Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
13 February 2022

The Sermon on the Mount
Jesus Mafa
PRELUDE | Cantabile

Melody

Cesar Franck  
(1822-1890)

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor  
(1875-1912)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Bless These Walls

Zack Stachowski

Refrain

Bless these walls, bless this space; find in us a holy place.

Make us new, one in you, gathered here to grow in faith.

grow in faith.

Verse 1

1. Gathered here in this holy temple, all are here: the greatest and least. You’ve prepared a place for us to dwell in lasting peace.

Verse 2

2. May the doors of our church be open to all who hear your call. D.C.

Open wide the gates and let the love of Christ pour in.

Verse 3

3. As the sparrow finds a home and the swallow finds its nest, our happiness is with you, O God. D.C.

In your house we shall, we shall dwell.
CALL TO WORSHIP

* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

* The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

GLORIA | Mass of Renewal

Curtis Stephan
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Jeremiah 17: 5-8

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 1: Blessed Are They Who Hope in the Lord

Verses

1. Blessed indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked,
   nor stands in the path with sinners,
   nor abides in the company of scorners,
   but whose delight is the law of the LORD,
   and who ponders his law day and night.

2. He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters,
   that yields its fruit in due season,
   and whose leaves shall never fade;
   and all that he does shall prosper.

3. Not so are the wicked, not so!
   For they, like winnowed chaff, shall be driven away by the wind;
   for the LORD knows the way of the just,
   but the way of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20
GOSPEL | Luke 6: 17, 20-26

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

Using the Flowcode with the camera on your smartphone is as easy as Aim & Tap. Aim your camera at the Flowcode image and tap the notification banner when it appears on your phone’s screen. You may need to zoom in a bit to focus on the code.

If the Flowcode doesn’t work for you, please visit www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Christ in Me Arise

Trevor Thomson

Refrain

Christ in me a-rise and dis-pel all the dark-ness.

Christ in me a-rise with your pow-er and your strength.

Christ in me pour out your bless-ing and heal-ing.

Christ in me a-rise and I shall rise with you.

Verses

1. Be now my vi-sion; o-pen these eyes,
2. Be now my foot-steps, lead-ing the way,

show-ing me all that I must see.

tak-ing me where I must go.

On-ward to the king-dom, you are the way. A-

rise in me and I shall rise with you.
Eucharistic Prayer

* The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
* Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.

Holy, Holy | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven Janco
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.  
Amen.
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an “Act of Spiritual Communion.” During this time when we are not able to celebrate the Eucharist together in person, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of grace. We can be assured that when we express our desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, God will be with us spiritually in a special way. Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion that we encourage you to pray as you participate in our live-streamed liturgies:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Loving Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.
Verse 1

1. You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way. You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand. You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain

Be not afraid. I go before you always.

Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

Verse 2

2. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown. If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed. If you stand before the

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For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia, please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDuff@stceciliaboston.org.
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for you reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
CONCLUDING RITES

※ The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
※ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (※) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
※ Go forth, the Mass is ended.
※ All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL | Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris Akers

POSTLUDE | Transcendental Étude No. 5 « Feux Follets »

Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)
arranged by Thomas Mellan
Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children’s faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus’ teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids (“Irish working out girls”) and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings.

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci’s The Last Supper, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius’ life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We’ve been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God’s love makes all things new.
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, February 12 | 5:00 p.m.**
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Cynthia Wanner, lector

**Sunday, February 13 | 8:00 a.m.**
Rev. Patrick Nolan, SJ, celebrant
Bob Mann, lector

**Sunday, February 13 | 9:30 a.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Charlie Prucher, Cole Young, and
Chika Offurum, lectors

**Sunday, February 13 | 11:30 a.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Virgen Palermo and Eileen Maguire, lectors

**Sunday, February 13 | 6:00 p.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Kevin Dumas and Karen Vachon, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Sunday, February 13 | 9:30 a.m.**
Laura & Siobhan Shea, *Memorial*
Janet Spendley, *Memorial*
Ellen Solomita, *Memorial*
Richard Natola, *Memorial*

**Sunday, February 13 | 11:30 a.m.**
John and Elouise Lowe, *Memorial*

**Friday, February 18 | 8:00 a.m.**
Natalie Hall, *5th Anniversary*

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Please join us for Evening Prayer & Morning Prayer

- **Friday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m.**
  Memorial of Saint Agnes
- **Tuesday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m.**
  Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul
- **Tuesday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m.**
  Vigil of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
- **Saturday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m.**
  Memorial of Saint Agatha
- **Friday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m.**
  Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes
- **Tuesday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m.**
  Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter

TAIZÉ PRAYER

Please join us as we mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Saturday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m.**
A meditative hour of song, scripture, and silence.

