MONDAY, MARCH 28
8:00 AM Communion Service
9:00 AM Special Intentions of Jean & Larry Metz & Family by Mary Sue Bruneman

TUESDAY, MARCH 29
8:00 AM Communion Service
9:00 AM Special Intentions of Mary McGrover by Barbara & Jim Momper

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30
9:00 AM Special Intentions of Mary McGrover by Barbara & Jim Momper
8:00 AM Communion Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 31
8:00 AM Communion Service
9:00 AM -----------------------

FRIDAY, APRIL 1
8:00 AM Communion Service
9:00 AM Paul Wellage Off Ron & Lorna Case

SATURDAY, APRIL 2
8:00 AM Communion Service
9:00 AM -----------------------
4:00 PM Ana Ouro Off Silvia & Platido Ouro

SUNDAY, APRIL 3 (Sunday of Divine Mercy)
8:00 AM Special Intentions of Claire Sparke by Mary Sue Bruneman
10:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of St. Cecilia Class of 1942

MARRIAGE BANNS

1 ~ Kevin Heid and Amanda Rottmueller
The Pastor’s Corner

I hope that on this EASTER SUNDAY you feel inspired to draw yourself closer to Christ. At St. Cecilia, there are so many ways for you to grow closer to Christ and to live out your faith. If you are looking for ways to strengthen your faith, our director of religious education, Cody Egner, offers many classes, online catechesis, and other opportunities to learn about Catholicism. We also have a beautiful church with daily Mass, Wednesday adoration, and daily confessions that will reunite you with Christ and His Church. We have a wonderful choir that welcomes those who can sing and can share their gift. There are also other ministries through which you can share your time helping to build the Kingdom of God. All of these things can help you get united with Our Lord.

Please read our bulletin and find something that can help you be part of the St. Cecilia Church family and continue the faith journey you have experienced through Lent and Christ’s Resurrection!


PASTORAL REGION UPDATE

In February, the Pastoral Region Coordinating Committee submitted a strategic plan for our pastoral region to the archdiocese. That plan was accepted by the archbishop. Our plan is based on a pastoral region that is a collaboration—not a merger—between St. Anthony, St. Cecilia, and St. Margaret-St. John parishes, all of whom will share one pastor. It is expected that the pastor for our region will be announced after Easter, and he will begin on July 1. To facilitate this adjustment, a transition team has been formed with active parishioners from each parish. Please keep our parishes and priests in your prayers.

Love your faith even more. Sacred Heart Radio. 89.5 FM & 740 AM

By faith, not by sight.

Luke 24:1-12
Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
John 20:1-9

“He is not here; He has been raised up.”

Jesus is risen! “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” (1 Cor 15:54-55) Praise Jesus, “the Resurrection and the Life”! (Jn 11:25) A few years ago, I celebrated the Easter Vigil at an inner-city church about to be closed. After the church’s lights were turned on following the blessing of the new fire and the lighting of the Easter candle, I was shocked. There were almost as many people in the small choir as in the rest of the congregation. It broke my heart to see this parish in ruins — a parish which previously had two assistant pastors and a school taught by ten nuns. Nevertheless, we celebrated the Easter Vigil. We celebrated by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7). Although we looked and felt dead rather than alive in Christ, we praised God as if the church had been filled.

On this first day of Easter, many of us, like the women at Jesus’ tomb, are “bewildered and trembling” (Mk 16:8). Right now, we don’t look risen and victorious. Our lives are “hidden now with Christ in God” (Col 3:3). However, the fact is that through Baptism we “have been raised up in company with Christ” (Col 3:1). Therefore, by faith let us live our Baptisms and be witnesses for the risen Christ (see Acts 10:41, 42). Alleluia! He is risen!

(Reprinted with permission from “One Bread, One Body” at www.presentationministries.com)
What sort of preparation do I need in order to be able to receive Holy Eucharist?

Someone who would like to receive Holy Eucharist must be Catholic. If he has a serious sin on his conscience, he must first make a confession. Before approaching the altar, one should be reconciled with his neighbors. Until a few years ago, the practice was to eat nothing for at least 3 hours before Mass; that was how people prepared to encounter Christ in Holy Communion. Today the Church recommends at least one hour of fasting. Another sign of reverence is to wear one’s finest clothing to mass. After all, we are encountering the King of the Universe at this heavenly meeting. (YOUNCAT question 220)

Catechesis

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A Day of Mercy and Pardon

Celebrating and naming the Octave Day of Easter (Second Sunday of Easter) “Divine Mercy Sunday” recovers an ancient tradition that is reflected in a teaching attributed to St. Augustine about the Easter Octave, which he called “the days of mercy and pardon.”

