

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...

Louise Colajay, Katherine Riccardi, Lisa Marie Mantz, William Witt; Beth Kreckman, Terrance Stephen, Harold Speakman, Dorthy Glenn, Ann Marie Siwick, Mary Louise Bogert, Clara Suarez, Dr. Barbara Wheeler, Milly Margetis, John Boyle, Michael David McMahon, William Boley, Janet Schutt, Rose Gentile, Robert Baljak, John Farley, Karen Zaborny, Mary Ann Osmulski, Linda Obertz, Jean Barry, 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.



SIMBANG GABI (The Misa de Gallo): It is a Filipino tradition to hold a novena of Masses from December 16th through the 24th - a tradition that began in Spanish colonial times, when the Spanish friars would gather the Filipino workers early each morning before sending them out to the fields to work. The Diocesan Commission for the Filipino Apostolate has again invited St. Cecelia's to host one of this year's celebrations, but instead of having the Mass so early in the day (!!) we will have it on **Thursday, December 16th, at 8 PM**. A short supper will be held in Lourdes Hall after Mass. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

Advent Penance Service

On Monday, December 13th, there will be a Penance Service in our church beginning at 7 PM. After a short service of prayer and song, there will be time for individual confessions. All parishioners are invited to take part in this communal service of God's mercy and forgiveness in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

YOUTH MINISTRY: A great deal of Jesus' ministry was about service, so don't forget to bring your shoebox full of hygiene supplies for the HIV shelter service project we discussed last Sunday. This is the last weekend I am able to accept permission slips for the winter retreat and the ski trip. If you need to fill one out, please bring a parent with you to the meeting. Also, rentals and lessons for the ski trip will be discussed at this meeting. If you choose to sign up for either one, you need to attend this Sunday.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: Thank you for coming to our meeting last Wednesday. As I shared at the meeting, I can't wait to share the audio tape from the National Catholic Conference with you. It will make great conversation and enable us to take the necessary steps to define our ministry together. Our next young adult meeting is Wednesday, December 22nd, in the same place (Trailer D at St. John's). I can't wait to see you there. God bless, and happy Advent.

**IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE...**

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



The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the Mondays of Advent:
December 13, 20
after the 9:15 AM Mass.
Benediction will be at 7 PM
(except on December 13th,
when benediction will be at 6:45 PM).
Nocturnal Adoration is on **First Fridays**
from 8 to 9 PM.

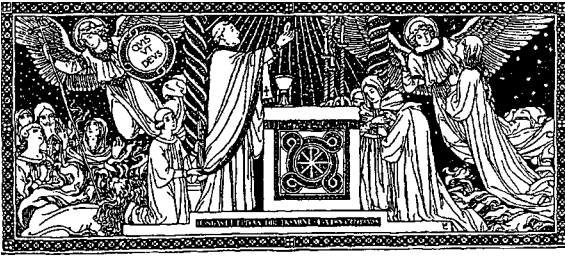
HOLY NAME SOCIETY will meet this Sunday, December 12th, after the 8:30 AM Mass. Immediately following the Mass, there will be brief prayers in the church for the canonization of our founder, Blessed John Vercelli. Then there will be a short meeting in school room 101. All adults are invited and welcome to join us for the prayers and the meeting.

Scripture Study of the Nativity Narratives

Father Jay concludes a study of the Nativity narratives in Lourdes Hall from 7:30 to 9 PM on Tuesday evening, December 14th. We will have a simple meal available for those who wish to join us for supper at 7 PM, and beverages and dessert available for all. Please be sure to RSVP if you're coming for supper - so our cooks know how much to prepare!



K of C COUNCIL 3639 CELEBRATES NEW YEAR'S EVE with a bus trip to Caesar's in Atlantic City. \$32 per person includes a cocktail party at the Knights Hall at 5 PM, and the bus will leave at 6 PM sharp from the K of C parking lot. For more information call Bill Schmatz, 732-225-2078.



