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

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS
SAINT CECILIA
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
"SING A NEW SONG UNTO THE LORD"
PSALM 96:1

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

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

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, January 12, First Week in Ordinary Time
6:30 am—Ray Swan req. by Mary Lou & John Rodimer
8:00 am—Philip Wasacz req. by Susan Brennan
Tuesday, January 13, Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
6:30 am—Ray Swan req. by Jean Wed
8:00 am—Renato Sebastian req. by Family
Wednesday, January 14, Weekday
6:30 am—Elizabeth Michalowski req. by Fr. Zig
8:00 am—Philip Wasacz req. by Pat Degnan
Thursday, January 15, Weekday
6:30 am—Ignace Jean-Francois req. by Viviane Jean-Charles
8:00 am—Philip Wasacz req. by Roberta Vitcusky
Friday, January 16, Weekday
6:30 am—Bernard & Joan McDonnell req. by McDonnell Family
8:00 am—Sister Immacolata Scarogni req. by Susan Brennan
Saturday, January 17, Saint Anthony, Abbot
8:00 am— Harry Bud Struble, 17th Anv., req. by Ag & Family
Sunday, January 18, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 pm —Maryann Flaherty req. by Alice Koller & Joanne Gula
Robert Marmara req. by Christine Belli
7:00 pm— Peggy Hodgins req. by Trudy Simmons
Jeanne & Bill Gallagher req. by their daughter, Jan
8:00 am— James Desmond, Jr., req. by Carol & Frank Desmond
9:15 am— Robert Marmara req. by Barbara Cardinale
10:45 am - Cecilia Pane req. by Susan Brennan
John Drewes req. by Amy & Damiano Servidio
12:15 pm—Laura Kimble req. by the Bozza Family
Julio Vadillo req. by his wife, Luisa

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 Cummiskey, 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 Olgeluie, 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, Dennis McCoach, Gertrude Colditz, Ethel Sullivan.

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS
Week Ending : December 28, 2025

Collection—Checks & Cash	$ 7,838.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	$ 6,812.38
Total Weekly Collection	$ 14,650.38
Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	$ 785,000.00
Weekly Goal	$ 14,313.73
Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	$ 336.65
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	$ 22,311.44

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS
Week Ending : January 4, 2026

Collection—Checks & Cash	$ 18,098.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	$ 7,919.00
Total Weekly Collection	$ 26,017.00
Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	$ 785,000.00
Weekly Goal	$ 14,313.73
Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	$ 11,703.27
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	$ 34,014.72

Christmas Collection: $33,172.00



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



The people of St. Cecilia Parish are asked to pray for the following people serving our country in the armed services: **SmE3 Andrew Clifford, Joseph Giannetti US Navy, Lance Corporal Dennis Wuest, Capt. Kelley E. Robbins, Pvt USMC, Diego Usma, Major Glenn E. Martinez, Sgt. Brian Whalen, Capt. Anthony Odierno, Cpl. Kong V. Nguyen, Cpl. Jim Van Valen, LCPL Anthony Eresman, Sgt. Paul J. Willson, PFC Cano Janeth, Sgt. Bob Autrey, Col. William Paliwada, Sgt 1st Class (E7) Sam Colon, PFC Marylyn Rivera-Sachez, Cpl. Edward C. Thompson, Major Kevin M. Nash, Lt. Amy Cronin, Col. John L. Medeiros, Jr., Sgt. Daniel Healy, Marine Keith Leitner, Sgt. Spencer Lopez, PFC Taryn Kemp, Jeffrey Braunhausen, E7 Joseph Grimsey, Bill Maloney, Greg Bloete, Gian Carlo Bruzzese, Spc. Christopher Little, PFC Brittany Martindell, PO1 (E6) Matthew Fitzgerald, SA Justin C. White, Matthew & Daniel Rosica, Mark Leonard, Sr. Armn. Ashley Valetta, Sgt. John Wisnofsky, Cpl. T.J. Finn, Sgt. Kristopher Faber, Capt. Vincent Presto, Airman First Class William Kussler , Spc. Gregory Villaneuva, PVT Jack L. Gatzke, US Army, ENS Timothy G. Smith, US Navy,** We ask God the Father of us all, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, to protect all the men and women in our Armed Forces, to bless them in their efforts toward bringing peace and justice to our world. May they be brought back safely to those they love.

