Solemnity of Christ the King
Thirty-fourth & Last Sunday of the Liturgical Year
21 November 2021

Christ Enthroned
Abbey of Kells
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.
Glory to God in the high-est, and on earth

peace to peo-ple of good will.

Verse 1

praise you, we bless you, we a-dore

you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you

thanks for your great glo-ry, Lord God,

heaven-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa-ther.

Verse 2

Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther,

you take a-way the sins of the world, have

mer-cy on us; you take a-way the

sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the

Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us.
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Daniel 7: 13-14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 93: The Lord is King

Tony Alonso

SECOND READING | Revelation 1: 5-8
GOSPEL | John 18: 33b-37

HOMILY

DISMISSEL OF THE CATECHUMENS (11:30AM MASS) | May the Word of God

Christopher Walker

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,
his suffering 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 | Crown Him with Many Crowns

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.
SANCTUS | Mass of Christ the Savior  Dan Schutte

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ the Savior

AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.
THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

* The peace of the Lord be with you always.
   All: And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ the Savior

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. World, grant us peace.

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.
O Jesus, King most wonderful! O Conqueror renowned! O source of peace effable, in whom all joys are found:
When once You visit darkened hearts, Then truth begins to shine, Then earthly vanity departs, Then kindles love divine.

O Jesus, light of all below, The fount of life and fire, Surpassing all the joys we know, All that we can desire:
May every heart confess Your name, Forever You adore, And, seeking You, itself inflame To seek You ever more!

Oh, may our tongues forever bless, May we love You alone And ever in our lives express the image of Your own! Amen!
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 | To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King

ICH GLAUB AN GOTT

For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia, please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: R.Duff@stceciliaboston.org.

Music in this worship aid is printed with permission under Onelicense.net #A700-137.
Saint Cecilia Parish Advent Giving Tree!

**Saint Cecilia CARES**

is a home visitation program with ministers who visit the homes of the sick, isolated, and needy members of our parish and the surrounding community. Ministers provide the gifts of compassionate listening, pastoral presence, emotional support, and Holy Communion if requested.

**LGBT Asylum Task Force**

assists LGBTQ people from one of the 71 countries in which it is a crime to be LGBTQ to obtain asylum in the United States. Provides housing, food, pro bono legal services, mental health counseling, medical health services, employment services, and other services.

**Saint Cecilia Prison & After Program**

provides a support group for men coming out of prison. Presently, the group shares inspirational emails, 1:1 buddy-style phone relationships and a monthly virtual book group.

**Saint Cecilia PARISH Advent Giving Tree Supports these Agencies & Programs**

**Waltham House**

is the first residential group home designed specifically for LGBTQ youth in New England, and one of only three of its kind in the nation. The group home provides a safe and supportive living environment for 12 gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgender youth ages 14-18.

**Haley House**

uses food with purpose and the power of community to break down barriers between people, empower individuals, and strengthen neighborhoods. We believe in radical solutions: solving problems at their root by challenging attitudes that perpetuate suffering and building alternative models.

**Women's Lunch Place (WLP)**

is a unique daytime shelter and advocacy center in Boston dedicated to helping women in need. Advocates provide healthy meals, essentials, and one-on-one assistance from to guests, and free medical services from Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program.

**Project Hope**

ensures the holidays are joyous and cheerful for hundreds of Boston's children and families. With your help, we can share joy with Project Hope families and ease stress for parents around purchasing gifts.

**Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP)**

serves over 11,000 homeless individuals and families. BHCHP ensures every one of these individuals and families have access to comprehensive health care. During winter months, those on the streets and in shelters often lack the very basic clothing necessary to stay warm and dry.

**Catholic Charities Yawkey Childhood Center**

is a diverse center based community which provides a safe, clean, healthy environment for children from age 6 weeks to 7 years.

**Elders Living at Home Program**

provides supportive services to older adults with the goal of helping them maintain their independence in safe, affordable permanent housing for as long as possible.

**Families in Transition program**

is an emergency shelter in our neighborhood for 22 single parents. FIT has been in operation for 13 years, working to help families become stabilized, and secure adequate and affordable housing in their respective communities.

