie, Mark Howarth, Logan Mattessich.



The people of St. Cecilia Parish are asked to pray for the following people serving our country in the armed services: **SmE3 Andrew Clifford,**

Joseph Giannetti US Navy, Lance Corporal Dennis Wuest, Capt. Kelley E. Robbins, Pvt USMC, Diego Usma, Major Glenn E. Martinez, Sgt. Brian Whalen, Capt. Anthony Odierno, Cpl. Kong V. Nguyen, Cpl. Jim Van Valen, LCPL Anthony Eresman, Sgt. Paul J. Willson, PFC Cano Janeth, Sgt. Bob Autrey, Col. William Paliwada, Sgt 1st Class (E7) Sam Colon, PFC Marylyn Rivera-Sachez, Cpl. Edward C. Thompson, Major Kevin M. Nash, Lt. Amy Cronin, Col. John L. Medeiros, Jr., Sgt. Daniel Healy, Marine Keith Leitner, Sgt. Spencer Lopez, PFC Taryn Kemp, Jeffrey Braunhausen, E7 Joseph Grimsey, Bill Maloney, Greg Bloete, Gian Carlo Bruzzese, Spc. Christopher Little, PFC Brittany Martindell, PO1 (E6) Matthew Fitzgerald, SA Justin C. White, Matthew & Daniel Rosica, Mark Leonard, Sr. Armn. Ashley Valetta, Sgt. John Wisnofsky, Cpl. T.J. Finn, Sgt. Kristopher Faber, Capt. Vincent Presto, Airman First Class William Kussler, Spc. Gregory Villaneuva. We ask God the Father of us all, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, to protect all the men and women in our Armed Forces, to bless them in their efforts toward bringing peace and justice to our world. May they be brought back safely to those they love.

580-St. Cecilia

FAITH & REASON RELATIONSHIP RETREAT –

Relationships don't have to be in crisis before they are nurtured. This retreat is designed for couples who are seriously dating, engaged, or married and wish to deepen their connection with each other and with Christ, using sound psychology through a faithful, Catholic perspective. Join us at Saint Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center in Madison on February 8th. For information visit: thewalls.org/relationship-retreat.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL & YOUNG MEN – Bishop

Sweeney is inviting young men, high school age and older to an evening of prayer and dinner on Friday evening, February 21st from 6:30 to 8:30 at Saint Lawrence Church in Chester. At the event vocation talks will be given by priests and seminarians. This is a great opportunity to ask questions about the life of a priest and allow for the meeting of other young men trying to discover God's call in their lives. The event is free of charge but registration must be made by contacting Father Charlie or Father Ed at 973.777.8818X715 or vocations@patersondiocese.org.

WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE – Every year

the Universal Church commemorates the WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE on February 2nd. Focus is upon those those who are members of religious orders, Sisters, Nuns, Brothers and Religious Priests. These women and men who have made vows of poverty, chastity and obedience are a witness to the holiness of life which enlivens and strengthens the Church. We will observe this day with a brief witness given by one of our sisters at each Mass. In addition, the vocations committee of our parish will host a reception today, Sunday in Hayes Hall following the 10:45 a.m. Mass to salute our sisters. All are invited to a light breakfast where you will have the opportunity to talk with our sisters and greet some of the students from the Assumption College for Sisters in Denville. GOD BLESS OUR SISTERS!!!

PARISH CARNIVAL – Our parish will host a 4 day carnival, Thursday-September 11 to Sunday-September 14 at the Firemen's Field located on Beach Street in the Borough. This is one of the events associated with our parish's 150th anniversary. As we plan for this event I am looking for help in a variety of areas. A meeting will take place on Thursday evening, February 27th at 7 o'clock in Hayes Hall. I am inviting YOU to attend to see where you may be able to help us for a successful event. – Father Zig



JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE – His Excellency Bishop Sweeney has designated SAINT BERNARD CHURCH (22 St. Bernards Drive in Mount Hope) as a designated pilgrim site for the Diocese of Paterson. Pilgrims are welcome on Monday evenings for Holy Mass at 6:30, followed by Holy Hour and Confessions. A plenary indulgence is granted to pilgrims. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, calls all Christians to become pilgrims of hope. This is a virtue which must be sourced above all in the grace of God and in the fullness of His mercy. A plenary indulgence is given to those who are: *truly repentant; free from any affection for sin; moved by a spirit of charity; receive the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist; and pray for the intentions of Pope Francis (1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and 1 Glory be...)*. A plenary indulgence is the full remission of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. This jubilee grace can be applied in suffrage to the souls in Purgatory through pilgrimage, whose works of mercy and penance, and visits to a Jubilee designated shrine or church, such as Saint Bernard's.

