

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 or by email.

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, September 8, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 am — Marjorie Kristen req. by Don & Fran Shivas

8:00 am — George & Gerard Cunningham req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Tuesday, September 9, Saint Peter Claver, Priest

6:30 am — Marian Bogdanowicz req. by Family

8:00 am — Linda Merz Waters req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Wednesday, September 10, Weekday

6:30 am — Michael Pontore req. by Bob & Michele Peplowski and Family

8:00 am — Ed Bogart req. by the Brennan Family

Thursday, September 11, Weekday

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

8:00 am — Marge Benson & Liam Callahan

Friday, September 12, The Most Holy Name of Mary

6:30 am — Luigi Santiago req. by the Santiago Family

8:00 am — Edward W. & Mary A. Merz req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Saturday, September 13, Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am — Dorothy Mathews req. by Sophie Boylan

Sunday, September 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

4:30 pm — Stephen & Anne Haran req. by Peggy McKinney

7:00 pm — Eva Jean-Francois req. by Viviane Jean-Charles Martha Salvesen req. by Ag Struble

8:00 am — Robert & Rena Benjamin req. by Bob & Tom Benjamin

9:15 am — Phyllis Kuhlmeier, 20th Anv., req. by loving Daughters Helena Piechota req. by her daughter, Ewelina

10:45 am — Mario Zambrano req. by Family Aniela Bogdanowicz req. by Family

12:15 pm — Aldo Agostinelli req. by the Plateroti Family

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : August 31, 2025**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 7,538.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 5,889.13
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 13,427.13

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (886.60)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 719.30

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC

BRING YOUR CROSS NEXT SUNDAY – In commemoration of next Sunday's Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross you are invited to bring your cross to church for a blessing, feel free to bring your wall cross, necklace cross, etc. The blessing will take place at the conclusion of the homily at all Masses to celebrate the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helen in the year 326.

TODAY – We commemorate the *WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY* at our Masses with the bestowing of a blessing upon our senior members of the parish. We pray that they will be blessed with good health and that their wisdom may be imparted upon those who are young and the foolish. – Father Zig

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Ethan Chandra, Dean Wayne Campbell, 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, 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 Olge-luie, Mark Howarth, Logan Mattessich, 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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION BEGINS – We have a variety of opportunities here at Saint Cecilia for adults to gather and learn about and share their faith.

Monday Evening Bible Study meets every week in Hayes Hall beginning at 7:30 starting September 15th. The course of study is entitled, “Foundation of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church.” In 20 sessions you will be familiar with the catechism which contains the faith of the Church.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets every week in Hayes Hall beginning at 9:30 starting October 14th. Father Matt will lead the class in exploring the Letters of Saint John as well as the Book of Revelation.

“Saint Cecilia Presents” is a monthly gathering on a Thursday evening beginning at 7 o’clock in Hayes Hall with a presentation by a guest speaker. The line-up is: September 25 – Bishop Arthur Serratelli will speak on the Nicene Creed and about his newly published book which will be available for sale that evening. On October 16 Father Michael Parisi will give a talk on the Military Archdiocese and Pastoral Care to the Members of the Armed Forces. On November 13 Mr. Preston Dibble will speak to us on the topic of Sacred Music and Saint Cecilia. We conclude in December on the 11th with “Open Mike Night”.

Advent Retreat will take place on Saturday morning, December 6th with Monsignor Raymond Kupke as the presenter for this morning of reflection which will begin with Holy Mass at 8 o’clock and breakfast. (additional information will be forthcoming)

This will serve as the fall line-up of faith formation opportunities for adults.

REMEMBERING 9/11 – Join us for the celebration of the Holy Mass on Thursday morning September 11th at 6:30 and 8 o’clock when we will pray for those who lost their lives during the horrific attacks on our country in 2001. Among those who lost their lives that day were our two parishioners: Liam Callahan and Marge Benson. Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord!

POST CANA DATE NIGHTS – All couples, married either 50 days or 50 years, are invited to attend a gathering of couples on Saturday, September 27th at 8 o’clock in the evening. The event begins in the church for a brief prayer and video presentation. Couples then have time alone to talk and share their insights. The evening concludes in Hayes Hall with food, drink and fellowship. What a blessing for a happier and holier marriage!

