

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, April 27, Easter Weekday

6:30 am – David Mojica req. by the Clancy Family
 8:00 am – George & Rose Ann Cunningham req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Tuesday, April 28, Saint Peter chanel, Priest and Martyr; Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest

6:30 am – Peter Frazzitta req. by Jeanette Dickstein
 8:00 am – Phil Wasacz req. by Ed & Mary Merz

Wednesday, April 29, Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

6:30 am – Special Intention
 8:00 am – Samuel & Theodore Kobylar req. by Fr. Zig

Thursday, April 30, Blessed Pauline Von Mallincrodt

6:30 am – Patricia & James Swanick req. by their Children
 8:00 am – Elizabeth Michalowski req. by Carol & Gary McGotty

Friday, May 1, Saint Joseph the Worker

6:30 am – Barbara Corollo req. by the Sierchio Family
 8:00 am – George Fatzer req. by Susan & Anthony Nedo

Saturday, May 2, Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am – Special Intention: Della & Tom Genzale

Sunday, May 3, Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:30 pm – Manuella Janosik req. by Phyllis Smith
 Alicia Haines Ragonese req. by Lillian & Matthew Pirog
 7:00 pm – Betty Deren req. by Rosemary Muscolino
 Bernard Macones, Jr. req. by Susan Brennan
 8:00 am – The Deceased Members of the McBride Family
 9:15 am – Cecilia Pane req. by the Graner Family
 Timothy Foward req. by Tom & Della Genzale
 10:45 am – Renato Sebastian, Bartola Lopez & Antonita DeJesus req. by Family
 12:15 pm – Berardino Squeo req. by his wife, Marie
 Monica Dougherty req. by the O'Donnell Family

ST. CECILIA CHURCH COLLECTION GOALS

Week Ending : April 19, 2026

Collection—Checks & Cash	\$ 8,716.00
WeShare Electronic Giving	\$ 7,192.54
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 15,908.54

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

Weekly Collection Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (7,091.46)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 41,666.97

We are thankful for your consistent stewardship. ©JPPC

ORGAN APPEAL – Steadily we are making our way to the goal of raising \$85,000 for our new church organ. You can check our weekly progress at the appeal poster located in the church vestibule. I ask every parishioner to make a donation to purchase this very important musical instrument for divine worship. I know that there are some parishioners who can make a substantial monetary gift, I humbly ask you to help Saint Cecilia's by showing generosity. I know that the Lord will shower blessings upon all those who love and support His Church. – 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, Sgt. 1st Class Nick Bretzger, US Army. 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.

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 has gone out 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

EASTER SYMBOLS – Located in the sanctuary of the church as three Easter symbols. The first and foremost is the PASCHAL CANDLE. Located at the ambo, the Easter Candle is lighted for every Mass during the Easter season and for every baptism and funeral conducted throughout the year. After Pentecost Sunday the candle will return to its place near the baptismal font. Following an Eastern European custom, two other Easter symbols are noted, the Resurrection statue located on the altar and the red priest stole around the neck of the crucified Christ at the Cross. The Resurrection statue is a visible reminder of the Lord's triumph over death and the stole on the Crucified Christ is a reminder of Our Lord's role as High Priest who shed His blood, as a sacrifice, on the altar of the Cross. Both symbols will be removed on the 40th day of Easter, Ascension Thursday.

LAST CALL – Today is the final day when the 'RICE BOWL RECEPTACLE' will be at the altar of Saint Joseph. The alms will be collected next week to send to Catholic Relief Services for distribution to those in need. Checks should be made payable to: ST. CECILIA CHURCH with the memo: ALMS. May God bless those who fasted during Lent and whose alms will provide food and clean water for those throughout the world who are in need.

REGISTER FOR NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION – 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 250th birthday. For registration: MMon-caleano@patersondiocese.org. For registration assistance, please contact: 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).

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 or call 973.7778818 x711; ALSO, see QR CODE on flyer posted on bulletin board.

YOUNG ADULTS' NIGHT – We will be hosting an evening for young adults, ages 21-35, to join in prayer, reflection and fellowship on Thursday, May 14th from 8:00 to 9:30 pm. No registration is required, just come and bring a friend, should you like. We will begin in the church before moving to Hayes Hall.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – Our priests will participate in the Rockaway Township commemoration of the NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER on Thursday, May 7th. The service will begin at 7 o'clock in the evening at the gazebo at Park Lake (across from our parish cemetery). Let's join our neighbors in this annual faith event!