**Saint Cecilia CARES**

is a home visitation program with ministers who visit the homes of the sick, isolated, and needy members of our parish and the surrounding community. Ministers provide the gifts of compassionate listening, pastoral presence, emotional support, and Holy Communion if requested.
As you can see, our beautiful Advent Giving Tree has arrived! Our team was busy yesterday making tags for agencies and individuals who have reached out to us again this year.

This year there are **two ways** to purchase gifts: taking a tag from the Advent Giving Tree in the church **OR** by using the VIRTUAL method online.

**Option 1: Giving Tree at Church**
- Select one or more tags from the tree and purchase the item(s).
- Please DO NOT take a tag unless you intend to purchase the gift.
- Wrap the gift (unless the tag indicates not to) and **attach the tag** securely to the outside.
- You are welcome to add to the purchase. For example, if someone needs a winter hat, you could include gloves, scarf, or holiday candy, etc. For some people this is the only gift they receive.
- If the gift is unavailable/out of stock a gift card may be substituted.
- If you change your mind, simply return the tag to a Giving Tree Coordinator as soon as possible.
- If you lose the tag, please inform a Giving Tree Coordinator.
- Bring your gift(s) to the parish NO LATER than **6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 15th**.

**Option 2: VIRTUAL Giving Tree Online**
You can purchase gifts online from the Virtual Advent Giving Tree to be shipped directly to agencies in need, or in some cases dropped off at the parish.

- Please visit the link to see the requests from the agencies we are supporting:  
  [https://signup.com/go/stceciliaadventgivingtree](https://signup.com/go/stceciliaadventgivingtree)
- Select your gift(s) and follow instructions for shipping and delivery. Be sure to include the listed c/o (‘in care of’) information.
- For Gift Cards choose a **physical card** vs. an ‘E-card’ (electronic) card (**Project Hope** is an exception to this rule).
- Any online seller can be used or you may purchase the gift at a store and mail it.
- **Parish drop-off for gifts is limited.** Please read the description to see if this is an option for the gift you choose. If bringing a gift to the parish be sure to clearly indicate the agency it is for.
- If the gift is unavailable/out of stock a gift card may be substituted.
- Please order and ship gifts so it will arrive at the listed agency or the Parish before **Wednesday, December 15th**.
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, November 20 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Terry Devino, SJ, celebrant
Matthew Duprey, lector

Sunday, November 21 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Nicholas Hayes-Mota, lector

Sunday, November 21 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Eden Kelly, Rosaria Salerno, and
Thomas O’Brien, lectors

Sunday, November 21 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Virgen Palermo and Kelly McClintock, lectors

Sunday, November 21 | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Bojan Bijelic, SJ, celebrant
Rev. Mr. David Kiblinger, SJ, homilist
Jordan Barnes and Hannah Ostwald, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 21 | 9:30 a.m.
Peter Lanzetti, 12th Anniversary
Christine LaSala Romeo, 2nd Anniversary
Brian Richard Beaton, 5th Anniversary
Jude Vachon, Memorial

Sunday, November 21 | 11:30 a.m.
Michael John Gillis, Memorial

Sunday, November 21 | 6:00 p.m.
Elena Paez L, Memorial
Cristobal Paez, Memorial

THANKSGIVING GRACE
BEFORE MEALS

When all have gathered at the table, the person who
leads the prayer begins:

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son,

Lord, we bless you for your goodness. By this meal we share,
strengthen the bonds of family and friendship. Touch our table
today with a knowledge of your presence, and help us delight
in one another’s company. Keep us ever mindful of those who
go without the basic needs of life today, and strengthen in us
the desire to respond to their hunger for food, water, medi-
cine, and companionship. Bless all whose labor has yielded a
rich harvest, watch over them and their families today. Bless
our cooks, and those who serve and clean up!
**Our Sick**
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Mary Pickering, Caeden Boyce, 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, Eileen Bolesky, and Fred Anzalone.

**Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish**
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: Taylor Lough of Boston, Carol Pollastri of Ashburnham, Casey Clark and Susan Kraemer of Boston, Annette Davis of Jamaica Plain, Anna Driscoll of Brooklyn, New York, and Jane MacAfee of Harwich. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaaboston.org.

