

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 Summer Office Hours:

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

Monday, August 4, Saint John Vianney, Priest

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

8:00 am — Celedonia Diaz req. by Roberta Vitcuskay

Tuesday, August 5, The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major

6:30 am — Craig Slanovec req. by the McDonnell Family

8:00 am — Mary E. & Mary T. Jozwiak

Wednesday, August 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord

6:30 am — Special Intention

8:00 am — Arthur Johnson req. by his wife, Sally

Thursday, August 7, Saint Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs, Saint Cajetan, Priest

6:30 am — Sr. Christina Marie Cables, SCC

8:00 am — Jolanta Zajac req. by the Laterza Family

Friday, August 8, Saint Dominic, Priest

6:30 am — For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:00 am — Celedonia Diaz req. by Susan Brennan

Saturday, August 9, Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr, BVM

8:00 am — Rose Peplowski req. by Fr. Zig

Sunday, August 10, Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm — Zigmund Peplowski req. by Fr. Zig

Anne Haran req. by Peggy McKinney

7:00 pm — Helen Struble req. by Ag Struble

Jim & Bertha Dalkiewicz req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

8:00 am — Martha Salvesen req. by Thomas & Della Genzale

9:15 am — Thomas Doughty req. by the McDonnell Family

Peg Whalen req. by Family

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

12:15 pm — Augustyn Bizon req. by Family

Ken Lienhardt req. by St. Cecilia Seniors

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : July 27, 2025**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 9,579.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 6,345.25
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 15,924.25

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,610.52
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 3,856.60

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : July 20, 2025**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 8,641.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 6,345.25
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 14,986.25

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 672.52
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 2,246.07

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC

2024 Parish Goal—\$42,885.00**Cash Received as of June 25, 2025—97,740.00****March 2025 Rebate (If applicable) - \$24,108.00****Final June 2025 Rebate Enclosed—\$3,320.00****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, Frieda Solow, Claudia Fontanella, Claire Wasacz, Emilio Viola, 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 Olgeluie, Mark Howarth, Logan Mattesich, Harry Lusardi, Carmela Cragan, Bob Libak, Mary Lou Baumiller, Patricia Shea, Jose Castillo, Joseph Bardi, Gloria Benson, William Serafin.



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

The Jubilee Prayer

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 for ever.
Amen

Francis

WORK TO BEGIN – I am told that work will begin shortly on removing the two broken air conditioning units from the sacristy (flat) roof of the church. When this is done a new roof will be installed before the two new air conditioning units will be placed on the roof. These two units will restore the original cooling design for the church. I am happy to report that through the generosity of one of our parishioners this project has been funded! (May Christ our Savior bless them abundantly!) There are two other projects which need immediate attention: replacement of the roof on the parish office and renovation to the chimney on the rectory. Unfortunately, these projects do not have a donor and so I ask you, my good people, to consider increasing your Sunday offertory gift to the Lord. May the Lord bless those who show generosity to His Church! – Father Zig

PEW KNEELERS—The new pew kneelers have been installed and are a great improvement as we come to participate in divine worship. I make an appeal to all those who have not yet made a contribution of \$50 per family to do so, if possible. Your support of this project is most greatly appreciated. Your donation may be placed in the offering basket on Sunday with the designation “pew kneelers”. Thank you and may God bless you for supporting and loving our church! - Fr. 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 Leo, 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.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION – The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven will be observed on Friday, August 15th. The Vigil Mass for the feast will take place on Thursday afternoon, August 14th at 4:30. Holy Masses on Friday will be celebrated in the morning at 6:30 and 8 o’clock. The evening Mass will be celebrated at 7 o’clock. This is a Holy Day of Obligation and has the same status as a Sunday.

PRAY FOR ME – I invite you to take a holy card bearing the image of CHRIST THE TEACHER commemorating my 50th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood. I, and all priests, appreciate your prayers for God’s blessing on our ministry. The cards are located on the table in the church vestibule.
Fr. Zig

BERNADETTE OF LOURDES, THE MUSICAL – Fathom Entertainment is presenting this movie in U.S. theatres September 28 & 29 to mark the 100 anniversary of Saint Bernadette’s beatification. This internationally acclaimed stage-to screen musical illuminates the extraordinary resilience and spiritual journey of the 19th century French visionary. Tickets for “Bernadette of Lourdes, The Musical” will go on sale Friday, August 15th at Fathom Entertainment. Please check with the AMC Theatre at the Rockaway Mall for information.

