

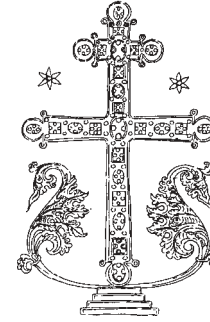
Practice of Faith

While today's Gospel tells of extraordinary acts of mercy offered to someone who had been robbed and brutally beaten, even the simplest actions can have a great impact. The Peoria (Illinois) Journal Star demonstrates that each day in a series detailing "random acts of kindness." One mother told of the stranger who fixed a flat tire when she had a carload of kids. She thanked her Good Samaritan for giving her family back precious time. Another person told of how her lunch tab had been paid by someone who noticed the despair on her face after she received bad news. These simple stories remind us that hope comes in all shapes and sizes. You don't have to have superhuman strength to change the world. You just have to have the willingness to love with all the strength you have.

Scripture Insights

"And who is my neighbor?" There's a poignancy to the question posed by the "scholar of the Law" in today's Gospel. Who does not resonate with his desire to know *exactly* what must be done to fulfill the Law in order to obtain the hoped for reward? For the Jews, observing the law of God was the way to life. Jesus' questioner was a professional in the law, and as Luke demonstrates by having him answer his own questions, the commandments of the Lord were very near to him, already in his mouth and in his heart. The story of the Good Samaritan is well known and much loved. As shocking as the actions of the priest and the Levite *seem* to be, they *were* members of the temple staff and contact with what was presumably a corpse would have rendered them ritually unclean, unfit for their respective services. In effect, they were keeping the law by moving on. The Samaritan, a member of a group despised by the Jerusalem Jews, turned out to be the one most faithful to it in Jesus' eyes. He is the one who *was* neighbor. Although Luke's text focuses on the word "neighbor," because this is the issue for the scholar, his response to Jesus echoes other biblical texts that were likewise in his heart: "It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice" (Hosea 6:6; see also Micah 6:8). The scholar of the Law recognized this mercy in action. What remained for him to fulfill was Jesus' command: "go and do likewise."

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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Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 15, 2007



Ministers of the Liturgy

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Lionel Targett, presider
Tom Nicolini, lector
Richard Barry, eucharistic minister

Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Lionel Targett, presider
Louvere Walker, lector

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC, presider
Mary Kane and Bob Mann, lectors

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC, presider
Michele Maniscalco & Katherine Roz,
lectors

Knowing the Law is not enough; we must keep it! But that is easier said than done, as the "scholar of the law" in this Sunday's gospel demonstrates for us. Jesus does not need to answer the first question posed by the "scholar of the law" ("what must I do to inherit eternal life?") since the lawyer knows the answer. The Law is "already in [his] mouth and in [his] heart" (first reading) and so Jesus instructs him: "do this and you will live."

Living Liturgy™

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2007



Parish Registration

If you are new to the parish, or if you are a regular communicant who has never formally registered as a parishioner, there are registration forms at the rear of the church for this purpose. You can also register online by visiting our website: www.stceciliaboston.org. This parish is only as strong and vital as its members. Take that first step and let us know who you are!

Eucharistic Visitation

If you are aware of anyone who is homebound for any reason who would like to receive the Eucharist, please call Mark at the rectory.

Coffee Hour

Join us after the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Masses for coffee in the parish hall.

Missionary Appeal Today

Today we are pleased to welcome Fr. Lionel Targett, a priest from The Society of Saint James, who will give us some insight into the state of the missions in South America. The Society, founded by Cardinal Cushing in 1958, has about forty members serving in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador. Each year a few of the members come north to spread the word about their missionary work and to appeal for donations. Please be as generous as your means will allow. For more info., visit www.socstjames.com.

Wide Horizons Program

A group of young adults from Ireland are coming to Boston in August for an 8-week internship in youth & community services throughout Greater Boston. The Irish Immigration Center is looking for host families (married or single adults, with or without children) to provide meals and a safe home for these 18-28-year-olds. Host families will be financially compensated and fully supported by the staff of the Center. For more details, please contact Ann-Marie Byrne at amariebyrne@iicenter.org or 617-542-1900 ext. 16.

2007 Catholic Appeal Update

Thank you to all supporters of the 2007 Catholic Appeal. Our parish has raised \$15,331 from 30 households, reaching 52% percent of our parish goal of \$29,500. If you have not yet given, please consider a gift today and help us meet our goal. Remember, our parish will receive 25 percent of all funds we raise above our goal. So each gift has the potential to increase parish revenue while still supporting the ministries funded by the Catholic Appeal. You can pick up information packets with pledge forms in the back of the church to be mailed in, or for more information please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com or call 617-779-3700. Thank you.

Praying the Rosary

On Sunday mornings at 7:15 a.m., parishioners are gathering in the church to pray the rosary together before the 8:00 a.m. Mass. All are welcome!

Give Blood!

The American Red Cross is currently facing a critical blood shortage. Across the Northeast, supplies are down by almost 2700 units, and summer is always a challenging time for recruiting donors. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to give of yourself in the most concrete of ways. Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or visit www.newenglandblood.org today. Thank you!

Church in Eastern Europe

Next weekend is designated for the annual collection to benefit the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and the spreading of the Gospel message through the mass media.

US Catholic

Preacher Woman: Christians of every denomination are hungry for good preaching, says Episcopal priest Barbara Taylor Brown in this *Expert Witness* interview. Unfortunately, for preachers, there's no one recipe to satisfy them all. Check out the July issue of **U.S. Catholic** in the vestibule to find out about this and many other stories.

New Choir Members

We are always seeking singers and instrumentalists to join us at the 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. Masses. If you have a musical talent to share with the community, we would love to have you join us. Please contact Richard Clark at 617-536-4548 or StCeciliaMusic@aol.com. For more info about the music program visit our website and click on "Saint Cecilia Music."