

## Practice of Faith

This Sunday's readings start with the question, "who can conceive what the Lord intends?" And it ends with the answer, "anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." The enormity of that response may leave us with another question. We may wonder, "What could God be thinking?" Many people are taking these questions of faith for a walk by journeying through a labyrinth. These walking meditations started in the Middle Ages as a way for people to make spiritual pilgrimages to the Holy Land, even if they couldn't bear the physical or financial burden. Of all shapes and sizes, many modern-day labyrinths are patterned after those that originated in the spiritual centers of Europe hundreds of years ago. To learn more about this spiritual exercise or to find a labyrinth in our area, go to [www.labyrinthociety.org](http://www.labyrinthociety.org).

## Scripture Insights

Today's Gospel minces no words: discipleship costs. The thrice-repeated phrase "cannot be my disciple" leaves no doubt: there *are* "prerequisites." Notice how Luke distinguishes between the "crowds" and the "disciples." Merely "traveling with Jesus" is not enough. More is required.

The "prerequisites" involve ties with all that human beings hold dear: family relationships; possessions; even life itself. One's relationship to Jesus has priority over all others. For some in the early Church, "discipleship" resulted in estrangement from family members who could accept neither Jesus nor the disciple's commitment. Is the would-be disciple strong enough to sustain this rejection?

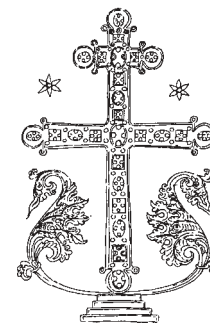
Does the would-be disciple love his or her own life/self and all that entails more than Jesus? Is he or she able to sacrifice that life – whether literally, as the Church's martyrs were called to do, or in a figurative sense – dying to self for the sake of another?

Possessions can likewise become what is most important for a person. Consequently, they must be "given-up" or "parted with." In the Lucan saying, Jesus tells the crowd: "...one's life does not consist of possessions." Rather, the disciple's true treasure is in heaven. (12:33-34).

Discipleship will involve a cross, a great suffering that will lead to death, something uniquely personal. The disciple must be *able* to carry it, *willing* to carry it for the sake of Jesus.

Jesus' words cut to the core of our existence, exacting great price – but they point the way to everlasting life.

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# Saint Cecilia Parish

Boston, Massachusetts

A Catholic Community in the Heart of the Back Bay

## Saint Cecilia Church

[www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org)

30 St. Cecilia Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02115

Phone-617-536-4548/Fax-617-536-1781

## Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate  
email: [mdonohoe@rcn.com](mailto:mdonohoe@rcn.com)

Richard Clark, Director of Music, Organist  
email: [StCeciliaMusic@aol.com](mailto:StCeciliaMusic@aol.com)

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Paula Telage, Business Manager  
email: [pgrummett@hotmail.com](mailto:pgrummett@hotmail.com)  
Genevieve Fiorente, Administrative Asst.

## 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

G. DiSanto - [gin250boston@yahoo.com](mailto:gin250boston@yahoo.com)  
P. Quilty - [nursemppeg@aol.com](mailto:nursemppeg@aol.com)

# Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 9, 2007



## Ministers of the Liturgy

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, presider  
Tom Nicolini, 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  
Rosaria Salerno & Mary Jane Kinne, lectors

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, S.J., presider  
Joe Castellano & Bryant Loftin, lectors

Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider  
Nellie Moore & Steve Ciesielski, lectors

*In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus challenges those following him to "calculate the cost" of discipleship. This cost is steep: hate family and one's own life, carry one's cross, and renounce all possessions. Moreover, these costs are not borne only once, when we make our decision to follow Jesus; rather, they are actually the daily demands of discipleship! Jesus is using pretty radical language in order to give us a chance to consider carefully what we do when we say yes to discipleship.*

Living Liturgy™

Twenty-third 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, 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](http://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!

## Save the Date!

- Pax Christi Boston will resume monthly meetings at the Paulist Center on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Library. Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month except for holidays. The October meeting will be held on October 1, 2007.
- Agape Community's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Francis Day Celebration, featuring Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. "Looking Forward and Looking Back: Our Great Non-violent Lineage". Saturday Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. in Ware, MA. For more info., contact Suzanne at 413-967-9369 or [peace@agapecommunity.org](mailto:peace@agapecommunity.org).

## Sept. 9 film screening:

### *Saint of 9/11*

Most of us first heard of Fr. Mychal Judge, the late New York fire chaplain, on September 11, 2001. Yet even prior to his heroic death on 9/11, Father Mychal, a Franciscan, was widely seen by many New Yorkers as a living saint for his deep spirituality and his extraordinary work with the homeless, recovering alcoholics, people with AIDS, immigrants, gays and lesbians, and others rejected by society. All are invited to see the film, *Saint of 9/11*, this afternoon (Sunday) at 12:30 pm in the parish hall. A voluntary offering will be taken to benefit St. Francis House, serving Boston's poor and homeless. You can view a trailer at [SaintMychalJudge.blogspot.com](http://SaintMychalJudge.blogspot.com).

## Religious Education

Religious education for children will begin on Sunday, September 30. If you are new to the parish or think that we do not have your mailing information, please e-mail or call the parish office. Classes are held immediately after the 9:30 Mass and end at 11:45.

## Holy Family Shelter – Needs

Holy Family Shelter is in need of more plates. If you have extras or can pick some up cheap at a yard sale it would be greatly appreciated. They should be dishwasher safe and if possible plain white. Dinner plates, side plates and bowls are needed most. Cups and cutlery can also be donated. There will be a collection point at the back of church this weekend and next.

## Catholic University

This weekend is designated for the annual collection to benefit The Catholic University of America. Founded in 1887, the mission of Catholic University is to serve the needs of the Church through research and teaching. If you wish to support this appeal for our national Catholic institution of higher education, there are baskets at the rear of the church.

## 2007 Catholic Appeal Update

Thank you to all supporters of the 2007 Catholic Appeal. Our parish has raised \$18,183 from 49 households, reaching 61% 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 Appeal. You can pick up packets with pledge forms in the back of the church, or for more info. please visit [www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com](http://www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com) or call 617-779-3700. Thank you.

## RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will begin again at St. Cecilia's the first week in October. This is a program offered each year to those who wish to be baptized into the Catholic faith and to those who are already baptized Christians who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Mark Donohoe at [mtonohoe@rcn.com](mailto:mtonohoe@rcn.com) or 617-536-4548. We look forward to having you join us!

## Basil Moreau to be Beatified

On September 15, Basil Anthony Moreau, founder of the sisters, brothers, and priests of Holy Cross, will be beatified by Pope Benedict XVI. Here at Saint Cecilia, we are blessed to have Fr. Tom Gariepy, C.S.C. assisting us on Sundays. Many of us also remember Fr. Peter Walsh, C.S.C., who was in residence here for many years. Let us rejoice in celebration with Fr. Tom, Fr. Peter, and their community!

## August Offertory

Offertory \$7,773.02  
Offertory Commitment Program \$19,282.99

## Special Intentions

Sunday, September 9, 9:30 a.m.

Herbert Cusick, Anniversary

Sunday, September 9, 6:00 p.m.

Thomas DeAmelio, Memorial

Wednesday, September 12, 7:30 a.m.

Joseph Salerno, Memorial

## 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](mailto:StCeciliaMusic@aol.com). For more info about the music program visit our website and click on "Saint Cecilia Music."

**The 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday Mass  
is back!**