

# 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

**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 30, Monday of Holy Week**  
 6:30 am – Scott J. Sirvent req. by his sister, Casey  
 8:00 am – Stephen Haran req. by Marge Lesica  
**Tuesday, March 31, Tuesday of Holy Week**  
 6:30 am – Nels & Martha Salvesen req. by their Daughters  
 8:00 am – Stephen Haran req. by Ana Colditz  
**Wednesday, April 1, Wednesday of Holy Week**  
 6:30 am – Thomas Peter Will, Jr.  
 8:00 am – Special Intention  
**Thursday, April 2, Thursday of Holy Week**  
 9:00 am – Morning Prayer  
 7:00 pm – Mass of the Lord’s Supper (followed by adoration until 10:00 pm)  
**Friday, April 3, Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)**  
 9:00 am – Morning Prayer  
 12:00 pm – Stations of the Cross (Church)  
 3:00 pm – Stations of the Cross (Cemetery)  
 5:00 pm – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion  
 8:00 pm – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion (Vietnamese Community)  
**Saturday, April 4, Holy Saturday**  
 9:00 am – Morning Prayer  
 1:00 pm (and after the Easter Vigil) – Blessing of Easter Food  
 8:00 pm – Easter Vigil In The Holy Night  
**Sunday, April 5, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**  
 8:00 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am & 12:15 pm  
 For the Parishioners of St. Cecilia Church



<u>ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS</u>	
<u>Week Ending : March 22, 2026</u>	
Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 8,865.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 4,892.90
<u>Total Weekly Collection</u>	\$ 13,757.80
Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)	\$ 785,000.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 14,313.73
<b>Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)</b>	\$ <b>(555.93)</b>
<b>Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)</b>	\$ 39,723.00


*We are thankful for your consistent stewardship.* ©JPPC



*The Sanctuary Candle burning on our altar is in loving memory of*  
**Louise Velotta**  
*Req. by the Marmara Family*

**EASTER WEEK** – From Easter Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> to Easter Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, only one Mass will be celebrated daily in our church at 8 ‘clock in the morning. The 6:30 morning Mass will return on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Also, no other activities, meetings, etc. will take place in our parish as we rejoice in the Easter celebration of Our Lord’s Holy Resurrection. – Father Zig.

**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, 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, Joseph Bardi, Gloria Benson, William Serafin, Eleanor Sala, Dennis McCoach, Gertrude Colditz, Ethel Sullivan, Joyce Berntsen, Robert Craig.



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

**INCREASED OFFERTORY PROGRAM** – It has been many years since we had a campaign to bring the question of, *when was the last time you increased your Sunday offering*, to the forefront. In my early years as your pastor, we periodically presented a STEWARDSHIP TALK which encouraged parishioners to seriously consider increasing their Sunday offering and to discover TITHING, the Scriptural plan for giving thanks to God.

In consultation with the diocese, I have arranged to have Cathedral Letter Concepts, a company which assists parishes throughout the United States to bring the message of stewardship to parishioners, to help me in encouraging you to be faithful and generous.

A letter will be going out soon informing you of my effort to raise the awareness and importance of weekly generous offering to the Lord for all the many blessings He bestows. Please join with me in praying that God the Holy Spirit will enlighten our minds and move our hearts to give generously to the Lord.

I know that you love the Lord and cherish our home, Saint Cecilia Church!

Father Zig

**Prayer for Peace in the World**

Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
help us to conquer the menace of evil,  
which so easily takes root in the hearts of people,  
and whose immeasurable effects already weigh down  
upon our world and seem to block the paths  
Toward the future.

From famine and war, deliver us.  
From nuclear war, from incalculable self-destruction,  
from every kind of war, deliver us.  
From sins against human life from its very beginning,  
deliver us.

From hatred and from the demeaning of the dignity  
of the children of God, deliver us.  
From every kind of injustice in the life of society,  
deliver us.

From readiness to trample on the commandments  
of God, deliver us.

From attempts to stifle in hearts the truth of God,  
deliver us.

From the lost of awareness of good and evil, deliver us.  
From sins against the Holy Spirit, deliver us.

Accept, O Mother of Christ, this cry laden with the  
sufferings of all laden with the sufferings of our societies.

Let there be revealed once more the infinite saving  
power of the redemption-the power of merciful love. May it  
put a stop to evil. May it transform consciences.

May your Immaculate Heart reveal fro all  
the light of hope. Amen.

