Saint Cecilia Parish

Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete!

12 December 2021

Saint John the Baptist Preaching to the Masses in the Wilderness

Pieter Brueghel the Younger (1564–1638)
PRELUDE | Noel sur les flutes

Messiah, HWV 257: Rejoice Greatly
Emma Robertson, soprano

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | On Jordan’s Bank

WINCHESTER NEW

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

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Zephaniah 3: 14-18a
RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 126: The Lord Has Done Great Things for Us

Refrain

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Verses

1. When the LORD brought back the exiles of Sion, we thought we were dreaming. Then was our mouth filled with laughter; on our tongues, songs of joy.

2. Then the nations themselves said, “What great deeds the LORD worked for them!” What great deeds the LORD worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

3. Bring back our exiles, O LORD, as streams in the south. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, bearing seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back with a song, bearing their sheaves.

SECOND READING | Philippians 4: 4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Jubilation Mass

GOSPEL | Luke 3: 10-18

HOMILY
DISMISSAL 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, 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

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE (11:30AM Mass)

Please pray for these candidates for the catechumenate who are preparing to receive sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Karim Arsanjani
Mackenzie Elvin
Caroline Fish
Astrid Love
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
Verse 1

1. I am the hungry, I am the poor,
   I am the stranger outside your door. So
   when you feed the hungry, when you clothe the poor
   I will no longer be just a stranger at your door.

Refrain

What you have done for the least of my children
you have done for me. What you have given, with
nothing left to give, you have given me.

Verse 2

2. Come all you blessed, come and rejoice.
   In-
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.

Verse 3

3. I will look to you when life on earth has ended.

Those who give will receive, those who seek will find; so
SANCTUS | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven Janco

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven Janco

AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven Janco
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 the Angels and Saints

Spiriual 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.
Refrain

Take and eat; take and eat: this is my body
given up for you.
Take and drink; take and drink:
this is my blood given up for you.

Verses

1. I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
2. I am the way that leads the exile home;
3. I am the Lamb that takes away your sin;
4. I am the corner stone that God has laid;
5. I am the light that came into the world;
6. I am the first and last, the Living One;

I am the seed that died to be reborn;
I am the truth that sets the captive free;
I am the gate that guards you night and day;
A chosen stone and precious in his eyes;
I am the light that darkness cannot hide;
I am the Lord who died that you might live;

I am the bread that comes from heav’n above;
I am the life that raises up the dead;
You are my flock: you know the shepherd’s voice;
You are God’s dwelling place, on me you rest;
I am the morning star that never sets;
I am the bride-groom, this my wedding song;

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
You are my own: your ransom is my blood.
Like living stones, a temple for God’s praise.
Lift up your face, in you my light will shine.
You are my bride, come to the marriage feast.
Soon and very soon, we're going to see the King.
Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

No more crying there, we're going to see the King.
Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

Should there be any rivers we must cross,
Should there be any mountains we must climb,
God will supply all the strength that we need,
Give us strength 'til we reach the other side.

We have come from every nation,
God knows each of us by name;
Jesus took His blood and washed our sins away.
Yes, there are some of us who have laid down our lives,
but we all shall meet again on the other side.

No more dying there, We are going to see the King.
Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

**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.
1. Comfort, comfort, O my people, Speak of peace, now says our God:
   Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourn ing 'neath their sorrow's load;
   O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
2. Hark, the voice of one who's crying In the desert far and near.
   Bid all to full repentance Since the kingdom now is here.
   For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad.
3. O make straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain:
   Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits his holy reign;
   Tell of all the sins I cover, And that warfare now is over.
   Let the valleys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him.

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.

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Saint Cecilia
PARISH

CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE
Masses that are also livestreamed are marked with a * and can be viewed at www.stceciliaboston.org

Christmas Eve | Friday, December 24
Mass | 4:00 p.m.*
Mass | 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day | Saturday, December 25
Mass | 9:30 a.m.*
Please note that this is the only Mass on Christmas Day

Feast of the Holy Family | Sunday, December 26
Mass | 8:00 a.m.
Mass | 9:30 a.m.*
Mass | 11:30 a.m.

