

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. Charles Linnell
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, May 12, Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs, Saint Pancras, Martyr

6:30 am – For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:00 am – Louis Sorrentino req. by the Oatley Family

Tuesday, May 13, Our Lady of Fatima

6:30 am – Hiram Gonzalez Nieves

8:00 am – Mary Ellen Mango req. by Vinnie & Anne Shivas

Wednesday, May 14, Saint Matthias, Apostle

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

8:00 am – Coster Hudson req. by Sophie Boylan

Thursday, May 15, Saint Isidore

6:30 am – Anthony & Patricia Peplowski req. by Fr. Zig

8:00 am – Frederick & Mary Brussell req. by McDonnell Family

Friday, May 16, Easter Weekday

6:30 am – David Bogert

8:00 am – Barbara & Joseph Carroll req. by Pat Degnan

Saturday, May 17, Easter Weekday

8:00 am – Spiritual Bouquet for the Mothers of our parish

Sunday, May 18, Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:30 pm – Joseph J. Sirvent, req. by the Bozza Family

Joseph V. Deliberto, Jr., req. by Elaine &

Tom Potkalesky

7:00 pm – Bill & Jeanne Gallagher req. by their daughter, Jan

8:00 am – Maria Salazar req. by Kris & Ann

Thomas McCarthy req. by Sophie Boylan

9:15 am – Augustyn Bizon req. by Family

Mark H. Noonan req. by Donna Robertson

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

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

Kathleen O'Dowd req. by the Tironi Family

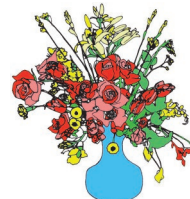
ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : May 4, 2025**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 11,119.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 5,731.50
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 16,850.50

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 2,536.77
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 22,368.00

ALTAR FLOWERS – The flowers at the main altar have been given by Father Zig in memory of his mother, Rose Peplowski; his godmother, Julia Talar; and his grandmothers: Christina Kopcza and Bronislawa Peplowska. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**Flowers This Week**

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY – Our prayers and best wishes to all the moms of our parish on this very special day. We pray that through the intercession of the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary you will be blessed with joy, peace and health! – Father Zig, Father Matt, Sister Diane, Sister Marie Pauline, Sister Chiara Marie and Sister Luisa.

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, 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, Katherine Lynn, Sophie Boylan, Michael Gatzke, Philip Colombrito, Esperanza Vertucci, Molly Mack, Michele Murray, Jimmy Olge-luie, Mark Howarth, Logan Mattessich, Harry Lusardi, Carmela Cragan, Bob Libak, Mary Lou Baumiller, Patricia Shea.



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, PVT Jack L. Gatzke, US Army, ENS Timothy G. Smith, US Navy, 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

MY HEARTFELT THANKS – I was overwhelmed at last Sunday's celebration of my 50th Anniversary of Ordination. When word came to me that something was being planned I told Father Matt "only coffee and cake after the 12:15 Mass, people are busy and will have other things to do on Sunday." He promised me that it will be so, but he could not hold back the plans which were already in the making. I am sincere in saying that I do not like attention to myself! How can I thank you, my beautiful parishioners, for all that you did for me last Sunday. Let me start with the Holy Mass at 12:15. The music was superb! Thank you Chuck Linnell, Steve Zimmerman, JP and choir members!! The altar servers, lector and ushers did such a wonderful job. The reception with such delicious food was a feast! The Saint Monica Guild worked so very hard, as they always do in providing hospitality that is above and beyond. Thank you Adrian Curelaru for the photo booth which everyone enjoyed and was a big hit. Thank you to the Men's Society for setting up the tables and chairs in Hayes Hall for the event. Many thanks to all the volunteers to stayed after the event to clean up. I probably forgot someone but please know that I truly appreciate all that was done to celebrate my golden anniversary.