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 13th: St. Lucy

7:00 AM Anna Carroll req Jack Carroll & Family
 9:15 AM Mr. & Mrs. Agostino Aiello req Family
 *1:00 PM Josephine Pellegrino req Bunage Family

TUESDAY, December 14th: St. John of the Cross

7:00 AM Robert LaRouche req Helen Lenart
 9:15 AM John Leone req Leone Family

WEDNESDAY, December 15th: Advent Weekday

7:00 AM John Nagy, Jr., req Family
 9:15 AM Eleanor Schaefer req M/M Robert Rosenbach

THURSDAY, December 16th: Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Joseph Vargo req Andrew & Joann Reiley
 9:15 AM Jose Almeida req Cousin

FRIDAY, December 17th: Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Eileen Crowley req Husband
 9:15 AM Richard Zmijewski req Family
 ** 2:00 PM Marie, Warren & Arline De Ring req Janet

SATURDAY, December 18th: Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Bernice Pontrantolfi req Pat
 4:30 PM Robert Fitzgerald req Family

SUNDAY, December 19th:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
 8:30 AM Richard Speakman req Family
 10:00 AM Jerry Retkwa req Family
 11:30 AM George R. Huneycutt req Ann & Girls
 5:00 PM Alfonso Valvano, Sr.,
 req Daughter Madeline La Faso

*MASS CELEBRATED AT VETERANS HOME

**MASS CELEBRATED AT ROOSEVELT CARE CENTER

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

VETERANS HOME: Monday, December 20th

1:00 PM Richard Campbell req Marie Campbell

ROOSEVELT CARE CENTER: Friday, December 24th

2:00 PM NO MASS



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week
IN MEMORY OF MARK LONGO
 requested by Mrs. Jan Longo



The **EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE** this week is
IN MEMORY OF MARK LONGO
 requested by Mrs. Jan Longo

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Saturday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Last Sunday our faithful stewards gave: \$14,174.50

Last year at this time: \$11,978.00

Young People's envelopes: \$241.53

*"Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works,
 to be generous, ready to share"(1 Tim 6:17-19).*



Welcome...

On Sunday, December 5th,
 the Parish Family of St. Cecelia
 joyfully welcomed
 through the saving waters
 of baptism

the following children:

Tyler Anthony Brancato
Sergio Prudencio Rosales
Annie Gross Santos

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

By this time in Advent, Christmas looms even closer and anticipation intensifies as we count off the days. Christmas is at most two weeks away. On this *Gaudete* Sunday we rejoice. We can hardly wait, and the joy spills over. *Gaudete!*

This day the church rejoices in the coming of the Lord, which is assured, yet we need to be reminded of how it looks and what it requires of us. The coming of the Lord is filled with abundance and looks most inviting; yet the coming of the Lord costs something as well. Just ask Isaiah. He continues to speak of the wonders of the Lord's coming, but he speaks this to a weary people who must face the daunting task of rebuilding a new life together in a ravaged and war-torn land. The cost of the coming of the Lord is the work we are called to do to build up God's reign. Nevertheless, Isaiah speaks of a healing time for body and spirit.

Isaiah's description of healing and fullness finds its way into today's Gospel. The Lord who was to come has now appeared, and the miracles of wholeness and health and renewed life are signs of a new order. With the arrival of Jesus, the "Messianic Kingdom" of which Isaiah spoke with such passion has come to pass. In Jesus, the work of John the Baptist and all of Israel's prophets before him has come to fulfillment. The reign of God is ushered in by this last prophet. John's vocation as prophet, though great, is dwarfed by his membership in the new dispensation, the new order, the reign of God. This membership, says Jesus, is available to each and every one who recognizes it.

We will know the reign of God is fully here when the human spirit breathes free, the shackles of fear are broken, the shadows of sin are dispersed, the weak are strengthened, hearts are healed, and the desert of the human spirit blooms. This reign of God does not happen *to* us; it happens *in* us and in the world, and it comes slowly and surely.