- St. John Paul II

**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!

**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.

**NEW CHURCH ORGAN** – I look forward to your participation in the new church organ appeal which was announced on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. An information sheet regarding the organ and its replacement may be found on the bulletin table located in the church vestibule. We need to raise \$85,000 for this project. I ask for your help and pray that your generous donation will allow us to reach our goal. SAINT CECILIA, PRAY FOR US! – Fr. Zig

**NEW ZOOM DISCERNMENT OPPORTUNITY** – The Paterson Diocesan Vocations Office will present a series for young men ages 15-20 entitled: “Five Conversations About the Priesthood.” It offers a chance to hear about priestly life and ask honest questions. The program will take place via Zoom and 5 consecutive Sunday evenings from 7:30 to 8:00 beginning April 12 and concluding on May 10. Each 30 minute session will focus on a different aspect of priestly life and ministry. Session 1-Priestly Identity; Session 2-The Eucharist in the Priest's Life; Session 3-The Sacrament of Penance; Session 4-Presching; Session 5-Parish Priesthood. Register: [vocations@patersondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@patersondiocese.org) or call 973.7778818 x711; ALSO, see QR CODE on flyer posted on bulletin board.

**REGISTER FOR NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PRO-CESSION** – THE 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will pass through Passaic and Paterson, June 14-15 as it makes its way along the East Coast of the United States to celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. For registration: [MMon-caleano@patersondiocese.org](mailto:MMon-caleano@patersondiocese.org). For registration assistance, please contact: [registration@eucharisticcongress.org](mailto:registration@eucharisticcongress.org). The pilgrimage stops will be Holy Rosary Church (6 Wall St. in Passaic); Boverini Stadium (262 River Dr. Passaic); St Michael Byzantine Chapel (415 Lackawanna Ave., Woodland Park) and St. John the Baptist Cathedral (381 Grand St. Paterson).

**Monday, March 30**7:00 pm—*Holy Hour (Church)***Tuesday, March 31**7:45 pm—*Light of Christ Prayer Group (Church)***Wednesday, April 1***DMA & the Parish Office have a noon closing*7:00 pm—*Lenten Penance Service (Church)***Thursday, April 2***DMA & the Parish Office will be closed***Friday, April 3***DMA & the Parish Office will be closed***Saturday, April 4****Sunday, April 5**

**BISHOP INVITES YOU**—Bishop Kevin Sweeney is inviting you to join with him and priests of our diocese for the annual Chrism Mass which will take place on Holy Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Paterson. (The cathedral is located on the corner of Grand and Main Streets in Paterson and indoor parking is available free of charge adjacent to the cathedral.) The liturgy begins at 7 o'clock in the evening. Oils are blessed for use in the parishes of the diocese, the Oil of the Sick; the Oil of Catechumens; and the Sacred Chrism. This is a wonderful opportunity to see to our beautiful cathedral if you haven't had the chance to visit prior.

**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

**ROSARY SOCIETY**—We will not be having our meeting, Saturday, April 4th! Our next meeting is May 2nd.

## *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

**“DERBY DAY AD”** – Our parochial school, Divine Mercy Academy, will conduct a tricky tray fund raiser on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the White Meadow Lake Country Club. A program book will be distributed to all guests who will attend the event. You and your business can advertise with a special greeting. Quarter page: \$35; half page: \$60 and full page: \$100. Forms are located on the bulletin table located in the church vestibule. Please consider supporting our school!

**Holy Week Schedule 2026**

**Monday, March 30**

Mass at 6:30 am & 8:00 am

**Tuesday, March 31**

Mass at 6:30 am & 8:00 am

Chrism Mass at 7:00 pm at St. John’s the Baptist Cathedral, Paterson

The Blessing of oils and the renewal of Priestly ordination vows takes place.

**Wednesday, April 1**

Mass at 6:30 am & 8:00 am

Annual Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 pm

8 Priests Available for Confession

**The Easter Triduum**

**Holy Thursday, April 2**

Morning Prayer – 9:00 am

Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:00 pm

(followed by adoration until 10:00 pm)

**Good Friday, April 3**

Morning Prayer – 9:00 am

Stations of the Cross at 12:00 pm in Church

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm at St. Cecilia’s Cemetery

Celebration of the Lord’s Passion at 5:00 pm

Celebration of the Lord’s Passion at 8:00 pm

(Vietnamese Community)

**Holy Saturday, April 4**

Morning Prayer – 9:00 am

Blessing of Easter Food – 1:00 pm and after the Easter Vigil

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night – 8:00 pm

**Easter Sunday, April 5**

Easter Sunday – Regular Sunday Schedule:

8:00 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am, 12:15 pm & 5:00 pm

(Vietnamese)

**Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12**

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

Divine Mercy Devotion – 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**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*

**“IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL”** – Father Vidal Gonzales, Pastor of Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Parish in Cedar Knolls, is sponsoring an 11 day pilgrimage with 2 day Greek Island cruise, October 4-14. Discover the Biblical history of Greece and Turkey in the footsteps of Saint Paul the Apostle. For information, please contact: Tanya D’Souza – 862.209.9037 [tancait@gmail.com](mailto:tancait@gmail.com) or Father Vidal – [frjvgonzales@gmail.com](mailto:frjvgonzales@gmail.com). The cost is \$4,499 per person from Newark. Information brochure posted on vestibule bulletin board.