With pastoral love – Father Zig

Our Condolences to the Family of
Hiriam Gonzalez Nieves
 Eternal Rest Grant to him Lord

MEMORIAL DAY MASS – Only one Mass will be celebrated on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th at 9 o'clock in the morning. The Mass will take place at the parish cemetery (you are reminded to bring a lawn chair). In the event of inclement weather the Mass will take place in the church.

PARISH PARTICIPATION IN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE – Weather permitting, our parish will participate in the Memorial Day parade which will take place in the Borough on Monday, May 26th. To celebrate our 150th Parish Anniversary we will enter a float along with a walking contingent of parishioners. Please see the parish website for registration information. Participants will wear a uniform commemorative anniversary tee shirt. Information regarding sizes, etc. may also be found on the parish website. (The parade begins at 11 a.m. on East Main Street and Beach Street. The parade concludes at the Presbyterian Church parking lot across from Saint Cecilia's.) Join us to express our proud parish spirit in the community in which our church is found!

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.

MAY DEVOTIONS – The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. At the conclusion of the 8 o'clock morning Mass, Monday through Friday, we will pray the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Our Savior.

HEALING MASS – The Christian Care Committee is sponsoring the annual Healing Mass which will take place in our church on Saturday, May 17th at 11 o'clock in the morning. During the liturgy the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered. Following Mass a light reception will take place in Hayes Hall.

CONFIRMATION – His Excellency, Bishop Kevin Sweeney will visit our parish to confer the sacrament of confirmation upon a prepared group of our young people. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 7 o'clock in the evening on Friday, May 17th.

Parish Summer Office Hours:

Starting after Memorial Day until Labor Day
 Monday thru Thursday: 8:30—4:00
 (Lunch 12:00—1:00)
 Friday: Closed

PEW KNEELERS – I am planning to install new pew kneelers in the church. The company I am dealing with has installed a sample which is located on the right side aisle, behind the handicap section near the confessional. I hope the project will take place sometime in June and I will be seeking your support by asking for your donation to fund this project. I know I can count on your generosity because of the love you have for our beautiful church! – Father Zig

Monday, May 12

7:00 pm—Holy Hour (Church)

7:30 pm—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

Tuesday, May 13

NO BIBLE STUDY

7:00 pm—Confirmation Rehearsal (Church)

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

Wednesday, May 14**Thursday, May 15****Friday, May 16**

National Junior Honor Society Induction after 8:00 am Mass (Hayes Hall)

7:00 pm—Confirmation (Church)

Saturday, May 17

8:30 am—St. Monica Guild Meeting (Hayes Hall)

9:00 am—Jubilee Mass (Parish Office Chapel)

11:00 am—Healing Mass (Church)

Sunday, May 18

9:15 am—Children's Liturgy of the Word (Hayes Hall)

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.

PARISH BUS TRIP – A day trip to the Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Patron Saint of Immigrants, will take place on Saturday, June 14th. The bus will depart from the parish parking lot at 9 a.m. and will return approximately 3:30 p.m. The trip includes Holy Mass at the shrine, a tour of the shrine and museum documenting the work of Saint Frances Cabrini as well as a visit to the shrine book store. A presentation on the life of Saint Frances will be given with an opportunity to stroll the grounds of the shrine. Lunch will be provided. The cost is \$70 per person which includes bus transportation and driver's trip, lunch and a donation to the shrine. Registration must be done by calling the parish office (973.627.0313) and speak to Janet. The deadline for registration is May 23rd. The bus is filling up so don't delay. Payment is due at registration. Checks should be made payable to: St. Cecilia Church. **THIS IS ONE OF OUR PARISH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS WHICH REMINDS US THAT "WE WERE ALL IMMIGRANTS AT ONE TIME!"**

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

– As I had announced prior to Easter the distribution of the Precious Blood of our Lord will take place every Sunday at the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Since the pandemic the number of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion has diminished. Should you feel called to serve in this ministry, especially needed at the 10:45 Mass, please speak with me or Father Matt. Training, commissioning and commitment are required. – Father Zig



Forming the youth and families
of our parish community.



