

COVER SHEET

CHURCH NAME: **ST. CECELIA CHURCH**

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BULLETIN FOR WEEK OF: **August 22, 2004**

NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED: **6**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

CONTACT: **STEPHANIE: 732-283-2300**

WELCOME! *You are invited to become a part of our parish family and an active member of parish life.*

REGISTRATION

To enable us to better serve you, **all parishioners** are asked to register at the Parish Office. Family members over the age of 18 should register as individuals. To receive a letter of recommendation or a character reference you should be registered for at least three months.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Please remember to put all pagers and cell phones on **SILENT ALERT** before Mass begins. Please be sure to extinguish all cigarettes and use the ashtrays on either side of the plaza. Smoking is not permitted in the church.

THANK YOU!

MEMORIALS

The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** may be lighted for a week at a time in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. The **EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE** may be provided for a week at a time in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. Please call the parish office for more information.

“Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord... knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment.”

Sick Relatives and Friends...

Lillian Evers, Robert Kunitsky, Dorothy Mazza, Berta Kiermaier, Eleanor Dobol, Beatrice Knutelski, Donald Crilly, Angela Decibus and Baby Girl, Juan Morales, Anna Rizzuto, Lillian Evers, Sophie Province, Alvin Decker, Sr., Baby Joseph R. Trzepla, Jason Bastkom, Jennifer Perez, Henry Mlodgenski, Maryann Swiak, Karen Zaborny, Mary Ann Osmulski, Dorothy Glynn, Josephine Sitar, Linda Obertz, and all those in hospitals, sick at home and in nursing homes; may they always be assured of our prayers.

Names may be placed on this list for a four-week period and will be removed after that time unless a call is received to request a continuation. Please keep in mind that we pray for all the sick every day in the General Intercessions of the Mass.

The Parish Office is now on Summer Schedule and closes at Noon on Fridays.

GIFT SHOP END-OF-SUMMER SCHEDULE

(August 23rd through September 5th)

WEEKEND HOURS ONLY; CLOSED WEEKDAYS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REGISTRATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2004/2005 will be held next Sunday, August 29th, in the atrium following 10 AM Mass. If you are registering your child for the first time, please bring his/her baptismal certificate. Tuition for the year is as follows: Grades 3, 4, 5, 6: \$65; Grades 1, 2, 7, 8: \$75. After September 8th, a \$25 late fee will be charged. Re-registration forms and Confirmation information have been mailed. **NOTE: only registered parishioners** may register for Religious Education classes. Parish registration takes place during *parish office hours*; current summer hours are noted in the bulletin.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION: Thank you for your generous donation of school supplies for the needy! Many a child will start the school year with a smile because of your goodness; may God bless you all.

FOOD PANTRY REQUEST: Donations of plastic and brown paper bags are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

THANK YOU for your generous support, which enables us to sustain all of our projects!

J4F YOUNG ADULT GROUP: Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer! It's time to get back into the swing of things, and we start with our first meeting on September 8th in the church conference room at 6:30 PM. We have a great year coming up, so don't miss out on this important meeting! God bless you! For more info please contact Denise at 732-754-8876 or e-mail us at J4F_CYA@yahoo.com

ENJOY THOSE RIBS AT THE FAIR AND THE PICNIC? MAKE THEM AT HOME! Anyone interesting in purchasing a case of ribs can do so by contacting Pat Lane through the Parish Office. Cost is \$72 for about 35-36 pounds (they are frozen).

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE...

Let us remember all our departed brothers and sisters, asking God through our prayers to reward them as only He can with Light, Happiness and Eternal Peace.



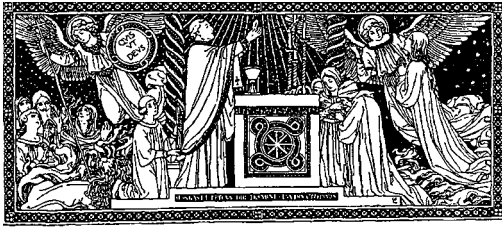
The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed following the 11:30 AM Mass on the fourth Sunday of every month. Benediction is at 2 PM.

