

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Ekugbe (Unity)

by Bruce Onobrakpeya (c.1995)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
15 February 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

15 FEBRUARY 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Bye and Bye

William Farley Smith
(1941-1997)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris M. Akers

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

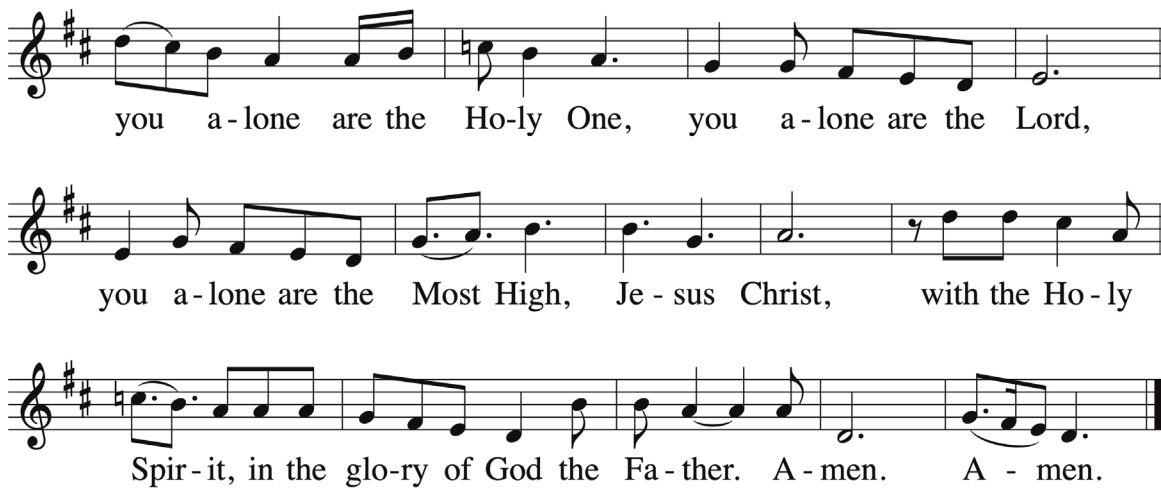
Verses

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r To
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness. Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
blind with - out thy Light to see. Lord, just al - ways

dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,
glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace, 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 on us. For



you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Spir - it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

COLLECT

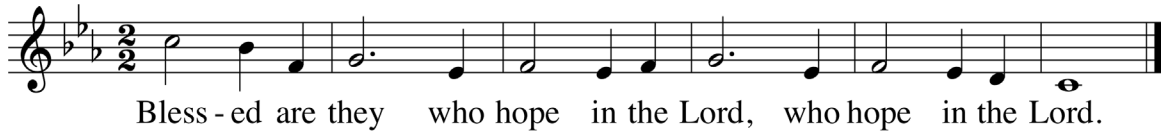
LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Sirach 15: 15-20

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 119: Blessed are They Who Hope in the Lord

Tony E. Alonso

Refrain



Bless - ed are they who hope in the Lord, who hope in the Lord.

Verses

1. Blessed indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked,
 nor stands in the path with sinners,
 nor abides in the company of scorners,
 but whose delight is the law of the LORD,
 and who ponders his law day and night.
2. He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters,
 that yields its fruit in due season,
 and whose leaves shall never fade;
 and all that he does shall prosper.
3. Not so are the wicked, not so!
 For they, like winnowed chaff, shall be driven away by the wind;
 for the LORD knows the way of the just,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Ruah Mass

Ian Callanan

Cantor *All*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al -
*This is the day the Lord has made. *This is the day the*

le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Lord has made. Let us re - joice, be glad and sing.

Al - le - lu - ia, al le - lu ia.
Let us re - joice, be glad and sing.

GOSPEL | Matthew 5: 17-37

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!