**Happy Anniversary!**
This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of Giovanna Franchi who was baptized on November 23. May the Lord continue to bless her with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Giovanna!

**Thanksgiving Day Mass**
Mass will be celebrated this Thursday morning at 8:00. What a good way to give thanks!

**Happy Thanksgiving!**
Every year, this uniquely American holiday provides us the opportunity to reflect on and perhaps even articulate what we cherish most about our journey. Savor the beautiful days ahead, pray for those for whom the holidays are stressful or lonely, and offer thanks to God for the blessings in your life. The parish pastoral and support staff wish you and your loved ones all the blessings of Thanksgiving—a grateful heart, abundance at your table, safety in your journeys, and open hands to share with those in need. Happy Thanksgiving!

**Thanksgiving Prayers**
Pray for safe journeys for all who travel this week. Remember those who bear the strain of separation from loved ones, especially those who are in the military and in difficult circumstances. And remember in your prayer those who will spend Thanksgiving alone this year.

**Parish Offices Closed**
In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday the parish offices will be closed Thursday and Friday.

**Happy Feast Day!**
Tomorrow, November 22, is the feast day of Saint Cecilia and the titular solemnity of our parish. Saint Cecilia is the patroness of musicians and church music and so we remember in prayer and gratitude the many members of our community who give so generously of their time to help lead us in song and add beauty to our worship.

In honor of this feast day, our organist, Thomas Mellan, will present an organ recital shortly after the 11:30 Mass on Sunday, November 21st. The 30-minute program will include music by Royer, Scriabin and Liszt.

**November—the Month of All Souls**
November is a traditional time to remember and pray for our dead. During this month you are invited to inscribe the names of your deceased loved ones in The Book of the Names of the Dead. The Book of the Names of the Dead is located in the rear of the nave.

**Black Catholic History Month**
In 1990 the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States designated November as Black Catholic History Month to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics. It also marks a time to share in remembrance, the saints and souls of Africa and the African diaspora. May we use this month to explore our shared history, and deepen our understanding of the oppressive shields of racism.
AN AFGHAN FAMILY IS ARRIVING SOON AND WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Six weeks ago parishioners from the Paulist Center and Saint Cecilia began organizing to jointly sponsor an Afghan refugee family. This week we received preliminary approval for sponsoring a family of 5-6 people. The family is due to arrive within 2-3 weeks! Now comes the challenge to welcome this family, help them navigate through complex government programs, enroll their children in school, prepare them to find work, help them learn English, and much, much more.

Right now the most critical challenge is raising $10,000 by December 1 to pay the initial costs of housing and utilities, food, clothing, transportation, school supplies, and all the necessities of daily living. Eventually the family will be eligible for some U.S. government benefits, but even with those we may need to provide more than $20,000 for rent alone and an additional $25,000 for other living expenses.

If you wish to donate by check, make it payable to “Catholic Charities” and write: “PC-SC POWIR, Afghan” on the memo line. (POWIR stands for Parishes Organizing to Welcome Immigrants and Refugees.) Please mail your check to Catholic Charities, 275 West Broadway, Boston, MA 02127, attention: Marjean Perhot.

To donate online go to www.ccab.org/donate and under “Designation” use the drop down menu and select “Other”. In the resulting window type “Paulist Center St. Cecilia POWIR, Afghan”.

You can also sign up to volunteer with our refugee family at bit.ly/POWIRvolunteer Please contact us with any questions: sc.socialracialjustice@gmail.com. Thank you for your generosity!

THANKSGIVING GIFT CARD DRIVE

Sadly, for the second year in a row, the COVID pandemic prevents us from hosting Pine Street Inn's Low Threshold Housing Thanksgiving Dinner. But we’re still looking for $25 gift cards to fulfill the Tenants' Wish List! If you would like to contribute, please purchase one or more gift cards from Visa/MasterCard/Amyex, CVS, Target, Whole Foods, T.J. Maxx/Marshalls. Please send the gift cards to the attention of Karen Dunnett, Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115. This is the last week to submit cards! Thank you!

