Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7 November 2021

The Widow’s Mite
Jesus Mafa
**PRELUDE | Passacaglia**  
*Biagio Marini*  
*(1594-1663)*

**Courante from Sonata VI: Preludio and Corrente**  
*Antonio Vivaldi*  
*(1678-1741)*

**ENTRANCE PROCESSION | We Come in Joy with Jesus Christ**  
*Delores Dufner, OSB*

**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.

**PENITENTIAL RITE**
GLORIA | Mass of Creation

To Verses

Verse 1

Praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Verse 2

Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | 1 Kings 17: 10-16
RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 146: Praise the Lord, My Soul! Marty Haugen

1. It is the Lord who preserves fidelity forever, who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free.

2. The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger.

3. The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign forever, the God of Sion from age to age.

SECOND READING | Hebrews 9: 24-28
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

GOSPEL | Mark 12: 38-44

HOMILY

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

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 | The Cry of the Poor

John B. Foley, SJ

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.

Refrain

The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Bless-ed be the Lord.

Verses: Slightly faster

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise
2. Let the low-ly hear and be glad: the Lord
3. Ev’ry spir-it crushed, God will save; will be
4. We pro-claim your great-ness, O God, your praise

1. ev-er in my mouth. Let my soul glo-ry in the
2. lis-ten to their pleas; and to hearts bro-ken, God is
3. ran-som for their lives; will be safe shel-ter for their
4. ev-er in our mouth; ev-ry face bright-ened in your

to Refrain

1. Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor.
2. near, who will hear the cry of the poor.
3. fears, and will hear the cry of the poor.
4. light, for you hear the cry of the poor.
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

![Musical notation]

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.
Psalm 42:2: As the deer longs for flowing waters, so longs my soul for you, O God.

Music in this worship aid is printed with permission under Onelicense.net #A700-137.
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 | God, Whose Purpose is to Kindle

HYMN TO JOY

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)
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.
Dear Father Unni and the Saint Cecilia Community,

On behalf of Catholic Charities of Boston, thank you for your tireless and generous support. Your loyal, steadfast commitment to our mission ensures our programs and services continue to meet the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors. When the need arises, you have been a constant friend and highly valued member of the team, and we could not be more grateful to you.

You have helped us meet the needs of our neighbors for over a decade, thanks to your efforts, not one client has been turned away during the pandemic.

I know from the Catholic Charities’ staff of the many individual donations and acts of kindness we benefit from each day, but I would like to specifically thank:

- Catholic Charities Champion Roderick Powell and "The Rod Squad" for your unwavering devotion to supplying food and personal hygiene products and delivering these items each week to the Yawkey Center’s food pantry. It was a true honor to celebrate you at our Spring Celebration this past May.

- Owen, a 4-year-old with a big heart, whose donation of cake mix inspired St. Cecilia's creation of the Yawkey Center food pantry's "Birthday Pantry." Your donations make birthday celebrations possible and help honor the start of a new year filled with refreshed hope.

- All the parish volunteers who give up part of their Saturday and Sunday mornings to deliver donations from four local grocery stores to the Yawkey Center’s food pantry in Dorchester. As Beth Chambers has said of the “Saturday Sistahs” delivery team and all the Saint Cecilia volunteers: “There is no such thing as a box of food that is too heavy for them!”

- The parishioners for their ongoing donations of supermarket gift cards to MarJean Perhot and our Refugee and Immigrant Services. With the crisis in Haiti that impacts our Haitian-American neighbors and the arrival of Afghan evacuees, these gift cards are more important than ever.

- The Saint Cecilia Advent Giving Tree team and your entire community for including various Catholic Charities programs in this incredible annual effort.

- Each of you individually for your gifts of funds, sunscreen and flip-flops for our Sunset Point campers, pantry donations, and prayers for our clients and families.

It is impossible to overstate the gratitude I have for your leadership, Father John, and that of longtime Catholic Charities' friend, volunteer, and ambassador Mark Lippolt. You go above and beyond in every way, and Catholic Charities is fortunate to have your friendship and partnership.

