St. Cecilia Church
535 Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111

Palm Sunday
March 20, 2016
ST.cecilia Church

PASTOR
Reverend Charles E. Bonner

PASTOR EMERITUS
Reverend Msgr. Francis X. Dreger

PAROCHIAL VICARS
Reverend Skip Miller
Reverend Robert Lucas

PERMANENT DEACON
Deacon Patrick Diamond

PRINCIPAL
Sister Jane Mary Carr, IHM

VICE PRINCIPAL
Sister Koreen Marie Cote, IHM

SACRAMENTS
Baptism: Sundays at 1:30 PM (Every Sunday except the 5th Sunday of the month). Arrangements must be made at least two weeks prior to the Baptism. Attendance at a Pre-Jordan class is required for first time parents and pre-registration for the class is required by contacting the Rectory.

Marriage: Couples must contact a priest six months prior to the wedding.

Reconciliation: Saturdays at 4:15-5:15 PM

Homebound Visitation: Please contact the Rectory.

OFFICES
Rectory 215.725.1240
Fax: 215.725.2130
School 215.725.8588—Bobbie Mitchell
Business 215.725.1240—Susan Wagner
Tuition 215.725.2201—Judi Schein
PREP 215.725.2821—Marcia Mason
Website www.stceciliafc.org
Facebook www.facebook.com/SaintCeciliaSchool
CYO www.saintceciliacyo.org
Facebook Saint Cecilia Catholic Youth Organization
TSC www.teenservicecorps.org

Rectory Office Hours
Monday – Friday 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM
1:00 PM to 4:30 PM
Closed on Holy Days of Obligation

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
Monday (March 21)
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament (1:00-5:00PM)

Wednesday (March 23)
Masses—6:30 & 8:30 AM; 5:30 PM
Confessions—4 to 5 PM and 7 to 8 PM

Holy Thursday (March 24)
Morning Prayer—8:30 AM
Mass of our Lord’s Supper—7:00 PM

Good Friday (March 25)
Morning Prayer—8:30 AM
Solemn Liturgy—3:00 PM
Stations of the Cross—7:00 PM

Holy Saturday (March 26)
Morning Prayer—8:30 AM
Easter Vigil—7:00 PM

Easter Sunday (March 27)
Masses: 6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM

No Baptisms will be scheduled for Easter Sunday

FAST AND ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT

The Bishops of the U.S. prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Good Friday, while the other two meals are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions.

MASS SCHEDULE
Sunday
Vigil 5:30 PM (Saturday)
6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM & 12:30 PM

Monday through Friday
6:30 and 8:30 AM

Saturday
8:30 AM

Holy Days of Obligation
Vigil: 5:30 PM
6:30, 8:30, 10:30 AM
5:30 & 7:00 PM
Saint Cecilia Seniors meet on Thursdays in the school auditorium from 10 AM to 2 PM (weather permitting). We will not have a meeting on March 24, Holy Thursday. New members are always welcome to join the Seniors. For more information, please call our President, Rosemary Shattuck at 215-742-5018.

Aid For Friends
IS THERE SOMETHING you could do now that you are not doing to help someone in need? AFF serves the needy, disabled and elderly homebound. Visit us at www.aidforfriends.org.

Palm Sunday
March 20, 2016

FOCUS: This week takes us from somber reflection to glorious rejoicing.

We begin the holiest week of the year with blessed branches and processions. We recall the events that lead to another procession on Good Friday up the hill to Calvary. Because we know the rest of the story, we anticipate the glorious procession from the empty tomb to the announcement of the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:  The first reading tells of the faithful servant of God being abused and beaten. The second reading reminds us that Jesus emptied himself and became one of us for the sake of our salvation. Today’s Gospel reading recounts Jesus’ passion and death, which defeated sin and evil and won forgiveness for our sins.

REFLECTION: Jesus endured intense emotional and psychological pain. He experienced defeat, discouragement, abandonment, disappointment and frustration. Those suffering from similar interior distress can find compassion and healing in their companion Jesus. The one who prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cross away from me…," will strengthen the faith of those who word the same prayer out of the abyss of their inner turmoil.

So we ask ourselves:
- When have I been distressed and experienced inner healings at the hands of Jesus?
- To whom can I be an instrument of healing in their emotional distress?

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
Please keep the candidates in your prayers as they will be initiated into the Catholic faith and receive the sacraments for the first time at the Easter Vigil on Saturday. For information about RCIA, please contact the rectory at 215-725-1240.

