

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Second Sunday of Advent

4 December 2022

St. John the Baptist Preaching by Il Baciccio, c. 1695

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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDES | Etude in E Major, Op. 10, #3

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Study after Chopin's Etudes #33

Léopold Godowsky
(1870-1938)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | Christ, Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell

Verses



1. Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
2. hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
4. warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
3. bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
4. shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain/Estrillo



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
¡Sé nues-tra luz, Cris-to Se - ñor, en las ti - nie - blas!



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.
¡Sé nues-tra luz! Bri-lla en tu J - gle - sia reu - ni - da hoy. 4. Re-

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.

11:30AM MASS: WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION AND RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS

After much discernment, prayer, and preparation, the following six individuals now seek to be admitted into the Order of Catechumens. Through the Rite of Acceptance, the Church symbolically claims these men and women for Christ by signing them with the cross. During the rite, the inquirers will stand amidst the parish community and state their desire to become initiated into the Catholic Christian faith by the Easter Sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist.

Brynna Finley
Glenn Gallo
Ruby Rollins
Helen Sherrah-Davies
Jin-Yeong So
Eugenia Uche-Anyia

PENITENTIAL ACT

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 11: 1-10

<p>O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgment. <i>R.</i></p> <p>In his days shall justice shall flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more.</p> <p>He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth. <i>R.</i></p>	<p>For he shall rescue the needy when they cry, the poor who have no one to help. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy. <i>R.</i></p> <p>May his name endure forever, his name continue like the sun. Every tribe shall be blest in him, all nations shall call him blessed. <i>R.</i></p>
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arranged by Kathleen Demny

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!

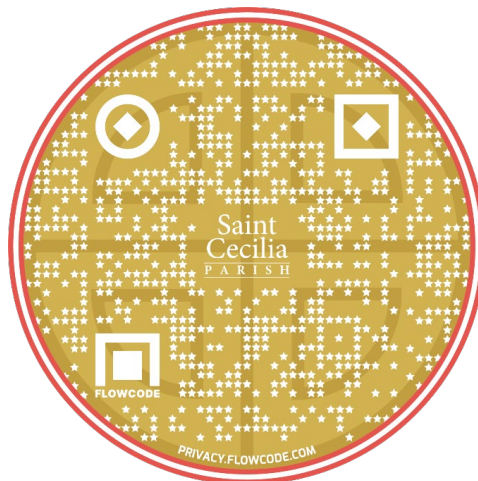
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | Comfort, Comfort O My People

GENEVA



1. Com - fort, com - fort, O my peo - ple, Speak of peace, now
2. Hark, the voice of one who's cry - ing In the des - ert
3. O make straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er



says our God. Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,
far and near, Bid - ding all to full re - pent - ance
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Mourn - ing un - der sor - rows' load. Speak un - to Je -
Since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
As be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them.
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad.



Tell of all the sins I cov - er,
Let the val - leys rise to meet him
And all flesh shall see the to - ken



And that war - fare now is o - ver.
And the hills bow down to greet him.
That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav-en and earth are full, are full of your glo-ry. Ho-

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high-est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high-est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | *Missa de Lumine*

arranged by Kathleen Demny

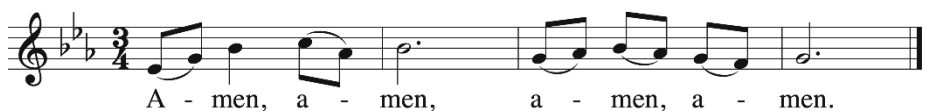


Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your Cross and Res-ur -

rec - tion you have set us free.

GREAT AMEN | *Missa de Lumine*

arranged by Kathleem Demny



A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

COMMUNION RITE

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.

DOXOLOGY

SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD | Holy Cross Mass

David Clark Isele

Cantor or Choir: *Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,
All: have mer-cy on us. grant us peace.