Live on the Saint Cecilia Facebook Page or via Zoom – Email to Annxygen@gmail.com for details.

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Romans 10:8-13

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Jeremiah 17:5-8
1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Luke 6:17, 20-26
PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Delia Alvarez, Charlie Naughton, Peter Tracy, MaryAnn Weber, Bob Haas, Bob Roppolo, Christopher Gobron, Joy Gilbert, Mary Walters, John Powers, Marc Pelletier, Larry Murphy, Josephine Mason, Marian Licameli, Ray Cronin, Rosalind Sica, Nicholas Collins, and Liam Nedell.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: Annette and Mark Smith of Cheltenham, England and Catherine Pulles and Andrew McCrossan of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

World Marriage Day
Today the Church celebrates World Marriage Day. Pray that all married couples will be blessed with the wisdom to see, affirm, and appreciate the gift they are to each other. Pray also for couples struggling in their marriage, that they might find the strength to work through their difficulties and recommit themselves to each other.

Sacrament of the Sick and Blessing of Healthcare Workers and Caregivers
Today we observe World Day of the Sick at the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies with a blessing of healthcare workers and caregivers. Remember in your prayer all those who struggle with any form of illness.

Black History Month
During the month of February we recognize that Black history is American history. To divorce the two is to perpetuate the systematic oppression and violence our neighbors of color face. While only 28 days long, Black History Month is a time to celebrate and lift up the lives and achievements of Black Americans past and present. We plan to celebrate this year by sharing articles, music, and highlighting some facts about some noteworthy Black figures in history. These values echo the main principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and we pray that such values are increasingly embraced by all Americans.

ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?

Are you an adult Catholic who has been baptized and received first communion, but was never confirmed? If so, perhaps this is the right time. This year’s Central Region adult confirmation will take place on Monday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Catherine of Genoa Church (Sts. Louis & Zelie Martin Parish) in Somerville.

We will be offering a five-session virtual class at Saint Cecilia for adults who wish to prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. These classes will take place on Zoom from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on the following Thursdays:

- February 17
- February 24
- March 3
- March 10
- March 17 *this date is likely to change to accommodate those celebrating with corned beef & cabbage*

If you would like more information or would like to register for this class, please contact Scott MacDonald at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

LGBTQ CATHOLICS UNITE MONTHLY MEETING
Sunday, February 27 | 1:30 p.m. | Zoom Virtual Meeting

At this month’s LGBTQ+ Catholics Unite meeting, Donald Murray is facilitating a discussion on "2023 Synod: LGBTQ+ Ministries and Bishops – Where Do You Fit In?" Here, Don will share the contributions of Sacred Heart Parish (Tampa, FL) to the Synod process. The Synod on Synodality is intended to be a community journey and a space where all People of God can share their thoughts and feelings. Don Murray is currently co-chair of Sacred Heart’s Open Doors LGBTQ ministry in Tampa, FL, as well as St. Peter’s Gay Ministry in Provincetown, MA. LGBTQ, Catholics Unite provides a forum in which LGBTQ+ Catholics and allies can share faith experiences, thoughts, beliefs, and feelings, in a safe and affirming setting. All are welcome—including allies! If you are interested in how to connect via Zoom, please email stceciliarainbowministry@gmail.com to request a Zoom invitation.

