The Baptism of the Lord

9 January 2022

The Baptism of Jesus

He Qi
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

Glor-y to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-
dore you, we glo-ri fy you,
we give you
thanks for your great glo-ry, Lord God, heav-en-ly
King, O God, al-might-y Fa ther.

Lord Je sus Christ, On-ly Be got-ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa ther, you take a-
way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us; you take a-
way the sins of the world, re ceive our prayer; you are seat ed
at the right hand of the Fa ther, have mer-
cy, have mer-cy on us. For you a lone are the
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 104: O Bless the Lord, My Soul! Tony Alonso

1. O Lord my God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and honor, wrapped in light as with a robe!
   You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

2. On the waters you establish your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot; you ride on
   the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers, flame and fire your servants.

3. How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures. Vast and
   wide is the span of the sea, with its creeping things past counting, living things great and small!

4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it,
   they gather it up; you open wide your hand, they are well filled.

5. You hide your face, they are dismayed; you take away their breath, they die, returning to the dust from which they
   came. You send forth your spirit, and they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING | Acts 10: 34-38
GOSPEL | Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22s

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.
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
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

七星 The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
七星 Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
七星 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.
HOLY, HOLY | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven Janco

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.
OUR FATHER 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.

COMMUNION | Come to the River

COMMUNION MEDITATION | Ubi Caritas

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Love of Christ has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice in Him and be glad.
Let us fear and let us love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.
Where charity and love are, God is there.
CONCLUDING RITES

★ The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
★ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
★ Go forth, the Mass is ended.
★ All: Thanks be to God.

★

RECESSIONAL| To Jordan Jesus Humbly Came

WINCHESTER NEW

1. To Jor - dan Je - sus hum - bly came, His
gos - pel mis - sion to pro - claim; On earth, in heav’n, God’s
will was done By God’s be - lov - ed on - ly Son.
die to sin And share e - ter - nal life with him.

2. John plunged him in that wa - t’ry grave; Christ
rose to teach and heal and save; To show us how to
Christ we rise, Through Christ we en - ter par - a - dise!

3. God’s thun - d’ring voice the heav - ens rends, The
font and Spir - it born a - new; In Christ we die, with

4. God names us sons and daugh - ters, too, In

All 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 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.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, January 8 | 5:00 p.m.**
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Richard Gaillardetz, lector

**Sunday, January 9 | 8:00 a.m.**
Rev. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Matthew Duprey, lector

**Sunday, January 9 | 9:30 a.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Eden Kelly, Erin Young, and
Virgen Palermo, lectors

**Sunday, January 9 | 11:30 a.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Mary D'Angelo and Moira Macdonald, lectors

**Sunday, January 9 | 6:00 p.m.**
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Zachary Boutin and Kathleen Egan, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Saturday, January 8 | 5:00 p.m.**
Gerald Maloney, 75th Anniversary

**Sunday, January 9 | 8:00 a.m.**
Donald E. (Dee) Rowe, 1st Anniversary
John and Angelina Machado, Memorial

**Sunday, January 9 | 9:30 a.m.**
Patricia Viveiros, Memorial
Robert Lanzetti, Memorial

**Sunday, January 9 | 11:30 a.m.**
Fr. Donald George Clifford, S.J., Memorial
John Cigan Sr., 1st Anniversary

**Thursday, January 13 | 8:00 a.m.**
Marie-Jose Connor, 1st Anniversary

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-12

SPRINGS OF WATER,
BLESS THE LORD,
GIVE HIM GLORY
AND PRAISE
FOR EVER.
DANIEL 3:77
Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Mary Pickering, Delia Alvarez, Charlie Naughton, Peter Tracy, MaryAnn Weber, Bob Haas, Bob Roppolo, Christopher Gobron, Joy Gilbert, Mary Walters, John Powers, Marc Pelletier, Larry Murphy, Josephine Mason, Marian Licameli, Ray Cronin, Rosalind Sica, Nicholas Collins, Eileen Bolesky, and Liam Nedell.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: Jean and Paul Howard of Ontario, Canada, the Bagley Family of Boston, Jenna Donleavy and Richard Joyal of Boston, the Driscoll Family of Great Barrington, the Cassidy Family of Boston, Kathy Nawrocki of Bishopville, Maryland, the Douglass Family of Cambridge, Katherine and Nicholas Sama of Cambridge, Kate Grimes and James Pazzanese of Belmont, Meghan McGuire of Brookline, Leon Peschel of Boston, Ana Ericksen of Boston, the Gregory Family of North Clarendon, Vermont, the Scola Family of Jamaica Plain, Nici Chobanian of Boston, Cristina Stanica of Boston, Eric Cigan of Framingham, the Gaudet Family of Boston, and Michelle Lally O’Grady of Milton. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

The Baptism of the Lord
Today’s feast concludes the Christmas season and tomorrow is Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time. We will have seven Sundays in winter Ordinary Time before we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 2.