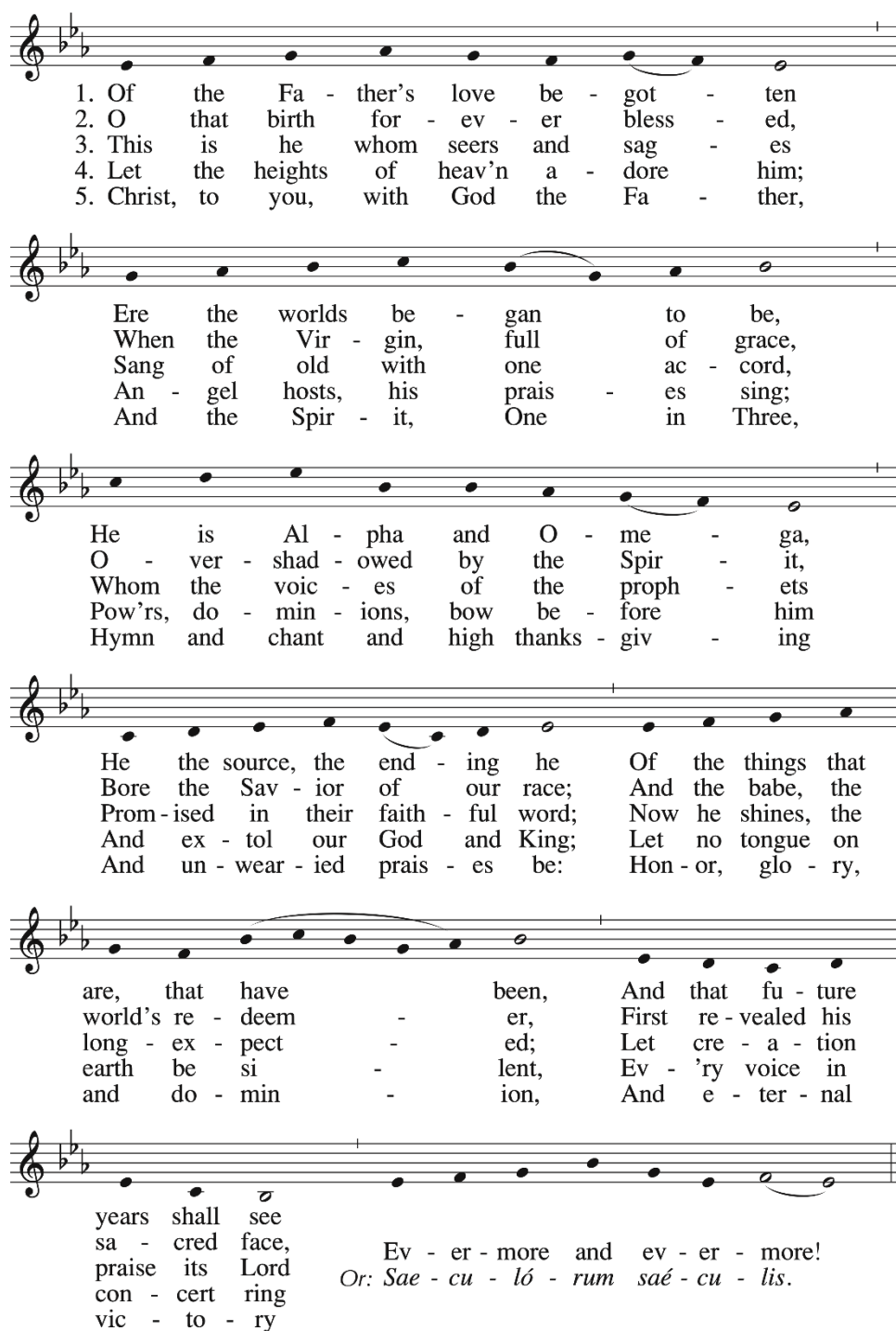
To repeat *Last time*

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.



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed,
3. This is he whom seers and sag - es
4. Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him;
5. Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,

Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
When the Vir - gin, full of grace,
Sang of old with one ac - cord,
An - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
And the Spir - it, One in Three,

He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
O - ver - shad - owed by the Spir - it,
Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

He the source, the end - ing he Of the things that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race; And the babe, the
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word; Now he shines, the
And ex - tol our God and King; Let no tongue on
And un - wear - ied prais - es be: Hon - or, glo - ry,

are, that have been, And that fu - ture
world's re - deem - er, First re - vealed his
long - ex - pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion
earth be si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in
and do - min - ion, And e - ter - nal

years shall see
sa - cred face,
praise its Lord
con - cert ring
vic - to - ry

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
Or: Sae - cu - ló - rum saé - cu - lis.

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was, and is, and is to come
Sing Holy, Holy Lord.

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within!
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon.

E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come
And night shall be no more.
They need no light nor lamp nor sun
For Christ will be their All!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CONCLUDING RITES

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

✠ 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 | People, Look East

MORNING SONG

1. Peo - ple look East. The time is near Of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad, though earth is bare. One more
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the
 4. Stars, keep the watch when night is dim. One more
 5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Him who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there; Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim. Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley

a - ble Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may flour - ish.
 fro - zen He for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming With the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Guest is on the way.
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Rose, is on the way.
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Bird is on the way.
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

POSTLUDE | Ave Maris Stella

Nicolas de Grigny
 (1672-1703)

Music in this worship aid is printed with permission under Onelicense.net #A700-137.

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

WELCOME

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. Our church building resides on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket and Massachusett tribal nations.

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.



Thank you so much to everyone who participated in our Pine Street Inn Thanksgiving Meal Kit event! Due to the generosity of our parishioners, we collected over 100 bags of groceries that reached over 40 households for Thanksgiving!



OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, December 3 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Mary Kane, lector

Sunday, December 4 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Nicholas Hayes-Mota, lector

Sunday, December 4 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Julie DesAutels, Rosaria Salerno,
and Michael Lake, lectors

Sunday, December 4 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Karen McMenamy, Cathy Anderson,
and Tanya Rybarczyk lectors

Sunday, December 4 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Brian Kelleher-Calnan and Virgen Palermo, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 4 | 9:30 a.m.

Dan Mullin, *Second Anniversary*
Annette Perna, *Twentieth Anniversary*
Carol Howland, *Memorial*
Tony Silvaggio, *Memorial*
Molly Dunphy, *Memorial*

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

PRAYER FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

Most Gracious and Compassionate God,
on this World AIDS Day
we are mindful that countless people are at risk
of joining the 36.7 million currently infected with AIDS.

You are greater than any disease or plague;
and now we ask, as you have done in times past,
to heal and comfort those who are suffering.

Be with those who may learn today
that they or a loved one
may have just been diagnosed with HIV.

God of mercy, we confess
that we have often turned our backs
on those with HIV/AIDS,
those who are sick and dying.

We ask you to forgive our disparaging attitudes,
our indifference, and our failures to offer a helping
hand.

Help us to hear their cries,
respond to their needs with compassionate love,
and to be your welcoming face of mercy. Amen.

— Dianna Ortiz, O.S.U.



Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Masses that are also livestreamed are marked with an asterisk (*) and can be viewed at
www.stceciliaboston.org



Christmas Eve | Saturday, December 24

Mass | 4:00* and 6:30 p.m.



Christmas Day | Sunday, December 25

Mass | 9:30 a.m.*

*Please note that this is the **ONLY** Mass on Christmas Day*

Monday, December 26–Friday, December 30

Parish offices closed



Wednesday, December 28 | Thursday, December 29 | Friday, December 30

Weekday Mass | 8:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God | Sunday, January 1

Mass | Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Mass | Sunday, 8:00, 9:30*, and 11:30 a.m.

Please note that there will be no 6:00 p.m. liturgy

The Epiphany of the Lord | Sunday, January 8

Mass | Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Mass | Sunday, 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Please note that there will be no 6:00 p.m. liturgy on December 18, 25, or January 1.



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Charlie Naughton, Bob Haas, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rick Gaillardetz, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: **Paul Flannery** of Boston, **Colin O'Leary** of Boston, **Gina McCormack** of Bradenton, Florida, the **Braatz and Infranca Family** of Jamaica Plain, **Gilbert Whalen** of Boston, **Melissa Ehrlichman** of Brookline, **Lauren Miner** of Brookline, **Elizabeth Weber** of Medford, and **Steven and Rosann Leyden** of Clay, New York. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Be Sure to Take Home a Little Blue Book for Advent

Six minutes a day. That's what you might consider giving to prayer during the seasons of Advent and Christmastide. The Little Blue Book includes daily thoughts on Advent and Christmas, the feast of the day, and various traditions and customs. There are also reflections on the first reading assigned for the Mass each day. These books are in baskets in the rear of the church, and can also be ordered directly from littlebooks.org and are available in paper (\$5) and eBook (\$4) formats.

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. **Brynna Finley, Glenn Gallo, Ruby Rollins, and Helen Sherrah-Davies** 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.

Christmas Flowers

You are invited to remember your loved ones by donating towards the Christmas flowers that will grace our sanctuary. In the rear of the church you will find envelopes and a basket that you can use for this purpose. You can also bring your envelope

to the reception desk. Names received by Wednesday, December 14 will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Any names received following this date will be published in the Epiphany bulletin. Please be sure to PRINT clearly. If you'd like to participate online, please visit the following link to donate: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/christmas-flowers-2022> and this link to record the name(s) of your loved one(s): <https://forms.gle/Tc5hqYtGr1TUd2J9A>

Gaudete Sunday

Next Sunday 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 next Sunday!

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Patronal Feast Day of the United States

Thursday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. Many people confuse the Immaculate Conception with the doctrine of the Virgin Birth (Mary's virginal conception of Jesus). Thursday's solemnity celebrates Mary's Immaculate Conception: that is, our solemn belief that Mary, though conceived in the normal way, was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her conception. This solemnity occurs nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary, which is celebrated on September 8.

Last 6:00 p.m. Mass of 2022

Next Sunday, December 11, is the last six o'clock Sunday liturgy before Christmas. The six o'clock liturgy will resume on the Solemnity of the Epiphany (January 8).



A REMINDER TO PARENTS

While at Saint Cecilia, children should never go to the restrooms alone. We are happy that you feel so safe here, but please remember that we are in an urban building that is quite open and has multiple entrances. For the safety of our children, please do not allow them to wander around unsupervised, and please do not ever allow them to go to the restroom unaccompanied by a parent.

SAINT CECILIA REMOTE FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CALL

Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 p.m. ET

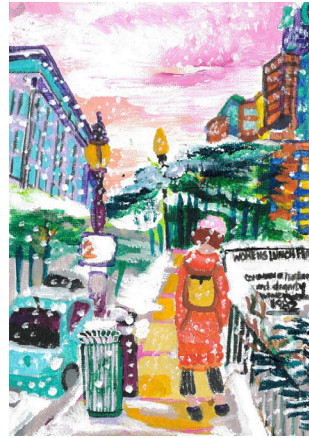
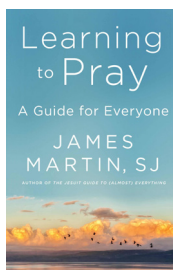


We are very excited to welcome Father Peter Grover, OMV to our December online coffee hour. Father Peter, an Oblate of the Virgin Mary from St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine, is one of our regular Mass celebrants, frequently presiding at Mass on Wednesday mornings and Saturday evenings. Father Peter will focus on ways to make the most of the Advent season. The topic of prayer was touched upon during our November coffee hour with Father John, but Father Peter will take it to another level and explore some ways we can use to help deepen our prayer life and make it more meaningful. We hope you will join us for this interactive fellowship meeting.

Anyone is welcome to join the "Far Flung Flock" for our December online coffee hour. If you have registered or attended any online coffee hour in the past, you will automatically get the email with the link for December. If you have not attended or are unsure if you're on our list, please email Mary Ann Gallagher at gallaghercomms@gmail.com. The Zoom link will be emailed to the entire list a few days before the call.

WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group invites you to read the acclaimed book, *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone* by Fr. James Martin, SJ. Regarding the book, Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking*, stated, "Who else but Father Martin can combine the illuminating insights from spiritual giants like St. John Damascene with the likes of Monty Python? A humble, humorous step-by-step guide on the lofty subject of talking to and listening for the Living God." The Wisdom Group is always happy to welcome new members in the second half of life. We meet in person on the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. (please RSVP), and via Zoom 8:30-9:30 a.m. on the other Sundays for fellowship and conversation. For more information, please email Deb Garcia (sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com).



WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE HOLIDAY CARDS

Starting next weekend, you will be able to purchase holiday cards that will support the work of Women's Lunch Place, one of our non-profit partner agencies. The cards, which cost \$25 for a pack of 5, feature artwork created by a former guest of the shelter who is presently

the part-time Art Coordinator at the agency. All proceeds from the card sale support WLP. For more information, please visit www.womenslunchplace.org.

TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES

Please keep in mind that two of our non-profit 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).



ADVENT

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOR YOUR ADVENT WREATH

SECOND WEEK

Light two of the violet candles. During the rest of the week, these candles are relit at the evening meal or whenever you choose to do so.



Jesus, John the Baptist told the people, "If you have two coats, give one to someone else who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else." As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of service into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.
Amen.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

DBIE (Diversity, Belonging, Inclusivity, Equity)

Presenter: Catharine Kelley, a leader for the National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP) as well as leading the DEI "Belonging" strategy for the talent acquisition team at Bright Horizons Family Solutions.

Monday, December 5, 2022 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Zoom Presentation

A Conversation from Prison: From Both Sides of the Bars and a Call for Transformation

Presenters: William Allen and Peg Newman

Monday, December 19, 2022 | 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Zoom Presentation

For further details on this presentation, please check the website:
https://saintsusanna.org/adult_faith_formation.html

THANK YOU!

This year's Thanksgiving gift card donations for the Pine Street Inn low-threshold housing tenants was another success! Thank you to everyone in the Saint Cecilia community who participated. Your generosity has helped us be ambassadors of kindness, sharing what we have with our neighbors in need. We wish you all a blessed and happy Christmas.



Saint Cecilia
PARISH

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS: ADVENT PRAYER

VESPERS

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 illumine 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.

Wednesday, November 30 at 6:00 p.m.
Feast of Saint Andrew

Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m.
Memorial of Saint Lucy

Monday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m.
"O Radix Jesse"

LAUDS

The church gathers for **Morning Prayer** to offer praise and to sanctify the day. This hour, celebrated as it is as the light of a new day is dawning, also recalls the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, the true light enlightening all humankind, and the "Sun of justice" (Malachi 4:2), "rising from on high" (Luke 1:78).

Saturday, December 24 at 9:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Morning Prayer

Live on the St. Cecilia Facebook Page or via Zoom.
Email sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com for details.



THE ADVENT GIVING TREES

Have you taken a gift tag from one of our Advent Giving Trees? Your gift will bring tidings of comfort and joy this Christmas to many people in our neighborhood.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

- Select one or more tags and purchase the item. Please do not take a tag unless you know that you will be able to purchase the gift.
- Wrap your gift(s)—unless the tag indicates not to—and attach the tag **securely** to the outside of your gift(s).
- You are welcome to add to your purchase. For example, if someone requested a winter hat, you could also include gloves or a scarf or include some holiday candy, etc. Remember—for some people, this will be the only gift they receive this Christmas.
- If the gift is unavailable or out of stock, a gift card may be substituted.
- If the gift is too expensive or if you change your mind, simply return the tag to a Giving Tree Coordinator as soon as possible.
- If you lose your tag, please inform a Giving Tree Coordinator.
- **Return your gift(s) to the church NO LATER than Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m.**



FOR OUR VIRTUAL GIVING TREE

- Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/stc22givingtree>
- Select the agency you wish to support.
- Follow instructions for shipping and delivery. Be sure to include the listed "in care of" (c/o) information.
- For gift cards, choose a physical card vs. an electronic 'E-card.' Project Hope is an exception to this rule. E-cards are acceptable for that agency.
- Any online seller can be used, or you may purchase the gift at a store and then ship it.
- If the gift is unavailable or out of stock, a gift card may be substituted.
- If you bring your gift to the church, please be sure to clearly indicate which agency it is for.
- **Please order and ship your gift(s) so it will arrive at the agency or the church no later than Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m.**

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 next weekend. When you come to church, be sure to spend a few moments in prayer before this powerful visual reminder of souls from both the Jesuit Urban Center and Saint Cecilia communities.

OUR AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT



Throughout history quilts have symbolized a legacy of memory and community. The Saint Cecilia AIDS Memorial Quilt, inspired by the NAMES Project which originated in San Francisco and is now based in Atlanta, was first dedicated at the Jesuit Urban Center in November of 1995 and brought to Saint Cecilia fourteen years ago. It is a tapestry that binds us together and reminds us of the loved ones, friends, and partners this community has lost to the AIDS virus.

In the mid-nineteen nineties, Michele Audet, Paul Goulet, Jean Marino, Mimi Rittenburg, and Janine Shahbaz, members of the Jesuit Urban Center's Last Tuesday Dinner Program (a program founded to serve a nutritious and delicious dinner on the last Tuesday of each month to people living with HIV/AIDS), came together to determine how best to honor the many wonderful people they loved who had died. It was during this gathering that the idea of an AIDS Memorial Quilt was born. Pedro Carasquillo, a Jesuit scholastic who was stationed at the church at this time, helped design this powerful visual reminder of so many lives cut short by the AIDS virus. Each Quilt panel in the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt is 3 feet by 6 feet; eight panels are sewn together to create full size quilts of 12 square feet. The Saint Cecilia AIDS Memorial Quilt is modeled after a full size quilt.