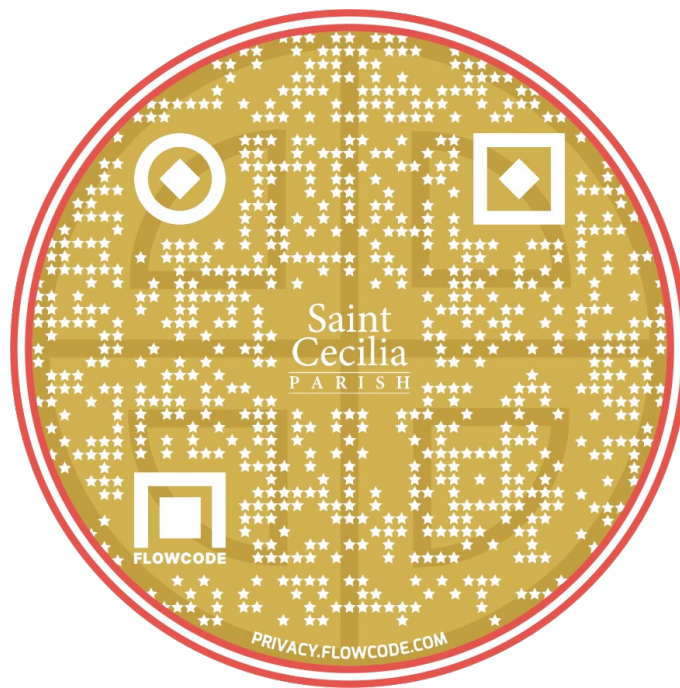
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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/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 | Precious Lord, Take My Hand

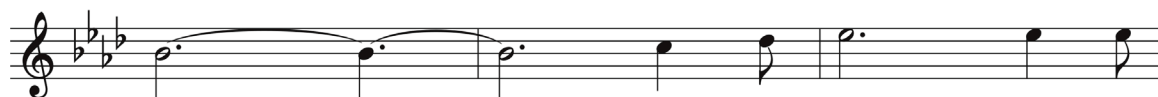
Thomas A. Dorsey



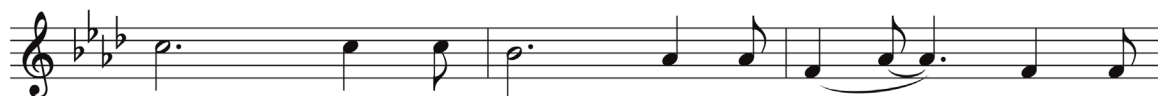
1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am
near, When my life is al - most
near, And the day is past and



worn.
gone,
gone,
Through the storm, through the
Hear my cry, hear my
At the riv - er I



night, Lead me on to the light. Take my
call, Hold my hand lest I fall. Take my
stand, Guide my feet, hold my hand. Take my



hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

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, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

Save us, save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your
 Cross and Res - ur - rec - tion you have set us free.

AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

A - men. A - men. A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
 Amen.

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

- ✦ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



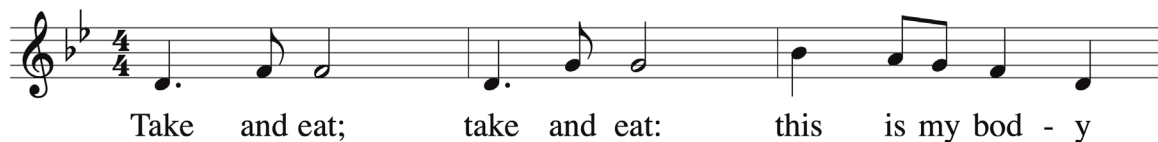
The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the". The second staff contains the lyrics: "world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace." and includes first and second endings, with the second ending marked "Final".

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.” When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, 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.



Verses



1. I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
 2. I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
 3. I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
 4. I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid;
 5. I am the light that came in - to the world;
 6. I am the first and last, the Liv - ing One;



- I am the seed that died to be re - born;
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
 I am the gate that guards you night and day;
 A cho - sen stone and pre - cious in his eyes;
 I am the light that dark - ness can - not hide;
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;



- I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
 You are my flock: you know the shep-herd's voice;
 You are God's dwell - ing place, on me you rest;
 I am the morn - ing star that nev - er sets;
 I am the bride-groom, this my wed - ding song;



I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.
Lift up your face, in you my light will shine.
You are my bride, come to the mar - riage feast.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | There is a Balm in Gilead

African American Spiritual
arranged by William Dawson

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.

If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all."

CONCLUDING RITES

RECESSIONAL | Table of the World

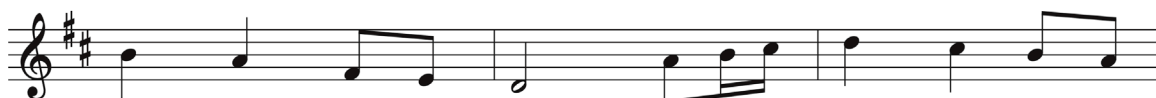
NETTLETON



1. From the ta - ble of Christ Je - sus To the ta - ble of the
2. From the ta - ble of Christ Je - sus To the ta - ble of the
3. From the ta - ble of Christ Je - sus To the ta - ble of the



world, Now to live the Gos - pel vi - sion Of a
world, We are nour - ished by this ban - quet; May we
world, We re - turn to dai - ly la - bor, Lives of