Liturgically, the prayers and readings for this Sunday have always been centered on the theme of Divine mercy and forgiveness. This final day of the octave of Easter points us to the merciful love of God that lies behind the whole Paschal Mystery—the whole mystery of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ—made present for us in the Eucharist. As Pope St. John Paul II pointed out in his Regina Caeli address in 1995: “the whole octave of Easter is like a single day,” and the Octave Sunday is meant to be the day of “thanksgiving for the goodness God has shown to man in the whole Easter mystery.” So, the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday is actually celebrating the culmination of Jesus’ merciful love for us that shines through from His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, the Easter Mystery.

Why not plan to stop in at the parish next Sunday at 3:00pm to celebrate the feast and to gain a plenary indulgence! For more info on Divine Mercy, see www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/image or www.divinemercy.com.
MARY OF NAZARETH: For the culmination of the eight-week study on the Virgin Mary, the movie “Mary of Nazareth” was shown in the newly renovated school cafeteria (photo, above). I and a good crowd of others enjoyed a high-quality and very thoughtful portrait of the Blessed Virgin Mary that brought many to tears. Special thanks to Cody Egner and his wife, Angela, and the 40-plus people who participated in the study. 

SERVER RETIRES: One of the important means of being an active member of the parish is getting involved in some ministry or parish activity. Ever since he was a teenager, Dan Hillebrand (photo, left) has been involved through the server ministry. In fact, Dan has served on the altar for over 25 years. After such a long run, Dan has decided to retire from the server ministry. On behalf of the parish, I wish to thank Dan for his service, and I look forward to his participation in another parish ministry soon.

SLEEPY BEE: On Mar. 10, we had a nice turnout at the Sleepy Bee fundraiser dinner. I was so proud of our 8th graders (photo, below). They were excellent hosts and servers. I heard wonderful compliments from our guests about the students’ behavior and about how polite they were. It was nice to mingle with the guests while enjoying cocktails and appetizers—the food was delicious! A big thank-you to Mike Goedde, Vincent Woodall and all those involved with the evening.

FISH FRY THANKS: As has been the tradition at St. Cecilia, we held a fish fry every Friday in Lent. This event is sponsored by the Boosters; however, many organizations helped to make it a success. I wish to first thank Julie Gerwe, her husband, Roger, and her daughter Margaret (photo, above left) for their perseverance and dedication to the event. Thanks also to the many individual parishioners and booster volunteers, the school staff, the choir, and the St. Cecilia baseball teams that provided the much needed manpower to pull off this annual fundraiser for the students’ sports programs.

SANCTUARY LENT STATUES: Part of the decor in the sanctuary during Lent the past two years has been the addition of two statues. The statues of the Crucified Lord and the Sorrowful Mother (photo, above left) are the property of The Holy Spirit Center in Norwood; but they have been generous in loaning the statues to us during Lent. Special thanks to parishioner Jack Hillebrand and his daughter for delivery of the statues, as well as the muscle of Steve Sullivan, Mark Garvey, and Easa and Julian Misleh.

REST IN PEACE: On Mar. 11, a Mass of Christian Burial was held for Thomas Birmingham Sr. Thomas, 81, was a graduate of St. Cecilia School and Purcell. On Mar. 14, the Mass of Christian Burial was held for longtime parishioner Carmel Taylor (photo, left). Carmel, 91, along with her husband, Art, had 10 children, all of whom attended St. Cecilia School.
May Crowning | Thursday, May 5, 7 PM
We invite all parishioners to join with our students as we crown Mary, Queen of Heaven.

SAVE THE DATE!

SANTA CECILIA
FOOD TRUCKS
DANCING & GAMES

TRECE DE MAYO
FRIDAY, MAY 13
A LATINO CULTURAL CELEBRATION
5–11 PM  CORNER OF MADISON & GILMORE

LIVE MUSIC featuring KUMBIA LATINA
A few years ago, according to St. Cecilia Principal Mike Goedde, the Catholic population of his school was roughly 30 percent. That percentage is now 51 percent Catholic.