The bold primary colors used in the Quilt contrast with its solemn symbolism. The Quilt evokes both Christian imagery and the memory of those who have died. "IHS" is derived from the first three letters of the Greek name of Jesus (IHOU). In ancient times, this became a widely recognized monogram of the Christ. IHS is also featured in the Jesuit crest. The red AIDS ribbon is looped through the "H." Each star circling around the central image represents someone from our community who died from AIDS. Michele, Paul, Jean, Mimi and Janine placed the Quilt on the altar of the church and lovingly inscribed the first ninety-three names on the stars. It is displayed on the Sunday nearest World AIDS Day—a stark reminder that AIDS is still with us. Calling us to the hope born of faith is a verse from the prophet Zephaniah, edging the Quilt in four-inch letters:

"I will sing and dance before the Lord. With happy song God will dance for you with shouts of joy. For God now rejoices over you."



SAINT CECILIA AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

Tom (Chico) Acquario	Dino Compston	Mark Lanni	David Panella
Audree Addison	Richard Cotting	Roger Laton	Kenny Parascondolo
William Ambrosini	Thom Creed	David Lawrence	Brian Paterson
Michael Ambrosini	Michael Crowley	Bob Leclair	Jose Pegallado
Joseph Aris	Joe DelPonte	John Edward Lee	Joey Perkins
Jeffrey Armstead	Tim Desjardin	David Littlefield	Alan Perreault
Joseph Avola	Mark DeStefano	Joseph Lucas	Sharon Perry
Bill Awad	Mike Donlan	Joe Lucy	George Pittman, Jr.
James Banusiewicz	Bill Doyle	Michael MacInnis	Holly Riley
Ed Barry	Joey Drago	Bob Malchodi	Philip Rittenburg
Peter Bartolluci	Wayne Drake	William Maley, Jr.	Charlie Rose
Barry Basinger	John Eaton, Jr.	John Marks	Jason Russell
Thomas Basinger	Aleema Ervin	Steve Marquez	Tom Savage
Timothy Bean	Sheila Flannery	John Martins	Marc Sawyer
Daniel Bell	Luon Flowers	Leo Maza	Michael Scally
Bill Benevenuti	Bob Gagnon	Michael McCarthy	Marc Scarlett
Jose Benito Degollado	Michael Gasper	James McDonald	Joe Sciavi
Tim Bennett	John Gibbons	Michael McDonald	Wesner Sejour
Michael Bennett	Ari Gonzales	Gail McDonald	Carlos Sempritt
Tom Bennett	William Greenough	Ruth McFadden	Richard Shea
Paul Bettencourt	Jim Grillo	Ed McKay	Bill Singleton
Joseph Bevins	Gary Guido	Jimmy McLaughlin	Michael Smith
Richard Bonney	William Guteruil	Peter McQuade	Bernie Smith
Frederico Borge	Greg Haley	Patrick McShane	Tracey Stephens
Alan Bouchard	Theresa Hamlet	Paul Meany	Paul Tessier
Marc Bowen	Timothy Harrington	Michael Meeks	Michael Tobin
Stephen Boyle	Robert Hathaway	Gary Miles	Anita Tulacz
Leo Brown	Joseph Hayes	Michael Mitch	David Ugi
Stephen Brown	Bob Hayhurst, Jr.	Dennis Moers	Max Valderrama
Felix Brown	Brian Hewitt	April Moore	Matthew Vallee
Steve Burkle	Paul Higgins	Peter Morgan	David Varnadore
Oscar Cabral	Lawrence Histon	Jeff Morrison	Yvette Voisse
Neil Callahan	Eric Hook	Ivan Nazario	Joan Waker
Michael Carpenter	Gene Hurd	Tim Nickerson	Edward Wallace
Stephen Caruso	Kevin Hynes	Gerry O'Brien	Michael Ward, Jr.
Joseph C. Cermone	Alan Isgur, Jr.	Mark O'Leary	Joe Williams
Ronald Choque	Michael Johnston	David O'Loughlin	Carlos Wiskie
Stephen B. Clark	Boyce Jones	Sean O'Sullivan	
Michael Comperchio	Philip Joseph	Eduardo Paez-Carrillo	



You're invited to a

Family Christmas

COOKIE

decorating party



Enjoy Christmas music,
hot cocoa & cookies!



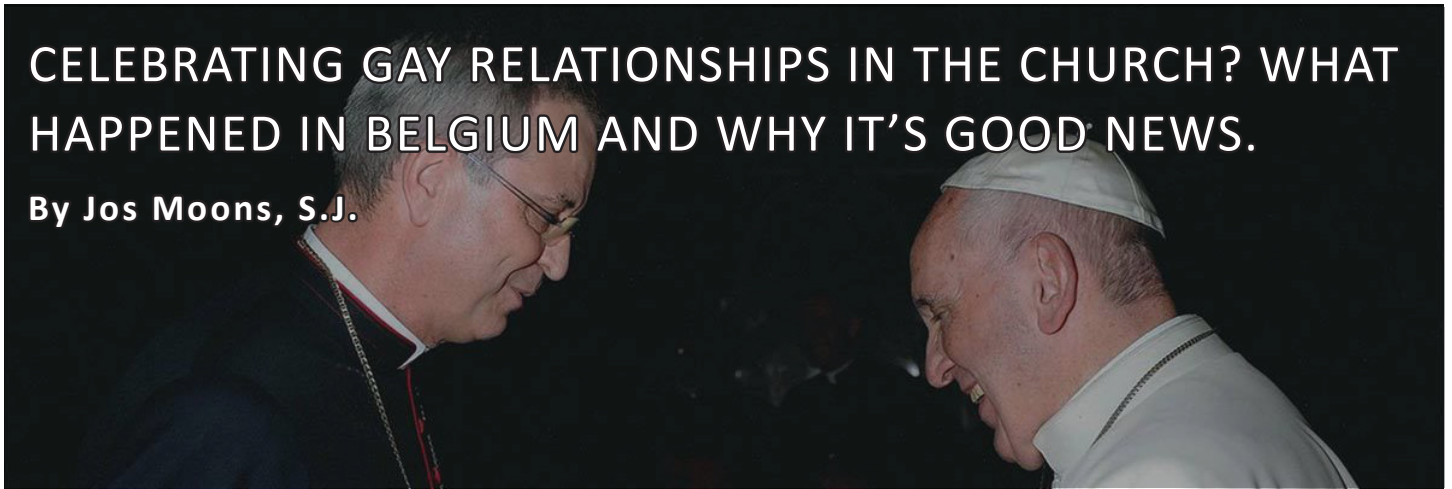
Sunday, December 11th
after the 9:30 Mass

