Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 January 2022

Appointment of a Prisoner with His Family

Vasily Petrovich Vereshchagin (1835-1909)
PRELUDE | Preludes on Early American Hymn Tunes

So Fades the Lovely Blooming Flower
Jerusalem, My Happy Home

George Shearing
(1919-2011)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | All are Welcome

Marty Haugen

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And all can safely live,
   A place where saints and words are strong and true,
   Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign a-
   built of hopes and dreams and visions,

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, And wafer, wine and wheat; A banquet hall on ho-
   yond the wood and stone: To heal and strengthen,
   And loved and treasured, serve and teach, And live the Word they've taught and claimed

3. Let us build a house where love is found In children tell How hearts learn to for-
   wa-
   give. Built of tears and cries and laugh-ter,

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be-
   rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the word: Bear the
   And l
   as sym-

5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their known. Here the outcast and the stranger
   known. Here the cross shall stand as witness meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus,
   known. Here the cross shall stand as witness meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus,

Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this

love of Christ shall end divisions: one we claim the faith of Jesus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are welcome,
bring an end to fear and danger: house proclaim from floor to rafter:

all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

CALL TO WORSHIP
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

GLORIA | Mass of Renewal

Curtis Stephan
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Nehemiah 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 19: Your Words, Lord, are Spirit and Life

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.
The decrees of the Lord are steadfast; they give wisdom to the simple.

2. The precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear; it gives light to the eyes.

3. The fear of the Lord is pure, abiding forever.
The judgments of the Lord are true; they are, all of them, just.

4. May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart,
win favor in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer!

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven Janco
GOSPEL | Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

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

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

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

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

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Gift of Finest Wheat

VERSES

1. As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice; So when you call your family, Lord, We follow and rejoice.
2. With joyful lips we sing to you Our praise and gratitude, That you should count us worthy, Lord, To share this heavenly food.
3. Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ out-poured? Do not one cup, one loaf, declare Our oneness in the Lord?
4. The mystery of your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell: Whom all the world can contain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
5. You give yourself to us, O Lord; Then self-less let us be, To serve each other in your name In truth and charity.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

※ The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
※ Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
※ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.
HOLY, HOLY | Mass of the Angels and Saints

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints
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.

LAMB OF GOD | Mass of the Angels and Saints

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.

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.
Refrain
Broken for the broken, poured out for the poor:
Blessed feast of God’s creation, given for us all.
Broken for the broken, shared for human-kind, we proclaim your death, O Lord: God’s sacrifice and sign.

Verses
1. For the hungry ones, for the thirsty ones,
   for the ones abused, for the ones confused,
2. For the voice-less ones, for the help-less ones,
3. For the wound-ed ones, for the shattered ones,
4. For the ones in chains, for the ones in fear,
5. For the ail-ing ones, for the hurting ones,
6. As we break this bread, as we take this cup,
7. As we trust your word, as we live your way,
8. Change our hearts, O Lord, give us willing hearts,

   for the lonely ones, you call us to serve, to be
   for the ones re-fused, you call us to love, to be
   for the home-less ones, you call us to speak, to be
   for the ti-red ones, you call us to help, to be
   for the ones in debt, you call us to give, to be
   for the dying ones, you call us to care, to be
   as we share this meal, you call us to change, to be
   as we walk by faith, you call us to share, to be
   hearts that recognize the courage to serve and share

D.C.

1–8. Christ for each other, broken for the world.
9. Christ with each other, broken for the world.
LAUDATE DOMINUM

W.A. Mozart

Kristen Watson, soprano

(1756-1791)

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes
Laudate eum, omnes populi
Quoniam confirmata est
Super nos misericordia eius,
Et veritas Domini manet in aeternum.

Praise the Lord, all nations;
Praise Him, all people.
For He has bestowed
His mercy upon us,
And the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper.
Et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever,
and for generations of generations.
Amen.

CONCLUDING RITES

颇 The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

颇 May almighty God bless you, the Father, (颇) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

颇 Go forth, the Mass is ended.

颇 All: Thanks be to God.
1. Summoned by the God who made us
   Rich in our diversity,
   Gathered in the name of Jesus, Richer still in unity:
   Let us bring the gifts that splendid, varied ways, being, One in faith and love and praise.

