

Practice of Faith

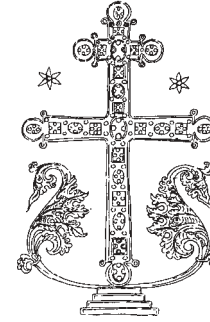
On Sundays during slave times, African American women sometimes adorned their bandannas with wildflowers. Thus, they silently voiced their irrepressible conviction that they were beloved by God. When slavery ended, Sunday churchgoing offered liberated slave women one of their few opportunities to dress up, even though their hats might be made from feedbags stiffened with starch. In ensuing years, black women have taken delight in wearing elegant hats to church as an expression of their creativity. This long-standing spiritual practice is detailed in *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*, by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry (New York: Doubleday, 2000). The book shows how black women's "hattitude" encouraged them to stand up tall and confident in their churches - churches that formed the heart of the abolition, Underground Railroad, and civil rights movements. *Crowns* was so successful as a book that it has been adapted into a popular musical theater piece.

Scripture Insights

The language of divine glory is central to the theology of the Gospel of John. In the Old Testament, God's glory is typically a "brilliant" supernatural quality. There, illumination depicts God's presence and power. John, however, relates Jesus' death on the cross with the divine glory he shares with his Father. This is a stunning and ironic revision of the Gospel writer's inheritance from Judaism. For John, Jesus is exalted on the cross. What would have been a humiliating death became a means of revelation greater than prophecy or God's gift of the law at Mount Sinai.

Perhaps the most peculiar aspect of the *Left Behind* media series is the seeming delight of its authors in the violence and sweeping damnation of souls they suppose will accompany the return of Jesus. The book of Revelation is little more than fuel for the author's imaginations. Our readings conclude today with the love command. But there is more to Jesus' words than the command to love. He also claims "all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." The defining mark of discipleship, according to Jesus, is that "all," insiders and outsiders, see love shared among the disciples. "Dare we hope all men shall be saved?" asked the Jesuit theologian Urs von Balthasar in his book of the same title. His answer, in light of the traditions of the ancient church he loved, was "yes." One way to show our love for one another and for the world God loves is to work and pray that no one is left behind.

At Home with the Word 2007. Reprinted with permission. Liturgy Training Publications.



Saint Cecilia Parish

Boston, Massachusetts

A Catholic Community in the Heart of the Back Bay

Saint Cecilia Church

www.stceciliaboston.org

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Parish Staff

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In Residence

Rev. Thomas A. Mahoney

Access for the Disabled

Both the church and parish hall are accessible by elevator.

Parking

Two hours of free parking for parishioners is available before 1:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Fitz-Inn Auto Park at Belvidere and Dalton Streets. Reduced rate parking is available with validation on Sundays in the Prudential Center Garage.

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 7:30 a.m.

Holy Days, 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays, 4:30-4:50 p.m., and by appt.

Christian Initiation

Infant Baptisms: Baptisms are celebrated at the 9:30 and 11:00

Sunday Masses and should be scheduled one month in advance.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

The parish welcomes those seeking fuller participation in the life of the Church. Classes run from September to May. Contact the rectory for more information.

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples preparing for marriage should contact the rectory at least six months in advance.

Religious Education

Classes are held after the 9:30 Mass.

CAP Team Members

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 6, 2007



Ministers of the Liturgy

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, presider

Amanda Grey, lector

Richard Barry, eucharistic minister

Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

Rev. David Beauregard, OMV, presider

Greg Moffatt, lector

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider

Mary Jane Kinne & Kurt Cerulli, lectors

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider

Mary Alice Saluke & Joe Bordieri, lectors

Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider

Pearse Martin & Letitia Howland, lectors

The commandment given in Leviticus 19:18 was "love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus commands us, however, to love one another as he has loved us. This is a "new love" because it calls for the self-emptying of the slain Lamb. Our paschal transformation challenges us to make the norm of our love not self-love but the self-sacrificing love of Jesus. This is a demanding love because it will require that we die to self.

Living Liturgy™, Fifth Sunday of Easter 2007

Save the Date!