JUBILEE 2025 PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS

Father in Heaven, may the faith You have given us in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of Your Kingdom. May Your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, Your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To You our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever. Amen

JUBILEE BANNER – The 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope Banner will be displayed in the sanctuary of the church from Christmas Eve until the end of the Jubilee Year, January 6th, 2026. Our thanks to the Rosary Society for donating the jubilee banner.

Monday, February 3

7:00 pm—Holy Hour (Church)

7:30 pm—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

Tuesday, February 4

9:30 am—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

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

Wednesday, February 5

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

7:00 pm—Pro-Life Meeting (Hayes Hall)

Thursday, February 6**Friday, February 7****Saturday, February 8**

St. Monica Guild Bake Sale after all the Masses

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

Sunday, February 9

St. Monica Guild Bake Sale after all the Masses

8:00 pm—LTP (Hayes Hall)

SAVE THE DATE – On Friday evening, February 21st a WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION will take place in Hayes Hall beginning at 7 o'clock to see and hear a presentation on the history of Saint Cecilia Parish. An exhibit of parish photographs and memorabilia will be on display. At the reception Monsignor Raymond Kupke, Church Historian and Archivist for the Diocese of Paterson, will speak to us regarding the formation of our parish and its life over these past 150 years. TICKETS for this event will go on sale beginning Sunday, January 26th. The donation is \$10 per person.

TODAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd - we will celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. This feast occurs on the 40th and final day of Christmas to commemorate the event which is recorded in the Gospel of Saint Luke, chapter 2, verses 22-40. This feast is also known as "Candlemas Day" due to the blessing of candles which takes place at the beginning of the Holy Mass to recall the words of the Prophet Simeon, "the Light of revelation to the Gentiles." You are invited to bring a candle from home for a blessing to be used for devotional purposes.

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 2025-2026 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.

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.

**Sacred Heart Spirituality Center
Newton, NJ**

First Thursdays: 2024-2025

**The Sacramental Life: Source of Grace and Hope
February 6th: Reconciliation: "Go in Peace"**

9:00 am—Arrival Coffee

9:30 am—Opening Prayer

Short Talk on Monthly Theme

10:45 am Eucharistic Adoration time for personal
Prayer/reflection

Opportunity for Confession

11:50 am—End of Adoration—Preparation for Mass

12:00 pm—Eucharistic Celebration

Lunch

Departure

There is no need to register in advance. If you have any questions, kindly email us at shretreatcenter@gmail.com or call 973-383-2620

MASS CARDS

We are asked to pray for the dead. The best way to do this is to have a mass celebrated in memory of a loved one.

Call the Parish Office 973-627-0313

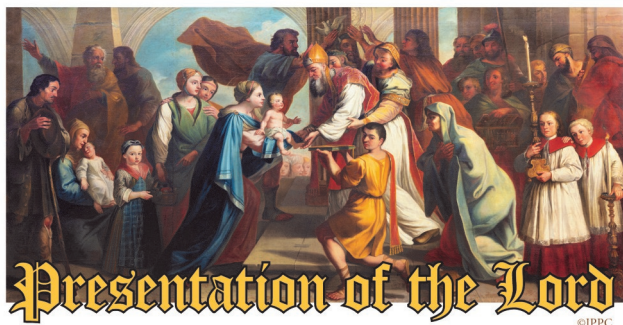
~Offering \$15.00~

WINTER POLICY - In the event of inclement weather and Divine Mercy Academy is closed, the parish office will be closed and the church will be open ONLY for the liturgical service scheduled. Also, all evening events will be cancelled.

ANNIVERSARY OUTERWEAR FOR SALE – After a successful commemorative Christmas ornament sale, the parish 150th Anniversary Committee is now making available a commemorative outer wear fleece and sweatshirt in adult sizes only. These items are on display in Hayes Hall so that you can check out the style which you desire. These items must be ordered in advance and will be delivered in a timely fashion. Order forms are available at the display table or by going to the parish website.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP – All are welcome to the Padre Pio Prayer Group Meeting which will take place on Wednesday, February 5th at 10 a.m. in the votive chapel. Join us for this one hour time of prayer and reflection in the spirit of one of heaven's most powerful intercessors!

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY – Sunday, February 9th is *WORLD MARRIAGE DAY* and in observance of this occasion we will conduct a brief renewal of marriage vows for all married couples at all the Masses on Sunday and the Saturday Vigil Masses.



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:**



PRACTICAL WAYS TO RECLAIM SUNDAY

Give God your best: Sunday is a day that reminds us of our dignity as children of God. So give your Sunday a special flair—like dressing up for Mass, eating special treats, or using nicer dishes.