Monday, December 27 – Friday, December 31
Parish Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 29 | Thursday, December 30 | Friday, December 31
Weekday Mass | 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 1
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God | 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass | 5:00 p.m.

Epiphany | Sunday, January 2
Mass | 8:00, 9:30*, & 11:30

Please note that there will be no 6:00 Mass on December 19, 26, or January 2.
JOIN US ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT FOR

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 19 • 4:00 P.M.

In this service of Scripture and song, lessons from Sacred Scripture are interspersed with Christmas carols, hymns, and choral music, joyfully proclaiming the story of God's love shown forth in Christ. Following the service there will be a festive reception in the Parish Hall.

This service will also be livestreamed.
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, December 11 | 5:00 p.m.**
Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Cynthia Wanner, lector

**Sunday, December 12 | 8:00 a.m.**
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Tom O’Brien, lector

**Sunday, December 12 | 9:30 a.m.**
Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Chika Offurum and Mary D’Angelo, lectors

**Sunday, December 12 | 11:30 a.m.**
Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Karen McMenamy and Catherine Horsley, lectors

**Sunday, December 12 | 6:00 p.m.**
Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Matthew Duprey and Kelly McClintock, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 4 | 5:00 p.m.**
Jane Frances Bouman, Memorial
Leah Fickes, Memorial
Cristina Eva Gallardo Cazares, Memorial

**Sunday, December 5 | 8:00 a.m.**
John & Angelina Machado, Memorial

**Sunday, December 5 | 9:30 a.m.**
Joseph F. Ford, Memorial
Patricia Axtmayer, Memorial

**Sunday, December 5 | 11:30 a.m.**
Richard Howland, Memorial
Patrick J. Corrigan, 4th Anniversary

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Micah 5:1-4A
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

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Leah Fickes, Memorial
Cristina Eva Gallardo Cazares, Memorial

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John & Angelina Machado, Memorial

**Sunday, December 5 | 9:30 a.m.**
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Richard Howland, Memorial
Patrick J. Corrigan, 4th Anniversary

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS: ADVENT PRAYER

**VESPERSON**
The church gathers for Evening Prayer to give thanks for the day that has passed and to lift up to God the needs of the world. We pray for the light of Christ to shine on our hearts and give us his grace and peace. And we join with Mary in her song of praise—the Magnificat—remembering God’s promise of mercy. The liturgy lasts about half an hour.

**Monday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.**
Memorial of Saint Lucy

**Wednesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m.**
“O Rex Gentium”
PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

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, Fred Anzalone, and Liam Nedell.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: Mary and John Barry of Boston, Meredith and Adam Izzicupo of Haverhill, Patrick Hyland and Siobhan Galligan of Boston, Joan Lovely of Milton, the Teamey-Kopits Family of Jamaica Plain, Lily Medeiros of Falmouth, and Kristyn Stoia of Newton. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org

Happy Anniversary!
This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of Mimi Love who was baptized on December 12. May the Lord continue to bless Mimi with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Mimi!

Gaudete Sunday
Today is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, a day marked by a joyful anticipation of the Christmas celebration. Like Laetare Sunday in Lent, the optional liturgical color is rose. Help add to our celebration by wearing something rose-colored to Mass!

RCIA—Rite of Acceptance Into the Order of Catechumens
At this morning’s eleven-thirty liturgy, we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens. This ritual acknowledges the next part of the catechumens’ spiritual journey with us. For the unbaptized, the Rite of Acceptance indicates a stage of growth on their journey of faith. Karim Arsanjani, Mackenzie Elvin, Caroline Fish, and Astrid Love now enter the Order of Catechumens (from the Greek, meaning “one in whom word echoes”) and continue their preparation for the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. The Rite points to their ongoing experience of conversion, and is an invitation to all of us to be consciously growing in faith. Please keep these new members of our community in your prayer. Greet them and help them feel at home here.

