

Practice of Hope

The father in today's Gospel searches for his son. Even though his youngest son is "dead" to his family, the father never stops looking for him, or hoping that his beloved child will return to life among them. When the son returns, his father runs to embrace him. What gives us hope is that God never stops looking for us. We, too, are greeted with open arms and a royal banquet each time we gather for Mass.

Scripture Insights

"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." At first reading, this verse can seem to be merely a part of the narrative introduction, setting the stage for the three parables in today's Gospel. Closer examination reveals that it is the key to today's Gospel – the point which the parables serve to illustrate.

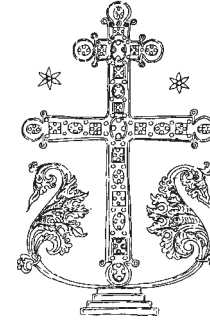
Two weeks ago, we spoke of the significance of table fellowship in Jesus' day. The sharing of a meal signified a bond of relationship. For this, and for his "welcoming" sinners, the religious "officials" of Judaism criticized Jesus. Yet, it is for sinners that Jesus has come.

The Pharisees prided themselves on their strict observance of the Law, which they believe made them "righteous" in the eyes of God. The scribes, as their name implies, were those "professional" scholars of the Scriptures. The Pharisees' and scribes' criticism of Jesus reveals their thoughts.

Luke speaks of them as "murmuring" – a word that evokes Israel's rebellious crime in the desert. Although the scribes and Pharisees do not realize it, they are sinners, too. They are likewise among the sinners for whom Jesus came and whom he calls to repentance. We see this particularly in the parables and teachings he spoke while at table with them.

Jesus "welcomed" anyone who invited him, who reached out to him, whether Pharisee, tax-collector or sinner, friend, or disciple. While sharing a meal, he demonstrated the message of reconciliation. Teaching them the ways of the kingdom, he invited them – and us – to receive and to live what God was bringing about in Him.

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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., 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

P. Quilty - nursemppeg@aol.com

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 16, 2007



Ministers of the Liturgy

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, presider
Catherine Horsley, 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
Mike Lisi & Randy O'Connor, lectors

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider
Zach Bourque & Megan Bourque, lectors

Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider
Kelly Graham & Letitia Howland, lectors

In the first two of three parables told in this Sunday's gospel, there is no concern for how the sheep and coin are lost: they are not culpable. All that matters is that they are found. By contrast, the prodigal son is culpable: he is "lost" because of his dissolute life. However, the father (unlike the older brother) is not concerned with culpability. His only concern is that he has his son back, as though from death. So, too, with God who is more eager to welcome and receive sinners than to hold them accountable.

Living Liturgy™

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2007

Save the Date!

- Pax Christi Boston invites you to participate in a nation wide reflection process of the Faithful in collaboration with "A Peoples' Peace Initiative." The results will be collated by Pax Christi USA into a document to influence a future publication on peace in justice by the US Bishops which will inform Catholic justice/peace-making in the United States for years to come. So come and share your insights on Monday, October 1, 2007 at The Paulist Center at 5 Park St., Boston. For details: contact Cornelia Sullivan at corneliasull@hotmail.com or 617-262-9461.
- Agape Community's 25th 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.

Special Intentions

Sunday, September 16, 9:30 a.m.

Joseph Salerno, Anniversary

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."

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.

A New Parish Bulletin

We are in the early stages of designing a new parish bulletin. The good news is, we've outgrown our present bulletin and need more space! We will be looking to you and to local businesses to consider sponsoring our bulletin through full color advertisements. Please give some thought to advertising with us. Our sponsors will help us produce a great looking, informative bulletin at no cost to the parish. If you would like more information about being a sponsor or helping to find sponsors, please e-mail Scott MacDonald at sj_macdonald@msn.com. We need your help!

Could It Be That Time Again?

How can it be that preparation for our 6th, yes sixth!, Mardi Gras Celebration on February 2, 2008 is just around the corner? In order to gear up for this spectacular event we need everyone's help. Please join us for a meeting on Wednesday, September 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall (enter at 20 Belvidere Street) if you are interested in volunteering. This fabulous night will feature superb music by the 16 piece Shriner's Swing Band and our own Richard Clark, amazing decorations, delicious food, a selection of stunning auction items and a chance to meet wonderful parishioners and friends who may not follow your Sunday Mass schedule! RSVP to Genevieve @ saintanthony418@aol.com. Hope to hear from you!

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.

Saint of 9/11 – Thanks!

Many thanks to those who attended the film presentation Saint of 9/11 last Sunday. Because of your generosity we were able to donate over \$300 to St. Francis House which serves Boston's poor and homeless every day.

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 or call 617-779-3700. Thank you.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will begin again at St. Cecilia's on Monday, October 1 at 6:15 p.m. in the parish hall. 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 or 617-536-4548. We look forward to having you join us!

The Women's Lunch Place

The Women's Lunch Place hosts its Fall Open House this Thursday, September 20 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. All are invited to tour the facility and meet the new Executive Director, Sharon Reilly, as well as view artwork created by the guests in Creative Expression classes. For over twenty years, the Women's Lunch Place has been a safe and supportive haven for Boston's poor and homeless women and their children. The shelter is open six days a week, year-round, to offer food, friendship, and a full spectrum of advocacy and support services to each of their guests. The shelter is located in the Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St. Boston. For more info please contact Jessica Cronin-Connolly at 617-267-1722 X25 or Jessica@womenslunchplace.org.