Scan the Flowcode to
RSVP by December 7



CELEBRATING GAY RELATIONSHIPS IN THE CHURCH? WHAT HAPPENED IN BELGIUM AND WHY IT'S GOOD NEWS.

By Jos Moons, S.J.



Bishop Johan Bonny of Antwerp presents a book to Pope Francis at the Vatican in November 2016. Bishop Bonny greeted the pope after the release of his apostolic exhortation "Amoris Lætitia." (Photo courtesy of Facebook/ Agenzia Info Salesiana)

In September, the Flemish bishops decided that, from now on, gay couples could celebrate their relationships in Catholic churches. They explained that they had been encouraging their priests and other collaborators to promote recognition and integration. "We want to continue on that path by giving this a more structural character," the bishops said. (To clarify: Belgium consists of two main language groups. This is a document by the Flemish-speaking Belgian bishops, not the French-speaking Belgian bishops.)

The decision led to considerable turmoil on blogs and social media. Did this celebration equal a blessing, or did it not? Did the bishops bypass the synodal process? Were they breaking the unity of the Catholic Church or disrespecting Catholic moral teaching? Amid the strong opinions, the facts sometimes got lost. Here, I summarize what happened, offer a positive interpretation and suggest why it's good (and Catholic) news.

What actually happened

The bishops' document is short and does three things.

First, it highlights recognition and inclusion. That had been the approach the bishops were promoting. The Flemish bishops feel supported to continue in this direction by Pope Francis and his apostolic exhortation "Amoris Lætitia."

Second, the bishops announced that they will appoint a "contact person" for LGBTQ people and their families and friends. In doing so, gay people are recognized as part of the body of the church.

Third, the bishops recognize the value of lasting and loving

relationships between LGBTQ people and offer a loosely developed liturgy for celebrating those relationships in church—what they call, "a moment of prayer to ask God that He may bless and perpetuate this commitment of love and fidelity."

A positive reading

The primary objective is this: recognition and inclusion. I like to stress that, for it means that the objective is not to overturn church teaching. Rather, the intention is to appreciate and acknowledge. As the bishops write:

Along the sometimes-complex path of acknowledging, accepting and positively living their orientation, we want to remain close to them [homosexual persons]. Some remain celibate. They deserve our appreciation and support. Others choose to live as a couple, in lasting and faithful union with a partner. They too deserve our appreciation and support. Because this relationship too, although not a Church marriage, can be a source of peace and shared happiness for those involved.

That also means that the juridical and technical question if this is a blessing— yes or no—is a secondary question. The bishops have taken a pastoral, not a juridical, step. In assessing this new development, the warm pastoral welcome must be appreciated first.

Secondly, I'd like to stress that this is a local initiative. As Bishop Johan Bonny of Antwerp stated on the television: We are doing here what needs to be done here. There's no intention to put pressure on other bishops or to break the unity of the global church. The bishops have listened to the local people of God and discerned that this is the step they should take.

In that discernment, conversations between the Cardinal Jozef De Kesel of Mechelen-Brussels and Willy Bombeek, a committed gay Catholic, played a major role. Those

discussions started as early as 2020, long before the synod. In other words, the bishops don't mean to bypass that process—they had started long before. And what they started is based on listening to the faithful.

Thirdly, this is a cautious document. At various instances, it stresses that this not marriage, something that may sound painful to gay couples, for it suggests that their relationship has less depth and is a lesser reflection of God's love than a "true" marriage. I read this as the bishops trying to respect sensitivities. Again, I would suggest focusing on what has been gained— recognition, inclusion, appreciation—rather than on what has not (or not yet) been achieved.

Finally, it is a short document of barely three pages that leaves several questions unanswered. The same could be said more positively: The bishops leave ample space for further reflection by theologians, canon lawyers liturgists and chaplains.

Why this is a Catholic document

Some criticize the document as abandoning church teaching. Here, I'd like to state the opposite: This is a truly Catholic document. In the first place, the bishops repeatedly refer to "Amoris Lætitia" and they highlight conscience as the ultimate source for moral wisdom. "Amoris" is a very Catholic document, promulgated by Pope Francis, and the concept of conscience and our ultimate moral authority is a very Catholic notion, championed by Saint Thomas Aquinas.

Admittedly, some would quote from other documents and mention other sources for moral wisdom, but that only means there is a variety of possible Catholic perspectives.

