

WELCOME TO
St. Cecilia Church
December 27, 2020

*The Feast of the Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*



About Our Church

St. Cecilia Roman Catholic Church is located in St. Mary's City, MD.

Our Pastor is Father Scott Woods

The Assistants are Deacon Tony Sweeney & Deacon Mark Kijesky

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 47950 Mattapany Road, P.O. Box 429, St. Mary's City, MD 20686

Phone: (301) 862-4600

E-mail: stcecilia@md.metrocast.net

Social Media: [St. Cecilia Website](#) & [St. Cecilia Facebook Page](#)

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 8:30am – 12:00pm

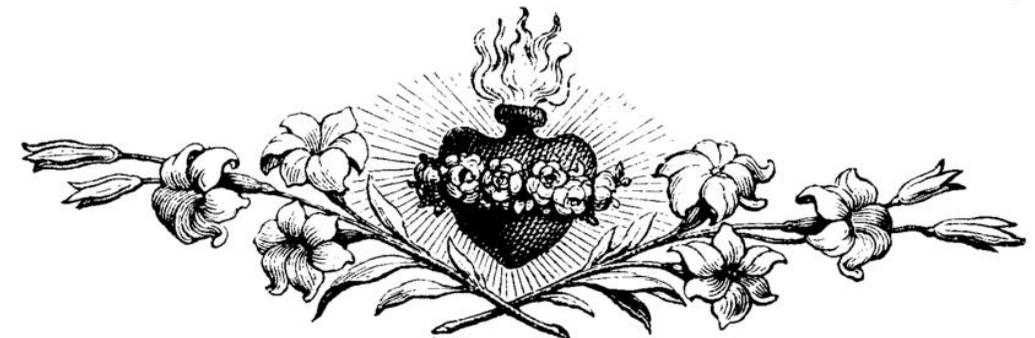
The office will be closed on Thursdays, Holy Days and Federal Holidays.

Other Contact information

St. Peter Claver: 301-872-5460

St. Michael Church: 301-872-4321

Catholic Cemeteries: 301-475-5005 or 301-932-1766



Prayer Intentions

Please remember all who have asked for our prayers: Gerald Adkinson, Virginia Alice, Bradley Anderson and Ernie, Kristin Austin, Judy and Jim Ballantine, Ivan Barnes, Joyce Bean, Dorothy Berry, Cathy Bush, Carla and Adam, Annie Carroll, Ted Carroll, Francis Carroll, Robert Carter, Steven Carter, Sr. Colleen Clair, Nancy Cotter, Debi Clark, Joey Cosgrove, Jack Cullison, Celia DeVoe, Erica Dingle, Ed Dishman, Norman Fenwick, Eileen Garvey, Mary Glynn, Mary Jean Goldsborough, Mary Gorman, Hannah Gravelle, Mary Jane Hall, Jeff Harris Family, Baby Hancock, James Hensley, Larry Hobbs, Sonny Hunt, John Jovan, Bambi Kwiatkoski, Lynn, John Lolli, Adam Lumpkins, Helen Lococo, Shirley D. Major, George Matthew, Dennis MacQuilliam, Bill Morris, James Morris, Michelle Nelson, Cecilia Plymale, Eileen Peterson, Angie Prucha, Bill Rayle, Don Robinson, Frances Reddix, Clarence Rose, Ellen Rose, Jacob Remis, ZaNiya G. Rice, Joel Rivera, Kimberly Sariego, Tiny Taylor, John F. Thompson, Susan Windburn, William Woodland, Lisa, Donna Burriss, Elaine McNeil, Tara Sewell, Doris Rose Yates, James Young, Eva Butler, Francis Birch, Evan Beck, Michael Hammett Jr., Andrew Farrand, Joe Dziewit. We thank God for the many people He has healed, bodies, minds, *and* souls.

