

Practice of Hope

Less than a year after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that caused so much death, destruction, and despair, the late Pope John Paul II convened an ecumenical peace gathering in Assisi, Italy. Surrounded by the hills and valleys that formed one of our greatest advocates of peace, Saint Francis, they prayed for reconciliation and a world renewed. That was five years ago. John Paul is gone now and wars persist. As the prophet Habakkuk did, we are tempted to look around and cry, “How long, O Lord?” Just as God consoled Habakkuk, we are encouraged to be patient, “for the vision still has its time.” The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops spoke prophetically in their pastoral letter, *The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response*. Studying that letter, written in 1983, will give Catholics an understanding of what their faith teaches about peace. Copies of the pastoral letter may be ordered from the USCCB website, www.usccb.org or by calling 1-800-235-8722.

Scripture Insights

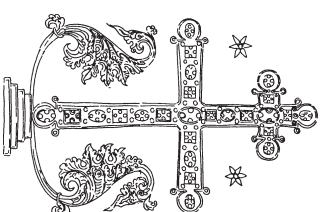
“How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen!” Haven’t we all felt this way at one time or another? Maybe many times? The cry of lament is one that resonates deep in our hearts – and, most significantly, in the prayers of all of scripture. It was precisely in the experience of helplessness and powerlessness in Egypt that the Chosen People of God came to know God as redeemer. It is precisely in the midst of deep suffering and affliction that the psalmist experiences the saving Power of God. But how long the “long” seems to be when one is in the midst of it.

For the prophet Habakkuk, writing shortly before the Babylonian invasion, things would get worse. The experiences of affliction and exile recorded in the scriptures are replayed in our lives. These are times when faith is not only tested, but has the potential to grow stronger. These are times that call us, as Habakkuk, to “keep watch to see what God will say.”

God’s response to Habakkuk are marvelous words of hope for anyone facing loss and destruction. God’s revelation has its time. The fulfillment of God’s plan – though seemingly thwarted or delayed – *will* come to pass. The just person, standing in the right relationship with God through faith, will live.

“Lord, increase our faith” – especially when it is tested and we are tempted to give way to despair. Help us to wait, grounded in every-increasing faith, for the fulfillment of your plan.

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.stceciiliaboston.org
30 St. Cecilia Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
Phone-617-536-4548/Fax-617-536-1781

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Umri, Pastor

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

email: mdonohoe@rcn.com

Richard Clark, Director of Music, Organist

email: StCeciliaMusic@aol.com

Scott MacDonald, Director of Rel. Education

email: sj_macdonald@msn.com

Paula Telage, Business Manager

email: 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

P. Quilly - nursempeg@aol.com

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 7, 2007



Ministers of the Liturgy

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Rev. John Umri, presider
Chris Orrell, lector
Richard Barry, eucharistic minister
Sunday, 8:00 a.m.
Rev. David Beauregard, OMTV, presider
Bob Mann, lector
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Rev. George Winchester, SJ, presider
Michele Maniscalco & Mary Kane, lectors
Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
Rev. John Umri, presider
Joe Castellano & Bryant Loftin, lectors
Sunday, 6:00 p.m.
Rev. John Umri, presider
Nellie Moore & Janice Miller, lectors

Special Intentions

Sunday, October 7, 9:30 a.m.
Joanne Pieloch, Special Intention
Sunday, October 7, 11:00 a.m.
William Lutz, Memorial
Monday, October 8, 7:30 a.m.
Domenico Scarcella, Memorial
Wednesday, October 10, 7:30 a.m.
Clelia Scarcella, Memorial
Thursday, October 11, 7:30 a.m.
Cesare Rella, Memorial

Baptism

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – Marco Luis Pena
child of Mauricio and Ana Pena

