

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, December 8, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 am – SI: Birthday Blessing for Manuel Gomez req. by his his sister, Ana

8:00 am – Laura Buro req. by her Family

7:00 pm – For the Parishioners of St. Cecilia Church

Tuesday, December 9, Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

6:30 am – Jack Zayac req. by the Waskas Family

8:00 am – Sarah Lombardo req. by Noreen Breslauer

Wednesday, December 10, Our Lady of Loreto

6:30 am – SI: Healing for Gertrude Colditz req. by Ana

8:00 am – Carmela Cragin req. by Marie Wahlstrom

Thursday, December 11, Saint Damasus I, Pope

6:30 am – Deceased Members of the Forbes Family

8:00 am – Celedonia Padro-Diaz req. by her Daughter & Family

Friday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:30 am – Special Intention

8:00 am – Donald Zink req. by his wife, Deidra

Saturday, December 13, Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

8:00 am – Bernice A. Palmer

Sunday, December 14, Third Sunday of Advent

4:30 pm – John Brinkman, 10th Anv., req. by Barbara & Family

7:00 pm – Sarah Lombardo req. by Jon & Anna Zarelczan
Janet Metro req. by Trudy Simmons

8:00 am – For the sick listed in our bulletin and their caregivers

9:15 am – Deceased Members of the Zygmunt Family

10:45 am – Patricia Zayac, Birthday Remembrance, req. by the Maulbeck Family

Robert Marmara req. by the Naclerio Family

12:15 pm – Bill Whelan req. by his Family

Marie O'Connell req. by Marilyn Whelan

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**Week Ending : November 23, 2025**

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 8,844.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 4,713.20
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 13,557.20

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (756.53)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 4,968.37

Our Condolences to the Family of
Robert Kukuvka and Philip Wasacz
Eternal Rest Grant to them Lord



*The Sanctuary Candle burning on our altar
is in loving memory of
Angela & Frank Goritski
Req. by their daughter, Susan Brennan*

DECEMBER 8TH – Monday, December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the patronal feast for the Church in the United States of America. Holy Masses for this feast will take place on Monday at 6:30 and 8 o'clock in the morning and at 7 o'clock in the evening. *(Please know that Divine Mercy Academy is closed as well as the Parish Office in celebration of this feast day.)*

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, Gertrude Colditz.



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 – 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 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!

NO HOLY HOUR – Monday evening Holy Hour will not take place on the following Mondays of December: December 8th due to the Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; December 15th due to the Advent Penance Service and December 22nd due to the decoration of the church for the Christmas celebration and on December 29th. Holy Hour returns on January 5th.

STATUE OF SAINT CECILIA—In response to the number of comments I have received from parishioners I have reconsidered the placement of the new Statue of our patron saint. The statue will be in the sanctuary rather than in the votive chapel as previously announced. Father Zig

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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT – The Annual Saint Cecilia Christmas Concert will take place on Sunday, December 21st in the church beginning at 7 o'clock in the evening. The hour-long program will consist of traditional as well as other musical works which celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. Please join us for an inspirational evening of song in "the house of Cecilia", patroness of music.

THANK YOU—Our thanks to the Whitham-Kanapaux Funeral Home for providing us with the 2026 Home Liturgical Calendar. Copies of the calendar are located in the church vestibule.

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.

DIOCESAN EVENT – Bishop Sweeney is inviting you to join with him on Sunday, December 28th for the diocesan closure of the Jubilee Year of Hope. Holy Mass will begin at 3 o'clock in the afternoon in the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Paterson. All parishes are asked to be represented at this celebration. (The official closure of the Jubilee Year of Hope will take place at the Vatican on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2026). For your GPS: the cathedral is located at 381 Grand Street in Paterson. Free indoor parking is available at the county parking garage adjacent to the cathedral.