2. Radiant risen from the water, Robed in holiness and light,
   Male and female in God’s image, Male and female, God’s delight:
   Sprung from seed of what has been. And in splendid, varied ways, Sing a new Church into

3. Trust the goodness of creation; Trust the spirit strong with in. Dare to dream the vision of justice; Let it sound through time and space.
   Wider and a people ever free.

4. Bring the hopes of every nation; Bring the art of every race. Weave a song of peace and
   Human family; Shape a circle ever

5. Draw together at one table All the people of the earth; Gathered in the name of Jesus, Richer still in unity:
   Let us bring the gifts that splendid, varied ways, Sing a new Church into

POSTLUDE | Festal March

E.R. Kroegen
(1862-1934)
Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children’s faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus’ teachings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday, January 22 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Catherine Horsley, lector

Sunday, January 23 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. Jim Shaughnessey, SJ, celebrant
Jordan Barnes, lector

Sunday, January 23 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Nicole Boyce, Karen McMenamy, and
Nikko Mendoza, lectors

Sunday, January 23 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ, celebrant
Kevin Dumas and Kelly McClintock, lectors

Sunday, January 23 | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Spencer Dunne and Hannah Ostwald, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 23 | 9:30 a.m.
James David Power III, 1st Anniversary
Juliana Mueller, Memorial
Trish Olson, Memorial
Dianne Zimmerman, Memorial

Sunday, January 23 | 11:30 a.m.
Maria Cullen, 1st Anniversary

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased
Kara Bolesky's mother died last Monday. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen Bolesky, and for the consolation of her loved ones. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Pickering, who died on January 18. Pray also for the consolation of Lisa and Ralph Pickering and their family. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: Leidy Catalina Mejia of Riverview, Florida, the Bohling-Miller Family of Boston, Sheila Patterson of Boston, Sandi Doyle of Hingham, Cheryl and Peter Travers of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Rosemary Purtell and Aisling Walsh of Needham. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Happy Anniversary!
Today we celebrate the batismal anniversary of Tanya Chermak who was baptized on January 27. May the Lord continue to bless Tanya with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Tanya!

Second Collection
This week's second collection supports various pastoral projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The Collection for the Church in Latin America funds the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. Please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm for more information. Or donate here: https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/funds/second-collection-church-in-latin-america

Road to Social Equity Report
If you’re on our mailing list, you've already received the final report with the findings from our parish-wide survey and focus groups. You can also read the report on our website. We hope you'll take the time to read it in full, as there are many meaningful insights about who we are as a community.

Now that we have this foundational information we'll be turning it into a strategic plan. There will be opportunities for each of our ministries to learn more. If you’re not in a ministry or the time of that presentation doesn't work for you, please mark your calendars for one of the following open info sessions: Sunday, January 23, at 2:00 EST or Thursday, January 27 at 6:00 EST. To learn more or to get involved with this process, please email lbennett@stceciliaboston.org.

Free COVID Tests
The US Government has made four free rapid tests available to every family. Make sure to sign up to receive yours at https://special.usps.com/testkits.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS
Please join us for Evening Prayer & Morning Prayer
Friday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m. Memorial of Saint Agnes
Tuesday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m. Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul
Tuesday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m. Vigil of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Saturday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m. Memorial of Saint Agatha
Friday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes
Tuesday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m. Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter

TAIZÉ PRAYER
Please join us as we mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Saturday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m. A meditative hour of song, scripture, and silence.

Live on the Saint Cecilia Facebook Page or via Zoom – Email lbennett@stceciliaboston.org for details.
LGBTQ CATHOLICS UNITE MONTHLY MEETING
Sunday, January 23 | 1:30 p.m. | Zoom Virtual Meeting

LGBTQ Catholics Unite provides an opportunity for LGBTQ Catholics and friends to gather and openly discuss relevant topics, scripture, and current events. This month Fr. Paul Sullivan, SJ will facilitate a discussion on the “Discernment of Spirits.” Fr. Paul will lead a discussion on Ignatius’ insights into the human heart and mind in making prayerful decisions. Fr. Paul is pastor of Our Lady of Hope Parish and St. Brigid School in Portland, ME. He has served in parish and high school ministry, and as a spiritual director at Eastern Point Retreat House. LGBTQ Catholics Unite provides a forum in which to share faith experiences, thoughts, beliefs, and feelings. We hope attendees will feel supported, heard, and spiritually nourished. All, including allies, are welcome! If you are interested in receiving info on how to connect via Zoom, please email stceciliarainbowministry@gmail.com.

