

OCTOBER 22, 2023

**SAINT CECILIA CHURCH, FONDA NY**  
**SACRED HEART CHURCH, TRIBES HILL NY**

*Deacon Joseph Cechnicki, Parish Life Coordinator*

*Father Juanito Asprec, Parochial Vicar*

*Father Nathaniel Resila, Parochial Vicar*



**29TH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

“Repay to Caesar what  
belongs to Caesar and  
to God what belongs  
to God.” - Mt 22:21c

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

~Weddings-Baptisms-Funerals~

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**SAINT CECILIA CHURCH**

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Sandi McCaslin, Administrative Assistant

Office hours:

Tuesday & Thursday, 9am to 2pm

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Sandi McCaslin, Administrative Assistant

Office hours:

Monday & Wednesday, 9am to 2pm

## COLLECTIONS & ATTENDANCE

*SEPT 30 & NOV 1, 2023—WEEKEND TOTALS:*

COLLECTIONS:	SH	SC
WEEKLY COLLECTION	953.00	922.00
OTHER	425.00	105.00
FUNDRAISING	_____	2759.00

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**PARISH TOTAL**                      **1360.00**                      **3786.00**  
*OTHER- E-GIVING, VIA USPS, VOTIVES*

Compassionate Father, thank you that you are our strength and our song, you fill our hearts with joy. May we give our offerings to you with gladness and joy. Everything we have belongs to you and we rejoice to give some of your abundant gifts back to you. Bless the tithes and offerings we give today. Let the majesty of the Father be the light that guides us, the compassion of the Son be the love that inspires us and the presence of the Spirit be the power that empowers us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Sat. Oct. 21, 4:00 pm (SH)** - †In loving memory of Virginia Szyjkowski, requested by the Streeter family..

**Sun. Oct. 22, 8:30 am (SC)** - 1.) †In loving memory of Bailey Alexandria Field, requested by Mom, Dad & Sammy.

2.) †Heavenly Anniversary to Karen Ford, requested by her husband Joey.

### Mon. Oct. 23 thru Sun. Oct. 29, 2023

**Mon. Oct. 23, 8:00 am (SC)** - No Mass

**Tue. Oct. 24, 8:00 am (SH)** - For peace, security and healing in Israel.

**Wed. Oct. 25, 8:00 am (SC)** - †Birthday remembrance for Winfield Wray, requested by Jim Wray.

**Thurs. Oct. 26, 8:00 am (SH)** - For the people of the parish..

**Fri. Oct. 27, 8:00 am (SC)** - †In memory of Bert & Verna Bicheler, requested by John & Sheila Cranker.

**Sat. Oct. 28, 4:00 pm (SH)** - 1.) †In loving memory of Dennis Swarczewski, requested by his wife Deborah.

2.) †In loving memory of Virginia Szyjkowski, requested by Joanie Murray.

**Sun. Oct. 29, 8:30 am (SC)** - 1.) †In memory of Rev. Thomas Connery, requested by the Moran and Nelsen families.



## Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

<b>Oct 21 (SH)</b>	Katherine Downing Kathy Avery	<b>Oct 28 (SH)</b>	Chris Caffrey Theresa Kovian
<b>Oct 22 (SC)</b>	James Wray Michele Furnare	<b>Oct 29 (SC)</b>	Kathy Marcais Bill Quinn

## Counters Schedule

<b>Oct 23 (SH)</b>	Noreen Brownell Deb Swarczewski	<b>Oct 30 (SH)</b>	Katherine Downing Barb Bilins
<b>Oct 23 (SC)</b>	Bette Papa Sandy Hayes	<b>Oct 30 (SC)</b>	Lorna Quinn Fl Stanton

## Food Pantry

<b>Oct 25 (SC)</b>	Bette Papa Florence Stanton Marjorie Savoie		
<b>Nov 1 (SH)</b>	Jamie Lemiszki John Nigro		

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

### October 22, 2023 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

With little more than a year until the United States' national elections, I find myself feeling, like many Catholics, both dread and energized, because our democratic republic can be a messy endeavor and campaigns a long, nasty, and unifying slog; energized, because hope for positive societal change can be enticing and engaging. As a pastor, I see similar conflicting attitudes in those whom I serve. How can Catholics best engage our political arena in a way which is truly helpful and worthwhile?