Last 6:00 p.m. Evening Mass of 2021
Today, December 12, is the last six o’clock Sunday liturgy before Christmas. The six o’clock liturgy will resume on the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord (January 9).

Christmas Flowers
You are invited to remember your loved ones by donating towards the Christmas flowers that will grace our sanctuary. In the back of the church you’ll find envelopes that you can use for this purpose. Please drop the envelope in the collection basket or hand it to any staff person. Or donate online here: https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/funds/christmas-flowers. The names of those remembered will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Please be sure to PRINT clearly.

For Our Students
Pray that all of our students may successfully complete the semester and have safe travels as they head home to celebrate Christmas with family and friends.

Happy Birthday, Papa Francesco!
Pope Francis will celebrate his 85th birthday this Thursday, December 17. Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father and ask God to continue to bless him with good health and length of days.
GAUDETE SUNDAY

Gaudete in Domino semper:
iterum dico, gaudete.
Dominus enim prope est.

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice!
The Lord is near.

We are now midway through Advent and today is a day of rejoicing, traditionally called “Gaudete Sunday” (gow-DAY-tay). “Gaudete” is Latin for “rejoice” and this title is taken from the first word of the Introit (entrance antiphon) for the Third Sunday of Advent. Before we started singing hymns in English, the Introit was normally chanted in Latin as the priest approached the altar. It helped to set the mood and theme of the Mass of the day. The Introit for the Third Sunday of Advent comes from Philippians 4, Paul’s warm and loving letter to the community at Philippi. The optional use of rose-colored vestments underscores the joyful character of today’s liturgy.

Gaudete Sunday dates back to the Middle Ages, when the season of Advent bore a penitential character similar to that of Lent. At that time, Advent was a forty–day period of fasting and penance in preparation for Christmas. It commenced on the day after Saint Martin’s Day (12 November) and was thus often referred to as “St. Martin’s Lent.” In the midst of a dark and serious Advent, Gaudete Sunday helped to brighten the mood. In the ninth century, Advent was reduced to four weeks and its austere character gave way to a new understanding of Advent as a time of longing, hoping, and waiting for the Lord.

ADVENT GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE THIS WEEK!
Nearly all the gift tags were taken from the Advent Giving Tree, and many more were donated online! Truly you will make a difference in the lives of so many people this Christmas. Thank you for being so generous—you always are. Gifts for the Giving Tree are due back this week on December 15, no later than six o’clock. If you participated in this year’s virtual tree, please send gifts directly to the agency by this date as well. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Ann Falderata at sc.adventtree@gmail.com.

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER—WEEK THREE
Light two of the violet candles and the rose candle. During the rest of the week, these candles are relit at the evening meal or whenever you choose to do so.

Jesus, we gather here as a family to dedicate our lives to you, as John the Baptist did. Help us to know, love, and serve you. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of joy into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.
Amen.

GUEST SPEAKER — REV. ANDRÉ BROUILLETTE, SJ, PHD, STD
Tuesday, December 14 | 6:00 p.m.

Join us this coming Tuesday evening for an evening with Fr. André Brouillette, SJ, who will speak on "The Spirit at Work: St. Teresa of Avila in Life." Fr. Brouillette is an Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Boston College. This is sure to be an interesting and informative event. We hope you’ll join us!
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

WISDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Ministry invites you to join us to pray Advent and explore more deeply the reasons for the season. We’re using the “Praying with Advent” resource page from the Jesuits at Creighton University: online-ministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/. All are welcome.

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.

TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES

Please keep in mind that two of our nonprofit partner agencies have an on-going need for donations of travel-size toiletries. Individual size shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and soap are always needed. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant (none of which can typically be found in a hotel room!) are also always in demand. Donated toiletries need to be unused, of course, and there are plastic bins in the narthex for donations. The two agencies are: Women’s Lunch Place on Newbury Street (www.womenslunchplace.org) and Y2Y Youth Shelter in Harvard Square (www.Y2YNetwork.org).