Registration for Religious Education classes for the 2025-2026 will be opening soon. Be sure to check the parish website for more details.

Respect Life Corner—Good News!

The Rockaway-Denville Catholic Respect Life Ministry has recently adopted a new name! We are now **The John Paul II Respect Life Ministry**, consisting of 5 parishes: Sacred Heart of Jesus, Rockaway, St. Cecilia Church, St. Mary's Church, Denville, St. Clement Church and St. Catherine of Sienna Church of Mountain Lakes.

Additionally, in the last year, we have launched a new committee: "Walking with Moms in Need", a USCCB Initiative, to assist mothers in need of information about area resources that may be helpful to them and their family.

If you know of a mother who may require such assistance, or if you would like to help us in our John Paul II Respect Life Ministry activities, you may contact Carol McGotty, through our Parish Office at 973.627.0313.

THANK YOU – Many thanks to Jim Clancy, Ron Gatzke, John McBride and Alonso Rivera for assisting me in the cemetery clean up which was done on Tuesday of Holy Week. May the Risen Christ grant them great and abundant blessings. – Father Zig

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – Children's Liturgy of the Word, which is done every Sunday during the 9:15 a.m. Mass, will conclude on May 18th being the last until September. Many thanks to Denise Montalto-Rook, Leslie Grainer and Sister Chiara Marie for overseeing this ministry.

ARE YOU REGISTERED? – Saint Cecilia's is the best parish in the Diocese of Paterson! I know that I am prejudiced but I truly believe this and I hope you do too! We welcome all people to our parish and are delighted each time new members join our faith community. My question is to all, ARE YOU REGISTERED AS A PARISHIONER? If you are not sure, please give the parish office a call (973.627.0313) and speak with Janet or Diane to check and to update any information regarding yourself, such as phone number and e mail address, etc. This information is most helpful for me in providing pastoral care to you and your family. Your parish registration is also necessary when you may be asked to submit a "certificate of eligibility" to serve as a godparent/sponsor. If I do not have your registration information then this can become a difficulty. The Registration form may be found on line by going to the parish website or by receiving a copy from the parish office. Your completed registration form may be mailed to the parish office or placed in the collection basket on Sunday. Register and be counted among those who love and support Saint Cecilia's! – FATHER ZIG

EVENTS TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR – You may want to add the following events to your calendar: **"Jubilee Family Fest"** sponsored by the diocese on Saturday, May 31st from 1:30-4:00 pm at Saint Joseph Shrine in Sterling; **International Celebration of Saint Frances Cabrini and Immigrants: Movie and Food** on Friday, June 13 beginning at 6:00 p.m. AND **Bus Trip to Saint Frances Cabrini Shrine** in the Bronx on Saturday, June 14 leaving at 9:30 a.m. and returning at 3:30 p.m.; **40 Hour Devotions**, Wednesday, June 18 beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending on Friday, June 20 at 12 Noon. ALL OF THESE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE BULLETIN WITH DETAILS IN THE COMING WEEKS BUT FOR NOW, MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

SHREDDING EVENT – The Men's Society is sponsoring a shredding event on Saturday, May 24th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parish parking lot. Bring your confidential documents for shredding and keep them out of the hands of scammers! This is a fund raising event for the society and we thank you for your support!

SIGN UP TO FLOCKNOTE

If you would like to receive emails or text messages with important information regarding our parish life PLEASE SIGN UP TO FLOCKNOTE. This is all totally free for you to use, you don't even have to download anything or create a password in order to participate. You just take a couple minutes to sign up and it lets you receive email or text messages from the groups and ministries that you choose. Your info is kept totally private and, again, it lets you choose precisely which groups and ministries you want to get email and text messages from here at St. Cecilia Church.

To register simply text SCC2020 to 84576 OR go to the home page of our website: st-cecilia.org and there you will find other ways to register for this important communication tool.

