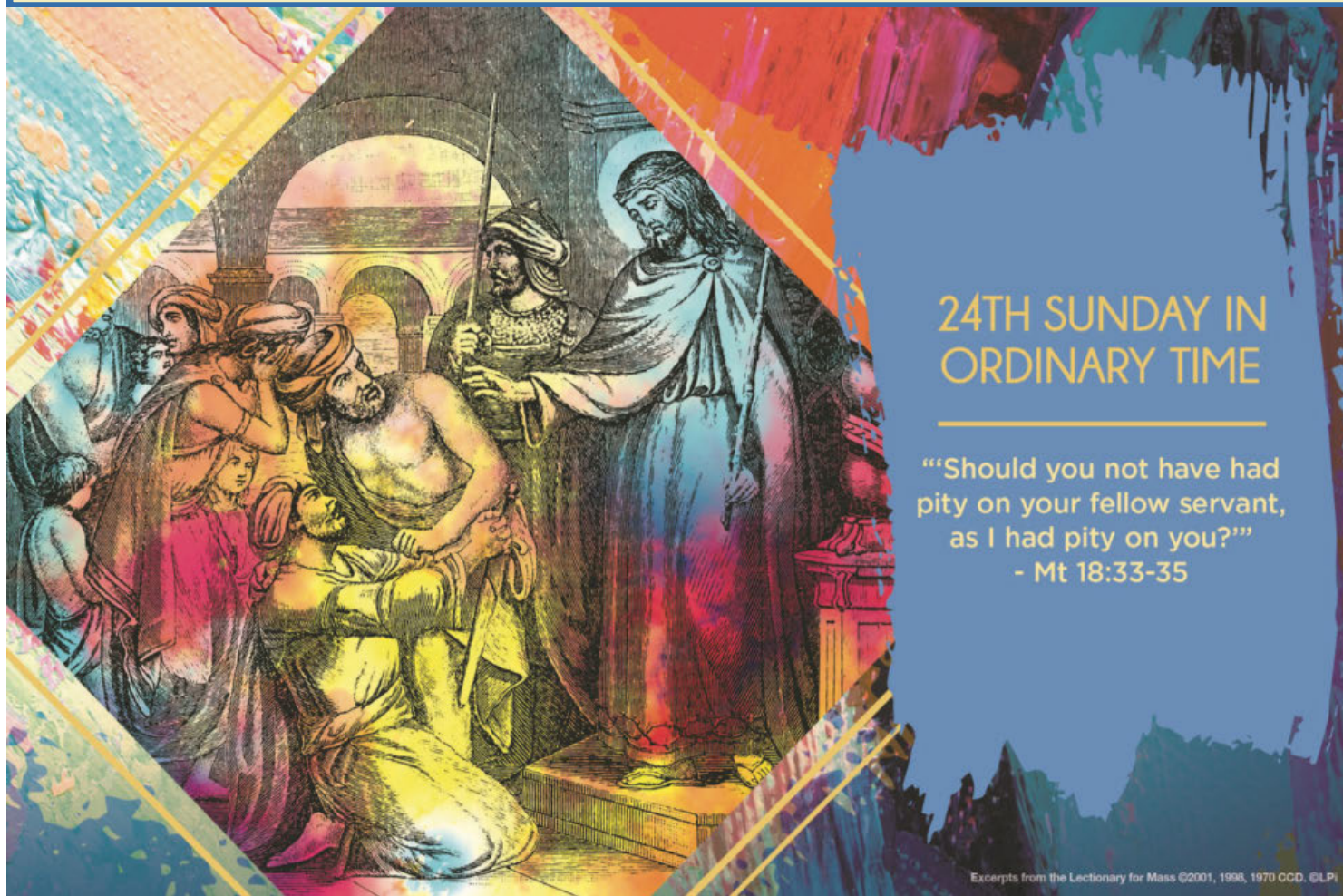


SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

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

*Father Juanito Asprec, Parochial Vicar*

*Deacon Joseph Cechnicki, Administrator*



24TH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

“Should you not have had  
pity on your fellow servant,  
as I had pity on you?”  
- Mt 18:33-35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1990, 1970 COD. ©LPI