Thank You!
The collection at all the Christmas Masses was designated for the support of our senior priests. Due to your generosity, we were able to send $20,329 to the Clergy Trust, and this figure does not reflect the generous gifts that people made directly to the Clergy Trust website. On behalf of all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston, thank you very much.

For All Who Have Been Baptized
Pray for all who have been baptized in our parish, particularly those during this last year, that they may faithfully fulfill their baptismal promises and live as disciples of Jesus.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
On December 26, the Most Rev. Desmond Mpilo Tutu, Anglican archbishop emeritus of Cape Town and Primate of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, died. We give thanks to God for the life and witness of this great servant of God. The world is a more just, compassionate, and loving place because of the way Archbishop Tutu incarnated the love of Jesus, especially among the marginalized and oppressed. We remember Archbishop Tutu’s family and loved ones and we hold in prayer the people of South Africa, that they may continue the faithful witness of Archbishop Tutu. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Evening Prayer
Join us for Evening Prayer today, Sunday, January 9 at 6:30 for the Baptism of the Lord and the Conclusion of Christmas on Facebook Live, or email sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Covid Update
As we continue to monitor the rise of the Omicron variant, we are concerned to see COVID-19 cases increasing among both the unvaccinated and vaccinated. The health and safety of our community remains our priority, therefore we are suspending Coffee Hospitality after the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies and are placing all in-person ministry events on hold until further notice. Please continue to wear your mask at all times while in church (surgical or better, with N95 & KN95 preferred) and know that if you wish to sit in a socially distanced way, there is seating for Mass available downstairs in the Parish Hall.

The final report with the findings from our parish-wide survey and focus groups as well as an environmental scan are complete! We’ll be sending them to our community in a special email next Wednesday, January 12. 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 to make our community home to all people. To learn more or to get involved with this process, please email lbbennett@stceciliaboston.org.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST
Monday, January 17, 2022 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Boston Convention and Exhibition Center & Online

This year’s MLK Breakfast will be a hybrid event with both in-person and online components. This vibrant and passion-filled program will pay tribute to Black women throughout history who have shepherded the dream of social justice. In partnership with Northeastern University, the 52nd annual breakfast will include a celebratory program and an extended program of virtual teach-ins (informal lectures and discussions on subjects of public interest). Tickets for the in-person breakfast are $50. Please note that there are a limited number of tickets available for the breakfast event at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. There will not be a Saint Cecilia table this year, instead there will be a Zoom to brief for all those who attend virtually or in-person. Details to follow.

This year’s theme is "From Resistance to Representation: Black Women Proving the Dream" and the keynote speaker is historian, Harvard Law professor, and NYT bestselling author Annette Gordon-Reed. You may register by visiting: https://bostonmlkbreakfast.org.

ONLINE COFFEE HOUR
TODAY, January 9 | 4:00 p.m. EST | On Zoom

Start the new year with us at the next Online Remote Fellowship Coffee Hour! This month our topic is "Liturgy of the Hours" with Mark Brown, who leads this Saint Cecilia ministry from Philadelphia. Mark will be providing an overview of the meaning, origins, and value of Morning & Evening Prayer, after which we'll have time to break into smaller groups to get to know one another better.

Think of this as your online “coffee hour” with fellow long-distance parishioners! Our mission is that all—near or far—feel more connected to the parish and to God—rather than just being on the periphery. Anyone is welcome to join us and get to know one another. If you haven’t already signed up to participate, please email Mary Ann Gallagher who will send you the Zoom link.

LGBTQ CATHOLICS UNITE MONTHLY MEETING
Sunday, January 23 | 1:30 p.m. | Community Room and 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.

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 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.

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 2 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.
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 1 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. Each episode is about 1 hour long and afterwards there will be a short discussion. If you plan to attend, please email johannahethappy@gmail.com.