EATING TO SUPPORT – The Knights of Columbus Council 514 will hold a fund raising breakfast at APPLEBEE’S on Route 46 E, Dover on Saturday, October 11th from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tickets are \$15 and will be sold after Masses on Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5. Please see the information posted on the bulletin board in the church vestibule for additional information. Let’s support our knights who do such great work for the Church!

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.

OCIA

(The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

CONSIDERING BECOMING CATHOLIC? If you or an adult you know has been leaning toward becoming a Catholic, you are invited to get more information about what is involved with no expectations. Sister Diane will be in the front of the Church after most of the Masses in September “The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.” OCIA is the process by which unbaptized adults can learn about and prepare for Baptism, and those already baptized Catholic can prepare to complete their membership in the Church by the Sacrament of Confirmation. We also welcome into the same into our OCIA community, Christians already baptized and now choosing to take a new step in their relationship with God by coming into full communion with the Catholic Church, receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Contact Sister Diane: sdmoughan@gmail.com.

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

PROJECT: SPEAKING IN TONGUES – Due to a sluggish response, “Project: Speaking in Tongues” will be postponed to the Spring. At that time we will revisit the program which will provide an opportunity to hear parts of the Sunday 10:45 a.m. Holy Mass in the languages which are represented in our multi-ethnic parish of Saint Cecilia. For more information, please contact Father Zig.

Monday, September 8

7:00 pm—Holy Hour (Church)

Tuesday, September 9

12:00 pm—Seniors Meeting (Hayes Hall)

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

Wednesday, September 10

7:00 pm—Carnival Meeting (Hayes Hall)

7:00 pm—Choir Practice (Church)

Thursday, September 11

5:00 pm—Carnival (Firemen's Field, Beach St, Rky Boro)

Friday, September 12

5:00 pm—Carnival (Firemen's Field, Beach St, Rky Boro)

Saturday, September 13

8:00 am—Men's Society Meeting (Hayes Hall)

2:00 pm—Carnival (Firemen's Field, Beach St, Rky Boro)

Sunday, September 14

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

1:00 pm—Carnival (Firemen's Field, Beach St, Rky Boro)

SALE BEGINS TODAY! – Today we begin selling tickets to our parish's 150th Anniversary Gala Banquet which will take place on Saturday, November 22 beginning at 6 o'clock in the evening at the Hanover Manor in East Hanover. The ticket cost for this *FORMAL EVENT* is \$70 for adult, \$50 for senior and \$30 for children. Reservation forms for table seating for 10 are located at the sales table. **ALSO**, tickets for the Grand 50/50 Raffle, which will be drawn on November 22nd, are also available for sale. The cost per ticket is \$20.

CARNIVAL TIMES – Our parish carnival takes place this week. The times are Thursday: 5-9 pm; Friday: 5-10 pm; Saturday: 2-10 pm and Sunday 1-6 pm. Invite your friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers to join with us at this first ever Saint Cecilia Parish Carnival.



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

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 is now open for the 50th Annual Pumpkin Classic Golf Outing

hosted by the Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of the Lakes Council #3359, to benefit Divine Mercy Academy in Rockaway, NJ. Join us on Friday, October 10, 2025, at Rock Ridge Golf Course in Hackettstown for a day of golf, fellowship, and community spirit. The \$175 golfer package includes breakfast, golf with cart, on-course refreshments, commemorative gifts, and buffet dinner. Dinner-only tickets are \$50. Registration opens at 7:45 a.m., golf begins at 9:00 a.m., and dinner with awards and raffles follows at 2:00 p.m. Sponsorships are available starting at \$100. Proceeds support the students of Divine Mercy Academy—come play, sponsor, or dine and be part of this 50th anniversary tradition! To register go to www.kofc3359.org

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!

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.

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!

GOLD and SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 2000, 1975 or 1965? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 60th, 50th or 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held: **Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 3:00pm.** Arrangements can be made by contacting your parish office. **The deadline to register is Friday, October 17, 2025.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. *Congratulations on this joyous occasion!*

FAMILY FUN DAY – The Sisters of Christian Charity are inviting all families with children to their Motherhouse in Mendham on Saturday, September 20th from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come for a day of games and activities with the Sisters of Christian Charity. The donation is \$20 per child, adults and children under 3 are free. Proceeds of the event will go to support the education of the Sisters in formation. There will be activities and prizes, face painting, bounce-house, picnicking, field games and more. The Motherhouse is located at 350 Bernardsville Road in Mendham. Let's support this great event!!!

