

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Fourth Sunday of Advent

18 December 2011

“Annunciation”

Ambrogio Lorenzetti (c. 1344)



This Christmas, give them a gift that shows you truly care.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

At Christmas, we gather to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus, and share in the peace that His presence among us brings.

It is at this holy time of year that we remember in a special way our 250 senior priests who faithfully continue to share that simple gift of presence with us. Many of these men are still active in the parish community, assisting pastors with their daily work and providing the sacraments to the Catholic faithful.

Caring for the health and housing of these priests costs approximately \$9 million each year. The Christmas collection directly supports this need.

I am deeply grateful for your generous support of our senior priests. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones, now and always.

Wishing you a happy and holy Christmas,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Sean, OFM Cap



OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, presider
Laura Orrell, lector

Sunday | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC, presider
Bob Murphy, lector

Sunday | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider
Pearse Martin, Michele Maniscalco, &
Jim English, lectors

Sunday | 11:15 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider
Bridget Spence & Robert Ortega, lectors

Sunday | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider
Ed Preuss & Susan Lysaght, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 18 | 11:15 a.m.

Alma Fitzpatrick, Memorial

Sunday, December 18 | 6:00 p.m.

John M. Snyder, Sr., Memorial

Friday, December 23 | 8:00 a.m.

Richard Whelton, First Anniversary



TODAY'S READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve

- 4:00 Family Mass
- 6:00 Mass

Christmas Day

- 9:30 Mass

December 31/January 1

The Octave Day of Christmas:
The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother
of God

- December 31: Anticipated Mass, 5:00
- January 1: Mass will be celebrated today only at 11:15

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PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jim Clerke, who died last Saturday.

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Josephine Parker, John Saulenas, K. Champoux, Patricia Hoggard, Jennifer Serpico, Christine St. Pierre, Jessica Coviello, Harold Williamson, Jessica Riviuccio, Earl Chilcote, Ellen Nora Toombs, Colonel Robert C. Tashjian, Roseanne Borgioli, Rosemary Messina, Kim Murray, Heather LoRe, Rudy Kikel, Herbert Simmons, Peggy Furey, Janice Mascia, Winnie Dyer, Jane Cox, Pamela D'Ambra, Sue Lucas, Suki Coughlin, Roberta Keenan, Bridget Spence, Annette Kulas, Sam Gowan, Rhea Richard, Pil-Yun Son, Mary Yanez, Larry Buckley, M. Frances Driscoll, Father Harry Giroux, Ed Langlais, Bob McLaughlin, Steven Whitkens, Diana Slaton, Leo Garcia, Jean Marino, Joe Ford, Danny Cotter, Natalia Chilcote, Amy Sweetland, Jim Keyes, Michael Zawikowski, Cheryl Proctor, Patricia Macdonald, Elvera Dowsky, Frank Ackley, Fred Haslee, Lorraine Haslee, Robert Menson, Paul Flaherty, William Louttit, Lucie Kelly, Bro. Adam Zielonka, O.C.S.O., Amy Duarte, Karen & Rick, Phyllis Porras, Jim Linderman, Mark Amerault, Sr. Nuala Cotter, R.A., Kristen DeFranco Martinez, Michele Crowley Tippens, Sara Lima Santos, Joseph Driscoll, Pete Huttlinger, Anthony Simboli, Lisa Caputo, Edward Gill, Darlene McLendon, Jeanne Tibbs, Debbie Pace, Peter Schwahn, Deidre Sullivan, Roosevelt Brown, Mary O'Donnell, Ginny L'Abbe, Steve Chamberlain, Matt Penchuk, Carrie Penchuk, Christy Cosgrove, Jacques Romberger, John Scaife, Maureen Sullivan, Alyce Haley, Joe Capizzi, David Walsh, Joe Huenke, Kaylin Marcotte,

Avito Pacifici, Charlotte Egan, James Noone, Keith Plaster, Frederick Flather, David & Paula Fillion, Fred Maglero, Sarah Sweeney, Jeanne Boger, Susan Shea, Bill Croke, Ettore Bergamaschi, Ryan Delaney, Anita Cipriani, and Cecile Finnerty.

Christmas Prayers

In your prayer, remember those who are alone and will spend Christmas without family or friends. Consider ways that you can be a welcoming presence to those who are lonely. Pray also for those who will spend Christmas on the street or in a shelter.

For Those in the Military

Many families are separated by war and military service; pray for our soldiers on active duty who will be far from their loved ones this Christmas.

For Those of You Who Are Traveling

Many of you are traveling this week. When you come home, Christmas will still be unfolding! We will be celebrating until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 9. If you are not with us next weekend, please travel safely and we wish you a happy and holy Christmas!