OPLATEK – Oplatek, Christmas wafers used at the vigil supper on Christmas Eve, are available at the altar of Saint Joseph and in the parish office. This tradition is one held by those from Eastern European countries.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY – The Roman tradition of blessing the image of the Baby Jesus for the home Nativity scene will take place at all the Masses on December 13-14, Gaudete Sunday. Bring your statue of Baby Jesus for a blessing by placing it on the table in the church sanctuary prior to Mass. This sacramental is a wonderful presence in the home for Christmas.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS—A **life-time of service deserves care in return.** "Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community," says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.

Monday, December 8*DMA & the Parish Office is closed***Tuesday, December 9***9:30 am—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)**7:45 pm—Light of Christ Prayer Group (Church)***Wednesday, December 10***7:00 pm—Choir Practice (Church)***Thursday, December 11***7:00 pm—St. Cecilia Presents....***Friday, December 12***5:30 pm—Dance Caravan (Gym)**7:00 pm—Catacombs (Hayes Hall)***Saturday, December 13***8:30 am—Men's Society Meeting (Hayes Hall)**5:00 pm—Fish & Chips Dinner (Hayes Hall)***Sunday, December 14***9:15 am—Children's Liturgy (Hayes Hall)**8:00 pm—LTP (Hayes Hall)*

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE – The Saint Monica Guild will hold a “Holiday Bake Sale” on Saturday-Sunday, December 20-21 in Hayes Hall at the conclusion of Holy Mass. A wide variety of delicious baked goods and treats will be available for purchase and will be ideal for Christmas gift-giving. Free coffee or tea is available on Sunday morning as you browse through the wonderful assortment. The society appreciates your support for this fund raiser.

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).

MOUNTAIN LAKES CONCERT—The St. Theresa of the Little Flower Ministry of Siena Church (10 North Pocono Road) invites you to a free concert on Tuesday, December 16th at 1:00 pm. Broadway singer, Dan Yates, will be featured in this concert of Christmas music. All are welcome. For questions, please call Carol Bsarany at 973.271.9252.

FIRST FRIDAY VISITS—Father Matt and I visit the homebound on the first Friday of every month with the Holy Eucharist and the availability for confession as well. Should you or someone you know like for the priest to visit them on first Friday, please call the parish office and leave your name and phone number so that we may add you to our schedule. - Fr. 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

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

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

SAINT CECILIA PRESENTS – The final episode of “Saint Cecilia Presents” will take place on Thursday evening, December 11th at 7 o'clock in Hayes Hall. The priests and sisters will serve on a panel to speak to any questions regarding the faith. Please come prepared with the question you always have but never knew the answer.

CARNIVAL VOLUNTEERS – A holiday gathering of volunteers who worked at this year's parish carnival will take place in Hayes Hall on Friday evening, January 9th beginning at 6:30. This will be a “wine and cheese event plus”. Registration is required by going to the parish website OR calling the parish office (973.627.0313) prior to January 5th. Join us for an evening of on-going fellowship and community building.

ATTENTION: CHRISTMAS WEEK – Please note that the week of Christmas, December 26 to January 3, ONLY ONE MASS will be celebrated in our church each day at 8 o'clock in the morning. The 6:30 morning Mass will resume on Monday, January 5th. ALSO: No Holy Hour on Monday, December 29th. Holy Hour will resume on Monday, January 5th.

GUYS TRIVIA NIGHT—Tonight (Sunday, December 7th) from 8-10 pm “Trivia Night” will take place in Hayes Hall. This is a BYOB guys, 21 + event, Catholic trivia will take place between the NFL game between the Chiefs and the Texans (on a big screen). Come out for some good competition, fellowship and refreshments. No fee and no RSVP necessary.

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 Freiburger** 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.

