

## St Cecilia Parish Update From Father David

There are two major things happening in our parish. **The first is, thanks be to God, we are able to proceed with finishing our roof!**

We raised a little over \$16,000, blowing past our goal of 12,000! At the same time, we also did very well with our DDF contributions. Many thanks for your generosity! After months of watching the steel market and getting weekly updates from the various roofing companies in the area, prices fell to where we could purchase all the needed roofing for \$16,000. The price was only good for three days, and we jumped on it! We still needed to purchase the wood slats for the roof (which cost \$3,300), but with **the Delta Fair coming up**, we are confident we can make that amount back.

**The second thing is that we are making some changes to our PSR program.** The bigger change is that we want to involve the parents in the learning process with their children. Our goal with PSR has always been to draw people closer to God, through the learning of the faith. The problem we have seen is this can't happen in one hour a week. It is a task for the whole family, children learn best from their parents.

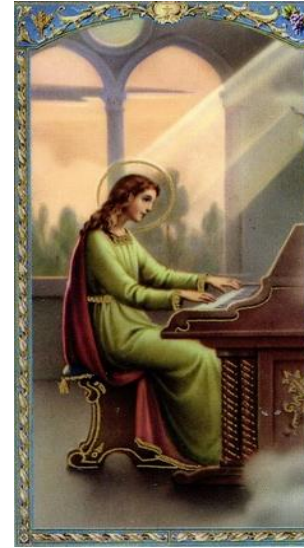
What we are going to do is have classes for the parents, as well as for the children. The classes for the parents will be aimed at giving them the tools to teach their children the faith, to reinforce the lessons they are being taught at PSR.

The minor change is that we are moving our focus to January through May. With the rains opening in October through December, attendance is too difficult for some during this time, and we'd like to work around that.

We will be having an **informational meeting on September 12th** to go over all the changes and the info you will need if your child is to receive first Communion next spring, or if your child is in the 5th grade or higher and will be ready to receive Confirmation next time the bishop is here in 2023. -Fr David



**Delta Fair Note:** We need **water and soda** donations! Please drop these items off before or after mass from now until September 27<sup>th</sup>. The Delta Fair is scheduled for **September 28 to October 2**. Thank you all and God bless you.



**St. Cecilia Catholic Church**  
**1226 College Avenue**  
**PO Box 306**  
**Kennett, MO 63857**

**August 29, 2021**

**Fr. David Baunach, Pastor**

417-851-7136 [davidbaunach@gmail.com](mailto:davidbaunach@gmail.com)

Luis Hernandez, Hispanic Ministry (417) 496-5622  
Lynnette Anderson, Parish Secretary  
Vanessa Cowart, PSR Director (561) 351-1380  
Magda Cazares, Youth Group Director

### Weekly Schedule

Sunday Masses: 10:30am Mass in English  
(10:05am Rosary; Divine Mercy Chaplet the first Sunday of the month)  
1pm Mass in Spanish  
Monday: Adoration 5:30-6:30

**If you would like to receive the Holy Eucharist and are unable to attend mass, please contact Fr. David at his number above.**

### Please pray for /Oramos para:

+Mary Gurley, Deanne Cole, Sandy DeLisle, Greg Bradley, Bob and Sharon Hines, Vera Gleuck, Kathy Larsen. Especially let us remember the deceased, our clergy and bishop, Covid quarantined parishioners, our chronically ill, and our homebound.

### Fr. David's Parish Office Hours:

Kennett Monday and Wednesday 10-4, Tuesday off,  
Thursday and Friday in Portageville 10-4  
Wednesday: Adoration at 5; mass at 6

Fr. David is available for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during Adoration or by appointment.

### Collection Information for August 22

Adult Collection: \$1417

Loose: \$339

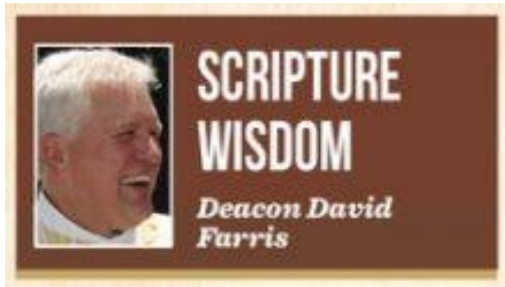
### Monthly Calendar of Events

**Monday, September 6** No Mass

**Wednesday, September 8** Parish Council Meeting

**Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** PSR Meeting for First Communion and Confirmation parents  
(Grades 2 and 5-8, as well as anyone older who desires Confirmation)

**September 28-October 2** St. Cecilia Delta Fair Booth



In 1970, I was stationed in Boston in the Navy. We were decommissioning my ship, the USS Yorktown, at the Charlestown Naval Shipyards. One day, our officer-in-charge called us all together telling us that sailors were sneaking off base, out of uniform, to one of the many sandwich shops around the perimeter of the base (the chow was awful at the shipyard!). We

were not allowed off base unless we were wearing our dress uniforms, but most of the time we were in our work clothes. Shortly after being warned, I decided I simply had to have a hero sandwich for lunch.

I slipped through a break in the fence, planning to be back inside the shipyard within 10 minutes. Just as I finished sneaking through the fence, the Shore Patrol drove around a corner and caught me. I remember pleading with them to release me; I did not want to go to the brig nor face the officer whom I got along with so well. They showed mercy, and with my promise to never do it again, they dropped me off at the break in the fence where I slipped back on base. This was the first and only time I disobeyed a direct order—you see, I just had to have that delicious sandwich!

What is it in our DNA that we sometimes do things that we have been told directly not to do? In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul said, “What I do I do not understand. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want.” I am sure each of us has done something in our lives we know we should not do. Yet, we did it anyway.

This leads into our first reading: Just before God allowed the Israelites to enter the Promised Land, Moses commanded the people to **hear** and **keep** God’s decrees so that they may live. Moses commanded the people to observe these laws carefully and not to

add to or subtract from them. At this point in time, Israel’s tragic situation during the last 40 years was the result of infidelity and disobedience. The answer to Israel’s problem was conversion and obedience. Unfortunately, Israel continued being unfaithful and disobedient. It seems that listening and obeying God was too difficult. Today, we have the same problems—an example of history repeating itself when we are told not to do something and do it anyway. We do it even with the Word of God!

Next, in the New Testament Letter of James, we find that the Word of God has been planted in us. It is able to save our soul. We are told to be doers of the word, taking care of anyone around us who needs help, like orphans and widows. To be doers of the Word, we must listen and obey God’s decrees, which encompasses taking care of the less fortunate. St. James implies that the evidence of our faith in Christ is seen in how we deal with others as well as in our obedience to God. Are we doing everything we can? What about the Word of God planted in our souls? Are we listening?

The Pharisees in today’s Gospel were the most influential religious-political party in New Testament times. They were consistent opponents of Jesus Christ throughout His ministry. Why? They focused on the Mosaic Law, but over time it had expanded with cumbersome human traditions, rejecting Jesus’ message focusing on love of neighbor. Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, was revealing to them His mandate to love and serve others. This is embedded in the New Covenant, which Jesus initiated and sealed by His passion, death, and resurrection. However, many still would not listen.

To grow in holiness we need to listen, keep God’s commandments, love one another, and practice charity. We must strive for these virtues whether we are at war, peace, or in a world-wide pandemic. St. Augustine said, “**Love and do what you will.**” If humans would only “love,” all the problems in the world could be solved.

### Saint This Week



Memorial of  
St. Gregory  
the Great,  
Pope and  
Doctor of the  
Church,  
September 3