12th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING – The Sisters of Christian Charity will sponsor their 12th Annual Golf Outing and Pickleball Clinic and Round Robin on Tuesday, September 30th at Fiddler’s Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, NJ. Register today for this fun-filled day as you enjoy golf or pickleball, contests, prizes, great food and time with friends. See you on the green or court! Information: 973.230.5355 or www.sccus.org/golf.

Monday, August 4
Tuesday, August 5
 7:45 pm—*Light of Christ Prayer Group (Hayes Hall)*
Wednesday, August 6
Thursday, August 7
Friday, August 8
Saturday, August 9
Sunday, August 10

PLEASE DON'T FORGET! – The summer season is a time for vacation and recreation. As you venture off to a place of rest and enjoyment please remember two things. The first is that attendance at Holy Mass on Sunday is a must for every Catholic. Go to www.masstimes.org for a listing of churches and mass times near your vocation destination. ALSO, please remember that your weekly and generous Sunday offering is crucial in the payment of our expenses at Saint Cecilia's. I am grateful for your support! – Father Zig

5TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH ROSARY – The 5th Sunday of the month Rosary will be prayed on Sunday, August 31st at 3 o'clock in the afternoon in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on East Main Street. Along with the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will also be prayed. This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council 3359. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

Our Condolences to the Family of
Catherine Reilly
 Eternal Rest Grant to her Lord

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE FOR SISTERS SEEKS WORLD CIVILIZATION INSTRUCTOR—ACS invites applications for an instructor to teach World Civilization—HI 101, a three-credit course designed for second-year international students. This course offers a global overview of major civilizations, cultural exchanges, political and economic systems, and religious traditions from ancient times to the early modern era. If interested, contact: academicdean@acs350.org

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

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year at Divine Mercy Academy in Rockaway is underway!

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 extra-curricular 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 is open on our web-site.

Stay Connected with Us Online! Want to keep up with the latest events, uplifting messages, and community updates from our parish? Follow us on our official social media channels! Facebook | Instagram | TikTok: @SaintCeciliaChurch You can follow Fr. Matt on his YouTube channel for heartfelt weekly reflections podcast - <https://youtube.com/frmattdarlak>

Like, follow, and share to help us spread faith, joy, and love beyond the church walls.

Let's grow in faith together — online and offline!

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.

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE AT MOUNT HOPE – His Excellency, Bishop Kevin Sweeney will lead a pilgrimage walk at Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Church in Mount Hope on Sunday, August 17th. The pilgrimage walk begins at 9:30 am at Mount Hope Pond with the Bishop which is a 1.2 miles (about 30 minutes). The Bishop will then celebrate Holy Mass in the church at 10:30 am. A barbeque will follow at the Parish Office/Center on Mount Hope Road (Shuttle buses available). SAINT BERNARD CHURCH IS A DESIGNATED HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGE SITE IN THE DIOCESE OF PATERSON.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS – Throughout the year the food pantry of Rockaway Borough needs items for those experiencing food insecurity. Your donations may be brought to Hayes Hall which will be taken to the ecumenical food pantry which is located at the First Presbyterian Church, our good neighbors across the street. May God bless you for your generosity!

NEXT SUNDAY—In conjunction with the annual Missionary Cooperative Appeal taking place in the Diocese of Paterson we welcome Father Michael Tigga to our parish. Father is a priest of the Diocese of Dinjapur located in Bangladesh. Father will speak at all the Masses next week asking for our prayers and support for his diocese in this predominately Islamic nation. It is our pleasure to host Father here in Rockaway! - Father Zig

Bereavement Meeting: The Compassionate Friends-Parsippany Chapter; A Self-Help group for bereaved PARENTS, SIBLINGS, and GRANDPARENTS, ALL meetings are held every **2nd Thursday** of each month, our next in-person scheduled meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 7:30pm; LOCATION: 427 Franklin Road, Denville, NJ, Union Hill Presbyterian Church/School- Recreation Room (Back Entrance of Pre-School Building)**. Please join our private facebook page "The Compassionate Friends Parsippany Chapter" for more information regarding in-person meetings. **Program for August 14, 2025: "Sign & Dreams"**

