

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 25, Saint Louis, Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest

6:30 am — Zbigniew Bogdanowicz req. by Family

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

Tuesday, August 26, Weekday

6:30 am — Diane Milo

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

Wednesday, August 27, Saint Monica

6:30 am — Marion Cables

8:00 am — Joan McDonnell req. by the McDonnell Family

Thursday, August 28, Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

6:30 am — Bishop Frank Rodimer

8:00 am — Russell Colditz req. by his wife, Ana

Friday, August 29, The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

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

8:00 am — Deceased Members of the Heedles Family

Saturday, August 30, Weekday

8:00 am — Wenepreda Cairo req. by Lanie Orr

Sunday, August 31, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm — Frederick & Mary Brussell req. by McDonnell Family

Sarah Lombardo req. by Elizabeth Loden

7:00 pm — Lyle Ryder req. by Roberta Vitcusk

Martha Salvesen req. by Ag Struble

8:00 am — Philip Laterza req. by his Dad

9:15 am — Jason Ragel req. by the Graner Family

10:45 am — Ruth Ann Nanstiel req. by Lillian & Ismael Franqui

Kennard Lienhardt req. by Bob & Dolly Kukuvka

12:15 pm — Angel Allan req. by Christopher Allan

Zbigniew Bogdanowicz req. by Family

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : August 17, 2025**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$
Total Weekly Collection	\$

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC

5TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH ROSARY – The 5th Sun-

day 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!

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.

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SALE BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 7TH...

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET TICKETS – Tickets for the 150th Gala Anniversary Banquet which will take place at the Hanover Manor in East Hanover on Saturday, November 22nd beginning at 6 o'clock in the evening will now go on sale. This is a formal dinner and all inclusive with tickets being sold at \$70 for adults; \$60 for seniors; and \$30 for children. Tickets will be sold after all Sunday Masses as well as being available at the parish office. We are limited to 350 attendees so tickets should be purchased as soon as possible. You do not want to miss this grand event as we come together to celebrate our wonderful parish and the blessing that it is to us! – Father Zig

150TH ANNIVERSARY SUPER RAFFLE – In conjunction with our 150th Parish Anniversary grand finale on Saturday, November 22nd, we are conducting a “super raffle” with the winners being announced at the grand banquet at the Hanover Manor. The cost is \$20 per ticket with 5,000 tickets printed. The Grand Prize is \$20,000, 2nd Prize is \$1,500 and 3rd Prize is \$500 (If less than 2,200 tickets are sold, payout will be 50/50 split with one grand prize). Tickets are available after Mass in the church vestibule on Sunday or from the parish office during business hours.

ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL AD – An information sheet regarding the placement of an ad in our parish's 150th ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL is located on the bulletin table located in the church vestibule. Should your family or business like to be included in this commemorative publication, please complete the form and return it to the parish office as soon as possible. Also, if there is a business or professional group which you are familiar with, I would ask that you present our request for an ad. I truly appreciate your support in this project which will be a source of parish pride and become a historical document for future years. – Father Zig

OCIA

(The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

OCIA BEGINS SOON Have you been worshipping with us, but have never officially taken the step to become Catholic? Are you seeking a relationship with Jesus, but have not been Baptized or Confirmed or have not received First Communion? Are you married to a Catholic, but just don't know the next step to become Catholic? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is a wonderful process by which nonCatholics learn and normally enter the Catholic Faith. OCIA is also for baptized Catholics who missed receiving Eucharist or Confirmation. Contact Sister Diane: sdmoughan@gmail.com.

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.

PADRE PIO PRAYER MEETING – The monthly Padre Pio prayer meeting will resume on Wednesday, September 3rd at 10 o'clock in the morning. The hour long gathering is held in the votive chapel off the church vestibule at which the Rosary is prayed and discussion of the monthly meditation sent from San Giovanni Rotondo in Italy takes place. Our parish is an officially recognized prayer group from the Padre Pio headquarters in Italy. The monthly prayer meeting is open to all parishioners. You are invited to join is as we gather in the spirit of this most powerful intercessor in Heaven. SAINT PADRE PIO PRAY FOR US!

WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY – the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invites us to commemorate the “World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly” on Sunday, September 7th. A blessing will be given at all Masses, including the Vigil Masses on Saturday, September 6th. This commemoration aims to be an opportunity to reflect on how the presence of grandparents and the elderly is a sign of hope in every family and parish.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN – “Liturgy of the Word for Children” will resume on Sunday, September 7th and takes place every Sunday at the 9:15 Holy Mass. The young children, accompanied by parents should they like, leave the church for the first part of the Mass and go to Hayes Hall where the catechists proclaim the Sunday Scripture readings from the Children's Lectionary and offer a brief reflection. In addition, we are always looking for assistance with this program and invite interested parents to contact Denise Montalto-Rook, Leslie Graner and Sister Chiara Marie for information.

Registration for Religious Education classes for the 2025-2026 is open on our web-site.

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Monday, August 25**Tuesday, August 26**7:45 pm—*Light of Christ Prayer Group (Hayes Hall)***Wednesday, August 27**7:00 pm—*Carnival Meeting (Hayes Hall)***Thursday, August 28**7:00 pm—*Carnival Volunteers Meeting (Hayes Hall)***Friday, August 29****Saturday, August 30****Sunday, August 31**

MARY'S HANDS – Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Paterson has a program entitled, “Mary’s Hands” which serves the poorest and most vulnerable families in our community and provide a place where they can seek immediate support. Mary’s Hands offers compassion and dignity to each client. We support the integrity of the family and recognize children as a precious gift. We serve as client advocates focusing on mothers with young children living in poverty. For more information about Mary’s Hands and to learn how you can get involved in supporting this good work email us at maryshands@margarechurch.org or visit <https://ccpaterson.org/maryshands>.

A REPORT – A new roof was installed on the parish office last week which included new leaders and drain-pipes. Our parish office is a very busy place with various people coming every day to do business regarding Saint Cecilia Church. The building is the place where the priests meet with people for pastoral matters. Divine Mercy Academy also utilizes a portion of the building. Needless to say, it serves as a very important building. The work done on the roof cost \$40,000. To pay this bill and due to the “summer slump” I withdrew \$65,000 from our diocesan savings account.

On another note, work will begin very shortly installing a new flat roof above the church sacristies. Prior to this the two defunct air conditioning units on the roof will be removed via a crane. The roof will then be installed, and two new air conditioning units will be installed. The good news is that this project has already been funded thanks to a generous parish family.

Maintaining our buildings is an important task for every pastor and one which I take very seriously. The parishioners who erected our parish buildings 70 years ago did so with great sacrifice and now it is our turn to make sure that our property is maintained for the benefit of our people and for the glory of God! – 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.

GOLF OUTING TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL – The Knights of Columbus Council 3359 will conduct its 50th Anniversary Pumpkin Classis Golf Outing on Friday, October 10th. The event which will benefit Divine Mercy Academy will take place at the Rock Ridge Golf Course, 500 Schooley’s Mountain Road in Hackettstown. The cost is \$150 per golfer (\$50 for dinner only). There is a “ton of stuff” included with registration. For information please go to: uknight.org/CouncilSite/?CNO=3359 OR Vinny Lusardi at 201.400.7223.

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.

FILIPINO SAINTS CELEBRATION: The Diocesan Commission for Catholic Filipino Ministries (DCCFM) invites you to the annual celebration honoring our two Filipino saints: San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod, on September 20, 2025 (Saturday). The celebration's highlight will be a Mass presided over by Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney at 11:30 AM at Saint Philip the Apostle Parish, 797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013. Please contact DCCFM President **Elmer Maximo** at (973)664-1949 or email DCCFM at dccfmevents@gmail.com for more information. Thank you.

