



SACRED HEART CHURCH

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Office Hours
Mon & Wed, 9am to 2pm

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

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Deacon Joseph Cechnicki
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We need 2-3 volunteers from each parish to stand at the entrance to collect a list of mother's names from our parishioners for our Mother's Day Prayer.

Please add your mothers to the list whether they be present for Mass, homebound or deceased. Be sure to include yourself, mothers in law, any mother in your life.



*O Sacred Heart, O Love Divine
Do keep us near to Thee
And make our love so like to Thine
That we may holy be*

[REFRAIN]

*Heart of Jesus, hear
O Heart of Love Divine
Listen to our prayer
Make us always Thine*

*O Temple pure, O House of gold
Our Heaven here below
What sweet delights, what wealth untold
From Thee do ever flow [REF]*

*Ungrateful hearts, forgetful hearts
The hearts of men have been
To wound Thy side with cruel darts
Which they have made by sin [REF]*

† Altar wine at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **May** has been sponsored in memory of the **60th anniversary remembrance of Frank & Lena DeRosa** at the request of **their children**.

† Altar hosts at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **May** have been sponsored in memory of the **60th anniversary remembrance of Frank & Lena DeRosa** at the request of **their children**.



Sat. May 3, 4:00 pm (SH)- † In memory of Belinda Douglas, requested by George Stanwick.

Sun. May 4, 9:00 am (SC)- 1.) † In loving memory of Alex & Betty Adesse, requested by their daughters.
2.) † In memory of MaryAnn Waters, requested by Michele Furnare & family.

Tues. May 6 thru Sun. May 11, 2025

Tue. May 6, 8:00 am (SH) - † Repose of the soul of Ann Downs, requested by her sister Cathy.

Wed. May 7, 8:00 am (SC) - † Repose of the soul of Nancy Cocker, requested by James Wray.

Thurs. May 8, 8:00 am (SH) - † Repose of the soul of Carl Stefanik, requested by the Healys.

Fri. May 9, 8:00 am (SC) - For the people of the parish.

Sat. May 10, 4:00 pm (SH)- 1.) † In loving memory of Frances Opalka, requested by her daughter Barbara.
2.) For all of the mothers of Sacred Heart, living and deceased.

Sun. May 11, 9:00 am (SC)- 1.) † In memory of Joseph Sullivan, requested by Salvatore Carbone.
2.) † Thanksgiving and successful recovery for Grace, requested by her grandmother Michele .

**GOSPEL MEDITATION -
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
May 4, 2025 - Third Sunday of Easter John 21: 1-19**

I eat breakfast. If I don't have something substantial, I'm fading by midmorning. Breakfast is my key meal because it sets up my physical wellbeing for the rest of the day.

Spiritually speaking, we need sustenance to get us going. This is true for the Apostles in this Sunday's remarkable Gospel reading. The risen Jesus makes his third appearance to them in the early morning light and calls, "Come, have breakfast" (John 21:12). The exhausted and cold fishermen sit, and he feeds them bread and fish as the dawn breaks. They are overwhelmed by his presence to the point of awestruck silence. As they eat, their bodies and their hearts come alive. Once refreshed by their morning meal, they will be ready to feed others — indeed, the whole world — with the love of the risen Jesus. But first, they need breakfast from him.

Do you realize how essential early morning prayer is? Jesus desires to refresh us every morning with his word of love, with his grace-filled presence. This week, hear Jesus calling to you: "Come, have breakfast!" Embrace some form of spiritual, meditative practice each morning for spiritual strength to get you going.

-Father John Muir
©LPi

Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

May 3 (SH)	Mark Caffrey Chris Caffrey	May 10 (SH)	Theresa Kovian Tony Stellato
May 4 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Kathy Marçais	May 11 (SC)	Kathy Marçais Ken Stuff

Counters Schedule

May 5 (SH)	Noreen Brownell Deb Swarczewski	May 12 (SH)	Barb Bilins Wendy Hall
May 5 (SC)	Sandy Hayes Kathy Marçais	May 12 (SC)	Flo Stanton Linda Coyne

Food Pantry

May 7 (SH)	Jamie Lemiszki John Nigro
May 28 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Kathleen Harris Ann Mahon



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Challenge Before US: The Diocese of Albany is at a crossroads, but with the opportunity to be a stronger, healthier church. There is an article in The Evangelist this week regarding challenges facing our diocese. <https://evangelist.org/news/2025/apr/02/the-challenge-before-us/> Please read and share this link, especially to benefit those who do not receive the paper.

Saint Cecilia Parking Fundraiser: Our final parking date this season is Friday, August 29 (fair, all day)
Please call Kelly@ 518-774-7250 with any questions or to volunteer. Thanks so much!

Healing Mass: The First Thursday/Friday of each month we invite you to Healing Mass
Sacred Heart: Thurs. @ 8am
St. Cecilia: Fri @ 8am in the basement chapel.

Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites In Our Diocese:

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
125 Eagle St, Albany

Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine
136 Shrine Rd, Fultonville

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine
3636 NY5, Fonda

Our Lady of Knock Shrine
2052 Route 145,
East Durham

Rosa Mystica Shrine
484 Angel Hill Rd, Edmeston

Our financial support for the Diocesan/Bishop's Appeal is very crucial in the operation of our church's various program; not only in the formation of our seminarians who will become priests for our diocese; the channeling thru our diocesan charitable programs our duty to fulfill our corporal & spiritual acts of charity & alms giving for those who suffers hunger, poverty and the like. Please seriously contribute to the Diocesan/Bishop's Appeal and help us reach our financial goal for this appeal.



