

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gathering: Instrumental Song

Reading 1 [Ez 37:12-14](#)

Thus says the Lord GOD:
O my people, I will open your graves
and have you rise from them,
and bring you back to the land of Israel.
Then you shall know that I am the LORD,
when I open your graves and have you rise from them,
O my people!
I will put my spirit in you that you may live,
and I will settle you upon your land;
thus you shall know that I am the LORD.
I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm

Reading II [Rom 8:8-11](#)

Brothers and sisters:
Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
But you are not in the flesh;
on the contrary, you are in the spirit,
if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.
Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not
belong to him.
But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because
of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness.
If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead
dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his
Spirit dwelling in you.



Gospel

[Jn 11:1-45](#) or [Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45](#)

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany,
the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with
perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair;
it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.
So the sisters sent word to him saying,
“Master, the one you love is ill.”
When Jesus heard this he said,
“This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of
God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two
days in the place where he was.
Then after this he said to his disciples,
“Let us go back to Judea.”
The disciples said to him,
“Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you,
and you want to go back there?”
Jesus answered,
“Are there not twelve hours in a day?
If one walks during the day, he does not stumble,
because he sees the light of this world.
But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light
is not in him.”
He said this, and then told them,
“Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken
him.”
So the disciples said to him,
“Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.”
But Jesus was talking about his death, while they
thought that he meant ordinary sleep.
So then Jesus said to them clearly,
“Lazarus has died.
And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may
believe. Let us go to him.”
So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow
disciples,
“Let us also go to die with him.”
When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already
been in the tomb for four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles
away.
And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary
to comfort them about their brother.
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to
meet him; but Mary sat at home.
Martha said to Jesus,
“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have

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died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”
Jesus said to her,
“Your brother will rise.”
Martha said to him,
“I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”
Jesus told her,
“I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?”
She said to him, “Yes, Lord.
I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”
When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying,
“The teacher is here and is asking for you.”
As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him.
For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him.
So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there.
When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him,
“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”
When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,
“Where have you laid him?”
They said to him, “Sir, come and see.”
And Jesus wept.
So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.”
But some of them said,
“Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”
So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.
It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.
Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”
Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him,
“Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.”
Jesus said to her,
“Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?”
So they took away the stone.
And Jesus raised his eyes and said,
“Father, I thank you for hearing me.

I know that you always hear me;
but because of the crowd here I have said this,
that they may believe that you sent me.”
And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice,
“Lazarus, come out!”
The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to them,
“Untie him and let him go.”
Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

Creed

*I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.*
*I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.*
*For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.*
*For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.*
*He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.*
*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.*
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
*I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.*
Amen



Why do Catholics Celebrate Holy Week?

Holy Week is a sacred time, especially devoted to celebrating the work of our redemption – the suffering and Death of Jesus on the Cross. The events honored during Holy Week, especially on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, remind us of an amazing truth: God loved us first, even when that love cost Him everything. On Easter, He rose gloriously from the dead, offering redemption. This event is so tremendous we need a week to prepare our hearts to receive it.

HOLY WEEK



SCHEDULE

CHRISM MASS – March 26

St. Francis Cathedral 4:00 PM

SEDER MEAL – March 27

St. Cecilia Parish Hall 6:00 PM

HOLY THURSDAY – March 28

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY – March 29

Liturgy of the Passion 3:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY – March 30

The Great Easter Vigil 8:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY – March 31

Masses at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM
& 12:00 Noon

Chrism Mass

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

On Tuesday, March 26, 2024, Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, all priests will make a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service to the Bishop and the people of God. The Bishop will also bless and consecrate the Holy Oils, which each parish receives for the rites of anointing.

The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint infants and adults before their Baptism; the Oil of the Sick is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and Sacred Chrism is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches.

All are strongly encouraged to join in-person or via Livestream in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 4:00 PM.