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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!

BLESSING OF THE HOME – The blessing of chalk will take place at all Masses today to be used for the marking of the door during the blessing of the home service which is done to commemorate today's feast of the Epiphany. The blessing service is below:

K + M + B + 2026

FAMILY PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE BLESSING OF THE HOME AT EPIPHANY: The family gathers in the main room of the house. The father (or mother) of the family begins by inviting everyone to make the sign of the Cross.

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen

Leader: During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the magi, to John the Baptist in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding in Cana. Today Christ is manifest to us! Today this home is a holy place!

Leader: Let us pray: Lord our God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your Law. We ask in the Name of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever.

Response: Amen

(All may say the Our Father & Hail Mary as the leader sprinkles those present and the rooms of the house.)

The leader takes the blessed chalk and writes the following inscription on the top door post of the main door of the house, K + M + B + 2026 the inscription reminds us of the initials of the Magi (Kasper, Melchior and Balthasar). The three crosses represent the Blessed Trinity

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – Recognizing a vital practical need in his community, 29 year old Father Michael McGivney proposed establishing a lay organization, the goal of which would be to unite men of Catholic faith and to provide for the families of deceased members. To symbolize that allegiance to their country did not conflict with allegiance to their faith, the organization took as its patron Christopher Columbus, who was recognized as a Catholic and celebrated as the discoverer of the Americas. Thanks to Father McGivney's persistence, the Knights of Columbus officially assumed corporate status in 1882.
For information on the Knights of Columbus please go to www.KofC.org/joinus . Saint Cecilia Parish is served by two councils: #3359-Our Lady of the Lakes Council (Denville) and #514-Lafayette Council (Wharton). ALL CATHOLIC MEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS!

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.

NO HOLY HOUR – Holy Hour will not take on Monday, January 19th due to the National Holiday commemorating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The parish office and our parochial school, Divine Mercy Academy, will be closed in observance of the day. Holy Hour returns on Monday, January 26th.

VOCATIONS CELEBRATION – Our parish vocations committee invites you to participate in a celebration of the *VOCATION OF MARRIAGE* and the *VOCATION OF CONSECRATED LIFE* which will be observed on Sunday, February 8th. A reception with brief program will take place in Hayes Hall immediately following the 10:45 am Mass. ALSO, the renewal of marriage vows will take place at all the Masses. Additional information will be forthcoming.



Monday, January 12
7:00 pm—Holy Hour (Church)
7:30 pm—Bible Study (Hayes Hall)
Tuesday, January 13
7:00 pm—Vocations Meeting (Hayes Hall)
7:45 pm—Light of Christ Prayer Group (Church)
Wednesday, January 14
6:00 pm—Christmas Decorations Take-Down (Church)
7:30 pm—Choir Practice (Church)
Thursday, January 15
8:30 am—Soup Kitchen (Hayes Hall)
7:00 pm—Finance Board Meeting (Parish Office)
Friday, January 16
Saturday, January 17
8:30 am—St. Monica Guild Meeting (Hayes Hall)
Sunday, January 18

Craft and Vendor Fair
Saturday, March 21, 2026 From 9 to 2
For information please email:
saintceciliarosarysociety@gmail.com
or call 973-886-8023

Men's Cornerstone XXVI

Men of St. Cecilia Parish: If today you hear His voice.... You are invited to Men's Cornerstone XXVI which will be held Friday evening, January 23rd until Saturday evening January 24th at Notre Dame of Mt Carmel Church- 75 Ridgedale Avenue, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927 NJ. This 24 hour experience of sharing, prayer and reflection has transformed the lives of many men through a personal encounter with Jesus. Please contact Charles Malaniak at cemalaniak@gmail.com for registration details.

ROCKAWAY MARCH FOR LIFE - The annual "Rockaway March for Life" will take place on Saturday, January 24th beginning with the 8:00 morning Mass. Following Mass we will gather in Hayes Hall for light refreshments and a brief program before beginning our Rosary walk around Parks Lake. Come join us, with the children, in this public demonstration in support of the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH—The diocese is providing bus transportation for those wishing to attend the RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH in Washington on January 23rd. The bus will leave from Saint Paul Inside the Walls (205 Madison Ave., Madison) at 6:45 am. The cost is $65 per person. Registration is required by contacting Alyssa Renovales at arenovales@patersondiocese.org Participants are asked to bring a brown bag lunch for the trip. Schedule includes Holy Mass at 12:10 pm; 1:00 pm March For Life; 3:15 pm bus departs Washington (dinner stop included); 9:00 pm bus arrives at Saint Paul Inside the Walls.