JOIN PINE STREET INN FOR A VIRTUAL UPDATE ON REIMAGINING SHELTER

Please consider joining Lyndia Downie, President and Executive Director of Pine Street Inn, for a virtual update on "Reimagining Shelter: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic and the Way Forward" on Tuesday, December 14th at 2:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to hear directly from Pine Street frontline staff about shelter operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and explore how the lessons they have learned are shaping shelter services now and in the future.

To register and receive the Zoom link, please email Megan Harding at mharding@pinesstreetinn.org. You are invited to send 1-2 questions in advance. You can submit your questions when you register or send them directly to Megan.

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.

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!
FAITH & FILM SERIES
2021-2022

SEPTEMBER 25
THE TWO POPES (2019)

OCTOBER 16
SCENES FROM AN EMPTY CHURCH (2021)

NOVEMBER 6
MARY MAGDALENE (2018)

DECEMBER 4
LITTLE WOMEN (2019)

JANUARY 8
SCENES FROM A PARISH (2009)

FEBRUARY 5
SILENCE (2016)

MARCH 5
THE TREE OF LIFE (2011)

APRIL 2
MOONLIGHT (2016)

MAY 7
A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (2019)

JUNE 4
A HIDDEN LIFE (2019)

A SHORT DISCUSSION WILL FOLLOW THE MOVIE

SPONSORED BY THE ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION
SR. MARY HENNESSEY MEMORIAL MASS

Sr. Mary Hennessey, r.c. died on January 27, 2020, in Chicago, Illinois. While ministering at the Jesuit Urban Center, Sr. Mary initiated pastoral care programs for the LGBTQ+ community and people living with HIV/AIDS. Sr. Mary, a member of the Cenacle Sisters, is remembered with love and appreciation for her tireless ministry to people living with HIV/AIDS in the early days of the AIDS epidemic. Sr. Mary was on the faculty of Harvard Divinity School and was a longtime panelist on the popular WEEI radio program "Topic Religion," where she appeared weekly with Rabbi Harold Kushner and Rev. Murray Kenny to discuss topical issues and to spar with them on air over politics and policy. A Memorial Mass for Sr. Mary will be held at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross on Sunday, January 2, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. Sr. Mary’s obituary can be viewed here: https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bos-tonglobe/name/mary-hennessey-obituary?id=31210446. May Sr. Mary’s life of service be an inspiration to all of us.

VOICES OF FAITH

The Roman Catholic Church has a long history of being a source of goodness while also embodying every human frailty. Voices of Faith, an initiative that creates events, media outreach, and international network groups to empower Catholic women into decision making roles at local and global levels of the Catholic Church, is offering a series of presentations focusing on the Church’s behaviors that are in contradiction with Catholic Social Teaching—the cornerstone of which is the belief that every human being is created in God’s image and is always entitled to be treated with dignity and respect.

Voices of Faith is offering a series of remote presentations that focus on some of the historic patterns of the Church’s struggles to embrace Catholic Social Teaching. Join the Social & Racial Justice Ministry in attending here: https://voicesoffaith.org/16-days

ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIRTUAL EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Spring 2022 Courses Now Enrolling and will begin on January 5, 2022
Save 20% by using the promotion code: 3KINGS20 (Expires January 6)
For further details or to register for these courses, please check the STM Online: Crossroads Website: https://bostoncollege-stm.catalog.instructure.com/

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

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

Únase al padre Peter Gyves, SJ MD, fundador de A Faith That Does Justice, mientras preside misa en español

Cada sábado a las 4 p.m.
St. Anthony Shrine
100 Arch Street, primer piso
Boston, MA 02110

Llame al (857) 990-3670 o visite www.faith-justice.org para obtener más información

Únase al padre Peter Gyves, SJ MD, fundador de A Faith That Does Justice, mientras preside misa en español