St. Cecilia's Summer Bible Camp 2025!! Tuesday, June 24th – Friday, June 27th 4:00 – 6:00 pm We are excited to bring back our parish summer bible camp. This experience is for children ages 4-10, and will include games, food, music, lessons, prayer, and lots of special surprises for the kids. Registration must be done online by visiting the parish website. \$ 50 for 1 child, \$75 for 2 or more children. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.



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:**





My dear parishioners,

Today we gather to celebrate the Eucharist on the Fourth Sunday of Easter which is traditionally known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” This designation is given due to the reading each year of some portion of the Gospel of John, Chapter 10 in which the Lord Jesus refers to Himself as the Good Shepherd who leads His sheep and sacrifices Himself for the sheep. As a result of the Good Shepherd theme this Sunday is also called “World Day of Prayer for Vocations.”

The image of Christ the Good Shepherd is not only popular in today’s Church but has been since the earliest days of Christianity. Just returning from Rome we had visited on our parish pilgrimage the Catacomb of Dormitilla on the Appian Way. This is just one of several catacombs which are open to visitors and which contain holy images going back to the first centuries. The icon of Christ the Good Shepherd is among them along with Old Testament and Eucharistic images which decorate the walls of some of the subterranean chambers.

The Evangelist John conveys the Lord’s message to us that He loves us, guides us, protects us and offered His life for us. We know that the Latin word for shepherd is PASTOR, the one who provides care for others even to the detriment of himself.

The good shepherd is a selfless servant who considers not his own needs but rather those for whom he cares.

With these thoughts we can easily see why this Sunday is designated as the “World Day of Prayer for Vocations.” We are invited to pray for those involved in pastoral work in the Church, our bishops, priests, deacons, religious sisters, catechists and all those working in some pastoral ministry in the Church. We ask Christ the Good Shepherd to fill their hearts with a shepherd’s love and strengthen them in their ministries. We also pray that the Lord will open the hearts of our young people to respond to the call to pastoral service so that the Church will have sufficient laborers in the service of the Gospel.

How blessed we are at Saint Cecilia’s to have a parish VOCATIONS COMMITTEE which meets regularly and keeps the topic vocations “on our radar.” I hope that you will take note of the insert in today’s bulletin highlighting vocations. Our parents have such a crucial role to play in speaking to their children about this topic. Firstly, parents should remind their children to pray and listen to the voice on God to discern where the Lord may be calling them. Parents need to pray that their children will answer the Lord’s call and support them in the pursuit of this calling.

Last Sunday’s celebration of my 50th anniversary of priestly ordination humbled me. I pray that I deserve your love and support!

CHRIST IS RISEN! – TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Father Zig

**ST. DYMPHNA, Virgin and Martyr
Patronese of the Mentally Ill—May 15**

St. Dymphna was born in the 7th century. Her father, Damon, a chieftain of great wealth and power, was a pagan. Her mother was a very beautiful and devout Christian.

Dymphna was fourteen when her mother died. Damon is said to have been afflicted with a mental illness, brought on by his grief. He sent messengers throughout his own and other lands to find some woman of noble birth, resembling his wife, who would be willing to marry him. When none could be found, his evil advisers told him to marry his own daughter. Dymphna fled from her castle together with St. Gerebran, her confessor, and two other friends.

Damon found them in Belgium. He gave orders that the priest’s head be cut off. Then Damon tried to persuade his daughter to return to Ireland with him. When she refused, he drew his sword and struck off her head. She was then only fifteen years of age.

Dymphna received the crown of martyrdom in defense of her purity about the year 620. She is the patron of those suffering from nervous and mental afflictions. Many miracles have taken place at her shrine, built on the spot where she was buried in Gheel, Belgium.

PRAYER Hear us, O God, our Savior, as we honor St. Dymphna, patron of those afflicted with mental and emotional illness. Help us to be inspired by her example and comforted by her merciful help. Amen.