SHREDDING EVENT – The Men's Society will sponsor a SHREDDING EVENT on our parish parking lot on Saturday, May 16th from 9 am to 1 pm. This is the opportunity to destroy some of those personal documents such as past tax returns, etc. A donation for this service is expected and greatly appreciated.

MEMORIAL DAY MASS – Our first outdoor Mass of the season will take place on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th at the parish cemetery. The Mass will begin at 9 o'clock in the morning. This is the only Mass for the day. Those planning to attend should bring a lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather, the Mass will take place in the church.

Monday, April 277:00 pm—*Holy Hour (Church)*7:30 pm—*Bible Study (Hayes Hall)***Tuesday, April 28**9:30 am—*Bible Study (Hayes Hall)*7:45 pm—*Light of Christ Prayer Group (Church)***Wednesday, April 29**5:00 pm—*1st Holy Communion rehearsal (Church & HH)*6:30 pm—*1st Holy Communion rehearsal (Church & HH)***Thursday, April 30****Friday, May 1***May Crowning at the Mass***Saturday, May 2**8:30 am—*Rosary Society Meeting (Hayes Hall)*10:00 am—*1st Holy Communion for CCD (Church)*12:00 pm—*1st Holy Communion for CCD (Church)***Sunday, May 3**9:15 am—*Liturgy of the Word***Divine Mercy Academy News**

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year at Divine Mercy Academy in Rockaway is now open!

Full day & Half Day Pre-K3 & Pre-K4 programs available. Full Day Kindergarten. We are located at 87 Halsey Avenue in Rockaway. Visit our website at www.dmarockaway.org or call 973-627-6003 for more information.

Please know that you are welcome to call our school (973.627.6003), Monday through Friday, to arrange a private tour and inquire about our benefits

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

“DERBY DAY AD” – Our parochial school, Divine Mercy Academy, will conduct a tricky tray fund raiser on Saturday, May 9th 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!

Program for May 14, 2026: "Discussing the Fear & Anxiety That Often Accompany Grief"

The Compassionate Friends-Parsippany Chapter; A Self-Help group for bereaved PARENTS, SIBLINGS, and GRANDPARENTS, **ALL** meetings are held every **2nd Thursday** of each month, our next in-person scheduled meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 7:30 pm; LOCATION: 427 Franklin Road, Denville, NJ, Union Hill Presbyterian Church/School- Recreation Room (Back Entrance of Pre-School Building)**. Please join our **private** facebook page "The Compassionate Friends Parsippany Chapter" for more information regarding in-person meetings.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – The children of our parish will be receiving the Holy Eucharist for the first time after instruction by their parents and catechists. The students of Divine Mercy Academy will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, April 25th at 10 a.m. The students of our CCD classes will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 2nd at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. May Jesus, the Bread of Life, strengthen them with faith and joy.

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

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 1st. 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

HELP NEEDED—Looking for volunteers interested in helping to plant flowers in the cemetery. It would be most appreciated. Please call Diane at the parish office @ 973.627.0313 or stceciacemetery@gmail.com



MENTAL HEALTH – “From Isolation to Belonging: Mental Health and the Catholic Church” will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at the Diocese of Metuchen Pastoral Center in Piscataway, NJ. This New Jersey Catholic conference offers practical tools and hope-filled guidance for supporting individuals and families affected by mental health challenges in the parish and community. For more information and registration, please visit www.njconf.com.

CONFIRMATION – His Excellency, Bishop Emeritus Arthur Serratelli will administer the sacrament of confirmation to the young people of our parish on Sunday, May 10th (Vietnamese Community) and Friday, May 15th. May God the Holy Spirit fill the hearts of our young people with His manifold gifts.

5TH SUNDAY ROSARY – The 5th Sunday of the Month Rosary will be prayed on Sunday, May 31st beginning at 3 o’clock in the afternoon in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on East Main Street. During this 30-minute service the Divine Mercy Chaplet will also be prayed. This project of the Knights of Columbus is open to all people. Come join us in prayer.

MAY DEVOTIONS – As is our parish tradition, the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be prayed every week-day following the 8 o’clock morning Mass. The month of May is dedicated to the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary.

FATIMA ROSARY – In commemoration of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, Wednesday, May 13th, the Holy Rosary will be prayed in the church beginning at 7 o’clock. It was at Fatima-Portugal in 1917 that the Blessed Mother asked that we pray the Holy Rosary for the conversion of sinners and for world peace. Let’s honor Our Lady’s request!