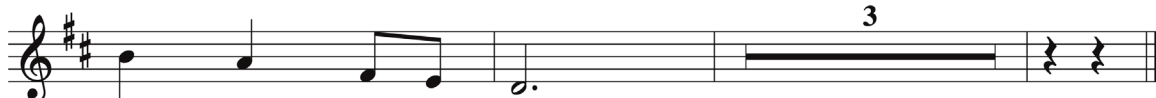
land where good-ness reigns— Not to seek the beg - gar's
nour - ish all we meet. Sing of grace and sing of
hun - ger, fear and need. All trans - formed here in our



“thank you,” Not for earth - ly, vain re - ward,
mer - cy, Sing of love that brings forth peace.
meet - ing, All who strug - gle to be - lieve:



But to do the work of jus - tice, Lay - ing
May we hum - bly serve all peo - ple, Share the
Let us go forth from this ta - ble To be -



down the an - gry sword.
rich - ness of this feast.
come what we re - ceive.

POSTLUDE | Wade in duh Wadduh!
Brett Maguire, *organ*

William Farley Smith

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.

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

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 Massachusetts 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.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, February 14 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Theresa Chaklos, lector

Sunday, February 15 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Linda Frayling, lector

Sunday, February 15 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Letitia Howland, Rosaria Salerno, Natasha Bolton-Pierre,
lectors

Sunday, February 15 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Zachary Boutin, Catherine Horsley, Maggie Giles, lectors

Sunday, February 15 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Gina Filloramo, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

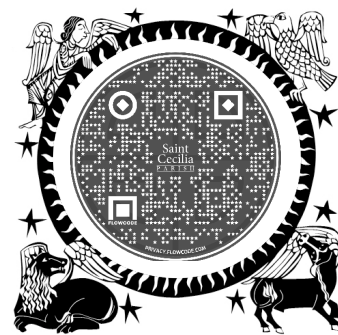
Saturday, February 14 | 5:00 p.m.

Margaret Cunnane, *Memorial*

Sunday, February 15 | 9:30 a.m.

James LeQuin, *First Anniversary*
Kathryn G. Norton, *Second Anniversary*
Tony Silvaggio, *Memorial*
Paul DeSabato, *Memorial*
John and Anne O'Neal, *Memorial*
Donald Dinan, *Memorial*

Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!

TODAY'S READINGS

Sirach 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT READINGS

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Msgr. Frank Kelley died on February 4. Msgr. Kelley was one of the original founders of Pine Street Inn and was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Roslindale, for over 30 years. Msgr. Kelley will lie in state at Sacred Heart Church on Friday, February 13, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. and his funeral Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Henning at Sacred Heart on Saturday, February 14 at 11:00 a.m. The funeral Mass will be livestreamed. We thank God for Msgr. Kelley's almost 58 years of priestly service to the People of God in the Archdiocese of Boston. May he rejoice forever in the company of the saints.

Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Fred Tufts, Baby Eloise Josephine Mason, Kevin J. Owens, So Kwai Sim, Daria, Maureen McLaughlin, Anne Kenney, Margaret Flagg, Paul Surette, and Deirdre Sullivan.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Nicholas Spetko** and **Johanna Golden**, and **Ingrid Hammond** and **Jeff Lau**. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Happy Mardi Gras!

The Lenten fast begins next Wednesday. Now it is Mardi Gras season, the last few days for making spiritual resolutions and adopting the practices that have the potential of yielding a joyous Easter. Do something fun these next few days. Carnival feasting allows for good Lenten fasting!

Take Home a Little Black Book for Lent

These books are available in the narthex. You're invited to take one home and spend just six minutes a day in reflection to prepare for our celebration of Easter. If you aren't coming to church in person, you can order your own directly from their website at littlebooks.org. They are available in paper (\$5) and ebook (\$5) formats. You can also get all the seasonal books on the Little Books app available for iOS and Android devices at littlebooks.org/app.

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18 and Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. These are the only times that ashes will be distributed at Saint Cecilia.

Ash Wednesday Special Collection

This Ash Wednesday, a special collection for Catholic Charities Boston will be taken up. Supporting nearly 100,000 people across the Archdiocese of Boston, Catholic Charities is a safety net providing food, shelter, advocacy, and emergency resources to our most vulnerable community members. Catholic Charities strives to empower individuals and families to find long-term economic stability through education, childcare, and job training programs. To donate, please visit: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/ash-wednesday-2026>.