Confessions This Wednesday Evening

This Wednesday, December 21, from six-thirty to eight o'clock p.m., Saint Cecilia, along with every parish and chapel of the Archdiocese, will be open for individual confessions. Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent is a wonderful way to prepare for the festivities of Christmas.

Evening Prayer This Thursday

This Thursday, we will gather to pray Evening Prayer at six-thirty. This is a good way to spend some time in quiet prayer in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

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ADVENT GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE TODAY!

Over 700 gift tags were taken from the Advent Giving Tree! Truly you will make a difference in the lives of so many people this Christmas. Thank you for being so generous—you always are. Gifts for the Giving Tree are due back this afternoon no later than two o'clock. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Ann Faldetta at (617) 590-4140.



THANK YOU!

The Saint Cecilia Food Group sends a special thank you to the Corcoran-Murphy, Eagan-Curtis, Galligan, and Franken-Townes families in the Faith Formation Program who cooked and served a delicious dinner for the women guests at Pine Street Women's Inn last Monday. Thanks also to the other Faith Formation families and parishioners who contributed Christmas cookies, holiday desserts, fresh fruit and financial support. The dinner, the desserts, and the children who helped serve—Sylvia Murphy, Nonnie Curtis, Maeve Galligan and Lukas Franken—were a hit with the women guests!

The next Faith Formation/Pine Street Women's Inn dinner will be on Monday, January 9, 2012. If there are any Faith Formation families who would like to help cook or serve a meal at Pine Street's Women's Inn and have yet to sign up, please contact E. Jane Smith via e-mail at ej-smith@rcn.com. There are many ways you can contribute to this program.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOR YOUR ADVENT WREATH

FOURTH WEEK

Light all four candles. During the rest of the week, these candles are relit at the evening meal or whenever you choose to do so.

Jesus, your mother, Mary, is "blessed among women." We are happy that she said "Yes!" to being your mother. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of love into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

Amen.

42ND ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

**MONDAY, JANUARY 16 – 8:00
BOSTON CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION
CENTER – 415 SUMMER STREET**

The 42nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast to commemorate the noble legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held on Monday, January 16 at eight o'clock. This event features delicious food, live music and a diverse gathering of over 1,000 people, including business, civic and religious leaders from across Massachusetts.

We need to reserve tables for this breakfast prior to December 31. Tickets are \$40 each. If you would like to join us and sit at one of the Saint Cecilia tables, please call the parish office or e-mail Scott MacDonald at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org. If you've attended this breakfast in the past, you know what a moving and hope-filled way this is to commemorate the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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KOINONIA EVENTS

Koinonia, Saint Cecilia's ministry to parishioners in their twenties and thirties, will be holding several fun events in December. All are welcome!

- Bowling Fundraiser | We will be going to Kings to bowl for charity on Sunday evening, December 18 from eight to ten o'clock. The beneficiary will be decided by the group at our next planning meeting.
- Trivia nights | Koinonia meets every first and third Wednesday for trivia at Clerys (113 Dartmouth Street).

To keep informed about Koinonia events, please join our e-mail list by e-mailing Kevin Daly at stcecilia.koinonia@gmail.com.



PINE STREET AFGHANS

Fourteen of our parishioners took part in the recent Pine Street Inn Knit-A-Thon. They were part of a group that knit 99 squares. The knitted squares were then sewn into afghans that will be given to Pine Street Inn guests as they transition into permanent housing. We want to thank all those who participated, including: Nancy Bloom, Jeanne Bruno, Genevieve Fiorenti, Susan Flynn, Erica Graf, Anne Hurwitch, Lauren Johnston, Jenny Jones, Virginia Morse, Mariam Patrose, Sheila Sargent, Susanne Shengler, and Kathleen Theisen. Not only did our group provide enough squares for almost three afghans, but we had a chance to knit together after Mass and meet new friends. Thank you to everyone who participated!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to remember your loved ones by donating towards the Christmas flowers that will grace our sanctuary. In the back of the church you'll find envelopes that you can use for this purpose. Please drop the envelope in the collection basket or hand it to any staff person. The names of those remembered will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Please be sure to PRINT clearly.

CHRISTMAS BOOK SALE TODAY!

As a prelude to the anticipated 'Bookshop at Saint Cecilia' we will be offering a selection of new children's books for sale in the Parish Pastoral Center after the nine-thirty and eleven-fifteen liturgies today. Please stop by and take a look at what we think is a selection of the very best new books for children. Proceeds will benefit folks in need during the holiday season.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

This weekend, we will again be selling Christmas cards to support the mission of Pine Street Inn, where Father John and several parishioners serve on the Board of Directors. This is a wonderful way of supporting Pine Street's mission of finding permanent solutions to homelessness while sharing some wonderful Boston-themed Christmas cards with family and friends.