YEAR END GIVING – As the end of the year approaches many charitable organizations will send requests for a year end donation. The benefit of these donations to the giver is, in our case, the amount may be beneficial for income tax reporting and having the joy of knowing that your gift is a gift to the Lord. As you know, here at Saint Cecilia's we have a special Christmas Mass Offering which encourages you to make a special end of the year donation to our parish in honor of Our Lord's Nativity. For some individuals the best way to make a special donation may be to donate securities in lieu of cash. If you are in a position to contribute securities, please contact the parish office for further information to pass along to your broker to complete your donation. As always, our parish (your spiritual home) is most grateful for your contributions at this time and throughout the year! – *Father Zig*

NEW PEW BOOKS AND CARDS – As we begin a new year the 2026 missals have been placed in the pews. Please remember that the books are composed of newsprint and require care when being used. ALSO, a new prayer and offertory card has been placed with each missal. One side contains the prayers which are said on Sunday and at weekday Masses. The reverse side contains the QR CODE for your offertory gift to the Lord. Since many do not come to church with cash this is an easy means of making your donation with your phone. Please know that I need your regular and generous donations to meet the expenses associated with our parish. Please help me in this effort! Many thanks to an anonymous donor who has financed the production of the pew cards. May Christ the Savior richly bless them! – Father Zig

2025 Diocesan Ministries Appeal
"Three Counties, One Family of Faith"

As the year comes to a close, please consider making a year-end charitable contribution to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal, which serves so many people in great need. Every gift to the Appeal is a blessing to both the contributor and the recipient, so please make the Diocesan Ministries Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit card or online, as well as through gifts of securities and IRA distributions. May God bless you for your support! Please make a donation to the 2025 Diocesan Ministries Appeal today - visit www.2025appeal.org to make a gift today.

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!

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,

In our Eucharistic liturgy to celebrate the Lord's Day the Gospel reading introduces us to the great prophet, forerunner and baptist, John. The Evangelist Matthew describes John's appearance and the ministry, which is uniquely his, as he confronts the members of the religious establishment who appear at the Jordan River where he is baptizing. The Pharisees and the Sadducees have come to investigate John so that they may continue in their malicious attacks against him. The baptist's fiery attack is an indication of the contention which is sparked by Jerusalem's religious establishment in discrediting John and his call to repentance and vigilance for the Lord's coming. John calls them to "produce good fruits" as a sign of their genuine adhering to his message of repentance and vigilance.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we are reminded in the epistle reading of the encouragement and welcome we should extend to one another as members of the household of faith. I believe this is demonstrated by the generosity we show to one another and especially to those in need. This season is one which especially encourages us to be charitable as we are asked to give a friendly welcome to those who are experiencing difficulties in their lives to which we might be able to offer some consolation. This welcome is manifested in our kindness and generosity. Our yearly ADVENT TREE PROJECT and BABY BASSINETTE PROJECT are those means by which we can show our love for Christ and our brothers and sisters through our good works. I would like to thank you, in advance, for the gifts which will be brought to the church next Sunday. I am always overwhelmed by your generosity – it's a sign of your faith in Christ Jesus.

The Old Testament reading from the Prophet Isaiah speaks of a time when wonderful things will occur, things which one could never image to happen. Miraculous events take place due to the inauguration of the Kingdom of God. The coming of Christ the Savior initiated these wonders, and they are taking place today through the good works, motivated by faith, performed by those who are the followers of the Savior. You are witness to this!

COME, LORD JESUS!

Father Zig

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 8-Patroness of the United States**

Mary the Mother of God is venerated on December 8 as the Immaculate Conception. This feast commemorates the preservation of the Blessed Virgin from the stain of original sin from first moment of her conception. It originated in the Eastern Church about the 8th century.

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was defined by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854. This dogma, in accord with the texts of Scripture—"I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed" (Gn 3:15); "Hail, full of grace" (Luke 1:28)—was clearly understood and accepted by tradition, by the writings of the Fathers and by feasts observed according to the general belief of the faithful long before it was officially defined by Pope Pius IX.



PRAYER God, through the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin, You prepared a worthy place for Your Son. In view of the foreseen Death of Your Son, You preserved her from all sin. Through her intercession grant that we may also reach You with clean hearts. 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
To Contact: Fr. Zig: Ext. 12 or speplowski@optonline.net
Fr. Matt: Ext 15 or frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com

Fax: 973-627-4811

School: 973-627-6003

CCD Office: 973-627-0313 Ext. 17



Preparation
means to
'get ready'.
"Help us to be
ready to
welcome
YOU, O GOD!"

Luke 3:4-6