With sincere gratitude,

Kevin M. MacKenzie
Board Chair and CEO | Catholic Charities of Boston

*Catholic Charities mission is to welcome and serve, with compassion and respect, all those in need by providing life’s necessities, education, and advocacy to move people toward self-sufficiency.*

Catholic Charities Yawkey Center Food Pantry | 185 Columbia Road, Dorchester, MA 02121

Visit us at ccab.org & follow us on social @charitiesboston
SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 6 | 5:00 p.m.
Jonathan Dunleavy, 1st Anniversary

Sunday, November 7 | 8:00 a.m.
John & Angelina Machado, Memorial

Sunday, November 7 | 9:30 a.m.
Mary-Francis & Thomas Mitchell,
Special Intention
Ellen Solomita, Month's Mind

Sunday, November 7 | 11:30 a.m.
Marciora and Mik Families, Memorial
Carmela & Anthony Pandolfo, Memorial
Giuseppina & Carmelo Roccuzzo, Memorial

Wednesday, November 10 | 8:00 a.m.
Jude Vachon, Memorial

The flowers in front of the altar were given by Mary-Frances and Thomas Mitchell for the glory of God on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

"This poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."
Mark 12:43-44
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: the Kelly-Brellenthin Family of Roslindale, the Kacich Family of Boston, Louisa Selvadurai of Boston, Kelly Keenan of Boston, and Susan and Stephen Casey of York, Maine. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Happy Anniversary!
This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversaries of Perry Sullivan who was baptized on November 3, and Jim McCloskey who was baptized on November 4. May the Lord continue to bless them with the grace to live out their baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Perry and Jim!

For Our Elected Officials
Remember to pray for our newly elected public officials. We pray that God will guide them in their public service and help them to work for the greatest good for those in greatest need.

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.

iGive
Thank you to all iGive participants! We surpassed our goal of reaching 1,000 registrants! Your support of this parish truly helps keep us afloat and anchored in our mission.

Evening Prayer
Join us for Evening Prayer this Tuesday at 6:30 for the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica on Facebook Live, or email sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

The End of Daylight Saving Time
Remember that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. this Sunday, November 7. If you are reading this online, be sure to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night or you’ll be very early for Mass!

HALLOWEEN RECYCLED
If you live in a household that received too many pieces of Halloween candy or had a lot of candy leftover at the end of the festivities, please consider donating it to the Pine Street Inn. Starting this Sunday, November 7, you can bring your remaining, individually-wrapped confections to church and put them in the bin in the narthex. Saint Cecilia volunteers serve each month at the Men's Inn so these donations will make a nice treat for the guests we serve!

COUNT DOWN TO RACIAL EQUITY SURVEY RESULTS
Sunday, November 14 | 3:00 | on Zoom
Mark your calendars for the big reveal! Another big thank you to all those who took the survey as part of our Road to Social Equity initiative. Even now, the numbers are being crunched and the report written. Our partners at Health Resources in Action will present the findings on Zoom so that as many people can attend as possible. For those who cannot attend, the presentation will be recorded and shared. Please register here to receive the Zoom link for this event which will impact the future of our parish: https://hria.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZItlu6vrDwrG92gbauMC3zDr2RE5wtMN9w9.
SAVE THE DATE — ADVENT GIVING TREE VOLUNTEERS
Saturday, November 20 | 9:30 am – 1:00 pm | Parish Hall
We are looking for 12 – 15 people to make gift tags to decorate our Advent Giving Tree. Sign up at sc.adventtree@gmail.com New volunteers are encouraged to join! There will be additional ways to help on December 5th, 12th and 19th so if you are unavailable on the 20th and still want to help let us know.

TIME TO BUY A PIE TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY SERVINGS!

The www.PieintheSky.org website is now open! For a $30 donation you can receive a delicious pie for Thanksgiving and you will provide medically-tailored meals to a neighbor with a critical illness for a week!

The options are a bit different this year than past years, but we’d love your support. When you go to the website and click on “Buy a Pie” you can select an apple, pumpkin, or pecan pie or you can choose to donate a Pie to a Community Servings’ client. When asked to choose a pie seller, please select a member of the Saint Cecilia PieTeam: https://www.pieinthesky.org/team/st-cecilias/

If you want a pie for your own meal, you can select a nearby Pick-Up Site. If you want to buy a pie to be donated to one of Saint Cecilia’s non-profit partner agencies: Morville House, Pine Street Inn, or Women’s Lunch Place. When you get to “Select Pick-Up Site” click on “Private” and you will be able to choose one of the agencies above.

The number of pies available this year is smaller than in previous years. So please consider ordering your pie TODAY. Thank you!

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. Whether or not you were able to join us for our first three books, we hope you join us for this one! 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.

GUEST SPEAKER — SAVE THE DATE!
Mary Ann Hinsdale, IHM, PhD
Monday, November 15 | 6:00 p.m.