**HEALING MASS** – The Christian Care Committee is sponsoring the annual Healing Mass in our parish on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 o’clock. During the Mass the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered to those who present themselves. A light reception will take place in Hayes Hall following the liturgy.

**OUR CHILDREN** – Children should be accompanied by a parent or adult when using the restrooms in the parish hall. We want to make sure that our children return to Mass promptly and safely. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**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!

**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

**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,

In our celebration of the Lord's Day we begin HOLY WEEK with today's observance of Palm Sunday. The liturgy for this first day of the holiest week of the year is lengthy due to two very important components namely, the procession and the reading of the Passion account from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. The liturgy begins with a jubilant tone recalling the triumphant entry of the Lord Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. He is greeted by cheers with HOSANNA and the waving of palm branches. There is joy among the crowd as they recall the Lord's raising of Lazarus from the dead which had previously occurred. The beginning of the liturgy focuses on this excitement but the mood changes. Yes, the cheers for Jesus shortly turn to derision and calls for His crucifixion. The reading of the Passion account is the second component of the Palm Sunday liturgy which lengthens today's Mass as it recalls the Lord's suffering. The proclamation of the events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday prepare us for our solemn celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

As we enter into Holy Week, I pray that you and your family will be present in our church to commemorate the events which have won our salvation. The Lord Jesus suffered greatly for our sins and, should we not gather together to show our faith in Him who promises eternal life to those who love Him? So, we need to put to the side those things which hinder our spiritual growth and make every effort to be in church THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND EASTER. Make sure the children and young people of your household are encouraged to come with you as you pass on the faith through your good example.

As we make our way to Easter Sunday I remind you that our fasting and alms giving comes to a conclusion next week. Your rice bowl may be deposited at the side altar of Saint Joseph. Your check should be made payable to ST. CECILIA CHURCH, with the memo: RICE BOWL or ALMS. May the Lord richly bless you for the alms you give to help the poor.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST-GLORY FOREVER!

Father Zig

**ST. JOHN CLIMACUS, Abbot**  
**March 30**

ST. JOHN, called Climacus from his book *The Ladder (Climax) of Paradise*, was born about the year 525. At the age of sixteen he renounces all worldly goods to dedicate himself to God in the religious state. For forty years he lived as a solitary in his hermitage at the foot of Mount Sinai. In the year 600 he was chosen Abbot of Mount Sinai and superior-general of all the monks and hermits in that country. Such was his reputation that St. Gregory the Great, who was then the Pope, wrote to him recommending himself to his prayers and sent him gifts for his hospital near Mount Sinai.

St. John never sought either glory of fame; on the contrary, he endeavored to hide the natural and supernatural gifts with which he was endowed, in order the better to practice humility.

His famous work, the *Climax*, was written only in deference to the will of another. It is a spiritual treatise consisting of concise sentences, and affording several examples that illustrate the monastic life of that period. He governed the monastery of Mount Sinai for four years, sighting constantly under the weight of his dignity, which he resigned shortly before his death. Heavenly contemplation and continual exercise of divine love and praise were his delight and comfort in his earthly pilgrimage.

On March 30, 605, the blessed life of this great Saint came to an end in the hermitage that had witnessed his uninterrupted communing with God. From the time he entered the monastic state, St. John had earnestly applied himself to root out of his heart self-complacency in his actions; he practiced silence as a means of acquiring humility, and he made it a rule never to contradict, never to dispute with anyone. He appeared to have no will of his own, so great was his submission.

*PRAYER* Lord, amid the things of this world, let us be wholeheartedly committed to heavenly things in imitation of the example of evangelical perfection you have given us in St. John the Abbot. 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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Fr. Matt: Ext 15 or [frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com](mailto:frmateuszdarlak@gmail.com)

Fax: 973-627-4811

School: 973-627-6003

CCD Office: 973-627-0313 Ext. 17