WINTER WALK BOSTON

Ending homelessness is within our reach! For the sixth year, a consortium of agencies focused on homelessness, including Pine Street Inn, Boston Health Care for the Homeless, Y2Y Harvard Square, and common cathedral are sponsoring a 2-mile fundraising walk through the streets of Boston. The event takes place on Sunday, February 13 at 8:30 a.m. and begins at Copley Square Plaza, Back Bay. The goal is for each adult walker to raise $100—either by paying it as a registration fee or raising it from friends and family. There is a Saint Cecilia team again this year—we’ve participated each year since the event began—and if you would like to join us, please go to: https://secure.qgiv.com/event/winterwalk22/register/

CATIE’S CLOSET

We are excited to again invite you to support Catie’s Closet! Catie’s Closet assists children and teens aged 4-18 who are experiencing poverty by giving them clothing in a discreet and respectful way through their schools. Their goal is to improve school attendance and graduation rates. They have targeted 100 schools locally and serve, on average, 70,000 students daily.

This February, in honor of Saint Valentine’s Day, we are holding a virtual clothing drive for Catie’s Closet. You can get detailed information about donation criteria, their Amazon Wish List, or delivering your donation directly to their location at https://www.catiescloset.org/get-involved/#donate or check their website for opportunities to get involved - www.catiescloset.org. We are unable to accept donated items at Saint Cecilia at this time.

RACIAL EQUITY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Racial Equity Team would like to thank all those who attended prioritization presentations over the last few weeks. Thanks to your input we have specified which key focus areas will be expanded upon in the strategic planning sessions. Those key focus areas are:

- Improving Belonging and Inclusivity for Parishioners
- Parish Culture
- Solidarity in Action

Beginning on February 22, the next phase of work on our strategic plan will begin, with the expert facilitations of Health Resources in Action. While we seek to have representation from every community we are looking for more participation from the following groups: Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; LGBTQ+ parishioners; people with disabilities; youth; and young families. Please email Leah if you are interested in getting involved, lebennett@stceciliaboston.org.
WISEDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality group is now reading *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps* by Fr. Richard Rohr. In this inspiring and deep book, Fr. Rohr ties gospel principles to the Twelve Steps to help free all—addicted or not—of any spiritual obstacles to a deeper relationship with God and more active living out of the gospel. The Wisdom group is always happy to welcome new members in the second half of life. If you’d like to join us for fellowship and conversation on Sunday mornings from 8:30–9:30 a.m. via Zoom, please email Deb Garcia at sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com.

CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE

"Music for Food" is a musician-led initiative to fight hunger in our local communities. According to Feeding America, 1 in 9 people in the United States struggles with food insecurity. Music for Food’s concerts have raised funds to create more than 1.5 million meals. In Boston their concerts benefit Women’s Lunch Place. The next concert will feature works by Hindemith and Mendelssohn and will be held on Sunday, February 27 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at New England Conservatory’s Brown Hall on Huntington Avenue. The number of tickets available is limited due to the pandemic, but you can reserve at: https://musicforfood.net/boston/core3.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF LGBTQ PERSONS GROUP

**Sunday, February 20**
2pm on Zoom

Email jwoods@stanthonyshrine.org for the Zoom link.
We are pleased to present the Parish Operating Statement for the first half of our fiscal year. As you can see, we ended this period on a positive note, with a gross surplus of $630,583, largely due to the outstanding generosity of our parishioners and those who join us on the livestream. This generosity has allowed us to transfer $268,500 of that surplus to our capital repairs reserve account. We plan to move another $300,000 of the surplus into the repairs account during the third quarter. This account reserves fund is to be used as needed to keep the church building and facilities in good operating condition. At the moment the Finance Council believes that the account is underfunded, so we were very pleased to be able to reinforce it with these funds. A major focus of the Finance Council in the coming months will be to ensure that this account is fully funded and available when needed.

As always, we are appreciative and thank you for your very generous support and urge you to continue it as we all strive to make Saint Cecilia a vibrant and positive force in our community.

Saint Cecilia Finance Council

Father John Unni, Pastor; Matt Maguire, Chair
Bonnie Blanchfield, David Castaldi, Alicia Cooney, Mark Duggan, Jason Grapski, Jason Kelly, Mark Lippolt, Cole Young, Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance

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<th>OPERATING STATEMENT</th>
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The process of recognizing saints in Catholicism is so arduous that it can take generations, even centuries, to complete, but even the usually slow-moving Catholic church can accelerate matters when it wants to.