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.agiv.com/event/winterwalk22/register/form/registration

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).

ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIRTUAL EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Why a Synod on Synodality?
Presenters: Dr. Kristin Colberg of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University, and Dr. Rafael Luciani of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry and Expert to the Latin American Episcopal Council. Dr. Colberg and Dr. Luciani are both appointed as Experts for the Theological Commission of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.
Thursday, January 20 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Registration Required | Free of charge

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

SPRING 2022 ONLINE COURSES

New Testament Visions of Faith
January 12 – February 22 | 6-Week Online Course | Registration Required | $60.00

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

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
ONE OF OUR AFGHAN FAMILIES HAS ARRIVED!
YOUR SUPPORT HAS MADE THIS POSSIBLE - THANK YOU

The “Welcome Crew” stands ready to greet our first Afghan family at Logan Airport. Their signs say “Welcome” in Dari, the language spoken by the family.

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 come seeking safety and peace, and will begin the difficult journey of starting a new life. We are eagerly awaiting news of our second family.

So far parishioners have given their time, talent, and treasure: making donations, gathering goods and furnishings, and signing up to provide direct help to our families. Teams have been formed to support the families with transportation, groceries, and companionship. We are immensely grateful and humbled by the outpouring of support. Thanks to tremendous generosity from our communities, we have met our initial goal of $100,000. This will cover their transition and basic needs, including rent and utilities, culturally appropriate food and clothing, and transportation.

**Now, our most immediate need is grocery store gift cards from Stop & Shop and Shaw’s.** These can be dropped off at the parish office. Place them in an envelope with your name and contact so that we might properly acknowledge your donation. We will also continue to accept cash donations to cover unforeseen costs for the year, and to potentially provide future support for other refugee families.

We look forward to learning more about our two families and understanding their specific needs. We will need to help them navigate complex government programs, ensure their children have a good education, prepare to find work, learn English, and navigate a new culture.

For information about how to donate, volunteer, or purchase items from our Amazon wishlist, go to http://bit.ly/PC-SC-help. Once volunteers have registered, you will be invited to an online orientation training session.

Here is a link to a recent opinion article in the *New York Times* about resettlement in the U.S.: https://nyti.ms/3HmtyAR

In the coming weeks, we will be providing links to additional resources 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”.

Please contact us with any questions: sc.socialracialjustice@gmail.com. Thank you again for your generosity and kindness.
Desmond Tutu, retired Anglican archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa and Nobel Peace Prize laureate died Dec. 26 at age 90 at a care facility in his home city, Cape Town. He had been struggling with prostate cancer and infections associated with its treatments some 20 years and sought health care in the U.S. as well as in London and South Africa.

Decades ago, he had defied the South African apartheid government's ban on Black people using the country's beaches by leading a group of protesters along Cape Town's Atlantic shore with several of them carrying signs asking "Whose beach is this?" Others marched with the answer: "These are God's beaches."

This was one of the stories Tutu shared with this reporter in response to a question about how does one protest peacefully in the midst of violent opposition. The interview took place in early August 1983 on the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where the World Council of Churches (WCC) was holding its Sixth World Assembly.

Tutu, who was to be a keynote speaker, was forbidden to travel to the meeting by South African authorities. After all, he had directed the WCC's controversial Programme to Combat Racism in the mid-1970s before becoming general secretary in 1978 of the South African Council of Churches, regarded as one of the most powerful opponents of the apartheid regime.

When news of Tutu's banning spread via the global press, Pretoria loosened its restraints, allowing Tutu to come to Vancouver for 72 hours. He arrived shortly after midnight on an August night. I was one of a thousand or more assembly-goers who stayed up to welcome him under the vast WCC tent. Tutu assured his late-night well-wishers that he would have but two things to say before sending them to bed. The first was an extended thank you to all — Christians from six continents representing more than 300 churches — for their prayers. Tutu said that during interrogations and while under house arrest, "I have been physically buoyed by your prayers." Some of us watching and listening sensed that he was levitating as he made this declaration.

I, for one, was surprised by his stature. He looked to be no more than 5 feet, 5 inches tall and appeared to be standing on his tiptoes — as if to extend the hand of thanks to the hundreds sitting and standing in the tent. For years while living in Britain and Belgium, I had heard him often on the BBC's Radio 4 program. His high-pitched, sonorous and at times prophetic voice convinced me he was at least 6 feet tall.