- **Parish Easter Supper and Evening of Reflection:** Friday May 18 at 7:00 p.m. Come join us for supper, followed by a talk given by Fr. John, who will follow up on the themes touched on at our Lenten supper.
- **Parish Retreat:** June 1-3, Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, Wareham, MA. \$200.00 per person, which includes 5 meals and two nights lodging. Bro. John Hamilton, CFX will be the retreat director. There are only 50 spots available, so sign up soon!
- **Sunday, June 3. AIDS Walk Boston:** This family-friendly event raises money for AIDS Action Committee services and prevention efforts. Walk begins and ends at the Hatch Memorial Shell on the Esplanade. St. Cecilia is organizing a Walk Team. Parishioners can walk, run, or volunteer. Details to follow.

Special Intentions

Sunday, May 6, 8:00 a.m.

Timothy Phelan, Memorial

Sunday, May 6, 9:30 a.m.

Isabelle Plante, 2nd Anniversary

Sunday, May 6, 11:00 a.m.

Daniel & Mary Lee Hegarty,

50th Wedding Anniversary

Monday, May 7, 7:30 a.m.

Arthur Pestani, Memorial

Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 a.m.

Jean Valsak, Memorial

Thursday, May 10, 7:30 a.m.

Jospeh D'Urso, Memorial

Friday, May 11, 7:30 a.m.

Larry Reny, Memorial

Meet the Candidates

The annual election for the Parish Pastoral Council is May 20. We are very grateful to the five excellent candidates who are running for the four vacant seats. Please plan to meet them this morning after Mass. If you will not be here on May 20, you can vote by absentee ballot. Instructions and the ballot are on our website – www.stceciliaboston.org.

Last 6:00 p.m. Mass

Today marks the last 6:00 p.m. Mass of the season. It will resume on Sunday, September 9.

Heifer Project Bake Sale Today!

The 5th & 6th grade religious education class will be holding a bake sale to raise funds for a goat and a flock of chickens to send to Haiti. Come and support them after either the 9:30, 11:00 or 6:00 Masses today!

Pennies from Heaven!

Next month a group of high school students from our parish will spend one week in Gallup, New Mexico, as participants in the Young Neighbors in Action (YNIA) program. To help defray the cost of this trip, we invite you to bring your pennies and other spare change to church. There is a Poland Spring 5-gallon bottle at the back of the church. Every penny counts!

A Gift Idea for Mother's Day

For a donation of \$50 to Pine Street Inn, Dancing Deer Baking Company will send your mother, or any special woman in your life, a dozen chocolate shortbread cookies, frosted and hand stenciled with pink roses and carefully wrapped in a shaker box. For \$100 both your mother and a homeless woman at the Women's Inn at Pine Street will receive this wonderful gift. Your donation will support services for women at Pine Street Inn, New England's largest shelter and resource for homeless women. To order, visit www.pinestreetinn.org/mothers or call 617-892-9178. Orders must be received by Monday, May 7 for delivery before Mother's Day.

2007 Catholic Appeal

This is Catholic Appeal Weekend. The Catholic Appeal is a once-a-year fundraiser to benefit the many programs and services of our Archdiocese of Boston. Please know that your participation counts and that all gifts – of whatever amount – matter. The Catholic Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the Offertory is to our parish – so your participation and support are critical. Please see the information packets in the pews to learn more and to obtain a pledge form if you didn't receive one last week. Cardinal Seán is grateful to all at St. Cecilia's who contributed \$27,332 to the 2006 Catholic Appeal. This year, our target is at least 195 households participating and at least \$29,500 raised. If we exceed our financial goal, we will receive 25 percent of all funds raised above goal for use here at our parish. Thank you in advance for joining with parishioners throughout our Archdiocese's 295 parishes to carry on the broader work of our Church.

The Cecilia Film Series

This occasional film series seeks to draw our attention to films that explore moral and social issues, particularly in light of Catholic social teaching. Popcorn, of course, will be served. We welcome your suggestions for films and scheduling ideas. Please join us on Thursday, May 24 at 7p.m. for *The Ninth Day*, the story of a Catholic priest who finds himself faced with having to choose between physical or spiritual survival during the Nazi era.

Bereavement Support Group

Caritas Good Samaritan Hospice is sponsoring a six-week bereavement support group – Coping with Loss – from Tuesday, May 15-Tuesday, June 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the hospice – 310 Allston Street, Brighton. Under the direction of a trained facilitator, the group provides a safe and nurturing environment in which to express grief after the loss of a loved one. There is no fee, but advance registration is required. Please call by May 9 – Margo Stienberg, LCSW at 617-566-6242.