

# 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

**Deacon Gerald Fadalla**  
DEACON

**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, March 9, Saint Frances of Rome, Religious**

6:30 am – Special Intention for Aldo Otaegui & Family  
 8:00 am – Stephen Haran req. by Susan & Anthony Nedo

**Tuesday, March 10, Lenten Weekday**

6:30 am – Elizabeth Michalowski req. by Roberta Vitcusky  
 8:00 am – Helen Struble req. by Ag Struble & Family

**Wednesday, March 11, Lenten Weekday**

6:30 am – Diane Milo  
 8:00 am – Mortimer Shea req. by the Servidio Family

**Thursday, March 12, Lenten Weekday**

6:30 am – Aleksandr & Bronislawa Peplowski req. by Fr. Zig  
 8:00 am – Phil Wasacz req. by Barbara & Ed Higdon

**Friday, March 13, Lenten Weekday**

6:30 am – Joe Feola  
 8:00 am – John Drewes req. by the McDonnell Family

**Saturday, March 14, Lenten Weekday**

8:00 am – Deceased Members of the Jozwiak Family req. by Anna Jozwiak

**Sunday, March 15, Fourth Sunday of Lent**

4:30 pm – Ray Swan req. by the Graner Family  
           Robert Louis Tagliabue req. by the Grise Family  
 7:00 pm – Jeanne & Bill Gallagher req. by their daughter, Jan  
           Martha Salvesen req. by Elzbieta Cichon  
 8:00 am – Joan Carroll req. by Pat Degnan  
 9:15 am – Teresa Brussell req. by the McDonnell Family  
           Jane Laner req. by the Graner Family  
 10:45 am - Mario Zambrano req. by Family  
           Nels Salvesen req. by Family  
 12:15 pm – Antero Chicano, Jr. req. by Flor Yalong  
           James John Kromka, Jr. req. by the Bozza Family

**ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**

Week Ending : February 22, 2026

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 8,995.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 6,484.38
<b>Total Weekly Collection</b>	<b>\$ 15,479.38</b>

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

<b>Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 1,165.65</b>
<b>Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 42,608.70</b>

**ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS**

Week Ending : March 1, 2026

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 9,766.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 4,892.80
<b>Total Weekly Collection</b>	<b>\$ 14,658.80</b>

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

<b>Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 345.07</b>
<b>Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 42,953.77</b>



*The flowers at the altar of St. Joseph  
 are in memory of  
**Angela & Francis Goritski  
 and Jean Asti**  
 Have been given by Susan Brennan*

**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 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, Dennis McCoach, Gertrude Colditz, Ethel Sullivan.



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.**

## LENT

Lord Jesus Christ,  
by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.  
Teach us to follow you  
on the path of the Cross.  
Grant us strength in our weakness,  
light in our darkness,  
and courage in our trials.  
May we live each day  
in the hope of your glory  
and share your love  
with the world. *Amen,*  
*-Pope St. John Paul II*

Lord Jesus,  
you walk the road of suffering  
with humility and love.  
Teach my heart to follow you  
in simplicity and trust.  
Help me embrace the crosses  
of each day with quiet joy,  
so that your peace may live in me  
and shine through me. *Amen*  
*-St. Francis of Assisi*

**RETIREMENT** – I put into print what I announced at all Masses on January 31/February 1, His Excellency Bishop Kevin Sweeney has granted my request for retirement effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. I will remain pastor until that time when our new pastor begins his duties. I will be living at Nazareth Village, the Residence for Retired Priests in the Diocese of Paterson located in Chester. I am most grateful to God and to you, my beloved parishioners, for the support and patience you have shown me over these 17 years. – Father Zig

### **Church Regulations Regarding Fast and Abstinence:**

Abstinence from meat (beast or fowl) is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat. Fasting means limiting oneself to one full meal on a given fast day. Catholics who are eighteen years of age but not yet fifty-nine are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On fast days, two additional smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength. However, the two smaller meals together may not equal one full meal. Moreover, eating solid foods between meals on fast days is not permitted.

**RICE BOWL** – All of us are asked to participate in the Lenten alms project: RICE BOWL which is a project of Catholic Relief Service. This agency comes to the assistance of those who are struggling with food insecurities and clean water around the world. The money from those things which we “give up” during Lent are placed in the rice bowl which is later brought to the church at Easter. Your charity covers a multitude of your sins!

**OLD PALMS** – Last year’s blessed palms may be deposited in the basket located in the church vestibule.



### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BENEFIT CONCERT**

”Lights Out Presents-The Jersey Beach Boys and more Tribute show!” The #1 Beach Boys Tribute show in the Nation! One night only, Saturday, March 28th at the St. Pius Parish Center, 24 Changebridge Road, Montville, NJ 07045. Doors open at 6:30 pm, show starts at 8:00 pm. Food, Gourmet Cakes & Refreshments are available including 50/50 and Tricky Trays!