In the cases of Mother Teresa of Kolkata and Pope John Paul II, for example, church officials waived a five-year waiting period after their deaths to get the process started.

Now a group of Baltimore Catholics says it’s time to expedite the cases of six other heroes of the faith.

Parishioners of Saint Ann’s Catholic Church, a predominantly African American congregation in the East Baltimore Midway neighborhood, and the two other churches in its pastorate, Historic St. Francis Xavier and St. Wenceslaus, seek to make the case that the church should immediately canonize six Black American Catholics. The candidates include Mother Mary Lange, a Baltimore nun who started and ran a school for Black children during the era of slavery.

They were set to use a special Mass at St. Ann’s on Monday night to advocate for the cause, and organizers said they would use the All Saints’ Day service to launch a national letter-writing campaign. They hope to collect signatures on letters from Catholics across the Archdiocese of Baltimore and beyond in the coming weeks, then bundle them into a package to send to Pope Francis no later than January.

Lange, who died in 1822, and the other candidates — including Pierre Toussaint, a Haitian American former enslaved person who went on to become a successful business owner and philanthropist in New York, and the Mississippi-born scholar-evangelist Thea Bowman — had to overcome so much racism inside and outside the church during their lives that their cases should be viewed as exceptional, said Ralph E. Moore Jr., a St. Ann’s member helping to lead the effort.

The church has never made a Black American Catholic a saint.

“These strong and courageous people lived exemplary lives,” said Moore, a lifelong Catholic who is African American. “They kept the faith through slavery and other forms of racial discrimination, even when they were considered second-class members of their own church.

“The church has broken the rules [for the canonization process] before. It could do the same again. We believe it should. We’d like to see these ancestors of ours be canonized.”

The process of declaring a person is a saint involves several major steps. Five years or more after candidates have died, their bishop can open an investigation to determine whether their life was sufficiently holy or virtuous. If a special Vatican department, the Congregation of Saints, agrees, the candidate is deemed a “Servant of God,” and the case moves forward.

If church researchers can verify one miracle the candidate has performed, he or she is “beatified,” and a second confirmed miracle can mean sainthood.

Saints are thought to live near God in heaven, to be able to...
intercede with God, and to be exemplars of godly behavior. That means the absence of an African American saint leaves a gap in the spiritual lives of 3 million Black Catholics in the United States.

Some in the archdiocese see the fledgling push as comporting with a larger effort on the part of the modern church to acknowledge, attempt to atone for and transcend a history that few modern observers would deny has long been stained by racism.

Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, longtime pastor of the predominantly Spanish-speaking Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Highlandtown and now urban vicar for the archdiocese, points out that priests, bishops, deacons and nuns of generations past were themselves among the Americans who enslaved people. Their attitudes became baked into the foundations of a faith whose seminaries often excluded Black students, whose hospitals often barred Black patients, and whose congregations sometimes made Black worshipers sit in the back pews — when they were admitted at all.

Moore, 69, grew up in a day and age when some of those practices were in effect.

When he attended predominantly White Catholic churches as a boy, he said, his family had to sit in the back three rows. It was required that White worshipers take Communion before African Americans.

Such slights confused a young man who was otherwise enthusiastic about his faith, especially the exceptional education he received in Baltimore's Catholic schools.

“You can’t love the Gospels and treat people badly, but this church would somehow allow people to practice Catholicism and racism at the same time,” he said.

Though the church eliminated those strictures over the years, progress in other areas came slowly. It took the Black Catholic movement of the 1960s and 1970s to press the case for ordaining more Black Catholic priests and bishops, for example. It was not until last November that the church raised an African American prelate, Wilton Gregory of Washington, to the rank of cardinal.

Delores Moore — not related to Ralph Moore — is another longtime parishioner at St. Ann’s and, like Ralph Moore, a member of its social justice committee. She said it has long been painful to face the fact that out of the more than 10,000 men and women the Catholic church has canonized in its history — including dozens of individuals of African descent, 11 Americans and a record 899 by the current Pope Francis — not one is African American.

“It has always been an important issue,” said Delores Moore, who is African American. “But given what’s happening in our society with Black Lives Matter, the injustices we’ve seen with George Floyd, and all the other less-publicized injustices that happen every day, we’re becoming aware that systemic racism happens throughout our society, and that, unfortunately, includes our churches.