This week's gospel reading offers wisdom in this regard. Jesus says, "Render therefore to Caesar the things are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." This riddle forces us to answer for ourselves a hidden question: what is the relationship between political and divine authority? Two common but false answers lead to mischief. If we answer that the two are equivalent, politics becomes our absolute authority. This happens whenever religion is slave to the state, as in the travesty of the pro-Nazi German Christian movement in the 1930s and 40s. It also usually occurs when there is an official state religion. If we answer that the two are totally unrelated, we end up with an unchecked aggressive secularist state as we often experience now. Thus, religion becomes a weak and private pastime.

What's a better alternative? At our best, Christians hold that political authority does indeed have its own legitimate autonomy but is nested within God's all-encompassing authority. Think, for example, of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s respect for politics while also being able to criticize unjust human laws because he recognized a higher heavenly law. In other words, Caesar owns politics — and God owns Caesar. So, we should allow Jesus' words to lead us to have a deep respect and willingness to peacefully engage in politics without making that engagement our religion. We bring our faith to bear on our politics knowing confidently that Caesar isn't God — but he is indeed God's.

~Father John Muir

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## What do The Pontifical Mission Societies do?

Throughout the world, The Pontifical Mission Societies support the proclamation of the Gospel, the building of churches, together with the work and witness of mission priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay pastoral leaders. These missionaries reveal the compassionate heart of Jesus through their work that often entails providing not only spiritual support but also food, education, and medical care to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions.

The Pope specifically requested from The Pontifical Mission Societies their help to spread the message of Christ to the world, mainly in those countries where Christianity is too recent, or too poor to sustain itself, and in any place where He has been denied, forgotten, persecuted, or shunned.

The societies care for and support new churches until they can be self-sufficient. This was the case of the Church in the United States which was considered a mission territory until 1908. Many of the churches in this country were built thanks to the support of The Pontifical Mission Societies.

Tens of thousands of missionary women and men, priests, religious and laity, rely on our prayers every day, not only on World Mission Sunday. These missionaries are building churches, educating children, and healing the wounds caused by war, cruelty, oppression, terror, and despair. *With our daily prayer and our generous donation on World Mission Sunday, we all bear witness to the compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ, making Him present in every continent, country, city, family, and heart.*



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome Catechist and Students:** Please join us on Sunday October 29th at St Cecilia to welcome our new group of Volunteer Catechist and our Registered Religious Education students for 2023-2024. Let us specially join them at our Holy Mass gathering and a Pot-Luck Breakfast to follow in the hall.

**The Closing of the Month of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** The culmination will be held before at each parish next weekend with the offering of FLOWERS that we encourage you to bring; and a recitation of the Holy Rosary for the Strengthening of Families and for World Peace before the Holy Mass. Please consider arriving earlier.

**Sacred Heart Pie Raffle:** Our pie raffle kicked off last weekend. For a dollar and a delicious dream you can take home a tasty dessert. Purchase your ticket in the vestibule before Mass, the lucky winner will be drawn after.

**St Cecilia Rummage Sale Success:** A big thank you to all those who donated items and/or helped our with the sale. Our total came to \$2,759. *Thank you so much!!*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** To acknowledge the need for the future as a network of parishes in the Amsterdam are, beginning Saturday, October 28, the sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated each Saturday at St. Mary's Church in Amsterdam with Fr. Juanito, Fr. Nate and Fr. Bob available to hear confessions. Confessions will be heard from 3:00pm to 3:30pm each Saturday and all the parishioners are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity. The network includes St. Cecilia's from Fonda, Sacred Heart from Tribes Hill, St. Stephen's from Hagaman and St. Mary's, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and St. Stanislaus' from Amsterdam. If you have any questions, please call your parish office for more information.



**Contribution Options:** If you are not making regular contributions, we hope that you will consider making a gift to the support of our congregation. Your donations now and throughout the year are needed and greatly appreciated. You can mail or drop donations at the parish office. Both parishes also offer e-Giving.

**E-Giving:** You can easily create an account and make your contribution to your parish. *If you need assistance setting up e-giving, please call Sandi at your parish office. She can help you over the phone or at the office.*

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#### Upcoming Second Collections:

Nov 1- All Saints/All Souls  
Nov 11/12- Fuel & Heat  
Nov 18/19- Human Development  
Nov 25/26- Food Pantry

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