Únase al padre Peter Gyves, SJ MD, fundador de A Faith That Does Justice, mientras preside misa en español

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Únase al padre Peter Gyves, SJ MD, fundador de A Faith That Does Justice, mientras preside misa en español
“There is a reason Mary is everywhere. I’ve seen her image all over the world, in cafés in Istanbul, on students’ backpacks in Scotland, in a market stall in Jakarta, but I don’t think her image is everywhere because she is a reminder to be obedient, and I don’t think it has to do with social revolution. Images of Mary remind us of God’s favor. Mary is what it looks like to believe WKDWZHDOUHDG\DUHZKR*RGVD\VZHDUHµȥ5HYHUHQG1DGLD Bolz-Weber, Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People.

This coming Sunday marks the “Pink Candle” Sunday of Advent, when we celebrate that Christmas is no longer far away, but just around the corner. More than that, it’s when we Protestants read in the Gospel about Mary, the pregnant vessel, the agent by which Jesus will enter our world, God’s unlikely choice to serve such a pivotal role in changing the whole world.

When we meet Mary, she has gone to visit relatives, already showing that there was new life inside. They welcome her inside warmly — not like some of the wagging tongues in her own village who know she wasn’t betrothed when this happened. She does not voice bitterness. Mary instead sings a song of joy, and of acceptance of God’s will.

Mary in 2020
The phone rang in my office yesterday. On the other end was a modern day Mary, weeping softly through her desperation. She told me she had been living locally but lost her job and her apartment. She was living in her car, had no money for food and – yes – she was pregnant. Some of her family living down south wanted her to drive down and come live with them. But she did not have enough gas money to make it there. She asked me if we could help somehow.

I recognized the "Mary" in her voice, and the courage it took to ask a complete stranger for help. Would I help her, or would I look at her with judgment like so many other people, thinking “well if you have no money for food and no place to live, why weren’t you thinking about this when you got pregnant?”

I chose to remember that, in an indifferent world, downtrodden people are more hungry for love than food. Sometimes they choose unwisely just to feel that being wanted by someone — anyone — makes them feel worthy of being loved.

On the Road to Bethlehem
It seemed providential that we only had two gas cards and two food cards left — just enough. Modern Day Mary’s face beamed as she came to the church door and thanked us for helping her. It was a real-life, “Pink Candle” joy that told the story that now she would make it to her own Bethlehem. These “Pink Candle” moments are the very ones that are made possible whenever someone chooses to give their support to our church and its missions. This includes our ability to operate a thrift shop that provides clothing and household items when the road to Bethlehem has roadblocks, like job loss or catastrophic house fires.

So this Christmas, please remember the glow of the candle of Joy. Working together, we are the ones who are able to light it.

~Reverend Pat Miod Kriss holds a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. A 35 year member of the United Church of Christ, her background includes over 30 years in nonprofit administration and fund raising. She is currently the pastor of First Congregational Church UCC in Danbury, CT.
In the Advent hymn “People Look East,” Eleanor Farjeon writes, “Make your house fair as you are able, / Trim the hearth and set the table. / People, look east and sing today: / Love, the guest, is on the way.” The lines from this hymn are a pointed and poetic reminder of the centrality of hospitality as an Advent discipline. Advent is a time to prepare our homes and hearts to receive God and welcome the Christ child.

Usually, Advent hospitality is interpreted as a call to welcome relatives and friends to our homes for the holiday. But Advent hospitality is not only about personal or familial relationships but ultimately about how our homes and our neighborhoods should be sites that welcome strangers and unhoused people.

I live in Los Angeles, where city officials are ramping up enforcement of a new municipal ordinance, Los Angeles Municipal Code 41.18, which bans thousands of people who are unhoused from sitting, lying, sleeping, or building makeshift shelters near doorways, driveways, freeways, or even community sites such as parks, libraries, and congregate shelters. A starker contrast to the Advent discipline of hospitality is hard to imagine.