Critics of the Flemish document often refer to the 2021 responsum from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which stated that gay relationships are objectively disordered and cannot be blessed. Yet, that is not the only Catholic perspective, and Pope Francis has not used these terms. Not only did the pope wonder "Who am I to judge?" he has repeatedly sent letters of support to James Martin, S.J., to encourage his ministry with LGBTQ people.

I would say that this diversity of perspectives simply means that the church is still working out how to relate to gay people. The Flemish bishops have made it their priority to opt for inclusion and conscience. That is a valid Catholic position.

Secondly, since Second Vatican Council, local bishops have been restored to their full dignity (i.e., responsibility). They are shepherds of their flock, not ambassadors of the pope.

Now, there is a discussion about what that means and how to manage the tension between the local and the universal, but one cannot simply say that the Belgian bishops have broken the unity of the church.

One could as well say they have been shepherds of their flock. The Flemish-speaking Belgian bishops have not acted on their own account, for they have issued this statement together. In other words, opting for recognition and inclusion is a shared conviction. This is a very Catholic document because it prioritizes salvation over doctrine. It recalls how Jesus would prioritize curing people over keeping the Sabbath and stress mercy over rules.

~ Father Moons is a chaplain and lecturer at the K.U. Leuven, a Catholic university in Belgium. He is the author of "The Art of Spiritual Direction" and "The Holy Spirit, the Church, and Pneumatological Renewal." He received his Ph.D. from the Tilburg School of Catholic Theology in the Netherlands.



Tree of Jesse, a piece of a polyptych of the Life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, from Hamburg Cathedral, by Absolon Stumme (1499)



HOW CATHOLIC SISTERS STARTED HOMES FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS

By Michael O'Loughlin

The plans were meticulous, but then reality threw a curveball.

The Sisters of Providence, a Catholic women's religious order with a large presence in the northwestern United States, hadn't necessarily sought to provide housing for people with H.I.V./AIDS in the early days of the crisis—the 1980s. But like many other sisters before them, the Sisters of Providence learned of a pressing need in their community and responded with compassion. Then they got to work.

Physicians and support staff at what was then Providence Hospital Oakland, in California, had been distraught each time they discharged a patient with disabilities who had nowhere suitable to go. Perhaps they couldn't navigate flights of stairs up to their apartments. Or maybe they had nowhere to call home at all, and instead slept in parks and dangerous shelters.

Homelessness was a major crisis in the Eastbay neighborhood in the 1980s, with as many as 9,000 people lacking adequate housing at any given time, the Oakland Tribune reported in 1986.

Was there anything the sisters could do to help?

Having previously opened three facilities offering affordable housing to people living in Washington and Oregon, the sisters said yes. After all, when the founder of their religious order, Emilie Gamelin, ministered in her native Montreal back in the 1840s, she and a small group of other women provided housing to orphans and widows. (Mother Emilie was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in 2001.) Now, more than a century later, providing access to safe housing for vulnerable people was no less urgent.

By the end of 1985, the sisters had secured initial funding and created plans for a few dozen affordable apartments for

low-income adults living with disabilities. After overcoming many obstacles—including a bureaucratic nightmare involving an historic but dilapidated structure situated on their property, popular with people with drug addictions and eventually destroyed by a fire—they broke ground on September 30, 1987.

According to a press release, once constructed, the house would “provide housing for low-income disabled and elderly persons.”

But two years later, construction was still elusive. A powerful earthquake in 1989 damaged city offices, with piles of permits and paperwork a casualty of the tremors. The house would be delayed yet again.

Was this a sign that the project just wasn't meant to be?

“The people of Oakland need this housing project desperately,” thought Sister Barbara Schamber, S.P., the regional superior of the Sacred Heart Province, recognizing the federal money the sisters had secured would simply vanish if they gave up. “So we will proceed.”

But it would take more than an ironclad commitment to see the house through.

Sister Mary Grondin, S.P., had a passion for social justice

On Ash Wednesday, in 1983, Sister Mary hopped a fence at the Trident nuclear submarine base in Washington State. She walked along the railroad tracks that brought the weapons to the base, stopping occasionally to pray and to place photos of people killed by nuclear weapons. Along with her two companions, Sister Mary was arrested for trespassing, as the Tacoma News-Tribune reported at the time.

A few years later, the Sisters of Providence built 60 units

of affordable housing at Seattle's Pike Place Market, which had historically housed many social service agencies. Sister Anita Butler, a member of the province's leadership team, was tasked with finding a sister to help run the Seattle residences. She thought immediately of Sister Mary. Supportive housing was no easy job. People experiencing drug addiction and mental illness needed fierce advocates. Sister Anita knew Sister Mary was the perfect fit.

When asked about her philosophy of providing housing to people experiencing difficult challenges, the sorts of people society usually likes to keep hidden in the shadows, Sister Mary summed it up succinctly.

"Without basic housing and basic respect, it's pretty hard to take care of the rest of your life," Sister Mary told the Catholic Voice. Or put another way, Sister Mary saw in the housing ministry a fulfillment of the commandments to love one another laid out by Jesus in the Gospels.

"This is clearly a participation in the healing ministry of Jesus," she continued. "Even though this is obviously a building, it's run on Christian principles and with a respect for peoples' varying traditions. Walking with people who are disabled or ill, it's a privilege."

Back in Oakland, the sisters were trying to get the new residences built, but they needed that extra push. Sister Barbara asked Sister Mary to get on board. After all, as another sister told me, "Sister Mary was relentless, in the best sense of that word."