~Weddings-Baptisms-Funerals~

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Sandi McCaslin, **Administrative Assistant**

**Office hours:**

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to 2:00 pm

## SACRED HEART CHURCH

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518-829-7301

**E-mail:** [usacredh@nycap.rr.com](mailto:usacredh@nycap.rr.com)

Sandi McCaslin, **Administrative Assistant**

**Office hours:**

Wednesday & Friday, 9 am to 2:00 pm

## COLLECTIONS & ATTENDANCE

SEPTEMBER 9 & 10, 2023—WEEKEND TOTALS:

COLLECTIONS:	SH	SC
WEEKLY COLLECTION	N/A	611.00
FUEL/HEAT	380.00	338.00
OTHER	910.00	154.00

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PARISH TOTAL 1290.00 1103.00  
 OTHER- E-GIVING, VIA USPS, VOTIVES

### Mass Schedule & Intentions

**Sat. Sept. 16, 4:00 pm (SH) - Communion Service.**

**Sun. Sept. 17, 8:30 am (SC) - 1.)** †In memory of Alex & Betty Adesse, requested by their daughters.

**2.)** †In memory of Bailey Alexandria Field, 3 years passed, requested by Mom, Dad and Sammy.

**3.)** †For the repose of the soul of Cheryl Phillips, requested by Michele Furnare.

**Sat. Sept. 23, 4:00 pm (SH) - Communion Service**

**Sun. Sept. 24, 8:30 am (SC) - No Mass.**

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### The Hateful Things We Hug Tight

At the end of “Lord of the Rings: Return of the King,” Gollum fights with Frodo for possession of the One Ring. He wins the fight, but in doing so topples over the edge of the mountain ledge, falling into the cavernous fires of Mount Doom. As he falls, we see him smile, and clutch the ring to his chest. He is happy. He has won what he spent his life pursuing.

It is only in the last millisecond before his face slips below the lava that we see his eyes widen in terror as he realizes the truth: the thing he clutches to his heart is the thing that killed him. In choosing the ring, he chooses death.

Sin, and the fallen nature of this world, makes us addicted to something that kills us.

Like any addiction, it is a vicious cycle. The less we forgive, the more hardhearted we become ... and the less we seek forgiveness ourselves.

What breaks the cycle? Reconciliation with God — or, Confession, as we call it. In fact, it does more than break the cycle. It turns it backward. Not only does it detoxify our souls of sin, it weakens our addiction to sin’s effects — anger, vengeance, unforgiveness. The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works, said St. Augustine.

Ultimately, I view our whole human life as a struggle on the ledge of a mountaintop. It is certain that we will choose sin — we always do. We will tumble over the side, toward ruin. But let us be Frodo, and not Gollum. Let us cling to the rock of the sacraments and accept the hand that would drag us away from the flames.

“Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight.” — Sirach 27:30

## Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

Sept 16 (SH)	No Mass	Sept 23 (SH)	No Mass
Sept 17 (SC)	James Wray Ken Stuff	Sept 24 (SC)	No Mass

### Counters Schedule

Sept 20 (SH)	Noreen Brownell Katherine Downing	Sept 27 (SH)	Noreen Brownell Deb Swarczewski
Sept 18 (SC)	Lorna Quinn Ann Mahon	Sept 25 (SC)	Bette Papa Sandy Hayes

### Food Pantry



Sept 27 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Kathleen Harris Ann Mahon
Oct 4 (SH)	Barb Bilins Wendy Hall



## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

**September 17, 2023 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

When I was in second grade, my prized possession was a metal Star Wars-themed lunch box. After school one day, another student ripped it from my hands. I helplessly watched in horror as my classmate threw it to the ground and violently stomped it into an unrecognizable heap of junk. I came home covered in tears of shame and rage. After a few months, I never thought about it again ... until I was almost thirty years old and on a retreat to prepare for ordination to the priesthood.