“Maybe it’s unintentional. I hope so. But we need to put a spotlight on this,” she said.

Monday’s Mass was set to include processions into the church by parishioners carrying oversized portraits of the six candidates for sainthood — Lange, Toussaint, Bowman, Augustus Tolton, Julia Greeley and Henriette DeLille.

Tolton, a former enslaved person who was baptized and reared Catholic, was rejected on the basis of his race by every American seminary he applied to. He went to Rome to study, and in 1886 won the distinction of being the first Black priest in America. (The racial background of three brothers ordained earlier was not widely acknowledged during their lifetimes. James, Patrick and Sherwood Healy were the sons of a Black woman who had been enslaved and the White man who owned her, according to an essay by James M. O’Toole, a professor of history at Boston College.)

Greeley, who was born enslaved in Missouri in the mid-1800s and baptized Catholic, became known as Denver’s “Angel of Charity” for her work on behalf of that city’s poor.

DeLille, a Black nun from New Orleans born in 1813, opened the first Catholic home for older adults and founded an order of women religious in the face of opposition due to her race.

All six have been declared Servants of God, meaning they’ve passed the first major test along the road to sainthood. Toussaint, Tolton and DeLille have also been deemed “Venerable,” placing them one miracle shy of beatification.

Ralph Moore said they’ve waited long enough, that the church should waive its usual requirements and recognize them as soon as possible as the saints they are.

“The church keeps saying, ‘We’re following the process,’ but if the process produces bad results, maybe the process needs to be reconsidered,” he said. “We’re asking them to put these six on the fast track.”

~ Jonathan M. Pitts covers news developments within faith communities and the many and sundry ways in which Marylanders live for the Baltimore Sun. A native of St. Louis, Mo., and a graduate of Haverford College and the University of Missouri School of Journalism, he came to the Baltimore Sun in 1999.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address
18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. & by Appointment
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781
E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff
Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Rev. Mr. David A. Kiblinger, SJ
Leah Bennett, Communications and Operations Manager, lbennett@stceciliaboston.org
Christine Burns, Digital Media Coordinator cburns@stceciliaboston.org
Mike Currier, Reception reception@stceciliaboston.org
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org
Robert Duff, Director of Music rduff@stceciliaboston.org
Giovanna Franchi, Pastoral Minister gfranchi@stceciliaboston.org
David Girardin, Assistant Music Director dgirardin@stceciliaboston.org
Lauren Healy, Reception reception@stceciliaboston.org
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org
Thomas Mellan, Organist tmellan@stceciliaboston.org
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events lpickering@stceciliaboston.org
Tim Rozier-Byrd, Reception reception@stceciliaboston.org

Assisting Clergy
Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

Schedule for Liturgy
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord’s Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.
* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in-person and livestreamed.

Baptism for Infants
Infant baptism is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. For more information, please contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office.

Faith Formation for Children
To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact Scott MacDonald in the Parish Office.

Marriage
Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

Order of Christian Funerals
The parish is prepared to celebrate the Vigil (wake) in the church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation.

Care of the Sick
To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the Parish Office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team
The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God’s Children program (VIRTUS). They also provide consultation and support to anyone in the parish who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Lois Flaherty (loisflaherty@gmail.com), Maria Roche (maria.roche15@gmail.com), Letitia Howland (l_howland@hotmail.com), or Erin Young (erin.t.young@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full text of the policy is also available in the narthex and Parish Office, as well as on our website.

For Those with Celiac Disease
If you have celiac disease, please let us know. We have a supply of low-gluten altar bread available for those who cannot tolerate gluten.

Hearing Assistance in Church
The church is equipped with an assistive listening system. If you would like to use one of the small receivers, please ask one of our greeters.

Building Accessibility
Both the church and Parish Hall Center are accessible by elevator.

Parking
There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski’s Tavern), for $11, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and $14 after 4:00 every day of the week. To take advantage of this discount, ask one of our greeters for a chaser ticket at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, first place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Joining Our Community
We’re happy that you’re with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and around the world. If you are local, please introduce yourself to a staff member or drop in for coffee on Sunday. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.
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