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THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE GALA A SUCCESS!

Sincere thanks to everyone who worked to make the Gala such a wonderful success and to everyone who participated in the evening. Because so many of you were so very generous with your time, talents and treasure we were able to include members of our choir, our lectors, our extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and our greeters in the festivities. The Y Chromatones, the superb a cappella group from Berklee, put on a great show, the auction was a huge success and the Fairmont Copley Plaza proved to be an truly elegant venue for our celebration.

The evening netted in excess of \$25K. Special thanks to the Gala Committee: Anna DeMare, Karylann Walsh, Mary Lou Greene, Dan Mullin, Rob Murray, Susan Flynn, Scott MacDonald, and Susan Donnelly; to Ron Ritacco who did the excellent design work; to Beth Weir, Mark Lippolt and Maria and Tim Leahy for their generous help with the auction; Greg Moffat auctioneer par excellence; and Zach Bourque our master of ceremonies.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The upcoming Christmas collection will be given entirely to the support of the health and retirement needs of the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. Currently, 40% of the priests of our Archdiocese are retired. Each year, we need to raise \$9 million dollars to care for them. We ask that you give generously on behalf of the priests who have devote their lives to the faithful service of God, the good works of the Archdiocese of Boston, and us. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

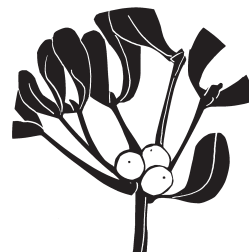
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accepting the fact that my truth is always partial—and may not be true at all—so I need to listen with openness and respect, especially to "the other."

Humility plus chutzpah equals the kind of citizens democracy needs, and there is no reason—at least no good reason—why our number cannot be legion. Religious communities can help multiply that number by embracing the mission Alexis de Tocqueville pointed to nearly two centuries ago.

FOOD SERVICE AT PINE STREET'S MEN'S INN

Human services non-profits such as Pine Street have been seriously impacted by the economic downturn: their fundraising has become more challenging at the very same time they are experiencing a dramatic increase in demand for their services. Our parish remains committed to helping Pine Street fulfill its mission and so we continue to serve meals at the Women's Inn and Men's Inn on a regular basis. We need up to nine volunteers to serve dinner at the Men's Inn on Friday, December 30 from 4:45 to 6:30 p.m. If you're interested and can be at Pine Street on Harrison Avenue at that time, please contact Mark Lippolt at mlippolt@hammondre.com.



HUMILITY, CHUTZPAH AND DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA: 5 HABITS OF THE HEART

"The human heart is the first home of democracy. It is where we embrace our questions. Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinions? And do we have enough resolve in our hearts to act courageously, relentlessly, without giving up—ever—trusting our fellow citizens to join with us in our determined pursuit of a living democracy?" —Terry Tempest Williams, *The Open Space of Democracy*

By PARKER J. PALMER

Prophets aren't always crones or old geezers. When Alexis de Tocqueville visited the United States in the early 1830s, he was only 27 years old. But after spending a year among us, the young French intellectual returned home to write the classic *Democracy in America*. In it he predicted that this democracy's future would depend heavily on the "habits of the heart" its citizens developed, habits that form a vital part of democracy's infrastructure.

Today, as habits of the heart like demonizing those who disagree with us, or tripping out on the fantasy that "I made it on my own and I don't owe anyone anything," unravel the fabric of our civic community, Tocqueville has proven prophetic once again.

For Tocqueville, as for Terry Tempest Williams, "heart" meant much more than feelings. The word comes from the Latin *cor*. It points to the core of the self where *all* of our ways of knowing converge—intellectual, emotional, sensory, intuitive, imaginative, experiential, relational and bodily, among others.

Tocqueville believed that America's religious communities would be critical in forming our habits of the heart, for better or for worse.

As a Christian, I don't need to be schooled on the "worse" that religion is capable of doing to democracy. When it comes to the political toxicity of some forms of Christianity, Holden Caulfield got it right in *The Catcher in the Rye* when he uttered those famous words, "old Jesus probably would've puked if He could see it."

But some critics of religion seem to be stuck in the 16-year-old Holden Caulfield stage of development, able to see only part of the picture and enamored of their own power to say "scandalous" things. The truth is that leaders and members of some churches, synagogues and mosques—conservative and liberal alike—have worked hard for a long time to serve the common good, and they have the openness of heart to do the job.

Those religious communities—to say nothing of our schools, which Tocqueville also regarded as critical—could make a vital contribution to democracy by teaching and practicing five habits of the heart on which so much depends:

1. An understanding that we are all in this together. We are a profoundly interconnected species, as the global economic and ecological

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crises reveal in vivid and frightening detail. We must embrace the simple fact that we are dependent on and accountable to one another. At the same time, we must save this notion from the idealistic excesses that make it an impossible dream. Exhorting people to hold a continual awareness of national or global interconnectedness is a counsel of perfection achievable (if at all) only by the rare saint. Which leads to a second key habit of the heart...

