

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, November 24, Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest and Companions, Martyrs

6:30 am – Deceased Members of the LaFountain Family req. by Agnes Maye

8:00 am – Ilse Villanueva req. by Family

Tuesday, November 25, Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr

6:30 am – Robert Marmara req. by Barbara Quinby

8:00 am – Rose Elias req. by Donald Elias & Family

Wednesday, November 26

6:30 am – Therese Lloyd req. by the McDonnell Family

8:00 am – Mary Brussell req. by the McDonnell Family

Thursday, November 27, Weekday

9:00 am – For the Parishioners of St. Cecilia Church

Friday, November 28, Weekday

8:00 am – Bugustyn Bizon req. by Family

Saturday, November 29, Weekday

8:00 am – Robert Marmara req. by Pat Degnan

Sunday, November 30, First Sunday of Advent

4:30 pm – James Donohue req. By Glori & Bill Stahl

Stephen G. Szaro req. by Kerri Iapicca

7:00 pm – Concetta Cantelmo req. by Trudy Simmons

Martha Salvesen req. by the Sullivans

8:00 am – Jack Connolly req. by Mike & Judy Kelly

9:15 am – Dorothy Gunther req. by the Cullen Family

Robert Marmara req. by Jane & Russ Perry

10:45 am - Rt. Rev. Thaddeus Peplowski req. by Fr. Zig

Walter Umeukeje req. by Family

12:15 pm – Adolph & Olga Demarco req. by their niece, Eleanor

Agan

Celedonia Padro-Diaz req. by Daughter & Family

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS

Week Ending : November 16, 2025

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 7,542.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 4,713.20
<u>Total Weekly Collection</u>	\$ 12,255.20

Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET) \$ 785,000.00

Weekly Goal \$ 14,313.73

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit) \$ **(2,058.53)**

Year To Date Surplus (Deficit) \$ 5,724.90



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

Edward Breslauer

Requested by his wife, Noreen

ALTAR FLOWERS – All the flowers in the church have been given by Father Zig in celebration of our parish's 150th anniversary and in celebration of Father's 50th anniversary of ordination to the holy priesthood.



THANKSGIVING DAY – Holy Mass on Thanksgiving Day, November 27th will be celebrated at 9 o'clock in the morning. This is the only Mass which is scheduled for this day. Please join us in thanksgiving to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon us.

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 Cragin, Bob Libak, Mary Lou Baumiller, Patricia Shea, Jose Castillo, Joseph Bardi, Gloria Benson, William Serafin, Eleanor Sala, Cecilia Pane, Dennis McCoach.



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

580-St. Cecilia

ADULT FAITH FORMATION – Our parish offers two opportunities during the week for adults to gather to enrich their faith. On Monday evenings at 7:30 a video series on the Catechism of the Catholic Church takes place led by Chuck Malaniak. On Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a Scripture class on the Letters of Saint John and the Book of Revelation takes place led by Father Matt. Both gatherings are in Hayes Hall and are open to all adults. Please join us to increase your knowledge of the faith we share in Christ!

ADVENT RETREAT – Mark your calendar for our parish ADVENT RETREAT which will take place on Saturday, December 6th with Monsignor Raymond Kupke, Professor of Church History at Immaculate Conception Seminary-Seton Hall University. The morning event begins with Holy Mass at 8 o'clock followed by a hot breakfast in Hayes Hall. The retreat is divided into two sessions separated by a "coffee break." The retreat concludes at 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$25, payable to St. Cecilia Church. The deadline for registration is Tuesday morning, December 2nd. You may register by contacting the parish office.

ADVENT TREE – Our annual ADVENT TREE PROJECT will commence on Sunday, November 30th, the First Sunday of Advent. The tree will contain tags for gifts which will be distributed to the needy in time for Christmas. All parishioners are invited to take a tag from the tree and bring your gift to the church on Sunday, December 14th. Your generosity will bring Christmas cheer to someone in need. May God bless you!