That childhood memory — and the attendant outrage — came back afresh. My spiritual director helped me in the process of acknowledging that I was angry because that kid owed me my lunch box. Then she helped me, through the grace of Jesus, to forgive the debt. Almost immediately I felt a new peace. I was amazed that I hadn’t forgotten what I had lost, even from years before. Aren’t we human beings simply amazing at remembering what people owe us?

We see this week in Jesus’ parable a servant who is forgiven much but then commands another servant: “Pay back what you owe!” He can’t forget or let go of how he was wronged. He remembers — and he becomes a monster because of it. If only he had remembered not only the debts owed to him, but also his greater debt owed to — and forgiven by — his master. It’s natural for us to remember what others owe us. But when we contextualize those offenses in Jesus’ mercy toward us and them, we’re free to be merciful like the Master and less like a monster who never forgets.

~Father John Muir

## Saint Pio of Pietrelcina- (May 25, 1887-September 23, 1968)

In one of the largest such ceremonies in history, Pope John Paul II canonized Padre Pio of Pietrelcina on June 16, 2002. It was the 45th canonization ceremony in Pope John Paul's pontificate. More than 300,000 people braved blistering heat as they filled St. Peter's Square and nearby streets. They heard the Holy Father praise the new saint for his prayer and charity. "This is the most concrete synthesis of Padre Pio's teaching," said the pope. He also stressed Padre Pio's witness to the power of suffering. If accepted with love, the Holy Father stressed, such suffering can lead to "a privileged path of sanctity."

Many people have turned to the Italian Capuchin Franciscan to intercede with God on their behalf; among them was the future Pope John Paul II. In 1962, when he was still an archbishop in Poland, he wrote to Padre Pio and asked him to pray for a Polish woman with throat cancer. Within two weeks, she had been cured of her life-threatening disease.

Born Francesco Forgione, Padre Pio grew up in a family of farmers in southern Italy. Twice his father worked in Jamaica, New York, to provide the family income.

At the age of 15, Francesco joined the Capuchins and took the name of Pio. He was ordained in 1910 and was drafted during World War I. After he was discovered to have tuberculosis, he was discharged. In 1917, he was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, 75 miles from the city of Bari on the Adriatic.

On September 20, 1918, as he was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he had the stigmata in his hands, feet, and side.

Life became more complicated after that. Medical doctors, Church authorities, and curiosity seekers came to see Padre Pio. In 1924, and again in 1931, the authenticity of the stigmata was questioned; Padre Pio was not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to hear confessions. He did not complain of these decisions, which were soon reversed. However, he wrote no letters after 1924. His only other writing, a pamphlet on the agony of Jesus, was done before 1924.

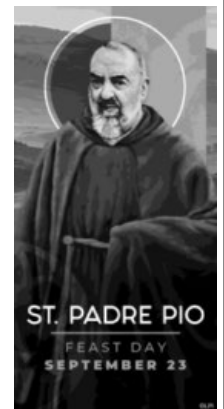
Padre Pio rarely left the friary after he received the stigmata, but busloads of people soon began coming to see him. Each morning after a 5 a.m. Mass in a crowded church, he heard confessions until noon. He took a mid-morning break to bless the sick and all who came to see him. Every afternoon he also heard confessions. In time his confessional ministry would take 10 hours a day; penitents had to take a number so that the situation could be handled. Many of them have said that Padre Pio knew details of their lives that they had never mentioned.

Padre Pio saw Jesus in all the sick and suffering. At his urging, a fine hospital was built on nearby Mount Gargano. The idea arose in 1940; a committee began to collect money. Ground was broken in 1946. Building the hospital was a technical wonder because of the difficulty of getting water there and of hauling up the building supplies. This "House for the Alleviation of Suffering" has 350 beds.

A number of people have reported cures they believe were received through the intercession of Padre Pio. Those who assisted at his Masses came away edified; several curiosity seekers were deeply moved. Like Saint Francis, Padre Pio sometimes had his habit torn or cut by souvenir hunters.

One of Padre Pio's sufferings was that unscrupulous people several times circulated prophecies that they claimed originated from him. He never made prophecies about world events and never gave an opinion on matters that he felt belonged to Church authorities to decide. He died on September 23, 1968, and was beatified in 1999.

