
About Our Church

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

Our Pastor is Fr. Larry Swink

The Assistants are Deacon Tony Sweeney & Deacon Mark Kijesky

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sacramental/Last Rite Emergencies: (240) 844-2550

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

Phone: (301) 862-4600

E-mail: stcecilia@md.metrocast.net

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00am – 2:00pm

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

WELCOME TO

St. Cecilia Church

December 19, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Prayer Intentions

Please remember all who have asked for our prayers: Janet Gilloly, Rhea Cosgrove, Joe Owens, Anita Tate, Peggy Barickman, James Thompson, Cecilia Plymale, Mary Destefano, Joseph and Kathleen Notoro, Gerald Adkinson, Virginia Alice, Ernie, Kristin Austin, Jim Ballantine, Ivan Barnes, Joyce Bean, Cathy Bush, Carla and Adam, Annie Carroll, Ted Carroll, Francis Carroll, Robert Carter, Steven Carter, Colleen Clair, Nancy Cotter, Judy Collins, Debi Clark, Joey Cosgrove, Jack Cullison, Celia DeVoe, Erica Dingle, Ed Dishman, Eileen Garvey, Mary Glynn, Mary Gorman, Hannah Gravelle, Jeff Harris Family, James Hensley, John Jovan, Bambi Kwiatkoski, Lynn, John Lolli, Adam Lumpkins, Helen Lococo, Shirley D. Major, Dennis MacQuilliam, Bill Morris, James Morris, Eileen Peterson, Angie Prucha, Bill Rayle, Don Robinson, Frances Reddix, Clarence Rose, Ellen Rose, Jacob Remis, Joel Rivera, Kimberly Sariego, Tiny Taylor, John F. Thompson, Kurt Unangst, Susan Windburn, 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 18– December 25

Saturday	4:30 PM	For the intentions of our parishioners
Sunday	8:00 AM	For the peaceful repose of the soul of Phyllis Pereira
Monday	7:30 AM	For the peaceful repose of the soul of Neve Marino
Tuesday	7:30 AM	For the peaceful repose of the soul of Cathy Kempf
Wednesday	7:30 AM	For the peaceful repose of the soul of Deborah Binder
Thursday	7:30 AM	For the peaceful repose of the soul of Fr. Michael Rock
Friday	4:30 AM	For the intentions of Elizabeth Dochad
Saturday	8:00 AM	Mass at St. Peter Claver

Those who help prepare for and present the Mass each weekend:

Masses: December 24, 4:30pm Saturday Dec. 25, 8:00am Dec 26, 8:00am

Readers: 4:30pm Mary Bell/Midnight Angie Collins Helen Thompson Mike & Patti Thumm

Ushers: Jack Owens & John Hall B. Bowman, V. Sanner, & J. Greer

Decorations: Marjorie Abuan

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; Monday 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Weekly Rosary: Tuesday 6:30pm

Weekly Confession: Saturdays 3:00pm – 4:00pm and by appointment

Latin Mass at St Cecilia – Monday at 6:00pm with Adoration beginning at 4:00pm

Spiritual Direction – Available at St Cecilia’s on Mondays from 4:00 – 5:30pm and at St Peter Claver on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00pm. Please see the Parish website for links to sign up.

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: Universal Intention: Intention of Evangelization: Catechists: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Announcements & Events

- **We want to thank all of you** for your generous contributions! There will be a second collection on the weekend of December 25-26 for the Christmas and the Maintenance Fund.

-CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Nativity of Our Lord (Friday Dec 24)	4:30pm	Mass at St Cecilia
	8:00pm	Mass at St Peter Claver
	Midnight	Mass at St Ignatius in Latin
The Nativity of Our Lord (Saturday, Dec 25)	8:00am	Mass at St Cecilia
	10:00am	Mass at St Peter Claver
		No Vigil Mass
The Holy Family, (Sunday, Dec 26)	8:00am	Mass at St Cecilia
	10:00am	Mass at St Peter Claver

-**PLEASE JOIN US** as we decorate the Church for Christmas on Thursday, December 23, at 7:00pm.

- **HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT** - High School Students are invited to sign up for Sacred Heart's 2nd High School Winter Retreat at Loyola on the Potomac from December 27-29. This retreat is open to all students in high school. The retreat begins Monday evening and concludes Wednesday morning and will include Mass, Confessions, Adoration, opportunities for spiritual direction. The retreat fee is \$185. Scholarships are available. For more information and to sign up, contact Anna Albrittain at aalbrittain@sacredheartlapalata.org. or call 301-934-2261.