Manna Food Drive—this weekend
Thank you for bringing non-perishable food items to the vestibule of the Church this weekend. May God bless you for your kindness and generosity for helping those less fortunate.

Charismatic Prayer Group meets Monday evenings at 7:30 PM in the Cecilian Room. Please feel free to join us and renew your Spirit.

On Monday, March 28 (Easter Monday) all are invited to the Charismatic Anniversary Mass at 7:00 PM in our Church celebrated by Father Lucas and Deacon Pat Diamond. Fellowship will be at the lower level meeting room after Mass.

Rice Bowl
What you give up for Lent changes lives. During this Holy Week, please place your Rice Bowl collection in the bowls at the entrances of Church. Your Lenten sacrifices will be distributed to the world’s poor quickly and efficiently.

Easter Flowers
We will gratefully accept any offerings toward the cost of the Easter Flowers for the Church. Flower envelopes are available at the entrances of Church or place your donations in an envelope, write the name of loved ones on the envelope, and drop it in the collection basket or the Rectory mailbox. The names will be placed on the altar during the Octave of Easter.
**Schedule For Holy Week**

**Holy Thursday**
- 7:00 PM **Celebrant:** Father Bonner  
  **Lector:** Rita Malfara  
  **Altar Servers:** Kerry Mardt, Thomas Hirst, Madeline Gallagher, Michael Gallagher, Erin O’Reilly

**Good Friday**
- 3:00 PM **Celebrant:** Father Lucas  
  **Lectors:** Zach Demusz & Richard McIvor  
  **Altar Servers:** Caitlin Garlick, Madeline Litka, Tyler Markward
- 7:00 PM **Stations of the Cross:** Deacon Diamond

**Easter Vigil**
- 7:00 PM **Celebrant:** Father Miller  
  **Lectors:** Joanna Marzullo, John Carr, Paula Potts  
  **Altar Servers:** Ryan Brady, Cole Welsh, Matthew Marcinkowski, Timothy McFarland, Madeline Eiser, Julia Ott

**Easter Sunday**
- 6:30 AM **Celebrant:** Father Miller  
  **Lector:** Rose Messina
- 8:00 AM **Celebrant:** Father Bonner  
  **Lector:** Michelle Riccobono  
  **Altar Servers:** Dan Montvydas, Olivia Hannallah, Caeleen Demusz
- 9:30 AM **Celebrant:** Father Bonner  
  **Lector:** John Scafidi  
  **Altar Servers:** Leanna Schultz, Emily Lubbe, Francis McAnaney
- 11:00 AM **Celebrant:** Father Lucas  
  **Lector:** Celine Severino  
  **Altar Servers:** Joseph Corrigan, Jeremy Higgins, Bryanna Cunningham
- 12:30 PM **Celebrant:** Father Lucas  
  **Lector:** Ed Sharp  
  **Altar Servers:** Kylie Duggan, Fiona McCloskey, Timothy Hartey

**Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!**
Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting or do you simply shut down? Retrouvaille may be the lifeline that you need! Tens of thousands of couples have successfully saved their marriages by attending a weekend and the post sessions. **The next program begins the weekend of April 15 at the Family Life Center in Malvern.** For more info visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230.

**TENEBRAE**
Good Friday—March 25  
(8—9 PM)  
St. Andrew Church  
81 Swamp Road  
Newtown, PA

All are invited to this haunting and beautiful service on the Friday of the Passion of the Lord. Expect to enter the Church in shadows and leave in a darkened Church. Meditate on the Passion and Death of our Lord through the proclamation of scripture and music, as candles are sequentially extinguished, symbolic of Our Lord’s giving of His life on the cross.

**Good Friday Collection**
Pope Francis has asked our parish to support Christians in the Holy Land. Through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the church in the Holy Land. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace in a troubled land.

In these challenging times in the Middle East, your support means that our church will conduct parish ministry, provide Catholic education, feed the hungry, build housing for Christians, maintain shrines and operate refugee centers in the Holy Land.

Christians, along with all of the clergy and religious who serve in the Holy Land, will deeply appreciate your prayers and financial help. The political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians.

Our parish will support Christians in the Holy Land through the Good Friday Collection. Like Simon of Cyrene, you can help carry the cross under very difficult circumstances in the Holy Land. Thank you for being generous.