Nocturnal Adoration is on **First Fridays** from **8 to 9 PM**.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION will be held in the church on Friday, September 3rd, beginning at 8 PM. Start the 2004/2005 season with one hour of active devotional prayers. Everyone is invited to attend.

Wedding Banns

II Brian Petralia - Jaclyn Johnson (9/3)



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, August 23rd: St. Rose of Lima

- 7:00 AM Jerome Ellis req Kolibas Family
 9:15 AM Alberto Bandeira req Wife Marylou
 & Son James
 *1:00 PM Peter Capitano req M/M Steve Gentile

TUESDAY, August 24th: St. Bartholomew

- 7:00 AM Andrea Chester req Roznosh Family
 9:15 AM John Piegari req Carmelina Coppola & Family

WEDNESDAY, August 25th: St. Louis of France

- 7:00 AM Lualhati & Redentor Monton
 req Vazquez Family
 9:15 AM Edward Muller req Wife & Children

THURSDAY, August 26th: Weekday

- 7:00 AM Sr. Valerie Ann req Walter & Terry Gibson
 9:15 AM Paul Aiosa req Family

FRIDAY, August 27th: St. Monica

- 7:00 AM Sr. Valerie Mangogna req Parish Office
 9:15 AM John Piegari req Jack & Claire Roarty
 ** 2:00 PM Joseph Fragoso req M/M Anthony Solar

SATURDAY, August 28th: St. Augustine

- 8:00 AM Sr. Valerie Mangogna
 req Barbara & Bob Kraft
 4:30 PM Renee Benevento req Benevento Family

SUNDAY, August 29th:

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 7:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
 8:30 AM David Murphy req Madaline & Mrs. Jonke
 10:00 AM Thomas Palang req Maria Palang & Family
 11:30 AM Maria Pauluk & Paulo Iatskiu req Marii Poisler
 5:00 PM Donald Killough req Florence & Robert Hall

*MASS CELEBRATED AT VETERANS HOME

**MASS CELEBRATED AT ROOSEVELT CARE CENTER

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

VETERANS HOME: Monday, August 30th

1:00 PM Josephine Pellegrino req Domenick & Frances Pellegrino

ROOSEVELT CARE CENTER: Friday, September 3rd

2:00 PM John Buzzi req Judy Ferrara



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week
IN MEMORY OF EMMA NEPTUNE
 requested by Pearl Noel



The **EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE** this week is
IN MEMORY OF SISTER VALERIE ANN
 requested by Karen McCarthy

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Mt 23:13-22
 Tuesday: Rev 21:9b-14; Jn 1:45-51
 Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Mt 23:27-32
 Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9; Mt 24:42-51
 Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13
 Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 25:14-30
 Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68;
 Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14



SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Last Sunday our faithful stewards gave: \$13,944.05

Collection for the week of August 17, 2003: \$13,369.00

*"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
 and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
 Each of you must give as each has chosen in the heart..." (2 Cor 9:6-7)*



Welcome...

On Sunday, August 15th,
 the Parish Family of St. Cecelia
 joyfully welcomed
 through the saving waters
 of baptism
 the following child:
Alexa Mercedes Carr
Dante Carr

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What appears below is the first article in a series that will appear over the next seven weeks, and will culminate in the School Choice Petition Drive here at St. Cecelia's in October. The Knights of Columbus are spearheading this drive to present signed petitions to our state legislators so that they will get an indication of our support for the general concept of school choice within their districts. The articles will help to educate all of us on this subject of great importance for all Catholics - for Catholics in the State of New Jersey - and for the Parish Family of St. Cecelia in particular as we prepare for the 2004-2005 year at St. Cecelia's School.

Perhaps it is even more pertinent for the Parish Family of St. Cecelia - *since some people persist in starting, spreading, or believing rumors that our school is "on the verge of closing."* Why not expend all those energies now being used to hurt our parish family to support and promote Catholic education in general, and an education at St. Cecelia's School in particular?

