

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, October 13, Weekday

6:30 am — Davidson Jean-Francois req. by Viviane Jean-Charles
 8:00 am — Steven Jozwiak req. by Anna Jozwiak
 Celedonia Padro Diaz, 100th Birthday Remembrance,
 req. by Family

Tuesday, October 14, Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr

6:30 am — James P. Donahue req. by Anna Jozwiak
 8:00 am — Bernard Kerick req. by Sean Connolly & Jeff
 Swedelson

Wednesday, October 15, Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

6:30 am — Midas Jean-Francois req. by Viviane Jean-Charles
 8:00 am — Msgr. Charles Powers

Thursday, October 16, Saint Hedwig, Religious, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

6:30 am — Special Intention for Javier, Patryk & Tomsz req. by
 Dad

8:00 am — Gary Kufall req. by Karen & Family

Friday, October 17, Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr

6:30 am — Joanne Houser req. by Fr. Zig
 8:00 am — Thomas Boylan req. by Sophie Boylan

Saturday, October 18, Saint Luke, Evangelist

8:00 am — Anne Terminello req. by the Rosary Society

Sunday, October 19, Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 pm — Richard Michalowski req. by Lynn & Harold Nebbia
 Martha Salvesen req. by Marie Ange Wahlstrom
 7:00 pm — Bill & Jeanne Gallagher req. by their daughter, Jan
 8:00 am — Johannes Kowalski req. by the Rousseau Family
 9:15 am — Alex Wharton req. by the Graner Family
 Vito Lupino req. by Sean Connolly & John Salvador
 10:45 am — Renato Sebastian & Antonita DeJesus req. by Family
 12:15 pm — John Goginsky req. by the Goginsky Family
 Theresa Udasco req. by Sue Ritz

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, Cecilia Pane.

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : October 5, 2025**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 7,987.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 5,742.75
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 13,729.75

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (583.98)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 4,742.40

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY — Bishop Sweeney is inviting you to join with him in the observance of World Mission Sunday by attending the 12 Noon Mass at Saint James of the Marches Church in Totowa on Sunday, October 19th. Let us remember the Church's mission of evangelization as we join in prayer with Catholics throughout the world on this day.

ATTENTION: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH — The

Rockaway Borough Police Department has informed me that on Saturday, October 25th CHURCH STREET, which is normally a one-way street on Saturday afternoon/evening, will remain TWO WAY to accommodate a Halloween event which will take place at Park Lake. Parishioners are advised to use our parish parking lots for the 4:30 and 7:00 p.m. Masses on that day. — Father Zig



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.

WINTER COAT DRIVE – The Men’s Society will sponsor their annual Saint Martin of Tours Coat Drive on Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2. New (or gently clean used coats) may be placed on the designated tables in Hayes Hall. Coats are being accepted for men, women and children and will be distributed to the needy through the Morristown Mission and the Father English Community Center in Paterson. Saint Martin of Tours is known for the act of sharing his cloak with a beggar who turned out to be Christ. His feast day is November 11th.

DINNER WITH THE BISHOP – Bishop Sweeney is inviting high school, college age and older men to join him for dinner on Friday evening, October 17th at Saint Philip the Apostle Church in Clifton (797 Valley Road) from 6:30 to 8:30. This event is called “Project Andrew” and is an invitation to those who may be considering the priesthood. During this time prayer will take place along with a vocation talk given by one of the seminarians of the diocese. This is a great opportunity to ask questions about the life of a priest and to meet other young men trying to discover God’s call in their lives. The event is free of charge, but registration is requested by contacting Father Charlie Lana at 973.777.8818x711 or vocations@patersondiocese.org.

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 Welcomes New Members

This process is about welcoming new members to the Catholic Church and helping present adult members to prepare for Confirmation. We began with short INQUIRY meetings last week after the 10:45 Mass to 12:35 PM in the Parish Office. It is not too late to join us. Registration is appreciated, but not required. Come, ask your questions!!

Oct 12 No Meeting

Oct. 19 - Following Jesus (Scriptures at Mass)

Contact Sister Diane for info sdmoughan@gmail.com

ALL SAINTS DAY – Due to November 1st falling on a Saturday this year the Solemnity of All Saints IS NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. You are encouraged to attend Holy Mass at 8 o’clock in the morning. No other Masses will be celebrated for this feast.

ALL SOULS CEMETERY SERVICE – You are invited to join with Father Matt for prayers at the parish cemetery on Saturday, November 1st at 12 o’clock Noon.

REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED – The month of November is dedicated to the souls of the faithful departed. During this time the All Souls envelopes with the names of the departed will rest on the altar so that they will be remembered during the Holy Sacrifice. Also, the Book of the Dead will be positioned on the altar of Saint Joseph in which you may inscribe the names of departed loved ones.

We are online: www.st-cecilia.org

Monday, October 13

Divine Mercy Academy & Parish Office are closed

Tuesday, October 14

9:30 am—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

7:00 pm—Parish Finance Council Meeting (Parish Office)

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

Wednesday, October 15

8:30 am—Soup Kitchen (Hayes Hall)

7:00 pm—Choir Practice (Church)

Thursday, October 16

8:30 am—Soup Kitchen (Hayes Hall)

7:00 pm—St. Cecilia Presents... (Hayes Hall)

Friday, October 17

5:30 pm—Altar Servers Meeting (Church)

7:00 pm—Pro-Life Speaker (Hayes Hall)

Saturday, October 18

Rosyglo selling raffle tickets after all the Masses

8:30 am—St. Monica's Guild Meeting (Hayes Hall)

Sunday, October 19

Rosyglo selling raffle tickets after all the Masses

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

8:00 pm—LTP (Hayes Hall)

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!— Today we are 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.

FOR MARRIED COUPLES— "Post Cana" will take place on Saturday evening, October 25th beginning at 8 o'clock in the church with a video presentation followed by discussion and concluding with refreshments in Hayes Hall. All married couples are invited to participate in this Catholic enrichment marriage opportunity.

Our Condolences to the Family of
Sr. Immaculata & Eileen DiGiovanni
Eternal Rest Grant to them Lord

PRO LIFE COMMUNITY EDUCATION EVENING— "*Death With Dignity: The Catholic Version*" is the topic for the Tenth Biennial Pro-Life Community Education Evening sponsored by the John Paul II Respect Life Ministry. The event will take place on Friday evening, October 17th from 7 to 9 o'clock in Hayes Hall. The speaker will be Father Pawel Tomczyk, Director of Pastoral Formation and Assistant professor of Moral Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University. Admission is free, refreshments will be served.

Divine Mercy Academy News

Help Wanted—Substitute Teachers

Divine Mercy Academy is seeking substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year! If you are interested, please call the school at 973-627-6003.

IF YOU ATTEND FRIDAY MORNING MASS— As a security measure the doors of the church will be locked for Friday morning Mass at 7:50 am. If you attend Mass on Friday morning, you must be in the building by that time. This is a security measure for our school children. — Fr. Zig

Grandfriends in Faith—Ms. Starks and her new third grade students would like to extend a warm invitation to senior parishioners to join this wonderful intergenerational program. The goal of this program is to promote love, unity, and warm fellowship between youth and senior adults. The third grade class and their Grandfriends will meet throughout the school year to form a lasting friendship, join creative forces in a craft or activity, and grow in faith together. Of course the meeting is never complete without delicious treats provided by the third grade parents. If you are interested in joining Grandfriends in Faith, please contact Mrs. Servidio at aservidio@dmrockaway.org

"SIP AND PRAY"— The Assumption College for Sisters is sponsoring "Sip and Pray With the Sisters" on Saturday, November 1st. This is a wine and bourbon tasting fund-raiser for the college which will take place at "The Commons" at Morris Catholic High School from 7-9 p.m. Tickets are \$50. Please RSVP to treasurer@acs350.org or by calling 973.957.0188 x 101. For a double blessing bring a friend over 21.

THURSDAY NIGHT— Father Michael Parisi, pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Mountain Lakes, will be with us on Thursday evening for the next adult formation program of our fall series, "Saint Cecilia Presents". The topic is pastoral care for those in the armed forces. Father Parisi has served as a chaplain in the military and will share with us some interesting insights as to how Catholic service personnel are ministered to as they serve our country. The hour-long program will begin at 7 o'clock in Hayes Hall.

Assumption College for Sisters, 200A Morris Ave. Denville, NJ, is in need of academic tutors. If interested, please contact Sister Teresa Bruno, Academic Dean, at

academicdean@acs350.org or call 973-957-0190 x100

MASS CARDS

We are asked to pray for the dead. The best way to do this is to have a mass celebrated in memory of a loved one.

Call the Parish Office 973-627-0313

~Offering \$15.00~

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

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!*

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!