Lenten Retreat with Father John Predmore, SJ

Save the date for Saint Cecilia's Lenten Retreat, which will take place on **Saturday, March 14** from 9am to 3pm. Registration for the retreat will open next **Friday, February 20** at 9am. Stay tuned for more information!

Catholic Appeal 2026

Once a year, Catholics in the Archdiocese of Boston are asked to join together to support their parish and the wider Church by contributing to the Catholic Appeal. The Appeal is a primary means by which we do our part to support our parishes, schools, and communities. Please help us launch our parish campaign by making an online donation at bostoncatholicappeal.org.

Ramadan Mubarak!

We wish our Muslim brothers and sisters a happy Ramadan—the commemoration of God's revelation of the first chapters of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad over 1,400 years ago. Like Easter and Passover, the dates of Ramadan are set by the lunar calendar. This year Ramadan begins on the evening of Tuesday, February 17 and concludes on the evening of Thursday, March 19. Nearly two billion Muslims around the world will observe this holy month as a time to grow closer to God, to spend time with one's family, and to give to those in need. Following dawn-to-sunset fasting and prayer, Muslims often gather in the evening in mosques, homes, and restaurants to break their fast together. We pray that our Muslim friends and neighbors are showered with God's mercy and grace this Ramadan and are filled with blessings, forgiveness, and peace.

Parish Offices Closed for Presidents' Day

Please note that the Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, February 16 in observance of Presidents' Day.

BLESSING OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND CAREGIVERS

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15
DURING THE 9:30 AND 11:30 LITURGIES**

This Sunday we will observe World Day of the Sick with a special Blessing of Healthcare Workers and Caregivers at the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies.

LENTEN PRAYER IN THE IGNATIAN TRADITION

THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Are you looking for something to do during Lent this year? If so, this might be just the thing! Fr. John Predmore, SJ will host six Lenten online prayer sessions to accompany participants through the major movements of The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. Participants will gather via Zoom to discuss the major prayer movements of the week, and to discuss the graces received over the past week. Participants will be invited to find some time to spend in prayer each day. The gatherings will take place every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. beginning on February 25 (The First Week of Lent) and ending on April 1 (Wednesday of Holy Week).

Time: February 25, 2026, 7:00 PM (EST)

And on March 4, 11, 18, 25, & April 1

Zoom Link: <https://bchigh.zoom.us/j/86986460260?pwd=89uqakXLWXzrbqapmvG1JlXpHfeJtP.1>

Meeting ID: 869 8646 0260 | **Passcode:** 674764

WEEKLY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

**SATURDAYS | FEBRUARY 21 & 28;
MARCH 7, 14, 21, & 28 | 9AM | COMMUNITY ROOM**

Matthew's Gospel tells us that right after Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, he was led by the Spirit into the desert where he fasted for forty days and forty nights. Our own Lenten awakening is also a journey through the wilderness—a time of both struggle and promise. This Lent, we invite you to join us for a weekly Saturday morning devotional, "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!" using resources created by Kate Bowler. Kate is a four-time New York Times bestselling author, award-winning podcast host, and professor of religious history at Duke University. Using Kate's resources, we will companion with one another as we embrace life's everyday struggles alongside its beauty and navigate the darkness as we move towards the light and promise of Easter.

Lent is a time of renewal and grace, but you don't have to go it

alone. You are welcome to come when you can—no six-week commitment is necessary and drop-ins are always welcome. For more information, reach out to Mary Wessel at mwessel@stceciliaboston.org.

MENTAL HEALTH DROP-IN GROUP

**RESCHEDULED: NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 | 1PM
CLASSROOM 1**

"For spiritually alive people, for people of deep and genuine faith, we don't want to surrender to despair and cynicism, reactivity and fragmentation. We want to be healed and empowered, so we can participate in healing and empowering other people."

—Brian McLaren

All are invited to come to the next Mental Health Drop-In Group rescheduled for Sunday afternoon, February 22 at 1:00. We will be viewing a video message from Dr. Brian McLaren on "Good News for a Fractured World" followed by a small group discussion. Dr. McLaren is on the core faculty of the Center for Action and Contemplation located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. He is a passionate advocate for a Christianity that is just, generous, and works with people of all faiths for the common good. We hope you'll join us!



AFTDJ ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

STARTS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

A Faith That Does Justice is offering free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. Two-hour class sessions occur 2 days per week for 15 weeks beginning the week of February 22. Sessions are virtual using WhatsApp and Zoom. In-person sessions may eventually become available. Interested applicants may scan the QR Code to the right to apply. Once AFTDJ receives your application, they will follow up with next steps and details about the schedule.