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus identifies himself with the stranger we welcome or exclude. Advent hospitality extends beyond our personal relationships and into the ways we structure our neighborhoods and our common life. But in the United States, our politics are driven by “NIMBYism” (“not in my backyard”), as housed individuals and politicians not only demand the exclusion of unsheltered people from public spaces but also oppose the creation of shelters and permanent, affordable housing in our neighborhoods.

Advent hospitality requires a politics of proximity: that we make space for the Christ child by making space for neighbors, including unhoused people, in our own neighborhoods.

Advent hospitality also requires repentance. Preparing our hearts for God by “trimming the hearth and setting the table” means rejecting attachments and repenting from the false beliefs that keep us from showing hospitality toward our neighbors. NIMBYism — the fear of proximity to those who are poor or unlike us — is one such false belief. A related false belief that requires repentance? The insistence that our homes are our own. In reality, the colonial history of our land belies this erroneous belief. What does it mean to prepare our homes for Jesus considering our homes are built on stolen, Indigenous land?

I live in the San Fernando Valley, where the history of settler colonialism is written across the landscape. The Valley was claimed by the Catholic Mission San Fernando, from which it takes its name. When the mission’s lands were sold, the majority was in one large land grant — but one smaller package was sold to three Indigenous people. My home is on this land that has passed between Indigenous and colonial hands, through conquest and commerce. When a residential neighborhood was constructed here in the 1960s, the original restrictive covenants banned the sale of the property to Black people and Jews.

To practice Advent hospitality in my home, on this land, requires repentance from both the violent colonialism that
brought it into my possession as well as the segregationist impulse surrounding its construction. It is not enough for me to simply claim I am “resisting” NIMBYism in my city or the surrounding neighborhood because I disagree with Code 41.18. Hospitality requires action that hits closer to home.

Hospitality demands we hold our homes and property lightly. Hospitality also demands that we acknowledge the history of the land where we live and what we owe to one another because of that history. That may take the form of land acknowledgments or “Land Back” and reparations initiatives — especially for large institutions. But for me, as a homeowner, a first step toward repentance and reparation is the practice of openness and hospitality — specifically when it comes to the land I “possess.”

For me and my family, this has looked like taking part in a host home program where homeowners invite people in need of shelter into their homes. We’re also planning to dedicate space in our yard to new affordable housing by building an accessory dwelling unit. These are some first steps towards rethinking our relationship to land ownership and hospitality. But these are only first steps; these steps do not systemically change land ownership, nor do they explicitly prioritize the needs of Indigenous people. However, this shift in thinking about land ownership points toward what is required to live out the radical repentance of Advent hospitality.

To borrow a term from Catholic theology, Advent hospitality requires us to think of the “universal destination of goods” — the reality that property exists for the sake of those in need, not simply for its owners. Personally, Advent forces me to reckon with the ways my home does not “belong” to me considering the land’s history and considering the needs of others. While it is in my possession, I have a responsibility to use it for the good of others — especially those who have been harmed by historical injustices.

We prepare space for Jesus this Advent season by making space for our neighbors. We prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child by uprooting the beliefs about land that get in the way of such space-making. These radical practices of hospitality prepare us to receive “Love, the guest, who is on the way.”

~Hannah Bowman is a graduate student in religious studies at Mount Saint Mary’s University, Los Angeles, a literary agent, and a prison abolitionist. She is the founder and director of Christians for the Abolition of Prisons.

MAKING THE HOUSE READY FOR THE LORD

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice—it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

- Mary Oliver
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. Kibliger, SJ, Deacon
Leah Bennett, Communications and Operations Manager,
lbennett@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
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance
cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org
Thomas Mellon, Organist
tmellon@stceciliaboston.org
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
lpickering@stceciliaboston.org
Christin Roskos, 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.

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 dan-
gerous situations. The full text of the policy is also available in the nar-
ther 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 fol-
low 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 neighbor-
hoods 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
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