While growing enrollment and changing demographics have played a role, the school and parish have made an intentional effort to be more missionary. The result over the past year and a half is 22 students baptized into the faith. A handful more are in preparation to be baptized.

With the support of the pastor, Father Jamie Weber, and with the help of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and dedicated parents, more and more students are becoming full members of the Church through their involvement with the school.

In 2012-13, with only seven Latino students enrolled in the school, St. Cecilia made a push to broaden its outreach to that community. One of the earliest parents to get involved was Bucio. The mother of two daughters at the school is the official “Madrina” or parent ambassador for the school to the Latino community.

“I liked to talk to people and ask them how they are doing,” Bucio said. “I started to ask, ‘Hey, is your child baptized,’ and they’d say no. I’d see there were a lot that didn’t have anything, any sacrament. I started to think, maybe we could do something.”

The first year after the push St. Cecilia had 26 Latino students. There were 43 last year and 58 are enrolled presently. Latino students now make up 29 percent of the student population. An additional 29 percent are African American, 13 percent are Caucasian, 13 percent are multi-racial and two percent are Asian.

Mayra Wilson, Coordinator of Latino Outreach for Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, said that while many Latino families coming to St. Cecilia came from Catholic cultures, the children are often not baptized.

“The parents feel like, ‘Wow, this is what it is to live our faith,’” Wilson said. “I think the biggest thing is, the school has done such a good job welcoming the families so all of the sudden families are like, ‘Oh, this is a great place.’ Latino families are hungry to learn more about their faith.”

At St. Cecilia, not all the student baptisms have been Latino students. African American and Caucasian students have also been baptized. The reason for the cross-demographic success, Goedde said, is an authentic presentation of the faith.

“We presented the faith and it was not watered down. It was genuine,” he said. “That was driven by the pastor and parish expectations for the school and the school children. I think it is a combination of hard work, missionary zeal and genuine outreach, particularly with our Latino families.”

The baptisms have taken place in public contexts. Eleven students were baptized at a parish weekend Mass on Nov. 15, and five more were baptized on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December.

“It has a ripple effect to what it has done to the culture of the building,” Goedde said. “When you go from 33 percent to more than 50 percent, even those students who are not Catholic… they see and sense an importance of faith, some faith. It has changed the culture of worship and the culture of the overall building. It has become more Christ centered. It feels different.

“We’re always going to be welcoming to students and we want to serve students who may not be Catholic,” he added. “If they have a conversion to the faith, great. If they don’t but they realize they’re in a Christian-based environment, good.”

Father Weber added that the increase in baptisms has led to many parents considering the faith for themselves, and not only their children. Some couples have sought to have their marriages convalidated in the church as well.

“We’ve put it out there and people are seeing this and it definitely had an effect,” Father Weber said. “Parishioners here want to support what’s happening with the school.”

Most of the Latino students that have been baptized attend Mass at San Carlos Borromeo (St. Charles Borromeo) Catholic Church in Cincinnati, but Father Weber said he feels a responsibility for the students at his parish school.

“We don’t have an overwhelming amount of Latinos going to Mass as parishioners,” Father Weber said. “But they’re parishioners in my mind in the fact that they’re going to the school and I have an obligation to be a part of their lives.”

**Enroll your child now for the 2016-17 school year.**

For Pre-Kindergarten–8. Call 533-6060 or visit www.StCeciliaCinti.org for info.
Keep up with the latest parish news by “liking” our page on Facebook. Our page is listed as St. Cecilia Catholic Parish. The page has info for upcoming events, pictures from recent activities at the church and school, news stories about our Catholic faith, and so much more. You can even send us feedback through comments and messages. Be sure to find us today at www.facebook.com/stceciliacincinnati.

Easter Egg Hunt
On Sunday, April 17, after the 10 AM Mass, our Moms Group will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt in the yard next to church for children in the parish ages 6 and younger. This event is meant to remind us that Easter doesn’t end on Easter Sunday and that egg hunts and celebrations continue for 50 days, all the way through Pentecost. This is a BYOB—bring your own basket—event!

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Training for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held soon. If you sincerely want to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at weekend Masses at St. Cecilia on a schedule of once every two weeks, contact Dave Rosselot, drosselot@outlook.com or 396-6022.

