
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 26, 2021

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



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 Dzewit. We thank God for the many people He has healed, bodies, minds, *and* souls.

Mass Intentions for December 25– January 1

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| Saturday | 8:00 AM | For the peaceful repose of the soul of Phillip Carroll |
| Sunday | 8:00 AM | For the intentions of our parishioners |
| Monday | 7:30 AM | For the peaceful repose of the soul of David Montano |
| Tuesday | 7:30 AM | For the peaceful repose of the soul of Milton Taylor |
| Wednesday | 7:30 AM | For the peaceful repose of the soul of Orville Davis |
| Thursday | 7:30 AM | For the peaceful repose of the soul of Dr. Candy Guyther |
| Friday | 7:30 AM | For the peaceful repose of the soul of Madeline Bower |
| | 11:00PM | For the peaceful repose of the soul of Kitty Roth |
| Saturday | 10:00 AM | Mass at St. Peter Claver |

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

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|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Masses: | <u>January 1, 4:30pm Saturday</u> | <u>January 2, 8:00am Sunday</u> |
| Readers: | TBA | TBA |
| Ushers: | B. Tarleton, P. Quade, & W. Carroll | B. Goldsborough, J. Fenwick & A. Pulliam |
| Decorations: | Barbara Bowman | |

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 January 1-2 for the Solemnity of Mary.

-NEXT WEEKEND'S SCHEDULE

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|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Friday, December 31 | 10:00 PM | Holy Hour at St Cecilia |
| | 11:00 PM | Mass at St Cecilia |
| Saturday, January 1 | 9:00 AM | Holy Hour at St Peter Claver |
| | 10:00 AM | Mass at St Peter Claver |
| | 4:30 PM | Vigil Mass at St Cecilia |
| Sunday, January 2 | 8:00 AM | Mass at St Cecilia |
| | 10:00 AM | Mass at St Peter Claver |

- **OFFICE CLOSURE-** The parish office will be closed this week, from December 27-31. If you have a sacramental emergency, please call (240) 844-2550.

-**EPIPHANY WATER BLESSING** - There will be a Blessing of Epiphany Water on Wednesday, January 5 at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Solomons, MD. Mass begins at 5:30pm followed by the blessing. Please bring your own water to be blessed. Flyers can be found in the vestibule.

-**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.

- **Mother Teresa Vocation Society—18th Annual Day of Recollection** Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Annunciation Catholic Church, 3810 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. Fr. Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations for The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, will lead this event. Mr. Alvaro de Vicente, Headmaster at The Heights School, will be the keynote speaker. The day will include Adoration, Confession, Mass, and lunch. All are welcome to attend this free event. Please register at <https://dcpriest.org/day-of-recollection>. For more information, please email vocations@adw.org.

Pastor's Column:

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate the fact that God is born and became one of us, to save us from our sins and give us new life because of his life, death, and Resurrection. I want to talk about the importance of having Jesus being real in your life. For many people Jesus is just someone we go to when we are in trouble or need something. Jesus, however, wants to have a real-life relationship with you and your families. I want to talk first about how St. Francis helped Italians realize that Jesus was real with the first Manger set.

This great saint, Francis of Assisi, as he was traversing the rolling hills of central Italy one December to proclaim the Gospel, **noticed that very few of his countrymen were taking the mysteries of the faith seriously**. Many were not even preparing for Christmas at all. Of those who were preparing to celebrate the Lord's birth, they looked at it as an event tied exclusively to the past. The mysteries of the faith had become sterile. The central persons in the drama had become stale and lifeless, incapable even of stimulating his contemporaries' imaginations — and therefore no longer capable of inspiring them to a greater relationship of mutual love with God in the present.

To counteract these tendencies, on Christmas Eve 1223 in the town of Greccio, **Francis set up the first manger scene in recorded history**. He brought in live animals — an ox and an ass. There was a young baby and a young set of parents. There was plenty of hay and a manger. Francis could not have been happier with the results. People came from all over to see the living nativity. Through all the sounds, sights and even smells, the people became convinced that Christmas was not just a cute story, but a real event...Jesus was real! Is Jesus real for Americans?

Think about it...less than **30% of Catholics go to Mass every Sunday**. Only **12% of Catholics receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation annually**. Very few people read the Bible every day. There is a huge crisis of faith...

This year, especially if you are not living your faith seriously, or praying every day, using the sacraments frequently, ask yourself: Why not? Jesus came over 2000 years ago because he wants to save you and show you his love. Let him be close to you. If you are practicing your faith, like the shepherds, go out and tell others about our Lord and invite them back. May Jesus bless you and your families this Christmas week and may our Lord become alive for you!

Don't make Jesus just a Sunday-to-Sunday encounter...Make him someone that is real to you every day!

Merry Christmas!

Father Larry Swink