The short bishop sat down with me two days later for an extensive interview but not before asking: "Do you always interview with frozen veg on your foot?" Between Tutu's possible levitation and our meeting, I had fallen, damaged my ankle, and was limping.

"Only bishops," I assured him, replacing one bag of frozen peas with another. The serious talk began only after an acceleration of laughter for which the petite cleric was famous. Much of our talk concerned nonviolence and the need to reduce military outlays and strive toward disarmament during what I recall Tutu calling "this obscene arms race."

I asked what gave him hope amid so much violence and repression in his homeland. His answer again surprised me. He mentioned the portraits of Black baseball legend Jackie Robinson on the covers of Life and Time magazines in the late 1940s. Born in 1931, Tutu was a teenager in secondary school when he first read these articles. They told him anything was possible, "it just might take a long time," he said.

In 1984 the Nobel committee awarded Tutu its Peace Prize, citing his courage and commitment in standing up to racism and
being a voice for justice and inclusion. White South African critics were not impressed, seeing the award as an act of foreign influence in their nation.

Ten years after Vancouver, I talked to Tutu again at the WCC's Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, where he addressed the forum, which included a large group of young theologians.

Raised a Methodist and later converting to Anglicanism, Tutu believed Christian unity was never optional. Rather, it was indispensable for the salvation of God's world. "It is one of the most wonderful things to belong to the Church of God," he said with a gleam in his eyes and a smile that seemed to be reaching up from the depth of his soul.

In 2008, he would tell an ecumenical gathering at the WCC headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland: "We can be prosperous only together. We can survive only together. We can be human only together." He believed that God calls all persons to fellowship, to togetherness, without destroying their cultural identity or distinctiveness.

He often credited his calling to the priesthood to a white South African priest who was a hospital chaplain when Tutu was confined for months with tuberculosis at age 14. At one time he contemplated becoming a doctor, but felt he was not smart enough, he told this reporter. Later he became a teacher, like his father, before going to seminary in South Africa, being ordained in 1961 and then getting a Master of Divinity at King's College in London in the mid-1960s.

While gaining global recognition for his fight against apartheid, Tutu was also a severe critic of the ANC (African National Congress) government that came to power after the apartheid regime ended. He railed against the corruption and lavish lifestyles of some of the party's leaders while keeping his own eyes and voice focused on the millions of South Africans who lived in "dehumanizing poverty," lacking electricity, clean water and sanitation. He challenged government leaders to deliver the "new dawn" they had promised to all South Africans.

In April 1994, Tutu joyfully danced around the ballot box as voters elected Nelson Mandela the nation's first Black president. Tutu and Mandela knew each other over a half century and Tutu had worked with both the governments of P.W. Botha and F.W. de Klerk. for Mandela's release from 27 years in prison.

Early in his presidency, Mandela asked Tutu to head the new government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, assigned to investigate the worse abuses of human rights committed during Apartheid. Who can forget how, after months of hearing stories by victims of violence and confessions by perpetrators of these crimes, Tutu lowered his head and publicly wept, his back shaking with sobs? Composing himself he sat upright and asked how it was possible for human beings to treat other human beings in such a manner.

Over the years, Tutu spared no nation that he felt was violating human rights. His condemnations extended to the Soviets for their invasion of Afghanistan, the Americans for their support of the Contras in Nicaragua and their invasion of Iraq, the Israelis for their massacre in Lebanon and for discrimination against Palestinians, and even the ruling multi-racial ANC-led government under Jacob Zuma. The latter he accused of corruption and cronyism with China when it thrice refused, at trade partner China's behest, to issue a visa to the Dalai Lama. Later he would rail against alleged crimes committed by Zuma, which helped lead to Zuma's resignation.

Infamous for his off-the-clerical-cuff remarks and bold accusations, Tutu always believed in the power of forgiveness and in the role of mediation in conflicts. He traveled extensively, trying to resolve disputes in Cyprus, Darfur, Kenya, Lebanon, Northern Ireland, and Sierra Leone.

He also became a strong campaigner on behalf of human rights for the LGBTQ community and for an end to violence toward Planet Earth.

His gift for preaching was often accompanied by his leaving the pulpit — as I watched him do at a large downtown church in Johannesburg in January 1994 — then descending into the congregation. Putting those assembled at ease with his lively walk, he lifted the hands and arms of the bemused onlookers.

