

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. 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 11, Saint Clare, Virgin

6:30 am – Irene Shucavage req. by Ron Piaskowski

8:00 am – Elizabeth Purcell req. by Sophie Boylan

Tuesday, August 12, Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

6:30 am – Dolores Socha req. by Father Zig

8:00 am – Joanna & Walter Lech req. by Dianna & John Sullivan

Wednesday, August 13, Saints Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs

6:30 am – Scott J. Sirvent req. by his sister, Casey

8:00 am – Nicole Glazewski req. by her mom, Barbara Quinby

Thursday, August 14, Saint Maximillian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

6:30 am – Joseph Talar req. by Fr. Zig

8:00 am – Bernard & Joan McDonnell req. by the McDonnell Family

4:30 pm – Vigil Mass – Assumption

Friday, August 15, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 am – Kevin Doughty req. by the McDonnell Family

8:00 am – Ernie Juretschke req. by Ed & Mary Merz

7:00 pm – Holy Mass – Assumption

Saturday, August 16, Saint Stephen of Hungary, BVM

8:00 am – In Thanksgiving req. by Berdin-Baricuatro Family

Sunday, August 17, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm – Edward & Clare Peplowski req. by Fr. Zig

Sarah Lombardo req. by Elizabeth Loden

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

8:00 am – Special Intention for Richard Michalowski req. by Jeanine & Nicholas Losito

9:15 am – Kennard Lienhardt req. by Carol Parillo

Salvatore Anthony Lombardo req. by Serafin Family

10:45 am – Joseph & Elizabeth Peplowski req. by Fr. Zig

12:15 pm – Roberta Willard req. by cousin, Eleanor Agan

James Dragone req. by Rosalie & Bob Marmara

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : August 3, 2025**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 7,726.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 4,647.80
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 12,373.80

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,939.93)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,916.67

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©PPC



*The Sanctuary Candle burning on our altar
is in loving memory of*

Scott Bridgman

Requested by Barbara & Ed Higdon

LABOR DAY MASS – Holy Mass on Labor Day, Monday,

September 1st will be celebrated at 9 o'clock in the morning at the parish cemetery. This will be the only Mass for the day. Please bring a lawn chair for the Mass. In the event of inclement weather, the Mass will take place in the church. The regular weekday Mass schedule resumes on Tuesday, September 2nd.

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Ethan Chandra, Dean Wayne Campbell, Doris Cusick, Jane Gorica, Sam Sessa, Karen Niles, Noel Wadleigh, David Cicchine, Teresa D'Atria, Derek Bascharow, Debbie Malc, Grace McDermott, Joe Horvath, Jr., Elvira Bugaoan, Owen Peter Byrne, Tia Maddaloni, Mason Walker Steussing, Susan Mejia, Derek Bascharow, Jim Rattay, Tom Hull, Kathleen Fazio, Kristin Wich, Kyle Johnson, Kate Darlington, Jake Michael Miraldi, Cheryl Anne Bornemann, Sean Nolan, Maryann Hughes, Peggy Eileen Miars, Ray Kennedy, Richard Corcoran, Madison Rose Leslie, Demetrius Barbee, Frances Finn, Dorothy Murray, Kimberly Dugan, Gale Sessa, Mike Murray, Michael Turner, Ruben Lorenzo, Michael Alvarez, Mina Simmons-Jones, Joe Maulbeck, Mary Merz, Patricia Smith Schulman, Vincent Fortunato, Joyce Turner, Tom Cumiskey, Dennis O'Brien, Steven Simmons, Ariel, James DiStaiso, Marty Mackin, Brian Bosworth, Dennis Dilger, Robyne LaGrotta, 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, Eleanor Sala.



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

Franciscus

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 (I Our Father, I Hail Mary and I 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.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

This week we commemorate a Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches this feast is also observed and known as the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary. The Undivided Church has celebrated this feast on August 15th since the 6th Century. In 1950 Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven. A portion of the Papal document states: *Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and the conqueror of sin and death.*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: *"The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians."*

The Troparion which is sung in the Byzantine Church for this feast says: IN GIVING BIRTH YOU KEPT YOUR VIRGINITY; IN YOUR DORMITION YOU DID NOT LEAVE THE WORLD, O MOTHER OF GOD, BUT WERE JOINED TO THE SOURCE OF LIFE. YOU CONCEIVED THE LIVING GOD AND, BY YOUR PRAYERS, WILL DELIVER OUR SOULS FROM DEATH.

In some churches there is the tradition to bless flowers on this feast. This comes from a tradition which says that when the Blessed Virgin had died the Apostles had gathered to pray at her tomb and when it was opened, so they could see her for one last time, the tomb did not contain her body but only fresh flowers.

Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, who today were exalted above the choirs of angels into eternal triumph with Christ.



Monday, August 11**Tuesday, August 12**7:45 pm—*Light of Christ Prayer Group (Hayes Hall)***Wednesday, August 13**7:00 pm—*Carnival Meeting (Hayes Hall)***Thursday, August 14**7:00 pm—*Steering Meeting (Parish Office)***Friday, August 15****Saturday, August 16****Sunday, August 17**

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!