**Wedding Anniversary Mass**
Join Archbishop Chaput on Saturday, May 7 for Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter and Paul at 5:15 PM to celebrate your new marriage, your marriage of 25 years, or your marriage of 50 years or more. Registration is required by calling 215-587-0500 or visiting www.phillycatholiclife.org. Your friends and family are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**God Bless Our Newly Baptized**
Ryan Jack Lasnier  
Andrew Donovan Jeanquart
Pilgrimage to National Shrine in Washington

DATE:  Saturday, April 23

St. Albert the Great parish has chartered a bus to join the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in this event of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Cost is $30 (children and students are free). Bus will depart St. Albert’s parking lot at 7:45 AM and arrive at the Shrine 11:30 AM. Day will include Penance Service, Procession, Praying Holy Rosary, tour of shrine, Mass with Archbishop Chaput. Depart Shrine at 5:00 PM. Stop to eat on way home. Arrive back at St. Albert approximately 8:30 PM.

The National Door of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy is the front door on the far left at top of steps. For more info and to reserve your seat, call Len Cornwall at 215-676-1209.

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

In the Gospel reading every year on the Second Sunday of Easter, Jesus enters the upper room where the disciples are and tells them, “Peace be with you.” That peace lies at the heart of Divine Mercy. It is the peace which Jesus won for all men and women on the cross. His resurrection is the Father’s public validation of Jesus’ victory over sin and death. That is why Pope Saint John Paul II gave the Second Sunday of Easter the name “Divine Mercy Sunday.”

Saint Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, experienced visions of the Lord Jesus during the 1930s. As a result of these visions, she produced a now-famous image of Jesus with red and white beams of light coming from his side with the words, “Jesus, I trust in you.”

Catholics who go to Confession, receive Communion, and offer prayers for the Pope while also participating in Divine Mercy devotions in a spirit of complete detachment from sin can receive full remission of temporal punishment due to sin on this day.

Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy so that in receiving God’s mercy in our own lives, we can extend it to others. All of us can do this in concrete ways such as forgiving our spouse or siblings. Perhaps there are relationships in our lives that require healing. The poor, the vulnerable, and sinners especially need us to be instruments of God’s mercy. Through Divine Mercy, the great gift of Jesus’ cross and resurrection, we can hear Jesus once again say to us, “Peace be with you.”

E-Cycle/Data Destruction Event

Where:  St. Hubert High School
When:  Saturday, April 9 (9AM—1PM)

Guard against identity theft! Shred that hard drive. Cost is $10 per hard drive/item. Recycle those desktop computers, laptops, cell phones, and LCD flat screen monitors. A $20 fee is required to recycle glass tube TVs and computer monitors. All electronics will be accepted at NO CHARGE!

Curbside dropoff at Ditman St. between Cottman and Bleigh. For more info, contact tlewis@huberts.org.

Boy Scout Troop 290—Eagle Scout

The Scouts and Leaders of Boy Scout Troop 290 are pleased to announce, Jeffrey P. Landsmann, Jr. achieved the Rank of Eagle Scout and will be recognized at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, April 3. The Court of Honor ceremony will begin with the troop attending the 9:30 AM Mass at St. Cecilia and the formal ceremony will follow in the school auditorium.

Pilgrimage to National Shrine in Washington

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MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21st

MONDAY, March 21st
6:30 – Rev. Larry Schmitt, SSJ
8:30 – James McNeely

TUESDAY, March 22nd
6:30 – Kyle Peahota
8:30 – Michael Grailey

WEDNESDAY, March 23rd
6:30 – Agnes McCartney
8:30 – Nancy D’Amico
5:30 – Maureen Duffy

THURSDAY, March 24th (Holy Thursday)
8:30 – Morning Prayer
7:00 – Mass of the Lord’s Supper

FRIDAY, March 25th (Good Friday)
8:30 – Morning Prayer
3:00 – Solemn Liturgy
7:00 – Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, March 26th (Holy Saturday)
8:30 – Morning Prayer
7:00 – Easter Vigil

PLEASE REMEMBER ALL THE SICK OF THE PARISH IN YOUR PRAYERS, ESPECIALLY:
Kara Marie Granger
Margaret Lukacko
Kathleen Costello Bockol
Diane Kaelin
Nancy Darreff
Ann Marie Masgai
Josephine Hardy
Anna Costigan
Sarah Garcia
Lisa Kovacs Breuer
Colleen DeNorman
Charlotte Hvorecky
Frank Fanelli
Cindy Williams

Matthew DeLuca
Alyssa Hordijenko
Donald Geissler
Veronica Klepesky
Donnie Betz
Patricia Moore
Peggy Heck
Marissa McAmeny
Elizabeth Silivjak
Mary McGuinn
Mark Bricker
Rosemary Kipple
Anita Fanelli

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, ESPECIALLY:
Elizabeth Silivjak
Neal Dunleavy, Jr.
Feliciano Guanga

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