Eastertide Vespers & Choral Concert
Eastertide Vespers will be held on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 3, at 7 PM in the Chapel of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, 6616 Beechmont Avenue. This evening prayer includes the singing of hymns, psalms and canticles and will include festival Easter choral music sung by the Athenaeum Chorale & Seminary Schola with the Cincinnati Brassworks brass ensemble. The concert is free and all are invited to attend.

Becoming Catholic
Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God

Though prayer is one of the essentials of a thriving faith, we often feel as if we're talking to ourselves—or, worse, that we're talking to no one at all. How can something so vital to the faith be so elusive?

Now, with the clear teaching and artistry of the Augustine Institute’s Lectio series, Dr. Tim Gray masterfully uses the discipline of Lectio Divina to show you how to make prayer an effective effort of love and intimacy. The six-week series will begin on Monday, April 4. You can choose the morning class at 9:45-11:15 AM in the parish center or the evening class from 7:00-8:30 PM in the school cafeteria. The series is FREE.

For more info, to watch a video trailer on the series, or to register for the program, go to www.stceciliacincinnati.org and click on the PRAYER link on the home page. Contact Cody Egner at (513) 871-5757, ext. 215, or cegner@stcecilia-cincinnati.org with any questions.

Easter Stewardship

St. Cecilia Parish uses your stewardship to provide for the spiritual needs of those in the community—for worship, sacraments, education and prayer. We depend on your generous gift at Easter to maintain the extraordinary physical gifts—our church and school—which have been handed down to us, and provide for the spiritual needs of all. Thank you for your commitment to total stewardship.

Stewardship of prayer, ministry and finance is chiefly a way to deepen our spiritual life. God has taught us that we cannot love without giving. Love is not a feeling. It calls for action, which includes giving of our time, talent and treasure. If we give ourselves to God and let God use our talents and resources to serve others, we will be amazed by the results. Not only will our lives change, but so will the lives of others.

As we rejoice in this glorious Easter, please reflect on your commitment to total stewardship. Stewardship is God’s invitation to a way of life. It helps us to overcome our selfishness and love of things. “…For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” – John 3:16

Stewardship of Ministry from St. Vincent de Paul

If you have any gently used clothing that you would like to donate, we will have a St. Vincent de Paul truck in the church parking lot the weekend of April 16-17. Some of our volunteers will be there to gladly accept your donations. If you would like a receipt for tax purposes, we will have those too!

The Festival Flea Market

Flea market donations will be accepted on the following dates: April 3 & 17, May 1 & May 15, June 5 & June 26, and July 10, from 11 AM - 2 PM, at the garage behind the church.

Collections for the Week Ending March 13

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Envelopes/Loose Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Vincent DePaul collection</td>
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**Server Schedule for the Week of March 28 - April 3**

**MONDAY**
9:00 am - A. Krietemeyer & B. Krietemeyer

**TUESDAY**
9:00 am - C. Herzner & M. Ramirez

**WEDNESDAY**
9:00 am - The Donovans

**THURSDAY**
9:00 am - B. S. Dalessandro & C. Brereton

**FRIDAY**
9:00 am - D. Hilgefort

**SATURDAY**
9:00 am - B. Johnston-Valdes & L. Whittaker
4:00 pm - B. Krietemeyer & A. Krietemeyer

**EASTER SUNDAY**
8:00 am - R. Peddicord & J. Pearson
10:00 am - W. Merusi, C. Brigger, S. Hale, O. Lewis
Mark Your Calendar.

Saint Cecilia Roman Catholic Parish

JULY 15-16-17

Join your parish family at our annual summer party!
Friday
July 15
6 PM - Midnight

Saturday
July 16
5 PM - Midnight

Sunday
July 17
4 - 9 PM

Fun for all ages
Rides & Games (for kids & adults)
Gambling Tent & Bingo
Petting Zoo  Flea Market  Bid-n-Buy Booth

Great food & drinks
Hamburger Heaven  Sunday Chicken Dinner
Snacks & Ice Cream  Funnel Cakes
Beer & Wine

Live music
The Danny Frasier Band  Just Strange Brothers
Saffire Express

Major award
$10,000 Grand Prize  $1,000 Second Prize
$500 Third Prize

To volunteer or for more info, contact Doug & Joy Kornish at dkornish@cinci.rr.com or 513-658-6377.