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

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.



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!

HOLY HOUR RESUMES – Monday evening Holy Hour resumes on September 8th from 7 to 8 o'clock. The sacrament of penance also takes place at this time. The hour concludes with the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

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.

CARNIVAL MEETINGS -As we draw ever closer to the parish carnival on September 11-14, a weekly meeting of the carnival committee will take place in Hayes Hall beginning at 7 o'clock in the evening. The dates are Wednesdays, August 13, 20 and 27 ALSO, September 3 and 10!

PARISH 150TH ANNIVERSARY – Next Sunday's bulletin will contain information regarding the sale of the SUPER 50/50 RAFFLE which will be drawn on November 22nd. Also, information regarding the sale of our anniversary banquet tickets and more will be announced next Sunday. We conclude our anniversary year with great festivity, and I hope you will all be part of this wonderful experience celebrating Saint Cecilia's, our parish home! – Father 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

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

PREPARING HEARTS, MINDS, AND FUTURES - At Morris Catholic High School in Denville, we believe *Every Student Matters*. A premier, faith-filled co-ed Catholic education that prepares students not just for college, but for a lifetime of success. Morris Catholic offers generous financial aid and transportation including a shuttle from the Denville train station. *Transfer applications are still being accepted for the 2025-2026 school year!* **Discover the difference.** Learn more today: www.morriscatholic.org admissions@morriscatholic.org

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.

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

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! –

**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 is the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time as we gather to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to commemorate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Sacred Scriptures speak of the gift of faith and how one's life is lived because of this relationship with the Lord. The Book of Wisdom conveys the faith of those freed in the Exodus event, the miracle of salvation which is recalled in the celebration of Passover.

A wonderful account of faith is presented in the epistle reading from the Letter to the Hebrews focusing upon Abraham and Sarah. This lengthy reading is at times humorous and awe-inspiring as we are reminded of these senior citizens who possessed a genuine trust in God which allowed them to participate in the unimaginable. Their faith prompted their actions with a determination which reverberates throughout the ages inspiring generations.

Likewise, the Gospel reading for this Sunday is also a lengthy one as we hear the Lord Jesus speak to His disciples about faith and the responsibilities that are associated with it. People of faith should conduct themselves in a manner which is honorable as they wait in anticipation of the coming of the Kingdom of God. The example of faithfulness is an evangelizing tool which promotes the Gospel. The Lord does not hesitate to speak of the severe punishment awaiting those to whom much is expected but had been untrustworthy.

The gift of faith is one which missionaries have brought to peoples around the world since the beginning of the Church. Today we are most grateful to welcome a priest who comes to us from the other side of the world, Father Michael Tigga who will deliver the homily at all our Masses. Father Michael is from the Diocese of Dinjapur in Bangladesh. Father is here as part of the annual Missionary Cooperative Appeal which is held in all the parishes in the Diocese of Paterson during the month of August. As we listen to Father's message, I pray that our faith will be enlivened so that we might offer our prayers and financial support for this work in promulgating the Gospel.

Like our ancestors in faith, Abraham and Sarah, may our trust be in the Lord who calls us to depart from hopelessness and to journey to "*the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God.*" (the Heavenly Jerusalem)

May we be found trustworthy and diligent in our stewardship as God's holy people.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Fr. Zig

**St. Clare, Virgin
August 11 – Patroness of Television**

Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, had also the honor of giving birth to St. Clare, his spiritual daughter. She was born in 1193. From her childhood she desired to consecrate herself to Jesus Christ. Having heard of St. Francis and his sanctity, she contrived to be taken to home by a pious matron. The conversation of St. Francis made her resolve to abandon the world. On March 18, 1212, together with another young woman, she went to the Portiuncula, where St. Francis prayed, and received the penitential habit.

At first St. Francis placed her in a Benedictine convent of nuns. She persevered in her resolution in spite of the opposition of her friends and relatives. Later her sister Agnes joined her. St. Francis then placed then in a separate house. Soon after, her mother and several other ladies, some of high nobility, united themselves to her. The foundation of Poor Clares, or the Second Order of St. Francis, was thus laid. Within a few years St. Clare founded a number of other monasteries and her Order spread to Germany and Bohemia.

The austerities these religious women practices had scarcely ever been known among their sex. Together with other mortifications, their fast was perpetual. Such was the spirit of poverty of St. Clare that when, after her profession, she fell heiress to the large fortune of her father, she gave all of it to the poor. She would accept no revenues for her monastery. When the army of Fredrick II was devastating the valley of Spoleto some of the soldiers placed a ladder against the convent wall. St Clare caused herself to be carried to a window, and, holding the monsternace with the Blessed Sacrament in sight of the enemies, she prostrated herself before the Eucharistic God. Her Prayer was heard, and the enemies struck with a sudden panic, fled in terror. St. Clare's life came to an end, on August 11, 1253. She was canonized in 1255 by Pope Alexander IV.

PRAYER God, in Your mercy You led St. Clare to embrace poverty. Through her intercession help us to follow Christ in the spirit of poverty and to contemplate You in the heavenly Kingdom. Amen

Saint Cecilia Parish

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