WORLD AIDS DAY

As part of our annual observance of World AIDS Day, our AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed in the rear of the church on the weekend of December 4/5. The solemn reading of the names inscribed on the Quilt will take place at the 11:30 Mass. This custom, begun at the Jesuit Urban Center in 1995 and continued at Saint Cecilia following the closure of the Jesuit Urban Center, honors the lives of men and women that were cut short by HIV/AIDS. Following the 11:30 liturgy on December 5, the Rainbow Ministry will host a reception in the Community Room. Refreshments will be served and there will be a discussion of the history of both the epidemic and of our Quilt. When you come to church that weekend, be sure to spend a few moments in prayer before this powerful visual reminder of souls from both the JUC and Saint Cecilia communities.

LGBTQ CATHOLICS UNITE MONTHLY MEETING

Sunday, November 28 | 1:30 p.m. | Community Room and Zoom Virtual Meeting

This month Fr. Jay Woods, OFM will facilitate a discussion on "An Advent of Hope: The LGBTQ+ Community Reflected in the Christmas Story." Fr. Jay will lead a discussion on how the revival of Most Holy Redeemer Church (San Francisco) and St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church (Hartford) during the HIV/AIDS pandemic led to communities of love, inclusion, and hope. How is the LGBTQ+ community in an advent of hope for a more inclusive Roman Catholic Church during the COVID-19 pandemic? Fr. Jay is a Franciscan Friar of the Holy Name Province and is ministering at St. Anthony Shrine, where he is the director of the Shrine’s LGBTQ+ ministry. LGBTQ Catholics Unite hosts meetings and events where people share faith experiences, thoughts, beliefs, and feelings while being supported, heard, and spiritually nourished. All are welcome—including allies! If you are interested in how to connect via Zoom, please email stcecilarainbowministry@gmail.com.

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY BOOK CLUB

Every Other Wednesday | 5:45-6:50 p.m. | Zoom

The Anti-Racist Book Club is reading Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own by Eddie S. Glaude Jr. We meet every 2 weeks. Please join our club on the BookClubz platform to get access to announcements, and meeting days and times: https://bookclubz.com/clubs/17366/join/7c4bc6/ Members of all faith communities and denominations are welcome.
ADVENT CANDLES — NEXT SUNDAY

Advent is one week away and it’s almost time for the Advent wreath! We say goodbye to the old liturgical year this week and set aside the Gospel of Mark in order to welcome Cycle C and the Gospel of Luke. Advent begins at sunset next Saturday, November 27, so it’s not too early to begin thinking about an Advent wreath for home. All you need is a circle of fresh greens and four candles, one for each of the four Sundays of Advent. Traditionally, three violet candles and one rose candle are used, but some people prefer to use blue, which recalls the color of the night sky before daylight returns. You could also use all white candles. A nice custom is to set up the wreath on your dinner table each evening. In the next four bulletins, we’ll include a prayer of blessing that can be said during the lighting of the candle(s). Next Sunday we will be selling sets of Advent candles for $10 in the reception area downstairs.

FAITH & FILM SERIES

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SEASON’S FOURTH FILM IN OUR FAITH & FILM SERIES:

LITTLE WOMEN
NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 6:00 P.M.
From writer-director Greta Gerwig comes a beautiful new interpretation of Louisa May Alcott’s classic nineteenth century coming-of-age novel. The story follows the four March sisters growing up in Massachusetts in the backdrop of the Civil War as they deal with themes of love and loss and finding their own way in the world. This film is a smart and thoughtful adaptation with an impressive cast, including Saoirse Ronan (who also starred in Greta Gerwig’s film Lady Bird), Emma Watson, Laura Dern, and Timothée Chalamet. Film critic Jack King calls Little Women “One of the best films of the year, it’s a tonic for recent depressing events.” The film will be shown in Fellowship Hall following the 5:00 Mass on Saturday (approximately 6:00 p.m.).

WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group is now reading Untie the Strong Woman: Blessed Mother’s Immaculate Love for the Wild Soul by Clarissa Pinkola Estes. About this book, Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM says, “Untie the Strong Woman is ‘catholic’ in the true sense of the term (all-embracing, universal), ‘feminist’ in the sense that we truly need and admire, and ‘wise’ in the ways of both psychology and mysticism – at their best.” If this sounds good, please consider joining the Wisdom Group on Sunday mornings (via Zoom) from 8:30 to 9:30. The Wisdom Group is always looking to welcome new members who are in the second half of life. For more information or to receive the Zoom link, please email the Wisdom Group leader, Deb Garcia, at sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIRTUAL EVENTS

BC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY – ADVENT ONLINE COURSES

A People of Hope
November 24 - December 14 | 3-Week Online Course
Registration Required | $30.00

Jesus Foretold and Fulfilled
November 24 - December 14 | 3-Week Online Course
Registration Required | $30.00

For further details or to register for this event, please check the School of Theology and Ministry website: https://www.bc.edu/bcweb/schools/stm/continuing-education/campus-events.html

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

Non-Violent Communication
Presenter: Eli McCarthy, Professor of Peace and Justice Studies at Georgetown University
Monday, November 22 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

Having Difficult Conversations
Presenter: Fr. John Predmore S.J., Boston College High School
Monday, December 13 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: https://www.saintsusanna.org/Attachments/aff_yearly_program_standard.pdf

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF BOSTON GIVING DAYS — NOV 21 – 24

As one of the largest social service organizations in Massachusetts, Catholic Charities serves our most vulnerable neighbors each year, regardless of religion, race, gender, age, disability, or ethnicity. Because the pandemic continues to make it unsafe to host Catholic Charities’ in-person fundraising events, this year’s annual Giving Days campaign is crucial to raise vital funds to ensure programs and services are provided free of charge to those in need. Each day of this four-day campaign will be themed around one of the agency’s four-core program and service: Basic Needs (including food pantries), Refugee & Immigrant Services, Adult Education & Workforce Development, and Family & Youth Services. To support the important work of our friends at Catholic Charities: https://www.ccab.org/donate
Jose H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, released his address to the Congress of Catholics and Public Life being held in Madrid, Spain. In the address he stated that an elite leadership class has risen around the globe, one that has little interest in religion and no real attachments to the nations in which they live or to local traditions. Archbishop Gomez described the social justice movements as “pseudo-religions, and replacements and rivals to traditional Christian beliefs.”

As a Black Catholic engaged in social and racial justice movements, I can’t help but see some irony in Archbishop Gomez’s statement. It is, in fact, my traditional Christian belief that spurs me to make connections between my faith and the Gospel call for justice. This conviction on the part of Black Catholics and other groups at the margin of the church has kept us in the Christian faith in spite of the church’s history of colonization, enslavement, abuse and racism. Catholic elites, including church leaders, wealthy donors and media conglomerates, may see no connection between social justice movements and the core convictions of our church; but are these movements straying from tradition, or are our leaders out of touch?

A 2020 Pew Research survey found that 75 percent of Black Americans (77 percent of Black Catholics) believe that opposing racism is essential to their faith. As Jamie T. Phelps wrote in Taking Down Our Harps, “African-American Christians, united by the bonds of a common oppression and a common hope, have traditionally found the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus a source of strength and hope in their struggle for liberation.”

Jesus’ own life is a model of sacrifice, of how to live for a more just and loving world. Unlike the European images of Jesus, the historical Jesus was an ethnic Jewish man born in Bethlehem of Judea, which is modern day Palestine. He lived under brutal Roman occupation. In his early years, his family lived as refugees in Africa. He began his public ministry by proclaiming the Spirit of the Lord had anointed him to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind and to set the oppressed free. Jesus lived his life challenging both Roman and Jewish laws, which oppressed the poor and marginalized. His life ended when he was executed by the Roman state. But believers know his story did not end there. Jesus was resurrected from the dead, and the Spirit of God is alive and calls upon each of us to continue the work.

This is the Christianity that Black people have clung to for centuries. This is what we are fighting for when we join protests in the streets today. People of African descent in bondage in the Americas called upon God who freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. They have cried out for freedom when imprisoned or for solace when their loved ones were brutally murdered.