FATIMA STATUE – The pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima is available for one week stay in a parishioner's home, from Sunday to Sunday at the 10:45 a.m. Mass. A sign-up for this purpose is located at the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In taking the image of Mary into your home, you are committed to praying the Holy Rosary every day for the cause of peace. For further information regarding this project of the Knights of Columbus please see Father Zig, Father Matt or Sister Chiara Marie.

FINANCIAL REPORT – A financial report of our parish will be printed and included in the Sunday bulletin on November 30th.

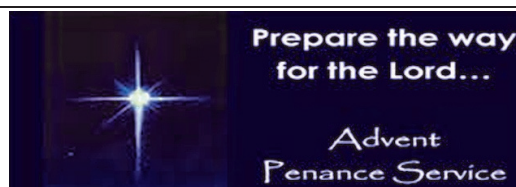
Our Condolences to the Family of
Walter Umeukeje & Ray Swan
Eternal Rest Grant to them Lord

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

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.

FISH & CHIP DINNER - The Men's Society will hold its annual Advent Fish & Chip dinner on Saturday night December 13 in Hayes Hall 5 to 7 PM. Dinners are \$19 for Adults, \$18 for Seniors and \$10 for Children. (Chicken dinners available also at same prices). Orders can be made after all masses the weekends of November 29/30 and December 6/7. Walk in orders the night of the dinner are dependent on availability. Call Jim Gallagher (973-366-9699) or Jeff Zuber (973-983-1272).

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.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE – Eight priests will be present to celebrate with us the sacrament of penance on Monday evening, December 15th at 7 o'clock. Please mark this date in your calendar so that you may prepare your soul to welcome the Nativity feast with a pure heart.

Monday, November 24

7:00 pm—Holy Hour (Church)

7:30 pm—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

Tuesday, November 25

9:30 am—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)

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

Wednesday, November 26

DMA & Parish Office has a noon dismissal

7:00 pm—Choir Practice (Church)

Thursday, November 27

Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, November 28

DMA & Parish Office are closed

Saturday, November 29

8:00 pm—After Cane (Church & Hayes Hall)

Sunday, November 30

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

5TH SUNDAY ROSARY – The “5th Sunday of the Month Rosary” will take place on Sunday, November 30th at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on East Main Street. During this 30-minute gathering the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed. All are welcome to attend this prayer service which is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 3359.

ARE YOU REGISTERED? – Saint Cecilia's is the best parish in the Diocese of Paterson! I know that I am prejudiced but I truly believe this and I hope you do too! We welcome all people to our parish and are delighted each time new members join our faith community. My question is to all, ARE YOU REGISTERED AS A PARISH-IONER? If you are not sure, please give the parish office a call (973.627.0313) and speak with Janet or Diane to check and to update any information regarding yourself, such as phone number and e mail address, etc. This information is most helpful for me in providing pastoral care to you and your family. Your parish registration is also necessary when you may be asked to submit a “certificate of eligibility” to serve as a godparent/sponsor. If I do not have your registration information then this can become a difficulty. The Registration form may be found on line by going to the parish website or by receiving a copy from the parish office. Your completed registration form may be mailed to the parish office or placed in the collection basket on Sunday. Register and be counted among those who love and support Saint Cecilia's! – FATHER ZIG

Divine Mercy Academy News

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

Join us for a joyful morning filled with festive fun, hot cocoa, holiday music, and a special visit from Santa himself. Whether you're walking, running, or jingling all the way, it's a great way to support Divine Mercy Academy and celebrate the season!

When: Saturday, December 6th at 9am

Where: Peterson Memorial Field, Rockaway Township

Cost: Early registration fee \$30 / Onsite registration \$35. Register at: <https://my.raceresult.com/352188/>

As we look forward to the success of our first annual 5K, we are seeking sponsors who share our commitment to education, community engagement, and wellness. Your support would be instrumental in making this event a memorable one, and we would be thrilled to have your business partner with us to help raise funds that will directly benefit our students and the programs we offer. Please contact Lbretzger@dmrockaway.com for more information!