Mary Ann Hinsdale, IHM, PhD will be the this month’s guest speaker in our 2021/22 Guest Speaker Series. Mary Ann’s topic is: "Women’s Leadership in the Church: Then, Now, and Tomorrow." Dr. Mary Ann Hinsdale is an associate professor of theology at Boston College—she is also a parishioner and lector at Saint Cecilia. Be sure to join us for what promises to be a fascinating and informative presentation on "Women’s Leadership in the Church." Copies of Mary Ann’s book, Women Shaping Theology will be available for purchase.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

For several years, Saint Cecilia parishioners have supported the work of Catholic Charities’ Refugee and Immigrant Services’ (CCAB RIS) work resettling refugees by providing gift cards to local supermarkets. As a recent article in The Boston Pilot reported: “CCAB will support the transition of over 100 of our newest neighbors by leading the effort to welcome and resettle our Afghan brothers and sisters to Greater Boston. Many will arrive with no possessions and need support building a new life here in Massachusetts.”

In response to this need, Saint Cecilia is partnering with The Paulist Center to form a POWIR site – Partners Organized to Welcome Immigrants and Refugees. We are currently looking for parishioners looking to volunteer with our group as we work to assist in the resettlement of Afghan families. Housing is one of the most immediate needs and so we’re asking any parishioners who own rental property, work in real estate, or know someone willing to rent to a refugee family at a reduced rent for their help. Although we don’t yet know what size family might be referred to us for resettlement and support, we have been told to look for units with two or three bedrooms. We expect that the families will receive some benefits but we do not know if they will receive any housing subsidies.

If you would like to volunteer on our POWIR committee or know of a rental apartment that might meet the needs of an Afghan family, please email: sc.socialracialjustice@gmail.com.
PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SEASON'S THIRD FILM IN OUR FAITH & FILM SERIES:

MARY MAGDALENE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 6:00 P.M.

The incredible story of Mary Magdalene as told through her own eyes. In the first century A.D., the free-spirited Mary (Rooney Mara) flees the marriage her family has arranged for her, finding refuge and a sense of purpose in a radical new movement led by the charismatic, rabble-rousing preacher Jesus (Joaquin Phoenix). The sole woman among his band of disciples, Mary defies the prejudices of a patriarchal society as she undergoes a profound spiritual awakening and finds herself at the center of an earth-shaking historical moment. “A creative, relevant, and reverent film about Mary Magdalene, a deeply spiritual woman for all ages” (authors Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat).

The film will be shown in Fellowship Hall following the 5:00 Mass on Saturday (approximately 6:00 p.m.).
This film is 98 minutes long.

Pizza and popcorn will be served during the movie.
Following the film there will be a short discussion for those who are interested.
Face coverings are required except while eating.
COMMENMRATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Our loved ones who have died since November 1, 2020

Mary Ellen Sailer
Dan Mullin
Charlie Holmes
Kim Villanueva
Gerald Hughes
William Callahan
Anthony Simboli
John Morse
Phyllis Spry
Margaret Hagan
Roger Paul Gaillardetz
Maria Cullen
Edward P. Pietrzak
Larisa McCue
Phyllis Anzalone
Ann Cirelli
Mabel Frayling
Rachel Caminiti
Ed McNally
Andrew Morey

Silla Pierre
Matti Kniva Spencer
Tania Lam
David Feeley
Joe Rivieccio
Kathleen McCabe
Jeffrey Bowe Jr.
Alice Lin
Leonard Mariani
Drew Keegan
Frank Pantano
Neil Leonard
Lucy Jefferson
Gary Wilson
Robert Verrier
Mary LaFauci
Marie Foley
Michelina Abele
Richard Sullivan

"Blessed are the dead who have died in the Lord,
let them rest from their labors,
for their good deeds go with them.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them."

Order of Christian Funerals
THANKSGIVING GIFT CARD DRIVE

Since COVID continues to prevent us from hosting Pine Street Inn's Low Threshold Housing Thanksgiving for the second year in a row, please consider a $25 gift card to fulfill the Tenants' Wish List! Any number of gift cards is greatly appreciated to the following locations: Visa/MasterCard/Amex, CVS, Target, Whole Foods, TJ-Maxx/Marshalls. Please send the gift cards to the attention of Karen Dunnett, St. Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115. The deadline is November 19. Thank you!

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.