Mass Intentions for December 26 – January 1

Saturday 4:30 PM For the intentions of our parishioners
Sunday 8:00 AM For the peaceful repose of the soul of Doreen Friend
Monday 7:30 AM For the intentions of Andrew Pasqualle
Tuesday 7:30 AM For the intentions of the Dochod Family
Wednesday 7:30 AM For the peaceful repose of the soul of Fran Owens
Thursday 7:30 AM For the peaceful repose of the soul of Madeleine Bower
Friday 7:30 AM For the intentions of Laura Theofilis
Saturday 8:00 AM Mass at St. Peter Claver

Announcements & Events

- There will be no second collection for the weekend of January 2 & 3.
- **The church office will be closed** for Christmas and New Year from December 23 until January 4. Please know that we will still be answering voicemails and emails during that time if you need anything! The staff at St. Cecilia's wishes you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
- **All young adults in their 20s and 30s** are invited to take part in the local Catholic young adult group "PAX Catholic." Although the pandemic has slowed events down, we are now revamping our ministry once again! As it is safe to do so, we will host bonfires, socials, evenings of recollection, and "Theology on Tap." For more information, please visit our website at www.paxcatholicmd.org, or send us an email at paxcatholicstmarys@gmail.com.

New Year's Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve Vigil – 4:30 PM at St. Cecilia

Midnight Mass – 11:00 PM Latin High Mass at St. Ignatius Chapel

New Year's Day – 10:00 AM at St. Peter Claver

Important Note: If you are planning to attend the Midnight Mass at St. Ignatius, we highly recommend getting there early to reserve seats. Due to social distancing requirement, seating will be limited, and on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Mass & Confession Time

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM

Sunday Morning: 8:00am

Weekday Mass: Monday – Friday 7:30am

Daily Adoration: Monday - Friday 6:00am – 7:15am

Weekly Confession: Saturdays 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Latin Mass Schedule at St. Peter Claver

Monday & Wednesday – 6:00 PM

Sunday Afternoon – 12:00 PM

Morning Offering: O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day. For all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the reunion of Christendom and for the Holy Father's intentions of the month.

December: For a Life of Prayer - We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday in the Octave of Christmas

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. Luke 2:51-52 (Year C)

On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small. And in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more.

The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life.

Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly “just man.” Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love.

But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus’ public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. Our Blessed Mother, for example, was found with child out of wedlock. This would have been a topic of discussion among many acquaintances for

sure. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way.

This is significant because it reveals God's love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue.

Reflect, today, upon your own family life. Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faithful day in and day out, some are broken and deeply wounded. No matter the case, know that God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give you strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Surrender yourself and your family, this day, and invite the Triune God to make your family a holy family.

Lord, I do offer myself to You this day and in doing so I offer You my family. I offer every relationship, be it good or difficult, and I offer every challenge we face. Please come and sanctify my family, making it holy in imitation of your family in Nazareth. Jesus, I trust in You.

Pastor Keyboard

Christmas is Cancelled! That was the headline we woke up to a few days ago. The Prime Minister of Great Britain announced further lock downs during the Christmas and New Year's Holidays to prevent a new COVID strain from spreading. Once again, the media got it wrong! No one has the power to cancel Christmas! Not the prime minister, not the Queen, not the President, and not even the Pope.

Christmas celebrates an event that has already happened, has permanently changed the world, and affects eternity. Its celebration will take place with or without a congregation in every church and monastery where a priest lives and is able to celebrate Mass. After all, the word "Christmas" is really made up of two words: "Christ" + "Mass."

The words were put together over time, changing as the English language has changed over the centuries. Yet, the core of the celebration, the Holy Sacrifice of the mass, has not changed and never will. Christ comes to us, the same Christ in Sacramental form at every Mass, even when we sadly cannot be there due to the COVID pandemic, sickness, or work

Because of COVID-19, sickness, or work, we can unite our prayers to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass said at all the altars all over the world and God's abundant grace is given to US in every home, hospital, or nursing home room. We can do this as individuals, families, and friends, and the Christ Child is indeed made present to us and we to Him. Yes, family and friends may not be able to gather as they usually do, yet now we are given an opportunity to really keep the coming of the Christ Child at the center of our Christmas and our lives as well as those of our family members.

The Greatest Gift ever given or that could be given to us by God Almighty is coming for US. Let us rejoice! Christmas has arrived and "Christ Mass" is being offered for us all on every altar in every Catholic parish and monastery in the world! Nothing and no one can cancel it, reduce it, or prevent the graces offered to us because of it. All we can do is ignore it or embrace it.

Let us rejoice in what the Lord has done, is doing, and will do this Christmas season.

Your brother and father in Christ,

Fr. Scott