I. SCHOOL CHOICE: WHAT IS IT, AND IS IT CONSTITUTIONAL?

Put simply, supporters of school choice embrace the belief that parents are entitled to a government-funded education for their children through Grade 12, regardless of race, creed, color, disability, economic status, or address. That education may be provided in traditional public schools, charter schools, nonpublic schools, or home schools, according to the needs of the child.

The question of the constitutionality of school choice was answered resoundingly in 2002, when the US Supreme Court handed down its decision by upholding the Cleveland voucher program in the Zelman v. Harris decision. This landmark decision is consistent with a long series of Supreme Court opinions, including a 1983 ruling which upheld Minnesota's income tax deduction for educational expenses, including private school tuition. Although some states have "Blaine amendments" in their state constitutions which would affect school choice legislation in those states, New Jersey has no such impediment. Thus, based on recent rulings by the Supreme Court, school choice legislation would be constitutional if it met the following three criteria:

1. If parents make the decision which nonpublic school their child attends
2. If there is no financial incentive to attend a religious school over a public school
3. If the program does not allow undue government interference with religious schools

In defending the primary role of parents in the education of their children, the Catholic Church supports true school choice as a cost-effective means of providing parents with the best educational setting for their children.

Gold & Silver

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen at Evening Prayer to be held at St. Francis Cathedral at 4 PM on either October 10th or October 24th! You will renew your marriage vows and receive a personalized certificate from Bishop Bootkoski. An application form can be obtained at the Parish Office and mailed or faxed to the Diocesan Family Life Office by Friday, September 3rd. Numbers permitting, you may attend either Sunday; however, to ensure your selection, complete and submit your application as soon as possible. A confirming letter will be sent once your application has been processed. Formal invitations and seating tickets will be mailed two weeks before the celebration (tickets for guests are not required, and everyone is welcome to attend this joyous event). NOTE: Evening Prayer does not fulfill your Sunday obligation.

REFLECTIONS ON THE REIGN OF GOD

A threefold message is developed in today's readings. **First**, everyone is called to proclaim God's glory and receive salvation. **Second**, salvation is not for the unprepared. Like a loving parent, God gently corrects and disciplines those who have been called. Often, suffering may be part of the formation process. We learn to accept it as Jesus once accepted his cross. **Third**, some people who are treated with contempt and disdain by the self-righteous actually do have a place in God's kingdom.

We need to take these lessons to heart. Recall your initial excitement upon hearing God's word. How has the Good News that once struck your fancy taken deeper root in your life? Look again at the crosses you have been given. How are others transformed when they see how you have accepted and grown from your sufferings?

Finally, are there some people you imagine as not invited into God's kingdom? Why do you feel this way about them? For a moment, imagine them on the inside and yourself on the outside. How can this be possible? Always try your best to enter by the narrow gate, gladly proclaiming God's glory.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the Rosary Altar Society's ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER, Saturday, September 18th. More details next week...

YOUTH GROUP (Grades 9-12): HEY 9th GRADERS!!! Our Kickoff Picnic is on September 12th from 3 to 6 PM in the field behind the youth ministry office (Trailer "D" at St. John Vianney Church). Come, meet new friends, and join the fun. Most importantly, find the truth about the youth ministry program from the people who *live* it - and don't forget to bring your friends!!! Team meetings for the fall retreat begin on August 31st (the retreat takes place October 15th through 17th at the Vincentian Renewal Center in Plainsboro). You should already have received a permission slip in the mail; if you need another, call the youth ministry office. The Hand-In-Hand service project takes place at The Club in Woodbridge on Sunday, September 19th, from noon to 3 PM. We will literally be walking Hand-In-Hand with the mentally and physically handicapped to offer them a day of fun in the sun. There will be no meeting that night, but we will have a discussion of our experiences immediately afterward (at The Club, from 3 to 3:30 PM) to put our day in perspective. This is a very rewarding experience. Can't wait to see you at the Picnic!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (18-35): Thank you to all who took time out of their schedules (including Father Jay) to be with us on Sunday, August 15th, to discuss possible routes for our young adult program! We decided to gather once a month at St. Cecelia's 11:30 AM Mass, and to follow that with a brunch discussion of the readings at the Galaxy Diner in Rahway. Sound good? Regretfully, I have scheduling conflicts in September so we will begin on October 10th, followed by November 28th and January 9th. On December 19th, I will be on retreat but will supply materials so you can meet without me. Can't wait to see you in October - please feel free to contact the office of young adult ministry (732-381-0008) at any time. Peace.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS: "We're here for the Kids"