BOSTON HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS FALL SOIREE NOW VIRTUAL

Wednesday, November 17 | 7:00 p.m. EST | Online

Based on the advice of BHCHP’s medical leadership, they have made the difficult decision to transition the Fall Soiree of their Emerging Leaders Board to an all-virtual event on November 17th. We hope you will join us virtually for this inspiring and fun event that both honors and generously supports our mission to ensure unconditionally equitable access to the highest quality health care for our patients. The evening’s program will include an Awards Ceremony, Cocktail/Mocktail Making Segment, Silent Auction, and Guest Speakers. To purchase virtual tickets: https://www.crowdcast.io/e/Soiree2021/register

ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIRTUAL EVENTS

BC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

A New Moment for Religious Education: The New Directory for Catechesis
Presenters: Thomas Groome, professor of theology and religious education, Theresa A. O’Keefe, professor of the practice, religious education, Hosffman Osipino, associate professor of Hispanic ministry and religious education, Jane E. Regan, associate professor (emerita) in religious education, Boston College
Friday, November 12 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Webinar | Free of charge
For further details or to register for this event, please check the School of Theology and Ministry website: https://www.bc.edu/bcweb/ ContinuingEducation/ CampusEvents.html

BOISI CENTER FOR RELIGION AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

Race, Theology, and Pedagogy: Conversations Between Africans and Americans
Presenter: R. Ward Holder, Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.
Wednesday, November 10 | 12:00 -1:15 p.m. | Boise Center, 24 Quincy Road, Conference Room 101 | RSVP Requested | Free of charge
Further details and to register in advance: https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/centers/boise-center/events/archive/fall-2021-events/ flannery-o-connor--the-making-of-an-american-master.html

The PAULIST CENTER

Fr. Bryan Massingale Receives the 2020 Hecker Award
The Paulist Center welcomes Fr. Massingale in recognition of his LGBTQ and racial justice work.
Saturday, November 13 | 5:00 p.m. | The Paulist Center or online | Free of charge
For more info: https://www.paulistcenter.org/upcoming-events

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

The Injustice of Excessive Punishment: Replacing life-without-parole sentences
Presenter: Bob Marra
Monday, November 8 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

Faith in a Post-Covid World
Presenter: Richard R. Gaillardetz
Monday, November 15 | 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
Register Now for the
13th Annual Archdiocesan Convocation
A Virtual Gathering on Saturday, November 13, 2021
10 am to 12:30 pm
Theme: “Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future”

Keynote Speaker

DR. AUSTEN IVEREIGH,
Biographer and collaborator of Pope Francis, who worked with him on this book

DR AUSTEN IVEREIGH is a British writer, journalist, and Fellow in Contemporary Church History at Campion Hall, University of Oxford. He is author of two biographies of Pope Francis: The Great Reformer. Francis and the making of a radical pope (2014) and Wounded Shepherd. Pope Francis and his struggle to convert the Catholic Church (2019). During the coronavirus lockdown in 2020 he collaborated with Pope Francis on his vision for a post-Covid world: Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future.

Also featuring:

MC Sullivan, RN MTS JD, Chief Healthcare Ethicist, Archdiocese of Boston

Reflection: “Lessons from a Pandemic: what and how we can do better as a community of faith”

MC Sullivan, a nurse-bioethicist-attorney, is the Chief Healthcare Ethicist for the Archdiocese of Boston, a member of Cardinal O’Malley’s Cabinet, and the Director of its Initiative for Palliative Care and Advance Care Planning.

- Mass celebrated by Cardinal Seán O’Malley (Homilist) with Rev. Phong Q. Pham, Pastor of Blessed Andrew Phú Yên, as concelebrant
- Commentary by Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, Secretary of Health and Social Services, Archdiocese of Boston, following Keynote Speech
- Archdiocesan Social Justice Ministry Update by Patricia Dinneen, Chair
- Actions: examples from Parishes and Social Justice Organizations about practical actions you can take for building a better future.

For more information about the Convocation and the Archdiocesan Social Justice Ministry, go to www.bostoncatholic.org/socialjusticeministry or, write to socialjustice@rcab.org
One of the problems with miracles is that they are, by definition, rare occurrences. At least they seem like rarities to most people since the term itself suggests a violation of the laws of nature or some other divine intervention that would otherwise be characterized as "impossible."

The healing of a loved one suffering from inoperable cancer or a rare disease; the safe landing of a malfunctioning airplane or a brakeless car; the timing of a gift, pay raise, or new job or form of support just when a family needs it most — all of these might elicit the "M"-word from the mouths of beneficiaries and onlookers alike.

But recently I have been thinking about what it might mean for us to recognize the miraculous in everyday life. Why is it only when things seem to occur on an extraordinary scale or during the most-dire situations that we pause to acknowledge the possibility of divine presence at work in our world?

I have written before about the latent "Holy Spirit atheism" that exists in the church among so many otherwise well-meaning Christians. And I think the fact that many people have lost a consistent sense of God's enduring, immanent and sustaining presence among us as spirit contributes to the collective perception that the miraculous happens only in the rarest or scarcest of circumstances, if at all.