SHOPPING GIFT CARDS – The sale of the shopping cards from SHOPRITE and other stores is conducted every Saturday and Sunday for the convenience of our parishioners. Your purchase of the cards assists our parish school, an important part of Saint Cecilia Parish. Please know that the cards may also be purchased at the parish office during the week. I would like to personally thank you for supporting this program! – Father Zig

Divine Mercy Academy's Christmas Wreath Fundraiser is underway! You can order online at <https://my.evergreenindustries.com/>

Customer Code: DIVINE. Orders will be shipped directly to you. \$10 will be donated to Divine Mercy Academy for each item ordered. Orders must be placed 12/3. Thank you for your support!

STATUE OF SAINT CECILIA – Bishop Sweeney will bless the new statue of Saint Cecilia at the Pontifical Mass. The statue is made of linden wood and was crafted in Italy. The statue is a gift from an anonymous parishioner and will be positioned in the votive chapel located off the church vestibule. Through the intercession of our patroness, Saint Cecilia, may the Lord bestow His many blessings upon the donor for the generosity shown our parish during this 150th Anniversary Year!

We are online: www.st-cecilia.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!

Men's Retreat: "The Sacred Journey—Transitions & Transformation"

Join *Called-To-Courage* for a men's retreat from **January 9-11, 2026** at the **Sacred Heart Center**, 20 Old Swartswood Road, Newton, NJ.

Come spend a peaceful weekend in a beautiful natural setting surrounded by trees and greenery. The retreat includes inspiring talks, group conversations, prayer, Mass, and more. **Cost:** \$235 (covers retreat, meals, and lodging) **Registration deadline:** December 18, 2025. Registration forms are in the church vestibule. Please send it to the address listed. For questions, contact **Dick Freiberger** at 973-985-8858 or rnfrei@gmail.com.

2025 SIMBANG GABI – The 1st night of the traditional novena of Filipino Masses before Christmas will be celebrated at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Rockaway, on December 15 at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Fr. Jun Visara will be the principal celebrant. Fellowship and Filipino refreshments will follow immediately after the Mass.

The traditional SIMBANG GABI is sponsored by the Diocesan Commission for Catholic Filipino Ministries (DCCFM) of the Diocese of Paterson. For more information or if you wish to help, please contact Elmer at (973)664-1949. Maraming salamat po.

SIGN UP TO FLOCKNOTE

If you would like to receive emails or text messages with important information regarding our parish life PLEASE SIGN UP TO FLOCKNOTE. This is all totally free for you to use, you don't even have to download anything or create a password in order to participate. You just take a couple minutes to sign up and it lets you receive email or text messages from the groups and ministries that you choose. Your info is kept totally private and, again, it lets you choose precisely which groups and ministries you want to get email and text messages from here at St. Cecilia Church.

To register simply text SCC2020 to 84576 OR go to the home page of our website: st-cecilia.org and there you will find other ways to register for this important communication tool.

OCIA MOVING FORWARD

November 23 - No OCIA Meeting

November 30 - At the beginning of the 10:45 Mass, adults preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil will be received as "Catechumens" in the **RITE OF ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE**. Baptized adults completing their sacraments of initiation with the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil are received as "Candidates" in the **RITE OF WELCOMING OF CANDIDATES**

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS – Donations of food are gratefully accepted to help supply the two food pantries being assisted by our parish, the Rockaway Food Closet and Hope House (Catholic Charities in Dover). Your donations may be brought to the designated area in the stairwell of the church (side closest to the parish office) or left in the church vestibule. May God bless you for the generosity!

BABY BASSINETTE – Each year during Advent gifts are given to young mothers who find themselves in desperate situations and call upon "Birth Haven" for help. This year we seek your generosity in the donation of the following gifts: small humidifiers; crib sheets, bottle brushes, bottle warmers, baby bathtubs, video baby monitors, bobby pillows, bottles, pacifiers, women's slippers (all sizes), maternity robes (all sizes), bobby wash, shampoo, maternity PJ (sizes medium-XXL), ShopRite and Walmart gift cards. GIFTS SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE BASSINETTE LOCATED AT THE ALTAR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH!