SAINT CECILIA MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Our parish marriage ministry is creating a mentoring program for married couples. If you are part of a couple and would like more information about being on this team, please let us know. Marriage ministry is also looking for individuals or couples who might be willing to give a witness talk during one of our marriage prep classes. Lastly, we are looking for resources that can be used as part of counseling and/or spiritual direction for married couples. If one or more of these opportunities is appealing, please reach out to us at stc.marriage@gmail.com.

WISDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY

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

OFFERINGS FROM PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is offering three different support groups in February: grief support, caregiver support, and chronic illness support. Groups will be limited to 6-8 participants, meeting on Zoom, with an initial commitment of 8 weeks. For more information please contact Giovanna at gfranchi@stcecilia.boston.org or (857) 317-3823.

The Saint Cecilia Adult Faith Formation Commission (AFFC) is Looking for New Members!

The AFFC develops and promotes opportunities for lifelong faith formation for the members of the Saint Cecilia Parish community.

- Film Series
- Speaker Series
- Special Events
- Parish Retreats

To learn more, please contact Scott MacDonald. smacdonald@stcceciliaboston.org

UPCOMING YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

**THE CHOSEN SEASON 2**
January 25, February 8, 22 | 6:00 p.m. | On Zoom

*The Chosen* is the first multi-season series about the life of Christ. If you haven’t seen season one yet, we highly recommend it (you can watch it for free on The Chosen app). Although, you don’t need to watch it before seeing season two—we’ll be sure to catch you up! Due to COVID case numbers we’ll be meeting online on Zoom as is the case with all parish ministries. Each episode is about one hour long and afterwards there will be a short discussion. If you plan to attend, please email johonathethehappy@gmail.com.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

UPDATE ON OUR AFGHAN FAMILIES

The first family arrived on Wednesday, December 29 and was welcomed by a small group of parishioners from the Paulist Center and Saint Cecilia POWIR* site. They are settling into their new home and now begin the difficult journey of starting a new life. This family speaks Dari. They all arrived having learned how to say “My name is” in English. As we help them adjust, it would be good for us to learn a few phrases. A typical Muslim greeting in Arabic is As-salamu alaykum meaning ‘hello’ or more literally, ‘peace be upon you.’ The usual response is Wa-Alaikum-Salam, ‘and unto you peace’. Our second family is expected by the end of January.

Volunteers have already furnished the home, set up benefits, brought the family grocery and clothing shopping, and even took the family to Castle Island to sled and see the beach for the very first time!

Thanks to tremendous generosity from our communities, we have met our fundraising goal of $100,000. Our most immediate need is gift cards for groceries, clothing, pharmacies, and pre-loaded Charlie Cards. For more information about how to make these gift card donations, learn about Afghan culture, donate funds, volunteer, or purchase items from our Amazon wish list, go to http://bit.ly/PC-SC-help. Once volunteers have registered, they will be invited to an online orientation training session.

The next article in our series of resources is from the UN Refugee Agency, “Explaining the Refugee Crisis” https://www.unrefugees.org/news/afganistan-refugee-crisis-explained/

In the coming weeks, we will continue to link to articles and videos so that we may begin to understand a different culture and be sensitive to the complications of being in a new place with unfamiliar customs.

*POWIR stands for “Partners Organized to Welcome Immigrants and Refugees”.

Contact us with questions: sc.socialearialjustice@gmail.com. Thank you again for your generosity and kindness.