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

SHREDDING EVENT—Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 63 E. Main St, Rockaway, is having a shredding event on Saturday, **September 13th**, from 9:00 am—12:00 pm. Suggested donations: \$10.00 for a bag.

THE BLOOD PRESSURE MINISTRY—we are looking for nurses to help at the Saturday 4:30 PM Mass on the second Sunday once a month. If you can help, please call through the Rectory Office at 973-627-0313 and leave your name and cell phone number. We would be most grateful. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS, SISTERS – Last Thursday, August 21st was the 176th Anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Christian Charity. Celebrations at the Motherhouse in Mendham included the 60th Anniversary of the Religious Profession of Sister Marlene Weitzel and the 40th Anniversary of Sister Geralyn Schmidt. May the Lord bless them with good health and many years in consecrated life.

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

LITTLE FLOWER CELEBRATION – Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Mountain Lakes (10 North Pocono Road) will sponsor a celebration in honor of the feast of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus on Sunday, September 21st at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. His Excellency, Bishop Kevin Sweeney will preside at the service which will include bagpipers, a Broadway singer and a Knights of Columbus representation. For further information please call Carol Bsarany at 973.271.9252.

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,

As we assemble on this 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass we are challenged and comforted by the Sacred Scriptures which are proclaimed. The Sacred Texts give witness to the presumption of some who think they are entitled to salvation as they hold others to be unworthy. Once again, the theme of universal inclusion is found in the Old Testament reading from the Prophet Isaiah as well as in the Gospel pericope in which we find the words, “*And people will come from the east and the west and the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.*” Today’s Scriptures speak of the mercy of God who calls all His children into the Heavenly Jerusalem. God’s mercy is seen in contrast to the “hard heartedness” of the religious zealots who seek to limit those who are worthy of salvation. These are the people the Lord Jesus confronted and identified as the self-righteous.

The virtue of humility is what is sorely lacking among the arrogant. In times past the Lord of Hosts punished Israel for their arrogance which manifested itself in idolatry. Substituting oneself for God gives one the erroneous view that permits the exclusion of certain people and the suppression of mercy. This attitude resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem and the enslavement of the people- the Divine discipline was administered!

Today’s epistle reading from the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of divine discipline which is seen as that which is necessary for the formation of the believer. Discipline is positive and is a sign of love so that one will see the error of their ways and reform their life.

The universal call to holiness is one which we are all invited to answer with humility. This call summons us to respecting all people, granting mercy and showing charity to those in need. Conducting ourselves in this manner is “striving to enter through the narrow gate” which leads us into the Kingdom of Heaven.

The conclusion of this coming week brings us into the start of the Labor Day holiday. The summer season will end with the resumption of all the activities, including school, which were on a hiatus. I hope you will read this week’s bulletin which highlights some of the activities which will resume in our parish very soon.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

ST. MONICA, Widow

August 27 – Patroness of Mothers and Widows

ST. MONICA came into the world in the year 333. As soon as she was old enough she was married to Patricius, a pagan citizen of Tagaste. Although Patricius was a man of high temper, she bore all trials with great patience. Her example and gentle conduct exercised such an influence over him that he was finally converted to Christianity. He died the year after his baptism.

The great cross of her life was the conduct of her son, Augustine, who was seventeen years of age when his father died in 371. His mother prayed long and fervently for his conversion. When he left her in Africa to go to Italy, she followed him and found him at Milan, where the words of St. Ambrose had already convinced him of the false hood of Manichean doctrines, which he abandoned without being entirely converted.

In August, 386, St. Monica had the long-coveted happiness of seeing her son return to God. He was baptized by St. Ambrose on Easter eve the following year and soon after, with his mother and some friends, he set out for Africa. But St. Monica’s work was done; her son was converted; the sinner had become a Saint. She fell sick on the road and died at Ostia, from where they were to embark, in 387.

PRAYER God, Comforter of the afflicted, You accepted St. Monica’s tears to bring about the conversion of her son St. Augustine. Through their intercession, grant that we may have contrition for our sins and experience the grace of Your pardon. Amen.

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

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