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

ROSE SALE – Members of the Knights of Columbus will conduct their annual ROSE SALE on Saturday and Sunday, January 10-11 to benefit pro-life initiatives supported by the Knights. The sale also supports the transportation needed to attend the annual Right to Life March in Washington, DC in January. Thank you for your generous support!

BRING YOUR BOTTLE – On Sunday January 11th we will celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord in the Jordan. Water will be blessed at all Masses in commemoration of this feast. Please bring a bottle (container) to church should you like to take come the holy water home with you for your devotional purposes.

DECORATIONS TAKE DOWN—The Christmas decorations in the church will be taken down on Wednesday evening, January 14th at 6:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to help with this task. - Fr. Zig

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!

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!



St. Cecilia's Seniors are looking for new members to join the group. The meetings are on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month starting at 12 noon. The executive board is planning a fun filled year and new members are always welcome to join. Hope to see you there!

WINTER POLICY - In the event of inclement weather and Divine Mercy Academy is closed, the parish office will be closed and the church will be open ONLY for the liturgical service scheduled. Also, all evening events will be cancelled.

Please join **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish** on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 7:00pm for a sung traditional Latin Mass. This Mass will be celebrated in remembrance of the Baptism of our Lord. Come and experience this beautiful liturgy in the original language of our Church.

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

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 PARISHIONER? 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

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**:

580-St. Cecilia

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear parishioners,

In our assembly to celebrate the Lord's Day we commemorate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This day is strongly associated with the Feast of the Epiphany which we observed last Sunday. In the tradition of the Western Church there are three commemorations which are recalled on the Feast of the Epiphany: the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child; the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan; and the first miracle performed by our Lord at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. So you see, we can call this day EPIPHANY, as well. In the Eastern Churches, both Catholic and Orthodox, the Baptism of Jesus is the sole commemoration for Epiphany, which is also called THEOPHANY.

With today's feast the celebration of Christmas comes to a close, but not so fast! Although the liturgical directives call for the "taking down" of the Christmas decorations there is the ancient observance that the leave-taking of Christmas does not occur until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd, the 40th and final day of the Christmas season. Although we return to Ordinary Time and the liturgical color of green next Sunday, you can see that we are not in a hurry to let the joy of the Lord's Incarnation leave us.

In our parish we have the tradition of blessing water on this day at all the Masses. After the blessing of the water, we are sprinkled with it as a sign of our own Baptism which joined us to Christ. Before leaving church you are invited forward to take some of the blessed water home for your devotional use. I encourage you to use the holy water in the rite for the blessing of the home which I have included within today's Sunday bulletin. As a point of interest, I have added water from the Jordan River, which I brought from my last pilgrimage to the Holy Land, to the holy water reservoir (so don't drink)!

The waters of Baptism become a strong symbol during the holy season of Easter as well as the readings from the Acts of the Apostles. Today's second reading is an affirmation that this feast also has a Paschal character associated with it and the Apostle Paul reminds us of this in his letter to the Romans: "*Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.*"

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!
Father Zig

ST. ANTHONY, Founder of Monasticism
January 17—Patron of Gravediggers

ST. ANTHONY was born at Coma, Upper Egypt, in 251, of rich and virtuous Christian parents. After dividing all his possessions among the poor while still a young man, he retired into the desert. Here he lived the life of a hermit for many years, practicing heroic mortifications and devoting himself to silence, prayer, and manual labor.

After a severe probation of twenty years in spiritual trials and assaults of the devil, the fame of his sanctity and miracles, and the power of his example and word, drew to him hundreds of followers, to whom he gave guidance and a rule of life. In 305 he founded a religious community of cenobites who lived in detached cells. He died in 356, a the age of 105.

PRAYER Lord God, You gave St. Anthony the Abbot the grace of serving in the desert in prayer with You. Aided by his intercession, may we practice self-denial and hence always love You above all things. Amen.

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

Saint Cecilia Parish

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