When the disciples asked Jesus to “increase [their] faith,” what exactly were they asking of him? He answers them by first affirming that doing dramatic things is not the issue. After all, the master does not order his servant to move a mulberry tree by faith, but to meet ordinary expectations – serve at table, wait on him, do whatever is commanded. The issue is to be faithful to the master and his commands. It is by such fidelity that faith increases. Living Liturgy™, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2007

NU Catholic Center News

- October 10-NU Life Meeting every Wednesday at 7:30 at 68 St Stephen St. Join us this week to talk about “Miracles, How to Hear God”.
- October 13- Join us for our first Men’s and Women’s group events of the semester! Men are going hiking to brave the dangers of nature. Women are having a sleepover to eat as much cookie dough as possible! Contact the NU Catholic Center for more information (617-373-8964).
- October 26- Open Mic Night at the Catholic Center! We are looking for any and all talent (both normal and obscure). All are welcome to participate! Contact the NU Catholic Center for more information (617-373-8964).

While you are proclaiming

peace with your lips,
be careful to have it
even more fully in your heart.
~ Saint Francis of Assisi

Blessing of Animals

It’s that time of year again! This morning, in commemoration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4), we celebrate the Blessing of the Animals at both the 9:30 and 11:00 liturgies.

Wednesday Evening Mass

Starting this Wednesday, October 10, we will celebrate Mass every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. If you are looking for a mid-week escape from the daily grind, come join us.

Want to Help??

If you are interested in getting more involved in the many ministries and programs going on here, there is a table with “volunteer/interest” forms at the rear of the church for the next couple of weeks. Please stop by and check it out!

Religious Ed Notes

- There are no Religious Education classes today due to Columbus Day Weekend.
- Don't forget! The first class for Grades 8/9/10 takes place next Sunday, Oct. 14 at 4:00. Following class, we will all attend the 6:00 liturgy.
- Religious Ed Family Dinner - October 21. All families enrolled in the program are invited to attend a fun pre-Halloween dinner catered by Blue-Ribbon Bar-B-Q. The dinner will be held at the Hilton Boston Back Bay and will begin at 5:00 p.m. Please e-mail Scott MacDonald if you wish to attend. Cost is \$40 per family and the deadline to sign up is Monday, October 15.
- Altar Servers Training and Refresher Sessions. If you are presently an altar server or would like to be one, please plan to attend one of two altar server training/refresher sessions: Saturday, October 13, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon or Saturday, October 27, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. If you cannot make either of these sessions, please contact Scott MacDonald and we will come up with an alternative date.

St. Cecilia Garden Property

The parish is in the process of placing the garden property behind the church on the market for sale or lease. We are represented by Mr. Jim Elcock at Meredith and Grew. Jim will be happy to answer any questions or entertain any serious inquiries about the property. He can be reached at 617 330 8020.

Calling All Nurses!

Are you a nurse who is willing to give some time to the parish? We are looking to explore ways in which we can provide a more holistic approach to ministry at Saint Cecilia. Would you be willing to write occasional bulletin pieces on topics related to preventative health care? Would you be able to periodically offer blood pressure checks during the coffee hour or help arrange for free mammography screenings, etc? If so, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Scott MacDonald (sj_macdonald@msn.com) if you are interested in helping us move towards ministry that integrates mind, body, and spirit.

Organ Concert

On Saturday, October 20 at 8:00 p.m., St. Cecilia Music is proud to present Mark Husey, Director of Music & Liturgy at Saint Peter’s in Columbia, SC. Mr. Husey has been widely acclaimed as “a musical Renaissance man”, and is a recipient of academic and performance scholarships from Westminster Choir College and Yale. Wine and cheese reception to follow. Admission is free.

Community Servings Open House

Community Servings is hosting an open house at their new facility in Jamaica Plain next Saturday, October 13 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 18 Marbury Terrace (adjacent to the Stony Brook Orange Line station). St. Cecilia parishioners will begin volunteering in the CS kitchens again in January. Please contact Mark Lippolt (mark.lippolt@nemoves.com) for more info.