Sister Mary arrived in Oakland in late 1989 to devote her efforts to a project that the sister felt was on life-support.

She made it her mission to talk to as many people as possible. She met with hospital administrators. She tracked down local activists. She visited adults living with disabilities.

At this point, plans for the house still called for serving adults with disabilities. That's what the hospital had asked for. And that's what the sisters had pledged to deliver.

But "adults with disabilities" was such a broad, abstract category of people, Sister Mary thought. Who were the individuals the sisters would actually serve?

Two groups of people were especially underserved in the Bay Area: adults with mental illness and people living with AIDS. Officials at the Department of Housing and Urban Renewal informed the sisters that the grant money they had received was designated only for physical disabilities,

so housing for people with mental illness was off the table.

There weren't many organizations rushing to care for people with H.I.V./AIDS in Oakland in the 1980s. But then again, there hadn't been many organizations ministering to poor immigrants with cholera in mid-19th century Montreal. But Mother Emilie Gamelin did. And a century-and-a-half later, following her example, and listening to the pleas from local leaders, the Sisters of Providence took up that call to serve.

In my book, *Hidden Mercy*, I chronicle stories about Catholics in the United States responding to H.I.V./AIDS with mercy and compassion in the early days of the epidemic. At the institutional level, the response was troubling. Some bishops undermined public health campaigns and others fought against measures that could have made life a bit less terrifying for members of the gay community.

But there are also stories of many other Catholics, drawing inspiration from the teachings of Jesus, who responded with love and compassion, even if their stories weren't always covered by the press. Priests visiting gay men dying from AIDS who had been abandoned by family and friends. Gay Catholics organizing buddy programs, to make sure their friends and neighbors had meals when they could no longer cook for themselves.

And Catholic sisters, like the Sisters of Providence, who responded with creativity and compassion when confronted with the deep need in their communities. As a gay Catholic myself, learning how others responded with mercy in the face of such stigma and shame has made me more confident in my own faith.

The need for affordable housing for people with AIDS in the 1980s was astronomical. Some people fell behind on rent while hospitalized and faced eviction when they were discharged, the New York Times reported. Others contracted H.I.V. in homeless shelters, which saw disproportionately high rates of the virus. Still others were not welcome back home after their families learned that they had been diagnosed with H.I.V.

By 1990, experts estimated that tens of thousands of Americans living with H.I.V./AIDS lacked access to housing, with one member of the National Commission on AIDS describing that reality as "a national scandal," according to the Los Angeles Times.

That scandal plagued Oakland, which the sisters noted in their archives was home to just nine units of affordable housing for people with AIDS.

Even for someone with her energy, Sister Mary encountered a formidable opponent in City Hall. Paperwork misfiled in city offices. Small tweaks to blueprints adding delay after delay at the construction site. Special permits were needed. Financing and banking hiccups. Finally, on September 26, 1990, contractors were given the green light to begin construction, even if Providence House Oakland would take another year before to complete.

Recognizing the vast challenges that the residents would face, the sisters asked Sister Patricia Hauser, a social worker who had previously ministered to people experiencing homelessness in Seattle and Alaska, to assist Sister Mary. With Sister Mary's nursing background and Sister Pat's social-work knowhow, the pair of sisters constituted a dream team in terms of holistic care for people living with AIDS.

Six years after the initial idea for what would become Providence House Oakland was first discussed, Sister Mary settled into her apartment on July 31, 1991.

Each resident would live in a private apartment, with a bedroom, kitchen and living room. But many of the future residents lacked furniture, nevermind basics like towels and sheets. So Sister Mary haggled with mattress wholesalers and bargained for the best deals on linens. Sister Pat acquired dressers and nightstands from St. Vincent de Paul and placed announcements in the bulletins of local parishes for more donations.

On August 1st, the sisters welcomed 26 residents, and the day after that, another 14. The residents in the early days of the house reflected the reality of who was being hit hardest by H.I.V./AIDS in the early 1990s. Around Oakland, more than 50 percent of new AIDS diagnoses were among people of color.

Most of the residents at Providence House Oakland, about 70 percent, were African-American men, and nearly 75 percent of the residents were living with H.I.V. Providence House made just a small dent into Oakland's need for affordable housing for people with AIDS. There would always be a waiting list. But for those 40 people, the residences were life changing.

~ *Michael J. O'Loughlin is the national correspondent for America and author of Hidden Mercy: AIDS, Catholics, and the Untold Stories of Compassion in the Face of Fear.*



Saint John the Baptist Preaching to the Masses in the Wilderness
by Pieter Bruegel the Younger (1564–1638)

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
Keith Brinkley, Mike Currier, Rudy Flores, Parker Olson, Corey Ortiz, Reception
reception@stceciliaboston.org
Christine Burns, Digital Media Coordinator
cburns@stceciliaboston.org
Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music
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Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
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Robert Duff, Director of Music
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Giovanna Franchi, Pastoral Minister
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Olivia Hastie, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
ohastie@stceciliaboston.org
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
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Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development
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Thomas Mellan, Organist
tmellan@stceciliaboston.org
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
lpickering@stceciliaboston.org

Assisting Clergy

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

Schedule for Liturgy

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

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at ohastie@stceciliaboston.org.

Marriage

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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

Care of the Sick

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

Building Accessibility

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

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 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 around the country and around the world. If you are local, please introduce yourself to a staff member or drop in for coffee on Sunday. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.