Convert your heart during Lent

When we were young Catholics, Lent meant giving something up and welcoming it back at Easter. Now we know that Lent is so much more. Lent is about conversion. Each year we have the chance to leave behind old ways of living to embrace new life. The goal is not just to abstain from sin during Lent but to root it out of our lives forever.

The moment of truth. Conversion begins with accepting responsibility for our failures. Start by taking an honest look at your life and identify all the ways that sin keeps you from living the way Jesus taught us to live. Know that it may take courage to face your shortfalls.

The moment of cleansing. There can be no healing or conversion when you harbor unconfessed sin. Make a full Confession to a priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tell him everything. Don't worry if you have been away for a while. The priest will be happy to guide you and to welcome you back to God's friendship.

The moment of conversion. There can't be just one moment of conversion. It is necessary to convert our hearts every day. Daily prayer, frequent Confession, and regular reception of the Holy Eucharist will keep our hearts filled with God's love. Then we can embrace new life at Easter



St. Cecilia Seder Meal March 27th at 6:00 pm



It is time to look forward to the miracle of our salvation, through the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Through the commemoration of the Passover meal, a prototype of the Mass, we celebrate our salvation as a people. Starting with the first to believe in one God, the Jewish nation was the keeper of God's promise and of God's word in the Torah. From these roots, came Jesus, with His message of hope and forgiveness. We participate in His sacrifice through the Paschal meal we celebrate in the Mass. The Paschal meal is in fact the Passover meal Jesus celebrated with his friends at the Last Supper. Our parish Seder is a revisiting of the Passover meal, with prayer, song, and food honoring our Jewish roots and our Catholic faith.

All are welcomed to this FREE parish event. Since seating is limited, we ask that you sign-up with the volunteers at the back of church after mass. The Seder will begin at 6:00 pm in St. Cecilia hall; potluck drop-off will be at 5:30 pm. We could use help setting up tables, arranging the Seder plates, and serving food. If you can assist, please give you name and number to the sign-up volunteers.

We hope to see you there.

The Cup of Blessing, the Cup of Remembrance

The seder celebration is the feast of freedom from slavery of the Israelites from their Egyptian captors for 400 years. The Israelites, as the modern Jews of today, kept alive the faith that God would send a Messiah to save their people and restore their nation. We as Catholic Christians know that God sent his Son, Jesus, the Messiah or Anointed One, to save us for all time, and to restore us to life by his sacrifice on the cross. Four cups of wine are poured and shared during the seder meal. Jesus himself partook of the seder meal at the Last Supper, we celebrate as the initiation of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday. We celebrate the seder meal at every mass. The cup of thanksgiving at the seder meal praises God, "King of the Universe" for all our abundant blessings. The "cup of remembrance" commemorates the story of God's people and their struggle to maintain their faith to the One, True, God through its prophets, leaders, crises, indifference, and cruelty. It highlights how the people had to leave in haste, with only the clothes on their backs and some unleavened bread to eat on the way. Think about today, how many people are displaced by war, are refugees of political persecution, of economic starvation, marching to some unknown end to the hope of a better life. Think of Darfur, Crimea, Cosovo, Lampedusa, Cuba, even hurricane Katrina. How could these people survive without faith? The second cup commemorates this. The third cup is the cup of praise and blessing to God for redeeming us, and for making us his people. At the Last Supper, it was the at the third cup of the seder that Christ consecrated the cup as his own Blood, and the unleavened bread or matzo, as his own Body. The fourth cup is the cup of Elijah, the prophet. Elijah, who was raised up to heaven, body and soul, is believed to accompany the Messiah at his second coming. This cup is left unconsumed, in that the hope that the prophet will come to the table and join us at the end of the age.

Easter Egg Hunt 2024!

Saturday,
March 30th

Brought to you by:
the **Risen Jesus** &
K of C council 7046

Rain or
Shine

Pray for Sun! Should it rain, the hunt will be in the Church Basement

TIME:

Children 4 and under can
participate at 10:30 am

Children 5-10 can
participate at 11:00 am

Don't
forget your
Easter
Baskets!