The second reading today counsels patience, the kind of patience the farmers exercise as they await the fall and spring rains. One season of rain must provide subsoil moisture—it must run deep. The other rains provide the top dressing, the moisture for germinating the planted seed. Farmers cannot hurry the rains. They can only await them in hope. So it is for us now. We wait in hope. But today our joy runs deep and it spills over.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, REJOICE!

The Advent Wreath

During the third week of Advent, we pray: "*O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.*" Then light the two previously lit purple candles plus the rose candle.



Advent Opportunities for Spiritual Enrichment at St. Cecelia's

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 3rd Sunday of Advent Giving Tree gifts due	13 Eucharistic Adoration (after 9:15 AM Mass) Benediction 6:45 PM Penance Service 7 PM	14 Nativity Narratives Supper: 7 PM Study: 7:30 PM	15	16 Simbang Gabi: Misa de Gallo 8 PM (Supper to follow)	17	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent	20 Eucharistic Adoration (after 9:15 AM Mass) Benediction 7 PM	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 4 PM (by ticket only) 5:30 PM 11:30 PM: Lessons & Carols Midnight Mass	25 Christmas Day 8:30 AM 10 AM 11:30 AM



REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS: There are no classes on December 20th and December 27th. Classes resume on Monday, January 3rd. Have a very blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year!

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

January 3 rd :	3:55 PM	Class 3-1
	6:45 PM	Class 7-1
	8:30 PM	Class 8-4

Parents/Guardians are welcome to go to confession after the designated class. **PLEASE NOTE:** the class will be dismissed from the church.

GRADE THREE: Miss Corrinne Bynoe's class made a Christmas Basket for the nursing home.

LIVING LITURGY: Our Student of the Week is Brian Linton, Grade 6: *This week I lived my Faith by visiting my grandmother at the nursing home and praying for the soul of her roommate, Frances, who died on December 2nd. AMEN.*

GOLDEN KNIGHTS NEWS

ANNUAL DO-WOP NIGHT: Saturday, January 29th, from 7 PM to midnight in Lourdes Hall. \$27.50 per person includes buffet, beer, soda, set-ups (BYOB) and music by Jersey Gold. Tickets go on sale January 4th and will then be available Tuesday and Friday nights at St. Cecelia School gym from 7-9 PM. Contact Rich McLellan at 732-382-9106.

FAMILIES OF NAZARETH FAITH-SHARING GROUP: *"All goodness that we experience is a proof of God's love, a love unconditional and forgiving, that also becomes a specific source of reliance given to us by our Lord."* Contact bzmak@comcast.net for more information.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Our MONTHLY PARISH FOOD COLLECTION is this weekend, December 11th & 12th. If you have forgotten, please drop your contributions in the atrium during the week. We are in particular need of coffee, juice, paper products, canned meats (spam, corned beef, etc.), canned hearty soups, jelly, cookies, crackers, diapers, cake mix, shampoo, dish and laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes.

TURKEY COLLECTION TIME: Our Food Pantry is still accepting donations of turkeys. Please call the Social Ministry Office, 732-283-0150 ext 21, before dropping them off so we can be sure they are refrigerated.

GIVING TREES gifts are due back this weekend, December 11th-12th. Please return them as soon as possible to allow us enough time to distribute them in time for Christmas.

ADULT BABYSITTER NEEDED: 1 to 3 nights a week, from 6 PM to 1 AM. Must have own transportation. Please call Michelle, 848-219-6519.


We give thanks for your support - all year long!

J4F ADULT GROUP: Thank you for all who went Caroling with us yesterday. The residents, patients, and staff at the JFK Hartwyck Day Center on Oak Tree Road truly appreciate your special gifts of time and talent. We are having our group Christmas Party on Saturday, December 18th, at 8 PM at Denise's house. Visit us at J4F_CYA@yahoo.com or call 732-754-8876 for more information about our group.



"Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord." We are promised a kingdom where the blind will see, where the oppressed will know justice, where the desert and parched land will bloom with abundant flowers, and where we will see the glory of the Lord. But we are not told when it will happen - and

although patience is a virtue, it is one often in very short supply in our modern lives! As we strive to temper our need to know with trust and hope in God's abundant mercy, let us rejoice that Advent has passed its midpoint and that, one day and one action at a time, we are drawing closer to Christ. And let us not be passive, but active recipients of God's bounty, sharing with one another as he has shared with us.

Stewardship & Spotlight
shines on: 

CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP DINNER AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH

Families... couples... singles... all are welcome to attend this annual event. Come and share dinner - with all the trimmings - and a large portion of friendship. What better way to share in God's bountiful love!

This celebration will take place on Saturday, December 25th - *Christmas Day itself* - from 1 to 3 PM in Father Milos Parish Hall (Port Reading Avenue in Port Reading). Transportation will be available.

There is no charge for the dinner, but a call would be appreciated in order to properly plan the meals. Please contact Bob and Michelle Sobieski, 732-636-1124.

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, December 13, 2004

12:30 PM	Seniors	Lourdes Hall
6:45 PM	Benediction	Church
7:00 PM	Advent Penance Service	Church
7-8:30 PM	J4F	Rm 103
7:15-8:15 PM	Families of Nazareth (small faith community)	Conference room

Tuesday, December 14, 2004

10 AM	Legion of Mary	Conference room
11 AM	Bingo	Lourdes Hall
7:00 PM	Future Musicians Concert	Gym
7:30 PM	Nativity Narratives (scripture study)	Lourdes Hall

Wednesday, December 15, 2004

4:30-6 PM	Youth Choir	Church
7-9 PM	AA, AI-Anon, STEP	Rms 103, 105, Fatima Hall
7:30-9:15 PM	Adult Choir	Church
7:30 PM	Baptism Class	Chapel

Thursday, December 16, 2004

6-9 PM	Boy Scouts	Rms 101 & 105
7-9 PM	Faith & Hope Sharing (small faith community)	Chapel
7:30-9 PM	Faith Sharing Through Scripture (Bible Study)	Rm 103
8 PM	Simbang Gabi: Misa de Gallo	Church

Friday, December 17, 2004

7:00 PM	School Christmas Program	Gym
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Saturday, December 18, 2004

after 8AM Mass	Novena	Church
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Sunday, December 19, 2004

11 AM - 1 PM	RCIA	Rms 103, 105
1:00 pm	Baptism	Church
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.

Holiday Bulletin Deadlines:

For Holy Family Sunday (December 26th), all information is due by **Friday, December 17th**. Information for Epiphany (January 2nd) is due by **Friday, December 24th**. Thank you for thinking ahead and getting things in on time!

DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY of the Christmas Mass Schedule? If not, pick one up in the atrium. The 4 PM Mass on Christmas Eve is by ticket only, and tickets will be distributed after all Masses this weekend, December 11th & 12th (6 ticket per family limit). If there are any left, they will be available in the parish office during regular business hours the following week.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERINGS were due in the parish office by Friday, December 10th, in order to be included in the bulletin insert next Sunday, December 19th. However, we are still accepting your offerings and intentions, which will be acknowledged in the bulletin on subsequent Sundays. Your offerings will help us to make our church even more welcoming for the celebration of Our Lord's Birth!

FLU CLINIC THIS SUNDAY DECEMBER 12th IN LOURDES HALL: The Visiting Nurse Association has 200 doses of vaccine available. Influenza vaccine is \$20 and pneumococcal vaccine is \$25. Doors will open at 8:30 AM, and 65-and-over and high-risk (*according to VNA determination*) will receive preference.

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. CECILIA'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 (Faith Sharing Through Scripture):

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:

2nd Wednesdays in Room 101; 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