WINTER WALK BOSTON

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

SUPPORT AFGHAN REFUGEES

For the past five years, our parish has provided ongoing support to Catholic Charities’ Refugee and Immigration Services. We have offered to provide refugee families with supermarket gift cards so that they will have food while their applications for political asylum are processed. For the months of January and February, all the gift cards we collect will be given to the two Afghan families that our parish is helping resettle in Quincy and Dorchester. If you would like to purchase gift cards to Market Basket, Stop & Shop, or Shaw’s/Star Markets—and no more than $25 per card — please feel free to drop them in the offertory basket at Mass or mail them to: Mark Lippolt, Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115 .
ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?

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

This winter we will be offering a five-session class at Saint Cecilia for adults who wish to prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. If you would like more information or would like to register for this class, please contact Scott MacDonald at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STUDY OF CATHOLIC WOMEN DEALING WITH INFERTILITY

We’re looking for women between ages 18-65 who identify as Catholic and have experienced infertility or have used/considered using reproductive technologies to participate in a study examining how Catholics rely on faith to cope with infertility and make decisions about whether and how to treat infertility.

Participants will be asked to participate in a 1-2 hour interview over the phone or video-chat. The interview will involve questions about one’s experience of infertility, one’s faith practices, and one’s opinions on reproductive technologies. Participating in this study is completely voluntary and you are free to stop at any time. We hope to use the results of this research to contribute to scholarly research regarding how faith influences how women cope with infertility and discern treatment for it.

If you would like more information about being in this study, you can contact me, Emma McDonald, at 410-456-1682 or Emma.mcdonald@bc.edu. If you know someone who may be a good fit for this study, please feel free to forward this email/send this post/announcement to them.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIRTUAL EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Resurrection Hope in a Time of Crucifying Black Death
Presenter: Kelly Brown Douglas. Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary and Professor of Theology at Union College. This lecture will be based on her latest book, Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter, followed by an audience Q&A.
Tuesday, February 2, 2022 | 7:00 p.m. | Webinar by Zoom | Registration Required | Free of charge
For further details or to register for this event, please check the Lowell Humanities Series: https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/academics/sites/lowell-humanities-series.html

SPRING 2022 ONLINE COURSES

Christian Faith and Moral Character
January 26 – March 1 | 5-Week Online Course | Registration Required | $60.00

History of The Church II: The Reformation to Vatican II
January 26 – March 1 | 5-Week Online Course | Registration Required | $60.00

Ignatian Spirituality
February 2 – March 1, 2022 | 6-Week Online Course | Registration Required | $60.00
For further details or to register for these events, please check the STM Online: Crossroads Website: https://bostoncollege-stm.catalog.instructure.com/

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

On The East / West Schism
Presenter: Nate DesRosiers, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Religious Studies at Stonehill College
Monday, January 31 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom Presentation
For further details on this presentation, please check the website: https://www.saintsusanna.org/Attachments/aff_yearly_program_standard.pdf
WHY I CRY IN CHURCH

By MALLORY MCDUFF

During the service, I sobbed in the sanctuary.

That Sunday morning, I almost stayed home, lingering at the French press, imagining a second cup of coffee, and thinking of my two children nestled on the sofa with the world on pause.

But out of habit, we hustled to the car and drove to church. As I settled into the wooden pew, my body went into autopilot — ready to sing the hymns with gusto, recite the Nicene Creed, and zone into a meditative trance during the Old Testament reading.

Preparing for the liturgy that I know as well as the lines on my face, I surveyed the friends and acquaintances in the pews at the Cathedral of All Souls. Those pews held couples whose relationships were coming together and others that were coming apart.

Without considering my thoughts as prayer, I sent love to these good people, cherished by the community, faced with the messy complexity of domestic life.

Two pews behind me, a woman sat down with her children. As I glanced her way, I saw that she was completely bald. This was not a radical fashion statement; she had cancer. Shit, I thought, which I recognize as a one-syllable form of urgent prayer.

The Rev. Thomas Murphy, our 35-year old priest with three young children, rose to give the announcements, but I could feel his voice shake even before he spoke. "We just learned that Mason Wilson died," he said.

A retired Episcopal priest, Mason was 89 years old. While frail in the past year, Mason and his wife Prue were parishioners who formed the backbone of the church by welcoming newcomers, passing out nametags, holding weekly vigils for peace.

