

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 26, Saint Philip Neri, Priest

9:00 am — For the service men & women of our parish
(Mass is at the cemetery)

Tuesday, May 27, Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

6:30 am — Gladys Howarth

8:00 am — Kathleen O'Dowd req. by Vinnie & Anne Shivas

Wednesday, May 28, Easter Weekday

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

8:00 am — For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, May 29, Saint Paul VI, Pope

6:30 am — John Whalen req. by Family

8:00 am — Edmund Melahan req. by Noreen Breslauer

Friday, May 30, Easter Weekday

6:30 am — Carmen Iris Franqui req. by Lillian & Ismael Franqui

8:00 am — Donna Lodato req. by Scott, Jennifer, Braden and Addison

Saturday, May 31, The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am — Carey Andrew Shaw req. by Sean Connolly

Sunday, June 1, The Ascension of the Lord

4:30 pm — Kathleen O'Dowd req. by Rich & Carol Takacs

Rosemary Joannidis req. by Bob Colantoni

7:00 pm — Dolores Onufer req. by John, Mary James & Family

Milani Diemery Rodriguez req. by Matias Besana

Family

8:00 am — Ellen Schmitt req. by Mary & Kevin McAloon

Ann Marie McCauley req. by Michael Wiczerak

9:15 am — Roberta Willard req. by the Kuhlmeier Family

Edward Jacko req. by the Bochinski Family

10:45 am — Mario Zambrano req. by Family

Vita Noto req. by Family

12:15 pm — Frank Tartaglia req. by Linda Armonaitis

Bill Whelan req. by Family

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS

Week Ending : May 11, 2025

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 8,159.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 5,731.50
<u>Total Weekly Collection</u>	\$ 13,890.50

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (423.23)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 21,944.78

St. Cecilia Church Collection Goals

Week Ending: May 18th, 2025

**Due to the early publication of the bulletin,
the collections totals for the week will be
shown next week. Thank you!**

Our Condolences to the Family of

Gladys Howarth

Eternal Rest Grant to her Lord

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD – The Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord is no longer commemorated on the 40th day after Easter (Thursday) but will be celebrated next Sunday, June 1st. The Bishops of the Metropolitan Church of Newark, the Bishops of New Jersey, decided on this change five years ago. Thursday, May 29th is not a holy day of obligation as it is in other parts of the country.

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 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, 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, Jose Castillo, Lyle Ryder.



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

ST. PADRE PIO – The June gathering of the Saint Padre Pio prayer group will take place on Wednesday, June 4th at 10 o'clock in the morning. This will be the final meeting until September. All are welcome to the gathering which will take place in the votive chapel located off the church vestibule.

PENTECOST PROJECT – On Pentecost Sunday, June 8th, we will announce plans for the **PENTECOST PROJECT** which will begin on Sunday, September 21st at the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Details will be shared on Pentecost regarding the various languages which are spoken in our parish and how we will celebrate them in the remainder of our 150th Anniversary celebration.

MONTH OF JUNE – The month of June is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Monday through Friday we will pray the Litany to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at the conclusion of the 8 o'clock Holy Mass.

40 HOUR DEVOTIONS – Shortly information will be printed in the Sunday bulletin regarding **40 HOUR DEVOTIONS** which will take place in our parish beginning Wednesday, June 18th with Holy Mass at 7 o'clock in the evening along with an outdoor candlelight procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament. 40 HOURS will close with a Benediction service on Friday, June 20th at 12 Noon. Additional information will be forthcoming.

We are online: www.st-cecilia.org

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.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – Recognizing a vital practical need in his community, 29 year old Father Michael McGivney proposed establishing a lay organization, the goal of which would be to unite men of Catholic faith and to provide for the families of deceased members. To symbolize that allegiance to their country did not conflict with allegiance to their faith, the organization took as its patron Christopher Columbus, who was recognized as a Catholic and celebrated as the discoverer of the Americas. Thanks to Father McGivney's persistence, the Knights of Columbus officially assumed corporate status in 1882.

For information on the Knights of Columbus please go to www.KofC.org/joinus. Saint Cecilia Parish is served by two councils: #3359-Our Lady of the Lakes Council (Denville) and #514-Lafayette Council (Wharton). ALL CATHOLIC MEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS!

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 26*Memorial Day**DMA & Parish Office Closed***Tuesday, May 27***9:30 am—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)**7:45 pm—Light of Christ Prayer Group (Hayes Hall)***Wednesday, May 28****Thursday, May 29****Friday, May 30****Saturday, May 31****Sunday, June 1**

DROP BOX IN PLACE – A “drop box” has been positioned near the right side of the front door of the parish office. The box will serve as a place where communications can be picked-up or left-off after office hours.

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

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.



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.