SPLISH SPLASH, WE'RE RAISIN' SOME CASH: A car wash to benefit the Golden Knights Football program will be held on Sunday, August 29th, starting at 8 AM. Come out and support the program; stop by the lot at the corner of Green Street and Middlesex Turnpike (the old Flip's Tavern site). All cars \$4 - donations welcome!

BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL: 35-game season; full uniforms and tournaments. Child must be a registered parishioner or attend St. Cecelia's School. **TRYOUTS** will be held on Thursdays, September 16th AND 23rd, in the school gym, according to the following schedule:
7th & 8th Grade boys 5:30 until 7 PM
5th & 6th Grade boys 7 until 8:15 PM
6th, 7th & 8th Grade girls 8:15 until 9:30 PM
For more information, call Nick Shine at 732-548-6518.

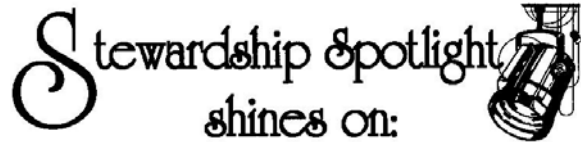
*The gift of grace increases
as the struggles increase.*

- St. Rose of Lima



All summer we have been following the 'order' of Luke's Gospel with Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Like the plot of a good mystery, we sense a growing crisis and urgency on Jesus' part to offer God's hospitality and to have it accepted. The choice is always ours.

The images of 'gate' and 'door' are often used in Scripture to show the boundaries we must cross - or not - on life's journey. They can be passageways or obstacles, depending on the choices we make and our attitude of 'yes' to all that our discipleship calls us. Hebrews reminds us that what we need most is discipline. We are not always comfortable with the word or the mental pictures it provokes, but this reading gives a clear and positive picture. These two words come from the same root and tell us that we cannot be worthy disciples without self-discipline.



**ST. CECELIA'S SCHOOL GRADUATE,
NATIONAL AWARD WINNER**

We are pleased to acknowledge that Lauren Lutz, a graduate of St. Cecelia's School, has been named a United States National Award Winner in Speech & Drama by the United States Achievement Academy (see them on the internet at <http://www.usaa-academy.com>). The USAA Awards honor the performance of outstanding student achievers nationwide. Students spend many hours and years contributing to their schools and communities. The purpose of the USAA Award is to pay tribute to the devotion and contributions of these outstanding students.

Congratulations, Lauren, and continued success to you!

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If you'd like to share your time and talent with this or any of our parish's many opportunities for stewardship - or there's an idea that you'd like to present - please fill out and return this coupon to the Parish Office or call the office and leave your name and number.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

e-mail/ALT. PHONE: _____

Please contact me about: _____

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

...events taking place on our Parish campus - the school, the church, or the hall.

Monday, August 23

NO Families of Nazareth Movement
 6-10 PM Golden Knights Gym, cafeteria & Rm 101

Tuesday, August 24

10 AM Legion of Mary Conference room
 11 AM Bingo Lourdes Hall
 6-10 PM Golden Knights Gym, cafeteria & Rm 101
 7-9 PM Tricky Tray meeting Rm 103

Wednesday, August 25

7-9 PM AA, Al-Anon, STEP Rms 103, 105, Fatima Hall
 6-10 PM Golden Knights Gym, cafeteria & Rm 101

Thursday, August 26

6-10 PM Golden Knights Gym, cafeteria & Rm 101
 7-9 PM CARE Program Conference room

Friday, August 27

Saturday, August 28

after 8AM Mass Novena Church

Sunday, August 29

4:15 PM Chaplet of Divine Mercy Church

Please note that meetings may be subject to change or cancellation.

BULLETIN E-MAIL ADDRESS: stceceliabulletin@yahoo.com.

Deadline for information is Monday evenings by 9 PM; thank you for your cooperation.