NEW JERSEY MARCH FOR LIFE – Join pro-life advocates from around New Jersey to peacefully rally and march in Trenton for the dignity of the human person. The event begins with Holy Mass in the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption (Trenton) at 9:30 a.m.; the Rally at 11 a.m.; March to the Statehouse at 12 Noon. Bus transportation is available at \$35 per person for registration please go to: www.insidethewalls.org.

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.

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.

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 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist on the Lord's Day. In the Gospel we hear the words of Jesus directed to His listeners regarding the way to discipleship and the discernment which is required before one makes the commitment to follow Christ. This commitment will require a cost which some may not be able to offer because of the totality of self which is expected. There will be suffering, a sharing in the cross which must be carefully considered. The disciple cannot be fickle nor easily swayed by evil. The disciple's commitment in following Jesus will suppress personal plans and call forth an unselfish giving of self for the Kingdom of God.

The unselfish attitude is present in today's epistle reading from the Letter of Paul to Philemon. In this correspondence the Apostle Paul would like to retain the service of the slave Onesimus for his own well-being but writes that he will not do so because he knows that his selfish attitude will not be for the good of all. Paul speaks of his own suffering which would be eased by Onesimus's assistance but rather accepts the discomfort for the sake of Philemon.

The reading from the Book of Wisdom reminds us that none of us knows what God has in mind for us. We are both body and soul which the Lord has created in His image and likeness. In reflection upon our life, we are to be mindful that we are God's children, called to serve Him in this life so that we may be happy with Him forever in Heaven.

Today our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV will canonize two young laymen who will be enrolled among the saints at a ceremony in Saint Peter's Square at which tens of thousands of faithful are expected to attend. Glorified today will be Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassatti and Blessed Carlo Acutis. I have included within today's bulletin a short biography about both whose images are located near the altar for this Sunday.

As you become familiar with both young saints you will soon discover how they responded so beautifully to Christ's invitation to discipleship. This teenager and young adult become models for us and an encouragement for young Catholics in particular. Their love for the Eucharist and mindfulness of the poor bring inspiration to people of all ages.

Next Sunday we "step out" of Ordinary Time to celebrate the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy, Precious and Life-Giving Cross. Bring your cross to Mass next Sunday for a blessing, whether it be a wall cross or one which you wear around your neck.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

ST. PETER CLAVER, Priest
September 9—Patron of the Black Missions

St. Peter Claver was born at Verdu, Catalonia, Spain, in 1580, of impoverished parents descended from ancient and distinguished families. He studied at the Jesuit College of Barcelona, entered the Jesuit novitiate at Tarragona in 1602 and took his final vows on August 8, 1604. While studying philosophy at Majorca, the young religious was influenced by St. Alphonsus Rodriguez to go to the Indies and save "Millions of those perishing souls."

In 1610, he landed at Cartagena (modern Colombia), the principal slave market of the New World, where a thousand slaves were brought every month. After his ordination in 1616, he dedicated himself to the service of the Black slaves—a work that was to last for thirty-three years. He labored unceasingly for the salvation of the slaves and the abolition of the slave trade, and the love he lavished on them was something that transcended the natural order.

Boarding the slave ships as they entered the harbor, he would hurry to the revolting inferno of the hold, and offer whatever poor refreshments he could afford; he would care for the sick and dying, and instruct the slaves through Black catechists, before administering the sacraments. Through his efforts three hundred thousand souls entered the Church. Furthermore, he did not lose sight of his converts when they left the ships, but followed them to the plantations to which they were sent, encouraged them to live as Christians, and prevailed on their masters to treat them humanely. He died in 1654 and was canonized in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII.

PRAYER God, You conferred on St. Peter Claver a remarkable love and patience to help Your enslaved people and bring them to a knowledge of Your Name. Through his intercession, help us to seek equality for all races. Amen.

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

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