ROSYGLO 50/50 RAFFLES – Rosyglo Foundation, which was founded in memory of Sister Thomasine Smith (who resided in St. Cecilia Parish convent for many years) will conduct their annual raffle to benefit the retired Nuns at the Sisters of Christian Charity (our religious order of Sisters) and our own **Divine Mercy Academy** towards scholarships. Raffles will be sold at all masses this weekend, October 18th – 19th. We hope you will support this important fund raiser for this most worthwhile cause. Tickets cost \$5 each. Your generosity will do good works in memory of a devoted religious sister. Thank you very much for your support.

LOW GLUTEN – Those who cannot tolerate wheat products can receive the Holy Eucharist via a low gluten host which is approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Person(s) must make themselves identified to the priest no later than 10 minutes before Mass begins by going to the priest sacristy so that the preparation may be made for Mass.

2025 Diocesan Ministries Appeal “Three Counties, One Family of Faith”

Over the past two weeks, our bulletin highlighted the work that the Diocesan Ministries Appeal helps support in Sussex and Morris County. This week, we are highlighting Passaic County. *Group residences for adults with disabilities in Pompton Lakes, Clifton, West Milford and Wayne; Early intervention programs; Early learning programs, Paterson; Teen and youth programs, Passaic and Paterson; Senior activities program and day center, Paterson; Transportation services for seniors, Paterson; Father English Food Pantry, Paterson; Services for veterans and their families; Straight and Narrow substance abuse programs, including residential services for men, women, women with children, medical detox and halfway house programs and outpatient treatment services, Paterson; Straight & Narrow adult medical daycare, Paterson; Straight and Narrow permanent supportive housing apartments, Paterson; Family Success Center, Paterson.*

Please consider a donation to the 2025 Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Visit www.2025appeal.org to make a gift today.

PARISH CARNIVAL—I would like to share some information from last week's carnival meeting. An email address has been established so that you may share your thoughts regarding our first ever carnival as well as any suggestions you may have for next year's event.

The address is: Carnivalchair26@gmail.com

A gathering will take place in January as an appreciation to all those who worked at the carnival as well as for all those who have served on the 150th anniversary committee. A meeting will be held in February to plan the 2026 PARISH CARNIVAL. Details will be forthcoming.—Father Zig

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.

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 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time in our celebration of the Lord's Day. The Scripture readings for the Holy Mass tell us about people who have been the recipients of God's great mercy. These are people who others would reject as being worthy of God's attention never mind His blessing. Naaman is a Syrian and the 10 lepers are Samaritans, they come from people whom the Jews consider alien, unclean and outcasts. Although society considers them in this category the Lord does not. In the Old Testament account regarding Naaman his cleansing comes about from God through His prophet Elisha. Naaman obeys the instruction to immerse himself in the Jordan River and in his healing praises God and wishes to offer sacrifice to the God of Israel. So committed to worshipping the True God that he asks if he may take some earth from Israel back home as a remembrance and to assist him in his worship of God.

Likewise in the Gospel account of the healing of the ten Samaritan lepers the Lord Jesus has compassion on their suffering. The suffering of all people, regardless of their background, is of importance to the Son of God who came to call all people to Himself. The lepers recognize Jesus as Lord and plead for pity. The Lord marvels that of the 10 made clean only one returns with thanksgiving to God. This one possessed faith in Jesus which motivated him to glorify God with praise and gratitude. In the epistle reading the Apostle Paul tells Timothy that he is enduring suffering for the sake of his faith in Christ. The chains which restrict his movement are not strong enough to arrest his faith. He writes that this faith is the source of salvation which is open to all people, all are chosen, and none are rejected for Christ died and rose from the dead so that all might have life. Throughout his letters the Apostle Paul gives thanks to the Lord for the gracious gift given in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANK YOU is a phrase we all need to say more often. Our society sends the message of entitlement to us, causing us to believe that we deserve everything there is and more. This prideful attitude promotes self-centeredness and indifference to others, especially the needy.

A humble spirit acknowledges giftedness and does not hesitate to say THANK YOU!

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin
October 16

Born in the diocese of Autun, France, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque consecrated her heart, while yet a child, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In Order to dedicate herself wholly to her Divine Spouse, she joined the Visitation Order of nuns at twenty-three years of age at Paray-le Monial in Charleroi. She was subjected to many trials and sufferings, but she underwent all for the love of Jesus. In 1675, she was chosen by God to reveal to the Christian World the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Margaret and St. Claude de la Colombiere, S.J., were the chief instruments of the Feast of the Sacred Heart. She died in 1690 and was canonized in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

PRAYER Lord, pour out upon us the spirit with which You enrich St. Margaret Mary. Help us to know the love of Christ which is too great for human knowledge and to be filled with the fullness of God. Amen



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