Saint Cecilia Parish

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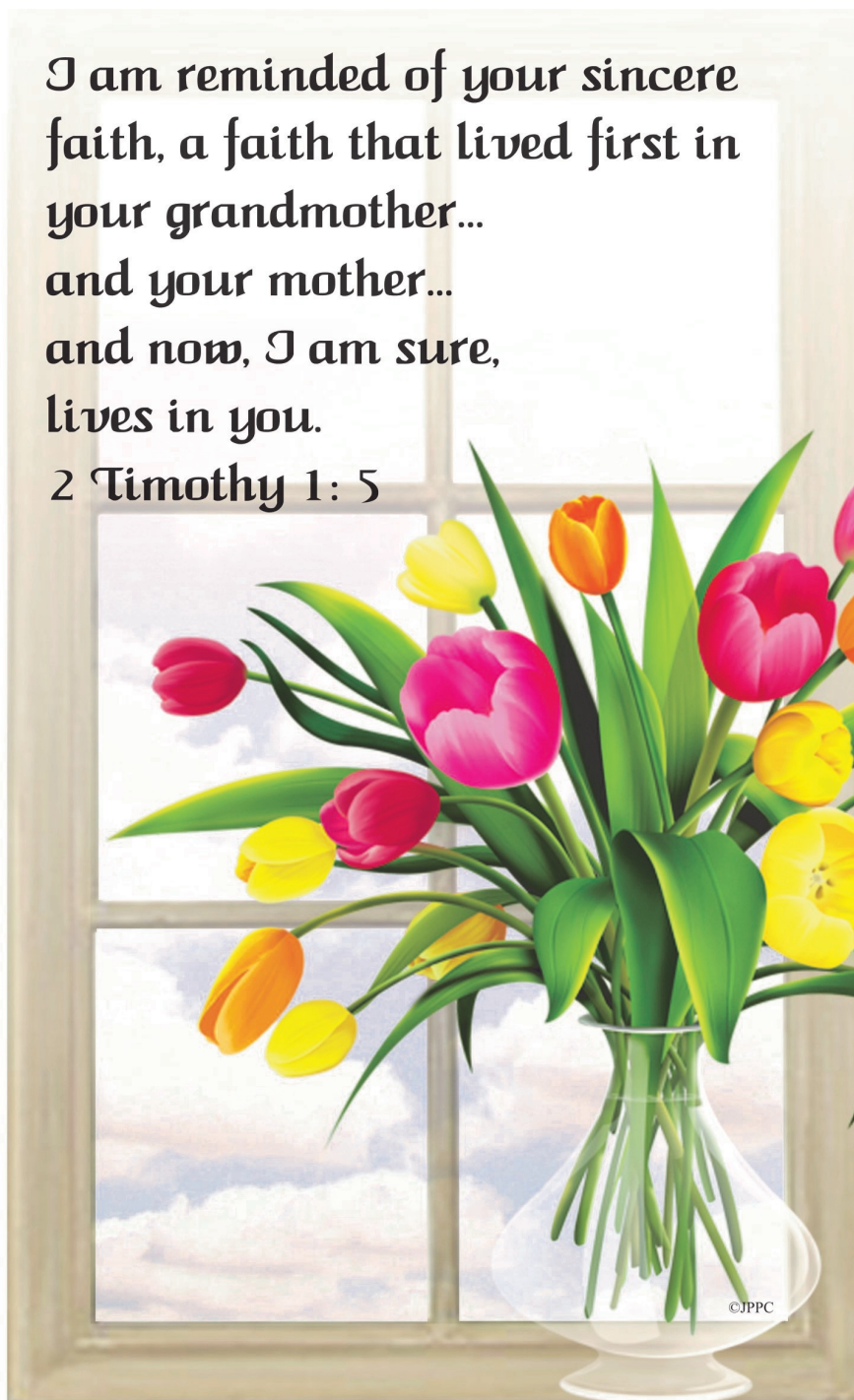
Fax: 973-627-4811

School: 973-627-6003

CCD Office: 973-627-0313 Ext. 17

I am reminded of your sincere
faith, a faith that lived first in
your grandmother...
and your mother...
and now, I am sure,
lives in you.

2 Timothy 1: 5



Happy Mother's Day