THANK YOU—My sincere thanks to Neil Van Scoy for the gardening he has done around the church property. His labor has brought beauty to the Lord's House. May Christ the Savior richly bless him! - Father Zig



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

PROJECT: SPEAKING IN TONGUES – Our parish is composed of a variety of nationalities which I often compare Saint Cecilia's to the United Nations. The various ethnic groups which form our parish make our church family rich and vibrant. To celebrate our cultural makeup I would like to do something in September which came from our 150th Anniversary Committee, that is, to celebrate the Holy Mass in a different language. To be clear: this would take place only at the Sunday 10:45 Mass and the Mass parts which would be in the designated language are the Scripture readings and the bringing forth of the gifts at the Offertory. Therefore, I am seeking volunteers who speak their ethnic language to contact me if you are willing to assist in this effort. I would like to begin the first of these Masses on Sunday, September 21st and follow each week until we conclude. Please contact me as soon as possible so that the schedule can be made and the appropriate Scripture readings assigned. – Father Zig

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.

CONSIDER SAINT CECILIA – I ask that "You consider Saint Cecilia" when you are preparing your will or thinking about how you are going to distribute your assets in the future. Our parish has been your spiritual home providing you and your family with pastoral care in good times and in bad. Your financial gift will help further the mission of proclaiming the Gospel in our community, so please CONSIDER SAINT CECILIA! – Father Zig

**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 commemorate the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time as we assemble for the Eucharistic celebration on the Lord's Day. This Sunday's Scriptural texts are relevant for our times when the pursuit of material possessions is on the minds of many people. Of course, we all need to provide for ourselves and our loved ones so that we might live a dignified life as the Lord intends. However, the unrelenting drive for material possessions defines the lives of so many that there is no time for the things which really matter, at least to God! The Scriptures give evidence that the hunger for possessions is not a contemporary yearning but has been around for a long time as the Old Testament reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes testifies. The subject is one which our Lord addresses in today's Gospel pericope. It seems like we can't stop craving for more when, perhaps, what we have is sufficient.

The epistle reading for today from the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Colossians is a reminder to us that what is valuable is that which cannot be found here below but rather in heaven. *"Seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."* Yes, spiritual realities are the treasures to be sought after because they eternally endure. When the toys and trinkets of this life are left behind when death comes to us, we will be found to be poor if our spiritual life had been in shambles. Spending one's life day in and day out concerned only with material possessions is a life that is wasted.

I am sure that all of us have heard stories about how some people are so involved in work, possessing more things, that there is no time for family and for those things which truly matter. Precious time passes never to return as we are unaware of the time when the Lord will say, *"You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?"*

Working for spiritual things may be found in the way we provide for the Church and her mission of spreading the Gospel. Our support for the Church by the sharing of our resources has always been the way of life for Christians from the very beginning of the Church. The Church, the Kingdom of God here on earth, needs our generous support. The selfless generosity of parishioners allows the Church to flourish in so many ways. THANK YOU, MY GOOD PEOPLE, for the generosity you show the Church as a sign of your faith in Christ the Savior!

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Fr. Zig

ST. JOHN VIANNEY, Priest
August 4-Patron of Priests

UNIVERSALLY known as the "Curé of Ars," St. John Mary Vianney was ordained a priest in 1815. Three years later he was made parish priest of Ars, a remote French hamlet, where his reputation as a confessor and director of souls made him known throughout the Christian world. His life was one of extreme mortification.

Accustomed to the most severe austerities, beleaguered by swarms of penitents, and besieged by the devil, this great mystic manifested imperturbable patience. He was a wonder worker loved by the crowds, but he remains to this day the living image of the priest after the Heart of Christ.

He heard confessions of people from all over the world for sixteen hours each day. His life was filled with the works of charity and love. It is reported that the staunchest of sinners were converted at his mere word. He died on August 4, 1859, and was canonized on May 31, 1925 by Pope Pius XI.

PRAYER Almighty and merciful God, in St. John Vianney You have given us a Priest who was outstanding in pastoral zeal. Through his intercession help us to win men for Christ and together with them attain eternal glory. Amen.

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

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