FIRST FRIDAY VISITS—Father Matt and I visit the homebound on the first Friday of every month with the Holy Eucharist and the availability for confession as well. Should you or someone you know like for the priest to visit them on first Friday, please call the parish office and leave your name and phone number so that we may add you to our schedule. - Fr. Zig

THANK YOU – Many thanks to Louise Naclerio for donating and planting the flowers at the outdoor statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in the flower pots located at the entrance of the church. May the Lord richly bless her.

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 PARISH-IONER? 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

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES – Join us on Friday, June 13th in Hayes Hall for the showing of the movie CABRINI. We begin at 6p.m. with the serving of hot dogs (Friday dispensation granted by Father Zig) and drinks. The movie begins promptly at 6:30 and runs 2 hours and 30 minutes. Bring a comfy chair or blanket for the floor. The movie tells the story of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, the Italian Sister sent by Pope Leo XIII to America to care for the immigrants. If you plan to attend please call the parish office no later than Monday, June 9th to assist us in food preparation (973.627.0313).

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,

This Sunday is the Sixth Sunday of Easter as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist on the Lord's Day. In our Easter reading of the Acts of the Apostles we are reminded of a challenge the Early Church dealt with regarding the admission of Gentiles into the Church. The question was, should the gentiles adhere to all the Mosaic Laws including the observance of circumcision? This point brought lively discussion among the first followers of Jesus who were all Jewish. The answer to the question was revealed through the Holy Spirit via the conciliar process. A council of the Church was held in Jerusalem to answer this important concern. Present were some of the Apostles along with other members of the Church as it is recorded in Acts of the Apostles chapter 15.

Since that time the Church has met to reflect upon and respond to various issues. These gatherings are called by a variety of names such as "council" and "synod" which denote the importance of the gathering and the participants in attendance. Most recently the late Pope Francis called together a "Synod on Synodality" in which participants included not only bishops but laity as well. The theme of the gathering has been listening to the Holy Spirit and listening to one another. However, a "council" is restricted to bishops and produces decisions which are binding on the Universal Church. This is the highest form of church gathering, such as the First Council of Jerusalem as we read today or the Second Vatican Council which occurred 60 years ago.

God the Holy Spirit is invoked to be present at church gatherings so that through His inspiration and guidance clarity will be given in the way in which the Church should proceed. When we gather in prayer to seek the Lord's will in the matters which are important reminds us of another moment in Acts of the Apostles when a replacement for Judas was to be determined (Acts 1:15).

In today's Gospel we read what the Lord Jesus said to His Apostles at the Last Supper: "*The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.*" Calling upon the Holy Spirit in prayer assures us that God will guide us, if we listen, so that our decisions will be in accordance with His divine will. We recently viewed in Cardinals gathered in Rome to choose the next successor to the Apostle Peter. After much prayer the choice of Pope Leo XVI emerged as the one chosen to lead the Universal Church.

In these days preceding the Feast of Pentecost we are reminded of our need to call upon God the Holy Spirit for guidance for church gatherings and for the important personal decisions we make throughout our lives.

CHRIST IS RAISED – TRULY HE IS RAISED!

Father Zig

**ST. PHILIP NERI, Priest
May 26—Patron of Rome**

ST. PHILIP was born in Florence in 1515, the very same year that St. Teresa was born at Avila in Spain. From his sixth year he was characterized by the most perfect obedience toward his parents. Having finished his classical studies at eighteen, he was sent to an uncle who lived near Monte Cassino. But St. Philip, desirous of serving God without wordly distractions, went to Rome in 1533 and became preceptor to the children of a Florentine nobleman.

Even at this period of his life he obtained a great reputation for sanctity. While teaching others he devoted himself to the study of philosophy and theology. His desire to save souls caused him to establish the Confraternity of the Blessed Trinity in 1548, with the object of serving pilgrims and the sick. In obedience to his confessor he became a priest in June 1551, at nearly thirty six years of age.

He now began to dwell in a small community near the Church of St. Jerome, continuing his mortified life. In the same year he laid the foundation for the Congregation of the Oratory. In 1575, Gregory XIII approved it, and in 1583 gave to St. Philip the new Church of La Vallicella, which is still called La Chiesa Nuova—The New Church.

Here the Saint lived, edifying all Rome by his virtues and laboring zealously for souls in the ministry of the confessional. He enjoyed the favor of Popes Pius IV and V, Gregory XIII and XIV and Clement VIII, the friendship of many great men, among whom was St. Charles Borromeo. After a life of penance and of eminent usefulness, St. Philip died in 1595 and he was canonized in 1622 by Pope Gregory XV.

PRAYER God, You never cease raising Your faithful servants to the glory of holiness. Grant that we may be inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit which so wonderfully burned in the heart of St. Philip. Amen.

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