During the readings, I didn't try to concentrate on the Old Testament lesson from Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, although I did hear the words: “My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.” The Gospel reading from Luke 16:1-13 told the parable of the dishonest manager, a story difficult to interpret, as it seems to reward deceit.

Thomas began his sermon with a reference to Jeremiah, asking us to remember when we had experienced despair in our lives: “The death of a loved one. The destruction of something foundational in your life. The end of a relationship … What wisdom did you take from your time in the darkness? How did you keep alive? Do you gentle listeners, understand these
things?” he asked.

Like many people facing mid-life, I’ve experienced a bit of despair: the loss of parents, a pregnancy, a marriage. And I still don’t understand “these things” or the grave despair of the world around me, from cancer in one person to genocide in one country. As I used my sleeve to wipe the tears from my cheek, I saw friends raising their hands to the edges of their eyes as well.

Thomas continued in what I thought might be some pithy statement about how we find God from grief. But instead, he made a confession that this parable had confounded him. After weeks of agonizing about the sermon, he had only one cogent thought: “All we can do is muddle through.”

“All we can do is muddle through. It bears repeating.

At this point, I was still crying, as if given permission to be my vulnerable self, not the mother who makes breakfast at 6:30 a.m., runs four miles by 9 a.m., teaches college until 5 p.m., and becomes a mom all over again.

“All we are looking for is that one word, that one password to allow us to inhabit that room for all eternity,” Thomas continued.

“I believe that word is love. I think Jesus tells parables because he knows he can’t define love for us. It is a word that we can only define by living in the world with others.”

These words are for you, Thomas said, the tired mother, who dragged her kids out of bed to go to church; take heart, have hope. He revealed his own vulnerability as a hyperactive, fast-talking people-pleasing priest, hiding a deep loneliness by remaining in constant motion.

“So I’m not going to explain this parable,” he said.

“It’s enough for us to just show up and to share a meal …. It may be that we don’t need to understand in order to celebrate the created in God’s creation.”

During the Eucharistic prayer, the Rev. Judith Welchel asked the children to come around the table in celebration of Mason Wilson’s life. At least fifty parents, babies, toddlers, and teens crowded around the table as Judith broke the bread and said, “Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Throughout the service tears welled in my eyes, as if I had been holding back grief for weeks, waiting for this opening, this invitation. I felt like the entire congregation was holding our collective vulnerabilities before something larger than ourselves.

But what was I grieving? And why was church such a safe place for me to cry?

Skeptics might say that as a perimenopausal woman with a teenage daughter, I’m apt to cry at the slightest provocation, which may be true. But I believe something different happens when we expose our vulnerabilities in a community of faith.

A close friend told me her theory that we are being “seasoned” in church each week, preparing to be broken open in ways we cannot anticipate. So we pray the liturgy, sing the hymns, go through the motions. Yet this seasoning of our spirits prepares us to be tender-hearted, open to prayer working on us.

This makes sense to me. There are so few places where we can bring our raw emotions without a self-conscious need to explain or escape to the nearest bathroom, which happens when we get teary-eyed at work or in line at Home Depot. Perhaps church is one of those last safe havens, where we can cry in public for no reason.

A Southerner by birth and the daughter of an Episcopal priest, my mother always told me that church was the best place to cry. I remember her eyes filling with tears at the beauty of a hymn, the elegance of the liturgy, or the sadness of a season. As a child, I didn’t have to understand. I just had to sit by her side in the pew — and watch her muddle through.

~Mallory McDuff, Ph.D. teaches at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C. She is the author of Sacred Acts: How Churches are Working to Protect Earth's Climate.
PARISH RESOURCES

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

Parish Staff
Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Rev. Mr. David A. Kiblinger, SJ, Deacon
Leah Bennett, Communications and Operations Manager, lbennett@stceciliaboston.org
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Christin Raskos, Reception reception@stceciliaboston.org
Tim Rozier-Byrd, Reception reception@stceciliaboston.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joining Our Community
We’re happy that you’re with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and around the world. If you are local, please introduce yourself to a staff member or drop in for coffee on Sunday. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.
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“He has risen.” Matt 28:6

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