MEN'S RETREAT – "Called To Courage", a retreat for men will take place at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton, January 9-11, 2026. Registration forms may be found on the bulletin table in the church vestibule. Contact Dick Freiberger (text) 973.985.8858 or e mail: RNFREI@gmail.com. Deadline for registration is December 18th. Act now!

**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 gather to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the Lord's Day we do so on this last Sunday of the 2025 Liturgical Year, the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This Sunday is indeed a day of celebration as we commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Saint Cecilia Parish. Over this past year we have marked this occasion with a variety of events (liturgical, educational, social, etc.) and now we culminate this sesquicentennial with a Pontifical Mass celebrated by our Bishop, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Kevin Sweeney, Bishop of Paterson, this Saturday evening (which happens to be November 22nd and the Feast of Saint Cecilia – which I find providential)!

We were also blessed to celebrate our anniversary during this Holy Year, the Jubilee Year of Hope which was inaugurated by Pope Francis last Christmas Eve and will conclude by Pope Leo XIV on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2026. This year is also the 1,700 Anniversary of the Council of Nicea and the promulgation of the Nicene Creed which we profess every Sunday. I don't know how we could be more blessed than all of this! I can only say that this year has been a time for the renewal of our faith in Christ Jesus and our recommitment to serve His Holy Church.

All of these commemorations will be concluding, as do all things! Today's liturgy recalls the total fulfillment of time when the Lord Jesus will return in glory as King of the Universe and the Judge of all. Yes, we recall the "end times" but we are encouraged by the Lord's promise of eternal life which is the hope of all who trust in Him. The end, the conclusion, death brings with it new life and that is what we celebrate this Sunday.

As the old year ends today, we will welcome the New Year of Grace 2026 next Sunday with the First Sunday of Advent. We look forward to the new liturgical year as a time of continued growth in faith and good works as pilgrims making our way to the Heavenly Jerusalem.

As the above mentioned commemorations come to a conclusion let us remember to move forward in our journey of faith keeping our eyes fixed on Christ Jesus: *"He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation...For in Him all the fulness was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile all things for Him, making peace by the blood of His cross through Him, whether those on earth or those in heaven."*

SAINT CECILIA-PRAY FOR US!

Fr. Zig

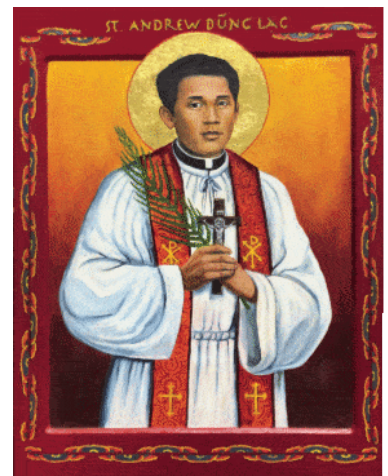
**STS. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest and Martyr, and Companions, Martyrs
November 24**

Through the missionary efforts of various religious families beginning in the 16th century and continuing until 1866, the Vietnamese people heard the message of the Gospel, and many accepted it despite persecution and even death.

On June 19, 1988, Pope John Paul II from the great number of Vietnamese martyrs canonized 117 person martyred in the 18th century. Among these are included 96 Vietnamese, 11 missionaries born in Spain and belonging to the Order of Preachers, and 10 French missionaries belonging to the Paris Foreign Mission Society. Among these Saints are 8 Spanish and French bishops, 50 priests (13 European and 37 Vietnamese), and 59 lay people of every state in life.

These martyrs gave their lives not only for the Church but for their country as well. They showed that they wanted the Gospel of Christ to take root in their people and contribute to the good of their homeland. On June 1, 1989, these holy martyrs were inscribed in the liturgical calendar of the Universal Church for November 24.

PRAYER God, the fount and origin of all fatherhood, You enabled the blessed Martyrs Andrew and his companions to be faithful to the Cross of Your Son even unto the shedding of their blood. Grant through their intercession that we may propagate Your love among our brothers and sisters and not only be called but really be Your children. Amen.



Saint Cecilia Parish

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