Lord, Send Us Holy Shepherds

Join the Universal Church today in observing the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, as we ask the Lord to send laborers into His harvest! This day is a reminder to pray for and support those discerning the priesthood, religious life, and other vocations in the Church.

Here are three simple ways you can participate:

Pray—Offer a Rosary or a personal Holy Hour for an increase in vocations.

Encourage– Take a moment to affirm someone who may have a vocation to priesthood or religious life.

Special Intention at Mass—Offer your Mass intentions for priests, seminarians, and all those discerning their vocations.

May we all be open to God’s call in our own lives!

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*

Campaign for Human Development

Please be generous in this week’s special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, over 11% of the population lives in poverty. Through this collection, you support programs that address the root causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. In addition 25% of the funds we collect remain here in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and those working on the margins. More about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/ccbd

“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 or Father Vidal – frjvgonzales@gmail.com. The cost is \$4,499 per person from Newark. Information brochure posted on vestibule bulletin board.

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 heart-felt 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!

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,

On this first day of the week, we gather to celebrate the Eucharist on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. This Sunday is traditionally called “Good Shepherd Sunday” due to some portion of John’s Gospel, chapter 10 being proclaimed annually, in which the Lord Jesus speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd. Today is also known universally as WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS. How fitting it is to pray and speak about the “calling” God is inviting us to embrace as we live our life mindful of His plan for each one of us. YES, God has a plan for us and how we are “to serve Him in this life, so as to be happy with Him forever in Heaven” (from the Baltimore Catechism). Not all are called to the same vocation, some are married, some single, some deacons, some priests, some religious sisters and some religious brothers – all are called to serve in one of these stations in life.

I am so pleased with the work of our parish Vocations Committee headed by Eric Carmelli and the admirable way in which they are keeping the message of vocations present at Saint Cecilia’s. In February the committee provided a wonderful program of honoring religious life by highlighting the role of our religious sisters. We also saluted Brother Ben Duphiny, our parishioner who is a novice with the Capuchin Franciscan Friars. The same weekend we commemorated “World Marriage Day” at the same program along with a special blessing bestowed upon married couples at all the Masses.

Today we will focus on the call to the priesthood with the showing of a short video in place of the normal homily which will highlight the call to which the Lord is inviting some young men. My prayer is that the young guys of our parish may consider such a calling and that the parents of our parish may be supportive in nurturing the call in their family, for not doing so will be working against the plan of God!

In today’s epistle reading we find the Apostle Peter writing regarding the suffering “for doing what is good.” In some instances, parents and family members place great pressure on their children NOT to listen to the calling to which the Lord is speaking to them. Rather, parents and family members are directing them to a life which is not of their choosing, thus causing children to suffer. To all young people I say, PRAY, LISTEN TO WHERE GOD IS CALLING YOU, doing so will bring you peace and fulfillment.

LORD, OPEN THE HEARTS OF OUR YOUNG MEN TO BE HOLY PRIESTS!

CHRIST IS RISEN-TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Father Zig

**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church**

The year 1347 witnessed the birth of St. Catherine, the most remarkable woman of her age. In her childhood she consecrated her virginity to God. However her parents, wishing to see her married, began to thwart her pious inclinations. She finally became an object of persecution in her own house. She bore her trials with fortitude and joy, and persevered in her resolution of giving herself entirely to the Divine service. Eventually her parents relented, and she was left free to follow her pious inclinations.

In 1365, at eighteen years of age, she received the habit of the Third Order of St. Dominic. In 1374, during the great pestilence, she devoted herself heroically to the care of the infected. Meanwhile, she was considered to be a power for good, since thousands were converted by her exhortations.

Two years later she went to Avignon to intercede with the Pope for the Florentines, who had been interdicted for joining in a conspiracy against the temporal possessions of the Holy See in Italy. Through her influence Gregory XI returned to Rome, and she exhorted him to contribute, by all possible means, toward the peace of Italy.

Having lived to see the beginning of the great schism, she wrote to the cardinals who were the cause of it and to several princes, seeking to avert the terrible evil. The life of the Saint who had been glorified by God with wondrous gifts and miracles was brought to a close on April 29, 1380, at the age of thirty-three. She was canonized in 1461 by Pope Pius II.

St. Catherine has long been regarded as one of the finest theological minds in the Church – as is shown by her outstanding work, *Dialogue* – and in 1970 Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church.

PRAYER God, You caused St. Catherine to shine with Divine love in the contemplation of the Lord’s Passion and in the service of Your Church. By her help, grant that Your people, associated in the mystery of Christ, may ever exult in the revelation of His glory. Amen.

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