Both Catholics and Anglicans might take comfort in the fact that Tutu died on Dec. 26, this year's Feast of the Holy Family. He had often spoken out against the homestead policies of the Apartheid regime that removed men from their families, sending them to work in mines, fields, and factories far from their families, a policy that led to sexual and other abuses.

Tutu and his wife of 66 years renewed their marriage vows in 2015, on their 60th anniversary. His wife Nomalizo Leah survives him, as do his four children and seven grandchildren. Once when interviewing Leah in New York, I asked if I could take her photo.

"Just a minute," she responded, reaching into her briefcase. I expected her to get out a hair brush or lipstick. Instead, she removed a large license plate that read: "Don't mess with my Tutu."

The world did not — at least not for long.

~ Patricia Lefevere is a longtime NCR contributor.
To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact Scott MacDonald in the Parish Office.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Joining Our Community**
We’re happy that you’re with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from other states as well as well as other countries. If you are local, please introduce yourself to a staff member or drop in for coffee on Sunday. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.
For Advertising call 617-779-3771

William Montero
Boston Luxury Real Estate Advisor
617.312.7232
William.Montero@SothebysRealty.com

Ranked as one of Gibson Sotheby’s International
Realty’s Top Agents:

Saint Cecilia, Boston, MA 02115

Building Minds & Changing Lives
One Student at a Time

Your gift today provides low-income students in greater Boston with critical support during times of crisis.

You can help CSF students thrive amidst the COVID pandemic. Visit CSFBoston.org today.

The Catholic Schools Foundation

“He has risen.” Matt 28:6

Rosaries from Flowers
“Handmade from the Flowers of your Loved One”
www.rosariesfromflowers.com

“He has risen.” Matt 28:6

Rogerson House
Assisted Living & Day Program

A Positive Experience for Those in Need of Memory Support

434 Jamaicaway, Jamaica Plain, MA
617.983.2300 • www.rogersonhouse.org

W. C. Canniff & Sons, Inc.
Monuments & Lettering

531 Cummins Hwy • Roslindale
617-323-3690
Since 1896
www.CanniffMonuments.com

A HISTORY OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE.

J.S. Waterman
Dignity Memorial
The Boston Funeral Directors • Since 1832
580 Commercial St, Boston
Waterman@boston.com • 617.536.4110

We’re thankful for pastors like Fr. Michael Nolan who is fostering unity in a diverse parish & helping a local food agency distribute food to 1,000 families monthly. Your support this Christmas ensures that priests like Fr. Nolan can continue building stronger communities for all.

donate at clergytrust.org OR

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS


MURPHY FUNERAL HOME
A Life Careting Home
Family owned and operated for four generations

1020 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA
617-263-9840 • tpmurphy77@gmail.com • www.jmurphyfh.com

For Advertising call 617-779-3771

Pilot Bulletins
Saint Cecilia, Boston, MA 4338
The Albrecht Family is a proud supporter of
St. Cecilia’s
Thank you for all you do.

781.933.1100 • ALBRECHT AUTO.com

For All of Your Real Estate Needs
Serving the Brookline, Newton and Boston areas
Eileen Strong-O’Boy
617.513.4343
estrongoboy@hammondre.com

Hammond
826 BOYLSTON STREET
CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467

SPRY
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
MOVING EXPERTS

Richard J. Spry
Parishioner
nickspry@sprymoving.com

Main: 781-933-8250
Cell: 617-538-9038
www.sprymoving.com

EA Spry & Co., Inc.
54 Holton St.
Woburn, MA 01801

A Wonderful Experience Needed For All People Of All Denominations.

Thought Provoking And Positive Motivation For Enhancing Our Lives.

Herb Chambers.com

St. Cecilia’s

A Wonderful Experience Needed For All People Of All Denominations.

Thought Provoking And Positive Motivation For Enhancing Our Lives.

“God is Love” 1 John 4:8

Edward F. Cahill, J.D., CFP*
Financial Adviser*, Eagle Strategies LLC, A Registered Investment Advisor
(978) 927-9352 | ecahill@ft.newyorklife.com
306 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915

*Registered Representative offering securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC, A Licensed Insurance Agency

CAMPION AND COMPANY

Specializing in Fine Luxury Residential Sales
www.campionre.com
172 Nobska Street, Boston, MA 617 236.0711

Herb Chambers.com

For Advertising call 617-779-3771

Pilot Bulletins
Saint Cecilia, Boston, MA 4338