General Admission (per person): \$45.00  
VIP Limited Ticket (per person): \$75.00

**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE** – The final opportunity to receive the sacrament of penance prior to Easter will take place on Wednesday evening of Holy Week, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 o’clock. Eight priests will be present to hear confessions for adults and children. All of us should receive the sacrament in preparation for our participation in the Paschal celebration of Our Lord’s Passion, Death and Holy Resurrection.

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY ROSARY** – “The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month Rosary” sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will take place on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on East Main Street. The 30-minute service begins at 3 o’clock in the afternoon with the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the praying of the Holy Rosary. All are welcome to attend.

**BAKE SALE** – The Saint Monica Guild will conduct an EASTER BAKE SALE after all Masses on Saturday, March 28 and 29, Palm Sunday. A variety of baked goods and other specialty items will be on sale. Your support for this fund raiser is greatly appreciated.

**Monday, March 9**7:00 pm—*Holy Hour (Church)*7:30 pm—*Bible Study (Hayes Hall)***Tuesday, March 10**9:30 am—*Bible Study (Hayes Hall)*7:45 pm—*Light of Christ Prayer Group (Church)***Wednesday, March 11**6:30 pm—*7th Grade Retreat (Church & Hayes Hall)***Thursday, March 12**7:00 pm—*Bread & Soup (Church)***Friday, March 13**4:30 pm—*Craft Fair set-up (Hayes Hall)*7:00 pm—*Stations of the Cross (Church)***Saturday, March 14**9:00 am—*Craft Fair (Hayes Hall)*8:00 pm—*Post Cana (Church)***Sunday, March 15**9:15 am—*Liturgy of the Word*

**MORRIS COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE**—Will be marching again this year in the Saint Patrick's Day Morristown Parade on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. They will meet behind the Morristown Municipal Building (200 South Street) at about 11:30 to decorate the vehicle and line-up. Wear your Saint Patrick's Day best! Please email [LisaHartpt@yahoo.com](mailto:LisaHartpt@yahoo.com) with any questions. Invite friends and family. This is a unique and rewarding opportunity to publicly share the message that babies in the womb deserve to live.

**ST. CECILIA CHURCH CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR**

Saturday, March 14th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
90 Church St, (Lower level of Church— Hayes Hall)  
Jewelry, Baked Good and Handmade Items!  
Come and support the Rosary Society

**MARRIED COUPLES** – “Post Cana” is a gathering of married couples seeking to enrich their marriage at an evening of prayer, reflection, discussion and concluding with refreshments. You and your spouse are invited to join us on Saturday evening, March 14<sup>th</sup>, in our church at 8 o'clock in the evening. Come and join other couples in Christian fellowship.

**ROSYGLO RAFFLES** – Members of the Rosyglyo Foundation will be with us on Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22 to sell raffle tickets to support the Sisters of Christian Charity and Catholic education. Our school receives a yearly donation from the foundation. Your support is greatly appreciated.

***Divine Mercy Academy News***

Choosing Catholic education is an act of faith. It is a statement that values matter, that truth matters, and that the future is worth investing in with intention and courage. There is something deeply powerful about a community that believes in this mission. It is felt in the confidence of children, in the peace of families, and in the steady conviction that comes from knowing you are walking the right path... even when it requires sacrifice. The impact may not always be visible in the moment, but it is real, and it is lasting.

Catholic education shapes more than students... it strengthens families, builds communities, and creates foundations that endure far beyond classrooms and hallways. It forms young people who are prepared not only to succeed, but to stand firm in their faith, lead with integrity, and live.

Come see our phenomenal school at anytime! Our doors are always open, and we would be honored to welcome you for a personal tour. Witness firsthand the joy, energy, and love that fill our halls, and experience what makes this school such a special place for families and students alike. May God bless the work being done, the people who believe in it, and the future being shaped through it.

Help make this experience possible for children of all ages. Be the blessing in their life that gives them the experience of a lifetime... blessings, friendships, and experiences that will remain with them forever! Consider contributing to the St. Faustina Scholarship Fund for a faith-filled family to benefit from the treasure that is Divine Mercy Academy! God Bless!



**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

We are online: [www.st-cecilia.org](http://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!

**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.

**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

**PARISH MEN'S RETREAT** – A one night Lenten evening retreat for the men of our parish will take place on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 o'clock. The evening will include prayer, reflection, discussion and fellowship. There is no cost nor registration. We will begin by participating in the parish Stations of the Cross service at 7 o'clock in the church before moving to Hayes Hall. Additional information will be forthcoming.