~~Attention: All Women of St. Cecilia's Parish~~

- ❖ Are you interested in connecting with other sisters in the Catholic Faith?
- ❖ Are you looking to grow in a strong women's spiritual group?
- ❖ Are you searching to grow in your relationship with Christ?

Come join us! You are invited!

Women's Ministry

ALL WOMEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOMED!!!!



Join us at our next

Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday, March 20th 7:30pm

St. Cecilia Parish Hall

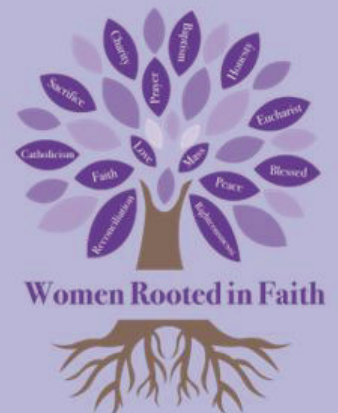
This month's theme is:

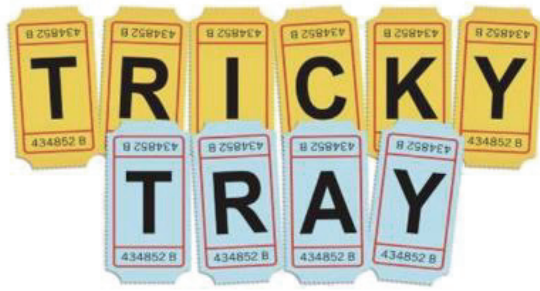
"St. Joseph's Table"

Come learn about the history of St. Joseph's table. For many generations, women have baked bread, they have blessed it and fed it to others. It has been a resource of survival, a gift of love, a symbol of friendship and hospitality and a sign of spiritual life.

BRING YOURSELF! BRING A FRIEND!

**PLEASE RSVP via QR CODE or
CONTACT INFO:**
Monica Rosado 732-799-8932 or
womensministristcecilia@gmail.com





***Sponsored by the Columbiettes of St. Cecilia Church
10 Kingston Lane, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852***

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2024

COME JOIN US FOR FUN AND PRIZES

Doors open at St. Cecilia Church at 6 PM - Drawing at 7:30 pm

All proceeds will be donated to an amazing organization known as the ***Friends of JJ Foundation***, a 501c3 nonprofit organization that brings hope and joy to children and families affected by pediatric diseases. Some of their amazing programs shared at our local hospitals are Toys of Joy, Smile Boxes, and they have been fortunate enough to donate Tablets to the pediatric units through generous donations. They have teamed up with Child Life Teams at our local hospitals and thru generous supporters they have come up with an Amazon Wish List and with our continued support they will be able to do more. Please go to their website and read up on this amazing foundation. (<https://www.friendsofjj.org/services>).

Presale Admission: \$30.00 which includes:

A Ticket Bundle – Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 sheets

Coffee, tea and desserts

Additional tickets will be available for purchase at the event

Tier 1 - \$5.00 per sheet – Prizes valued at \$25.00 - \$50.00

Tier 2 - \$10.00 per sheet – Prizes valued at \$50.00 - \$100.00

Tier 3 - \$15.00 per sheet – Prizes valued at \$100+

****Admission tickets required in advance due to limited seating***

****Tickets will be distributed the night of the event***

****Must be 18 or older to enter the hall***

- Mail in request to address listed below (Checks only no cash) or use QR code

St. Cecilia Columbiettes

Attn: Karen Williams

14 Larkspur Drive

Dayton, NJ 08810

Name: _____

If you are purchasing more than one admission ticket please list additional names

1. _____ 4. _____ 7. _____
2. _____ 5. _____ 8. _____
3. _____ 6. _____

QR code



Phone contact: _____ Email Address: _____

of Admission tickets: _____ X \$30.00 = Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

(Checks payable to St Cecilia Columbiettes)