During the racial justice movement spurred by the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmad Aubrey, millions of people took to the streets in the largest mass demonstration in United States history to proclaim that Black Lives Matter. This racial justice movement rejects the lie that Black people are less than white people, subhuman, dangerous and immoral. A lie that has been used to justify slavery and colonization, Jim Crow segregation, mass incarceration and global poverty. The movement rejects this lie and instead affirms the truth found in Scripture: that all people—including Black people—are made in God’s image and likeness. That as children of God, we have dignity and deserve respect and protection. But it also says special attention must be paid to the ways in which our society historically has been structured to disadvantage us. The movement seeks to dismantle the systemic racism that has a demonic stronghold over our nation.

This is not a new movement. It is a continuation of the 400-year liberation struggle started by the first Africans brought to this country in chains. The same struggle that led the enslaved Kongoese Catholics to march toward freedom in Spanish Florida during the Stono Rebellion. The same struggle that inspired Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas to escape slavery and work to free others. The same struggle that W. E. B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells wrote about. The same movement spearheaded by Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and the Black Panther Party. In the 21st century, while Americans were celebrating a post-racial society after the election of its first African-American president, Black Lives Matter was organizing to expose the racial profiling, racial violence and economic and
Opponents of the racial justice movement claim that it is made up of violent people who are hostile to Christian values and the Catholic Church. However, these are the same stereotypes that have been used to demonize and subjugate people of African descent for centuries. Research from the Harvard Radcliffe Institute concluded that roughly 97.7 percent of protests during 2020 were peaceful with no injuries reported among participants, bystanders or police. Only 3.7 percent resulted in property damage or vandalism. Police were injured in 1 percent of the protests.

The racial justice movement is much more than just marching in the streets. People across religious, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds participated by speaking out against racism, educating themselves and others and creating community spaces where they could create solutions to end inequality.

In the Black Catholic community, Father Bryan Massingale has continued to speak out against racism, and his prophetic book Racial Justice and the Catholic Church is still relevant today. Gloria Purvis continues to be one of the most prominent voices in Catholic media defending the lives and dignity of Black people even after her show, “Morning Glory,” was taken off the radio by Guadalupe Radio Network then abruptly cancelled by EWTN. The Rev. Josh Johnson has used his unique perspective as a biracial man, whose African-American father worked in law enforcement, to bring a message of racial healing and reconciliation through his programs like Ascension Presents and his social media platforms. Catholics United for Black Lives was created as a Catholic counterpart to Black Lives Matter that is rooted in Catholic teaching. Knights of Peter Claver is the largest and oldest Black Catholic lay-led organization, and it continues its century-long social justice activism. And a group of lay Catholics including Nate Tinner-Williams, Stephen Staten, Gunnar Gundersen and myself co-founded Black Catholic Messenger as a news media site to spotlight the Black Catholic community and give voice to the three million Black Catholics in the United States who are too often ignored and overlooked by the Catholic Church.

Many Catholics condemn those in the racial justice movement who do not identify as Christians instead of encountering them through the lens of Christ’s radical love and acceptance. Black Lives Matter affirms the lives of people who are queer, trans or non-gender conforming, those who are not traditionally married, and those who are too often stigmatized in faith communities. But if Jesus were alive today, those are exactly the people he would converse with, dine with and invite to follow him. The church is being rejected by people who no longer feel it is conscionable to exclude people who Jesus would welcome simply because their lives do not fit the dominant white Christian narrative.

The racial justice movement will continue until Black people are no longer treated as second-class citizens, segregated in economically depressed neighborhoods, denied adequate education and health care, and disproportionately incarcerated and murdered by the death penalty. I, along with millions of Christians and Catholics, will continue to carry the mantle while proclaiming the Gospel message. We do not need the U.S.C.C.B. to give us permission. We need only follow what the prophet Micah proclaims the Lord requires: to do justice, to love goodness and to walk humbly with God.

~ Alessandra Harris is a Black Catholic author, wife and mother of four. She holds degrees in comparative religious studies and Middle East studies, and is a co-founder of Black Catholic Messenger.
To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

**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.

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

**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 Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used 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 other states as well as well as other countries. 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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