**BREAD AND SOUP** – Every Thursday evening from February 19<sup>th</sup> to March 26<sup>th</sup> our annual Lenten program, "Bread and Soup" will take place in Hayes Hall from 6:30 to 8 o'clock. Following our simple supper of bread and soup we will view the video series entitled, "The Jewish Roots of Holy Week: The Last 7 Days." A small group discussion will take place followed by Night Prayer taken from the Liturgy of the Hours. The event is a faith formation program FOR ADULTS!

**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!



**EASTER EGG HUNT** – The children of our parish are invited to an EASTER EGG HUNT which will take place on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 12 pm. A hot dog lunch will be served in Hayes Hall by the Saint Monica Guild and the outdoor hunt for Easter eggs will take place on our parish property. A jellybean counting contest will take place during this event. See the parish web-site for details.

**PARISH CARNIVAL** – A planning meeting for our September parish carnival will take place on Tuesday evening, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 o'clock in Hayes Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend as we prepare for this year's carnival which will be bigger and better than last year's event. – Father Zig

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – The Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday in the church during the season of Lent following the 8 o'clock morning Mass AND in the evening at 7 o'clock.

**SAINT JOSEPH** – The Solemnity of Saint Joseph is Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We will begin the novena prayers on Tuesday, March 10 which will take place at the conclusion of the 8 o'clock morning Mass. In addition, this year we will conduct a HOLY HOUR on the vigil of the feast, Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 o'clock in the evening. The celebration of the solemnity will conclude with the 8 o'clock morning Mass on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> followed by the blessing of "Saint Joseph Pastries" which will be served in Hayes Hall following Holy Mass. A presentation on Saint Joseph will also take place in Hayes Hall. Please join us in honoring the one whom the Lord chose to head the Holy Family of Nazareth.

**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](http://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 we mark the Third Sunday of Lent as we assemble to celebrate the Eucharist on the Lord's Day. The image of WATER is present in the Old Testament and Gospel readings. Water is a source of life both physically and spiritually. In their thirst the Israelites complained to Moses as they journeyed through the wilderness after being set free from slavery in Egypt. Their lack of faith in the Lord, who rescued them from bondage, was made evident in the quarrelsome spirit which prevailed among them. It was through a miraculous means that the Lord provided water to quench their thirst, water came forth from a rock. Their thirst is seen as a lack of trust in the Lord who desires to be that which quenches the longing of every human heart. This Sunday's lengthy Gospel reading tells the story of the Samaritan woman who comes to the well in search of water. As she endeavors to fetch the water, she encounters the Lord Jesus who identifies Himself as being able to provide "water welling up to eternal life." In their conversation the Lord reads her soul and announces that He is the Messiah. The Lord satisfies her thirst for wholeness and sanctification as He shows her compassion and not condemnation. The Samaritan woman, who in Church tradition is known as Saint Photina and whose feast day is February 26, experiences the grace of her encounter with Christ by serving as an evangelist. She returns to her village telling everyone she meets about Jesus and because of her testimony, her neighbors come to the Lord and experience firsthand that which she proclaimed.

In the epistle reading for this Sunday from the Letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul speaks of FAITH. In the Old Testament reading we hear of the lack of faith and in the Gospel a story of the coming to faith.

The Scripture texts for the Sunday liturgies in Lent serve as a catechesis for those enrolled on the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). The themes found in the readings provide a lesson for those who will receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Of course, FAITH and the WATER OF BAPTISM are the subjects which emerge from today's Scriptural texts.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

**ST. FRANCES OF ROME, Religious**  
**March 9 – Patroness of Widows and Motorists**

ST. FRANCES was born in Rome of a noble family in 1384. She wished to enter a monastery, but in obedience to her parents, at the age of twelve, she married a wealthy nobleman named Lawrence Ponziani.

In the matrimonial state she led a very pious life, though she never allowed her spiritual exercises to interfere with her domestic duties. She had to endure many trials, particularly during the great schism, when her husband was banished; but she suffered all with exemplary patience, blessing the holy will of God.

After the schism her husband recovered his estates. In 1425 she founded the Oblate Congregation of Tor di Specchi, to which she gave the Rule of St. Benedict. After the death of her husband she received the habit in this community in 1437, and began to live as though she were the lowest of the sisters. Soon after, she was chosen superior. God conferred upon her numerous favors in the supernatural order. She died March 9, 1440, at the age of fifty-six and was canonized in 1608 by Pope Paul V.

*PRAYER* God, in St. Frances You have given us a singular example of both the monastic and the conjugal way of life. Help us to persevere in serving You so that in all the vicissitudes of life we may both look to You and follow You. Amen.

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

# *Saint Cecilia Parish*

*90 Church Street  
Rockaway, New Jersey 07866*

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