

Practice of Hope

American gardens are resplendent for Mother's Day today, among them Conrad's Garden in Wicker Park, Chicago – also known as Resurrection Garden. The garden was created in 1998 for Conrad Cwiertnia, who was suffering from cancer. His house was filled with medical equipment, so Conrad's neighbors, Doug Wood and Denise Browning, planted a garden where his many friends could continue to visit. Artists began painting there, people wandered through, and one night a dance was held. Conrad died in 2003. The two loyal neighbors hoped to purchase the property eventually, but it was sold. So they obtained permission from the new owner and from the city to move the garden plant-by-plant to the park. They dug up 1,800 plants, wrapped each in burlap and moved every one to its new home via shopping cart. Since its beauty draws so many visitors, the garden has made the park safer.

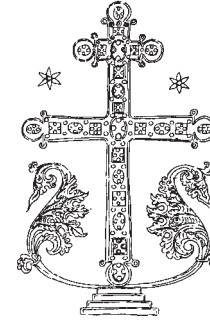
Scripture Insights

Twenty-seven books comprise the New Testament. The majority are letters. These letters, also known as epistles, were vital to the Church's early development. Sometimes, as the apostle Paul says, they were more persuasive than the writer's presence (see 2 Corinthians 10:7-11). In today's reading from Acts, we have what some biblical scholars call an "embedded letter." This is a letter placed in, or perhaps composed for, a larger text.

The account of the Council in Antioch describes the struggles of the early Christian communities. Specifically addressed is the issue of circumcision. Parish council members may marvel at how simply the issue is worked out. However, it is worth checking another New Testament letter, Saint Paul's epistle to the Galatians (see especially 2:11-14), before deciding on the ease of the resolution.

Any group of people undergoing change will face conflicts. When all agree on what binds the group, issues are settled more easily. Today's Gospel reading provides one of the traditional bases for understanding what holds the Church together. We are disciples of Jesus joined by the Holy Spirit. Our understanding and experience of the Spirit is a source of our unity, our "catholicity." Our Catholic family conflicts may not be so quickly resolved as in today's reading from Acts, but the resource for resolution has been offered. It is our choice to accept or reject what it has to teach us.

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

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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.

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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Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 13, 2007



Ministers of the Liturgy

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, presider
Brain Aldridge, lector
Richard Barry, eucharistic minister

Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

Rev. David Beauregard, OMV, presider
Bob Murphy, lector

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider

Mark Lippolt, Liam Duggan,
Ryan Santoro, Sophia Marota, lectors

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC, presider
Mirella Misiaszek & Paul Schreier, lectors

"Keep my word," Jesus commands. By this do disciples prove their love for Jesus. Lest the disciples feel disheartened or afraid, Jesus gives his Spirit to guide them and his peace to reassure them. The risen Jesus gives us the same command and the same gifts. Like the disciples, we are to make keeping Jesus' word our way of life; like the disciples, we have been given the power to do so.

Living Liturgy™, 6th 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 13, 8:00 a.m.

Timothy Phelan, Memorial

Sunday, May 13, 9:30 a.m.

Ella Salerno, Memorial

Sunday, May 13, 11:00 a.m.

Bill Desmond, Special Intention

April Offertory

Offertory \$10,136.35

OCP \$26,291.66

Easter (Clergy Benefit Trust) \$9,763.75

Ascension Thursday

This Thursday, May 17 is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Masses for the holy day will be on Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. and Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.

First Communion

Congratulations to all our first communicants who are receiving for the first time at the 9:30 a.m. mass this morning! Please keep them in your prayers on this special day in their faith journey, and please join them at a reception in their honor immediately after Mass in the parish hall.

Parish Supper Friday!

This Friday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. there will be another in our series of "evenings of reflection" in the parish hall. Fr. John will follow up on the themes touched on at our last get-together in Lent. Supper will be served. Please sign up at the back of the church today, so we can have an idea of how many we will need to feed. Last time was a great turnout and a great evening! We hope you'll plan to join us.

Heifer Success!

Thanks to everyone who helped support our 5th and 6th grade Heifer Bake Sale last weekend. Our original goal was to raise \$140 for a goat and a flock of chicks. With your support and contributions, we were able to raise \$1,040! Now we'll be able to send a whole herd!

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!

2007 Catholic Appeal

The 2007 Catholic Appeal is underway. The Catholic Appeal is a once-a-year fundraiser to benefit the many programs and services of the Archdiocese. Please know that your participation counts and that all gifts – of whatever amount – matter. 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. Please join us on Thursday, May 24 at 7p.m. for *The Ninth Day*, the story of a Catholic priest who has to choose between physical or spiritual survival during the Nazi era.

Holy Family Shelter Meal

The next shelter meal will be Tuesday, May 15. To help serve, meet at the rectory by 4:30 pm. We also need desserts for the meal so please deliver them to the rectory before 4:30 on Tuesday. We will be cooking the meal this morning after the 9:30 am Mass. For more information, please contact Jenny Jones at 617-283-7927.

Volunteer Opportunity

Help end elder hunger. Help low-income seniors receive food assistance and maintain a healthy diet. Learn how to fill out food stamp applications. Contact Amalia Serafim, City of Boston Commission on Affairs of the Elderly at Amalia.Serafim@cityofboston.org or 617-635-3989.