THE SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: Please contact the Parish Office for all information and to make arrangements. Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class is required.

MARRIAGE: Make arrangements **one year** in advance of the proposed wedding date. One party must be a parishioner. Participation in a Pre-Marriage Preparation Program is required; call the Parish Office.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND: Urgent sick calls at any time; contact the Parish Office. Regular communion calls to the sick, aged or homebound should be arranged in advance through the Social Concerns Office.

EDUCATION

ST. CECELIA'S SCHOOL

Phone: 732-283-2824

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITED



Served by the Religious Teachers Filippini, the mission of St. Cecelia School is to form the heart, mind and spirit of its students according to Gospel values, ever aware of the unique, God-given gifts within each child.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Phone: 732-283-2816

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 8:30 AM-8:30 PM

Tuesday through Thursday: 8:30 AM-2:30 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

CLASSES for grammar school students are held on Mondays at 3:00, 5:45 & 7:25 PM.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS for the continuing religious education of adults are held periodically throughout the year.

R.C.I.A.: For information about becoming a Roman Catholic, contact the Parish Office.

DEVOTIONS

NOVENA to St. Jude and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal after 8 AM Mass on Saturday

CHAPLET of DIVINE MERCY Sunday 4:15 PM.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 4th Sunday after 11:30 AM Mass; **Benediction** at 2PM.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION every First Friday from 8 to 9 PM.

SOCIETIES/ORGANIZATIONS

BIBLE STUDY:

Thursdays 7:30 PM, Faculty Room

CELEBRATE LIFE COMMITTEE:

New members always welcome.

FAMILIES OF NAZARETH MOVEMENT:

Mondays, 7:15-8:15 PM in the Conference room.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY:

2nd Sunday after the 8:30 AM Mass, Room 101

J4F - Just 4 Fun:

1st and 3rd Mondays ; ages 21-35

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS:

2ND & 4TH Thursdays; Membership: call Dan Neroda 732-283-0290

LEGION OF MARY:

Tuesdays at 10 AM in the Church Conf. Rm.

ROSARY/ALTAR SOCIETY:

1st Monday after the 1st Sunday after 7 PM Mass

SENIOR CITIZENS:

2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 12:30 PM in Lourdes Hall

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Phone 732-283-1775

Tues/Weds/Thurs 10 AM to 2 PM

Saturday 2 PM to 6 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Monday and Friday CLOSED

Did you notice...

Last week's WEEK AT A GLANCE section had some strange hieroglyphics instead of many of the dates and times... we apologize! If you noticed, *good for you!!!* since it means that you are reading and paying attention to what's going on here in our parish! **DON'T FORGET** that the **BULLETIN DEADLINE** is **9 PM on Monday**. If Monday is a holiday, the deadline moves to *the preceding Friday* (Labor Day is coming soon, and all items for the September 12th bulletin are due by Friday, September 3rd!). Items received later than the deadline time may not be included. On *any* item submitted, please include a name and contact phone number.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3639 NEWS

CORPORATE COMMUNION will be held on Sunday, August 29th, at the 8:30 AM Mass. Breakfast will follow, at the K of C Hall, 116 Grand Street, Iselin.

"CAN'T MISS THIS NIGHT AT THE KNIGHTS..."

THE END OF SUMMER 2004 BASH will be held on Saturday, August 28th, from 7 PM to midnight at the K of C Hall. For just \$20/person, you can enjoy a buffet dinner (7-8 PM), beer, wine, & soda, and live music by Not In That Order. For tickets, call John Parascando (732-283-1436), John McCarthy (732-283-3068), Joe LaMagna (908-276-6132) or The Council (732-283-0290). Please bring a canned food donation for Hunger Harvest.

FAMILIES OF NAZARETH QUOTE OF THE WEEK: *"...in every moment of our lives we would be able to praise God, who is present in this world, and everything around us would be filled with His loving Presence."* For more information, please contact bzmak@comcast.net.

FAMILIES OF NAZARETH will not meet for the next few weeks; their next meeting will be on Monday, September 13th. Come join us in September, and see what we're all about!