2. An appreciation of the value of "otherness." Although we are all in this together, we spend most of our lives in "tribes." Thinking of the world as "us" and "them" is one of the limitations of the human mind. The good news is that "us *and* them" doesn't need to mean "us vs. them." Instead, it can remind us of the ancient tradition of hospitality to the stranger which is rooted in the notion that the stranger has much to teach us. Hospitality invites "otherness" into our lives to expand our minds and hearts, to help us feel more at home amid the diversity of humankind. But we won't practice hospitality to the stranger if we don't understand and embrace the creative possibilities inherent in our differences. Which leads to a third key habit of the heart...

3. An ability to hold tension in life-giving ways. Encounters with "the stranger" inevitably take us to places of tension where we don't want to be, places where we see and hear things that run counter to our convictions. If we fail to hold those tensions creatively, they will shut us down and take us out of the action. But when we allow them to expand our hearts, they can open us to new understandings of ourselves and our world, enhancing our lives and allowing us to enhance the lives of others. The genius of the human heart—and of democracy—lies in their capacity to use such tensions to generate insight, energy, and new

life. Making the most of those gifts requires a fourth key habit of the heart...

4. A sense of personal voice and agency. Insight and energy give rise to new life as we speak and act, expressing our version of truth while checking and correcting it against the truths of others. But many of us lack confidence in our own voices and in our power to make a difference. We have been deformed by educational and religious institutions that treat us as members of an audience instead of actors in a drama, so we become adults who treat democracy as a spectator sport. And yet it remains possible for us, young and old alike, to find our voices, learn how to use them and know the satisfaction that comes from contributing to positive change—if we have support. Which leads to a fifth and final habit of the heart...

5. A capacity to create community. Without community, it is nearly impossible to achieve voice: it takes a village to raise a Rosa Parks. Without community, it is nearly impossible to multiply the "power of one." It took a village to translate Parks's act of personal integrity into social change. In a mass society like ours, community rarely comes ready-made. But creating community where we live and work doesn't mean abandoning other parts of our lives to become full-time organizers. The steady companionship of two or three kindred spirits can kindle the courage we need to speak and act as citizens.

If I were asked for two words to summarize the habits of the heart citizens need to help democracy survive and thrive, I'd choose *chutzpah* and *humility*. By *chutzpah* I mean knowing that I have a voice that needs to be heard and the right to speak it. By *humility* I mean

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PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Phone | 617 536 4548
Fax | 617 536 1781
E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Richard J. Clark, Director of Music and Organist, rclark@stceciliaboston.org
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate for Administration, mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org
Genevieve Fiorente, Office Administrative Assistant
Scott J. MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Leadership Development, smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org
Maureen Sullivan, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, msullivan@stceciliaboston.org
Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor, junni@stceciliaboston.org

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Charles Connolly, SJ
Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ
Rev. George Winchester, SJ

Schedule for Liturgy

Thursday & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30, 11:15, and 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Reconciliation

By appointment at any time and Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8:00 during Lent.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of eucharist and confirmation. For more information, please contact Scott MacDonald.

Baptism for Infants

Infant baptism is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. For more information, please contact Mark Donohoe.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact Scott MacDonald in the parish office.

Marriage

Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact Mark Donohoe in the parish office at least six months in advance.

Care of the Sick

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the parish office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

Order of Christian Funerals

The parish is prepared to celebrate the Vigil (wake) in the church. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIRTUS). They also provide consultation and support to anyone in the parish who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Lois Flaherty (loisflaherty@gmail.com), Ginny DiSanto (gin250boston@gmail.com) or Peg Quilty (nursepeg@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full text of the policy is also available in the narthex and parish office, as well as on our website.

For Those with Celiac Disease

If you have celiac disease, please let us know. We have a supply of low-gluten altar bread available for those who cannot tolerate gluten.

Hearing Assistance in Church

The church is equipped with an FM listening device. Small receivers are available for anyone who may have trouble hearing the sound system. Simply request a receiver from any one of our greeters before Mass.

Access for the Disabled

The church is accessible by elevator.

Parking

Reduced-rate parking (maximum of three hours) is available Sundays at the Prudential Center parking garage, LAZ Parking (53 Belvidere Street), and at the Hilton Boston Back Bay. Please bring your parking ticket to church for validation before returning to the garage.

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston but also have parishioners from as far afield as Marlborough, Newburyport, and Stow. Please introduce yourself to a staff member, drop in for coffee on Sunday, or fill out a new parishioner form in the gathering space. No matter what your background, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.