This is tied, I believe, to what the Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor means when he describes our modern social imaginary, a contemporary way of understanding reality that lacks an inherent sense of or openness to the divine or transcendence. As our societal narratives — and therefore our personal sense of self — shift in our modern age from one informed by the religious to the secular, we lose an intuitive awareness of the divine and transcendent. If we don't think about the Holy Spirit, don't talk about the Holy Spirit and don't pray to the Holy Spirit, then it is entirely sensible that we will find it harder to recognize the presence of God among us and acting in the world in the mundane as much as the exceptional.

Just as I have dedicated columns in the past to the importance of cultivating a sense of gratitude on more than one occasion, I want to propose here that we do a better job cultivating a sense of awe and wonder in the everyday miracles we are often too busy, too distracted or too disillusioned to see and recognize.

While the inexplicable cure of a terrible illness or terminal cancer may rightly merit astounded responses and gratitude,
what about the daily scientific wonders that shape our experience of the world and quality of life today? It is one thing to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of vaccine development at the record pace we've witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic with truly stunning technologies like those developed with mRNA.

And yet there are thousands of medical miracles that most of us take for granted every day and that have created the condition of the possibility for a quality of life that could only have been described as miraculous in centuries and millennia past. For example, think of antibiotics, corrective lenses for our vision, antiviral medications, hearing aids, surgical technologies, MRI and sonograms, dental care, organ transplantation, blood transfusion and so much more.

The next time you cut your finger and reach for a bandage and antibacterial medication, pause and consider what might have happened to an infected wound — even a minor one — in earlier eras of human existence. When I slow down to think about these amazing human achievements and how we benefit from them, I cannot help but find myself captivated by a spirit of awe and wonder at what is truly miraculous.

While avoiding a near plane or car crash is startling enough to elicit the description of miraculous, what about the fact that we live in a world in which human creativity and the laws of nature align to make such forms of travel possible in the first place? Recently, while waiting for my flight to board, I was sitting at an airport terminal watching planes taking off and landing. I started reflecting on the sheer improbability that we could move hundreds of people and thousands of tons of cargo high into the sky and transport it across the globe, and that we do it every moment of every day safely and without too much thought.

The slow normalization of that extraordinary feat had previously prevented me from fully encountering the awe and wonder I experienced in that moment. The same could be said about other forms of transportation, including the increasing efficiency of automobiles (think of the growing number of fully electric vehicles) and forms of public transit that move millions of people a day.

While winning the lottery, coming into an unexpected inheritance or some other monies, or receiving the resources one needs at a critical time may qualify for the traditional description of a miracle, what about all of the other big and small ways we support one another in the often unacknowledged and unspoken miracles of daily life?

Recently I was visiting some friends and met their beautiful baby daughter for the first time. Babies have a way of signaling the miraculous (we do often describe their arrival as the "miracle of birth" after all), but do we step back enough to consider the larger picture of daily, hourly, momentary miracles that make human life possible at all?

That a mother not only literally gives of herself in the months of pregnancy to sustain and grow a new human person within her is indeed miraculous, but so is the ability to breastfeed, to sacrifice one’s time and energy at all hours of the day and night, to put the interests and concerns of a child ahead of one’s own, and to do all the things required of parents and caregivers that seem impossible to do and give.

What I am getting at in these reflections is the call to slow down, to see the world anew, to look at what is before us and what we experience everyday as a form of divine intervention, a form of grace, a form of the miraculous. There is, I believe, a spiritual need that calls us to cultivate a better sense of awe and wonder in the world. This is what recognizing everyday miracles means: that God not only intervenes in rare occasions, but is present in a variety of human experiences at all times.

Perhaps the next time you feel ill or are injured and can be healed by medications or procedures we too often take for granted today, you might reflect on the miracle that is the natural and medical sciences, embrace a feeling of awe and wonder, and give thanks to God.

Perhaps the next time you find yourself delayed in travel, you might reflect on the miracle that is modern travel technologies, embrace a feeling of awe and wonder, and give thanks to God.

Perhaps the next time you get frustrated or feel impatient at the behavior of your fellow citizen in the grocery store line, you might reflect on our interconnectedness and interdependence, embrace a feeling of awe and wonder, and give thanks to God.

Admittedly, this is all easier said than done, but I know that I will strive to take the daily miracles all around us less for granted and better seek to cultivate a disposition of awe and wonder at the marvelous, miraculous world in which we live.

~ Franciscan Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM is the director of the Center for Spirituality and professor of philosophy, religious studies and theology at Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana.
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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. and 6:30 p.m.
* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in-person and livestreamed.

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.

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.

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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Pictured: Msgr. Frank Kelley and Lynda Downey, President, Pine Street Inn

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