*Referring to that day's Gospel (Matthew 11:25-30) at Padre Pio's canonization Mass in 2002, Saint John Paul II said: "The Gospel image of 'yoke' evokes the many trials that the humble Capuchin of San Giovanni Rotondo endured. Today we contemplate in him how sweet is the 'yoke' of Christ and indeed how light the burdens are whenever someone carries these with faithful love. The life and mission of Padre Pio testify that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted with love, transform themselves into a privileged journey of holiness, which opens the person toward a greater good, known only to the Lord."*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Appointments to our Parishes:** We have a few new additions to our parishes. Dcn Joseph Cechnicki is the administrator and Fr Nathaniel Resila is the parochial vicar.

Let us all pray in thanksgiving for their ministries and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to guide them.

**Many thanks to Fr Joe Angelini:** Saint Cecilia is filled with gratitude for the Sunday Mass led by Father Joe in Father Juanito's absence. Please include Fr. Joe in your prayers of thanksgiving.

**Communion Service at Sacred Heart in Fr Juanito's Absence:** While we are still searching to find a priest to fill in and say Mass while Father Juanito is away, we will be having a Communion Service each Saturday at 4:00PM (Sept 16, 23 & 30). The Albany Diocese authorizes Sunday (or Saturday anticipated) Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest led by a Deacon or layperson due to the declining number of priests available. The rite fulfills the Sunday obligation.

**Faith Formation Program News:** Due to circumstances beyond our control, Faith Formation classes will be starting in October, hopefully on the 1st. We have scheduled a teachers' meeting on Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm followed by a parents' meeting at 7:00 pm (same evening). Bring your kids if you wish. We are still looking for teachers for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades as well as substitutes and a gatekeeper. We really need the assistance of the parish and participation at these meetings in order to start the program this year. Thank you for supporting your children in their faith journey.

**Faith Formation Registration Forms** will be available at the meetings and in the vestibules at Sacred Heart and St. Cecilia's. Please fill out a form for each child and drop the form in the collection basket, the church offices, or in the mail slot at either of the offices (available at any time/day) or you may also choose to mail it in.

**Saint Cecilia Rummage Sale:** Our rummage sale will take place on Friday October 13 and Saturday October 14 with proceeds going to St. Cecilia's. We are asking for donations of gently used clothing, linens, household goods, knick-knacks, toys, books, CDs, DVDs and small furniture. Please, no tires, TVs, computers, broken or dirty items. Drop items off at the detached garage thru Oct. 9.

Help is needed Oct. 10 and 11 starting at 8:30 and the days of the sale starting at 7:45. Any assistance is appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

**Scripture: Moses, Freedom, and 10 Commandments:** Saint Kateri Shrine is holding a Bible Course. Exodus, Numbers Sept 9 through Oct 14 (Saturdays 11AM to 12:15PM).

**Please Support Our Advertisers:** Take a look at the back of your bulletin. The businesses on the back commit to a yearly ad. These ads PAY for the printing and distribution of our bulletin.

**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Father Juanito has an awesome assignment in mind for us this month of September. September 8 is the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is given to us by Jesus as our Heavenly Mother and Intercessor. On Her Birthday this coming, will you join our parish community of honoring her by praying the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary that the Virgin Mary loves? And will you share your thoughts of how you remember the Blessed Virgin Mary in your daily activities? We invite you to share your thoughts to our Parish Facebook Pages **Sacred Heart Church** and **StCecilia Church**. You can start your thoughts with "I think of the Virgin Mary when I am....."

**Upcoming Second Collections:**  
**Sept 16/17—School Assessment**  
**Sept 23/24 Catholic University**

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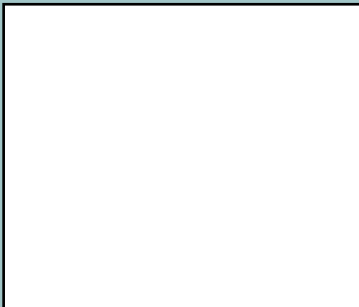
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