- **THANK YOU** for your participation in the angel tree project. In your generosity we supported nine families who had 34 children and distributed 91 gifts.

- **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – Sacred Heart Church in LaPlata, will host a Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 5:00PM. The Sacred Heart Choir will be joined by St. Peter Claver Gospel Choir, The Madrigals of the Chesapeake Choral Arts Society, and Libation to help prepare us for the coming of Jesus through their music. Reception will follow in the Friendship Room. All are invited!

- **SURVIVING DIVORCE COURSE** - Immaculate Heart of Mary is offering a 12 week course called "Surviving Divorce". This is a small group setting, lay person-lead group that is created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain of divorce. We will meet once a week on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8pm, beginning January 16 at IHM. The material is faithful to Catholic teachings and features such experts as Fr. Donald Calloway, Fr. Mitch Pacwa and Christopher West. A donation of \$25 is requested to cover the cost of the workbook, but can be waived based on financial need.

-**YOUTH RALLY AND MASS FOR LIFE** - Each year, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington hosts the Youth Rally and Mass for Life, inviting groups from across the country to celebrate the gift of human life and to advocate on behalf of the unborn. The *Youth Rally and Mass for Life* will be held live from Capital One Arena on *January 21, 2022*, beginning at 8:00 AM (doors will open at 7:30 AM). There will also be a virtual event for groups that are not able to attend live. Go to <https://adwyouth.org/rally-and-mass-for-life> for more information.

-**FIRST ANNUAL PRO-LIFE ART CONTEST** - The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington will be hosting the first annual pro-life art contest! Submissions are due on January 21, 2022 and will include protest art, visual art, and video art. Please see the attached flyer for more information, and please share the attachments on social media! For more information, contact prolife@adw.org or visit <http://youthrallyandmassforlife.org/>.

-**AFGHAN REFUGEES** - The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops is providing support to Afghan refugees at a military base in Quantico. USCCB is in need of donations of school supplies, coloring books, crayons, sidewalk chalk, and balls for hundreds of Afghan children at the military base. They also need donations of winter clothes and backpacks for women and men. If your parish groups would like to assist Afghan refugees please contact Peggy Arizzi at: USCCBleadQuantico@USCCB.org. Many Afghans were given special immigration visas which entitle them to some income and public benefits and many were given humanitarian parole which entitles them to NO benefits, NO ongoing income support. Homes Not Borders are helping Afghan refugees with humanitarian parole try to survive – they are dropped into Prince George's County with almost no support. Homes Not Borders is seeking parish assistance to sponsor families. See their website: <https://www.homesnotborders.org/>. In October the nonprofit is helping 12 Afghan families who need donations and more support. Laura Osuri is the founder and Director. Email address: laura@homesnotborders.org.

Pastor's Column:

St. Joseph is a model of courage, contemplation, chastity and commitment to his vocation:

Joseph you da man!

Many times we speak about Our Blessed Mother, which we rightfully should. Yet, there is the silent witness of St. Joseph, the foster Father of Our Lord, put before us. God chose this Holy man to lead and protect Mary and our Lord Jesus Christ. Joseph says nothing in Scripture, yet he speaks through his actions about what it means to be a true disciple of Christ...First we see his courage. The Gospel says:

"she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home."

Courage is the virtue that allows us to overcome fear. The Catholic definition of courage is: **"Virtue of bravery in facing difficulties, especially in overcoming the fear of consequences in doing good."**

St. Joseph was afraid of what would happen if he took Mary as his wife. If it was found out that she was pregnant before they were married, she could be stoned to death.

I follow the theory of St. Thomas Aquinas that says that Joseph believed Mary's story, but he felt unworthy of being the foster father of the Son of God. Many times we as men do not step up to the plate because we have a fear of failure

or standing out in a culture that mocks radical holiness...

He was a man of contemplation: Where did Joseph get his courage? From his deep prayer life...It says in the Gospel that he was a "righteous man". The word "righteous" means holy. Joseph was a man of prayer. I am certain that he brought his fears to the Lord and the Lord answered Joseph through a dream.

A father needs to be a man of prayer. John Paul II said in a homily on St. Joseph: **"Saint Joseph stands before you as a man of faith and prayer."**

Every day we need to get on our knees and ask God for the strength to do His will...but more importantly to KNOW his will...

Read more at <http://www.christianpost.com/news/fathers-key-to-their-childrens-faith-51331/#zUvqkzybxFsw8UcO.99>

St. Joseph...you da man!

In Christ,

Fr. Larry