Extra God-time: Let your heart and mind rest in God. For example: Pray a rosary or Lectio Divina or make a Holy Hour at church. Our hearts thirst to be with God, and He gives us a peace that nothing and no one else can.

Community Time: Step away from the screen and social media for quality face-to-face conversation. Cook up a new recipe and share a no-phones meal together! Take a picnic, water-color, or play board games. Invite those in need of community to join you.

The Beacon goes online!

The stories of our faith community find a new home at Beaconnj.org

The Diocese of Paterson recently announced the conclusion of the print version of The Beacon. This is not the end of the story. The Beacon shines even more brightly in a new form: **Beaconnj.org**, where the important stories of our faith community continue to be passed along. Here, you can find the same great coverage of your faith community and new website features that enrich the storytelling experience.

Visit the website often for the latest news, columns from Bishop Sweeney, event information, and more! The new form of The Beacon is accessible and interactive. Be part of this new chapter in The Beacon story.

For weekly updates, subscribe to our newsletter, The Beacon and Beyond: beaconnj.org/subscribe.

In the Community section, share and experience what is happening in your local parish, school, and religious community with reader-submitted articles and photos: beaconnj.org/community.

Beaconnj.org also features a new “What To Do!” calendar events page where submissions are welcome! Visit beaconnj.org/events.

These website features can also be found by navigating the menus of beaconnj.org.

We hope you will enjoy The Beacon's new digital form.

VALENTINE'S BAKE SALE – The Saint Monica Guild will hold a *St. Valentine's Bake Sale* after all Masses on Sunday, February 9th (Saturday Vigil Masses too). A wonderful variety of baked goods and sweets will be available for your holiday gift-giving. Free coffee will be provided on Sunday morning in Hayes Hall as you do your shopping!



My dear parishioners,

Assembling together for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass we leave Ordinary Time on this Sunday to observe the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. This feast is always observed on February 2nd which marks the 40th and final day of the Christmas season. The Gospel of Saint Luke is proclaimed today which speaks of this event regarding the ritual which Joseph and the Virgin Mary fulfilled in observance of religious law. The scene is theologically wonderful as we find the Only Begotten Son of God entering into the Temple, the House of God. God is greeted by two senior citizens who are awaiting His entrance into the holy place, Simeon and Anna. The old man Simeon takes the Child Jesus from the arms of the Mother of God and praises the Lord for the gift of years and that now he may go in peace because his eyes have seen the Holy One, the “Light of revelation to the Gentiles.” Observing all that is happening the Prophetess Anna speaks about the Child Jesus to all whom she encounters.

Today’s liturgy begins with the blessing of candles and a procession recalling the words of Simeon that the Child is the “Light of revelation to the Gentiles.” For as long as supply lasts a blessed candle will be given to each family for devotional use at home at today’s Mass. The blessed candle can be lighted for prayer during a difficult time or as the family gathers to pray the Rosary. We always are reminded of the words of our Savior who said, *“I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* (John 8:12)

Another name for today’s feast is CANDLEMAS DAY because of the blessing of candles. We are fortunate this year because February 2nd falls on a Sunday and so we can celebrate this feast which for most years falls on a weekday, thus being unnoticed by most parishioners.

Since the pontificate of Pope Saint John Paul II the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord has also been the WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE. The Universal Church acknowledges the gift that those in consecrated life are to the Church by living the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Our religious sisters, nuns, brothers and religious priests from the various religious orders are those for whom we pray and express our gratitude for their witness in the world. THANK YOU: Sister Diane, Sister Marie Pauline, Sister Chiara Marie, Sister Luiza and Brother Ben Duphiney. You are a blessing to us for which we thank God!

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

ST. ANSGAR, BISHOP
The Same Day, February 3 – Patron of Scandinavia

Known as the “Apostle of the North” and specifically of Denmark and Sweden, St. Ansgar was born (801) near Amiens of a noble family. He was educated from childhood at the Benedictine monastery of Old Corbie in Picardy and later became a monk there and abbot of New Corbie in Westphalia.

On fire with love for God and eager to spread the Faith, he went to Denmark whose king had been newly converted. After establishing a school at Schleswig, he was expelled by the local pagans. Journeying to Sweden, the holy man of God built the first Christian Church there. In 835 he was made Bishop of Hamburg and in 848 Archbishop of Bremen. In 854 he was entrusted with the organization of the hierarchy in the Nordic countries Erik, King of Jutland, and helped mitigate the horrors of the slave trade. He died in 865.

PRAYER God, You willed to send St. Ansgar to enlighten many peoples. Through his intercession, grant that we may walk in the light of Your truth. Amen



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

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