2025 DIOCESAN APPEAL

	<u>SH</u>	<u>SC</u>
AMOUNT NEEDED	8156.00	5000.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	5600.00	2970.00
BALANCE	2556.00	2030.00

COLLECTIONS TOTALS - APRIL 26/27

<u>COLLECTIONS:</u>	<u>SH</u>	<u>SC</u>
AMOUNT NEEDED	1589.00	1794.00
WEEKLY COLLECTION	874.00	1264.00
OTHER	30.00	25.00
PARISH TOTAL	904.00	1289.00
ATTENDANCE	53	73

Second collections

May 3/4 - Repair/Maintenance
May 10/11 - Repair/Maintenance
May 17/18 - Catholic Charities

150th Anniversary Commemoration of Sacred Heart Parishioners ~May 4th thru May 10th~

Baptisms

May 4, 1969 Jack David Bouton May 4, 1992 Esther M. Pasquarelli
May 6, 1984 Brian Anthony Tucciarone May 7, 1967 Mary Elizabeth Cassidy
May 7, 1978 Benedict Edward Jacobs May 8, 2011 Ryan Olivia Aiken
May 9, 1971 Tracy Ann File May 9, 1998 Logan Spencer Keosaian
May 10, 1981 Eva Maria Madej May 10, 1987 Roberta Susanne Tybor

Marriages

May 6, 1972 Wayne Michael Matousek & Linda Sue Guiffre
May 8, 1971 James Michael Douglas & Edith Mary Roberts
May 10, 1969 Harold Cahill & Nancy Jemmott

Deaths

May 4, 2002 Cecilia Twardzik
May 9, 2008 Rose Weigel
May 9, 2009 Margaret Clapper
May 10, 2004 William Smitka

Saint Cecilia Parish Meeting April 25, 2025

Kathy Marcais, St. Cecilia's Pastoral Council president, opened the meeting with a reflection on "Community" by Father James Walsh of the Albany Diocese. Father answered the question "Why do we need to go to Mass".

The purpose of this meeting was to summarize the information that was presented in a meeting for Montgomery County parish leaders regarding the Diocese concerns about the viability of our churches; Pastoral Council discussions; the April 3, 2025 Evangelist article.

This area has 7 parishes, more than needed to serve the number of Catholics in the county. Most of the parishes are within a few miles of each other.

There is a shortage of priests which will not change in the near future. This year the Diocese has 49 active priests to serve 126 parishes.

Parish properties are very old and are costly to repair and maintain.

The Pastoral Council has been discussing the following issues:

Weekly attendance at Mass is low as well as participation in parish activities/committees.

We barely meet our financial obligations. Ann Mahon, Finance Committee, said we are paying our bills but are dipping into savings in order to do so. Maintenance and repairs could not happen without a few who volunteer time and money.

We need to solidify and support our Faith Formation Program and catechists.

We don't know how committed parishioners are to this parish.

Kathy asked the attendees (25) the following questions:

Why do you attend Mass here at St. Cecilia's?

Feels like home; our community; safe, peaceful; family history; need to be fed weekly; welcoming people; kids' friends are also in Faith Formation; we help one another (e.g. rides to doctors and give support through difficult times); Christian Service volunteers.

What prevents you or someone you know from attending Mass every week?

They don't feel it is important anymore; sports, travel teams on weekends; accessibility of church building; some do not believe in the Real Presence; C and E Catholics (Christmas and Easter); Kids think that confirmation is an ending not the beginning; our culture/society does not value religion; parents are not making it a priority; able to watch on TV.

How do you determine how much money to put in the collection basket?

10% of annual income divided by 12 equals monthly donation; 401k disbursement contributions reduce gross income and reduces taxes; church absences/vacations/shrine attendance reduce collections because many do not "make them up"; fundraisers help but are not bringing in large amounts.

What is the purpose or mission of our parish?

Have access to the Mass and sacraments; pass our faith on to our children; be a community of believers; help each other to practice our faith and make it visible. Show the differences between city and rural communities.

How can we help our parishioners, neighbors, schools, and community?

Direct homily to kids especially when they are assisting at Mass; we are unique and should not be compared to other parishes; bring the Eucharist to shut-ins; perhaps forming a Parents group to organize activities around church (family fun activities; help with church clean-up; planning liturgy); concerns expressed about those who no longer attend church.

Next meeting date has not been set but it has been suggested that we have it at a Parish breakfast or potluck meal.

Please let us know what you are thinking about the viability of our parish.

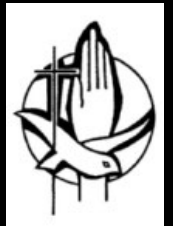
1. Why do you attend Mass here?
2. What prevents you or someone you know from attending Mass every week?
3. How do you determine how much money to put in the collection basket?
4. What is the purpose or mission of our parish?
5. How can we help our parishioners, neighbors, schools, and community?

Anything you would like to add:

You can drop this form in the collection basket; mail it to the rectory; or drop it off at the rectory. Responses will be given to the Pastoral Council



Confirmation Mass



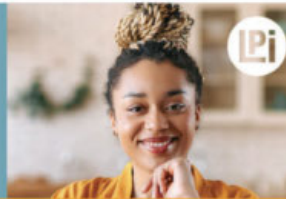
This year's Confirmation Mass will be held on Monday, April 12th at 6:30pm at Auriesville Shrine. Please join us in celebrating and praying for our confirmandi as they receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and continue their journey of faith. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend this special liturgy in support of our young people and their families.

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