KEEPING THE SHELVES STOCKED AT DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

HELP OUR NEIGHBORS STRUGGLING WITH FOOD INSECURITY

Whether you are present in person for Sunday Mass or watch the livestream, it's hard not to smile when children from the parish bring forward food donations during the Offertory that will support the Catholic Charities' Yawkey Center Food Pantry and the Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry—both in Dorchester.

Items we like to donate to these pantries include:

- Canned tuna fish
- Peanut butter
- Boxed macaroni & cheese
- Cooking oil
- Boxed pasta
- Canned chicken breast
- Tomato sauce

If you attend Mass at Saint Cecilia you can deposit donated food in the baskets located in the narthex. If you prefer to order online, please have your donations shipped to:

Hunger & Homelessness Ministry
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

In addition there are envelopes on a table in the narthex if you wish to send a check to Catholic Charities. Please make your check payable to "Catholic Charities Boston" and write "Food Pantry" on the memo line.

Please note: We cannot accept donations of baked goods, produce, or anything perishable.

Food pantries nationwide are reporting record-high demand as food insecurity rises, driven by food and housing inflation and the end of pandemic-era SNAP benefits. Your donations each week make a difference in the lives of our neighbors struggling to put food on the table. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Generous parishioners have donated a supply of children's books that can be found in a box in the narthex. Please feel free to borrow any of these books when you are here for Mass.

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

FEBRUARY 15 - 20

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom
Blessing of Healthcare Workers and Caregivers
9:30 & 11:30 Liturgies

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Presidents' Day—Parish Offices Closed

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12 noon | Comm. Room

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Ash Wednesday—Masses at 8:00am & 6:00pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Registration opens for March 14 Lent Retreat—9:00am

LAW, CONSCIENCE, & MIGRATION TODAY

A CONFERENCE AT BOSTON COLLEGE

THURSDAY, FEB 19—FRIDAY, FEB 20

NO COST | LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

This conference will explore the complex dynamics of contemporary migration with a focus on our local and national contexts. It will provide policy updates, undertake theological and ethical analyses, and consider institutional and grassroots responses to the rapidly evolving reality of migration today. Speakers will include scholars and graduate students from a variety of disciplines, policy experts, ecclesial and civic leaders, as well as representatives from community-based initiatives. This conference aims to both inform as well as provide participants with opportunities to take action. An advocacy training session will be offered and will spotlight local, impact-driven opportunities.

The conference will take place on the evening of Thursday, February 19 and all day on Friday, February 20. This is an in-person event only. There is no cost. You can register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZLm5trdyGAUcKbWx63yG56QO22JRx0cT0_zSqzL-sGjxvww/viewform

ETHICAL INVESTING

· Part 3 ·

“No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money” (Matthew 6:24). The complexities of modern finances may make it hard to do what is right, but it is worth making the effort. This is because what we do with our money reflects our values and has a real impact in the world.

It is often assumed that if you move to socially responsible funds you will lose money, but research shows they perform just as well and sometimes better than unscreened investing. For instance, fossil fuel companies are more volatile than other stocks, they are riskier, and have not performed as well as other stocks, so divesting from them to better care for God’s Creation could be financially beneficial as well as good for the planet and future generations.

There are many companies that offer socially responsible and sustainable funds. There is also a lot of “greenwashing” that sounds good but isn’t, so you have to be careful. If you need an investment advisor, then it is better to pay one directly, rather than have one that acts on commission.

One way to have more control over your money is to keep it local. Small local banks or credit unions are likely to be investing in local rather than global companies. Giving micro loans to small local businesses can help your whole community (please note any investment involves risk).

If you receive Social Security income and are taxed on that income, you may choose to withhold a maximum of 22% of your monthly payment, and withhold less from other sources of income. The money withheld goes back into the Social Security fund for future payments, not into the general government fund, so this is a way to control how your tax money is spent.

GBIO LISTENING SESSIONS

Join the Parish GBIO Conversation

The parish Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) team wants to hear from you. During the month of February, the GBIO team will be hosting listening sessions called “house meetings” to give you an opportunity to share your experiences and thoughts about the issues facing our neighborhoods today and to brainstorm potential actions we might take to address these issues. Last weekend we hosted four listening sessions and the parish GBIO team is happy to schedule more.



What is a listening session like?

When you participate in a listening session, you will be part of a small group and will be invited to share stories about what is important to you and why it matters. These stories should come from your lived experience and focus on you, your family, your neighborhood, and the wider community.

How long is a listening session?

Each listening session will be 45-60 minutes long.

What happens after the listening sessions?

Listening sessions help GBIO identify a campaign and actions that will effect real changes in our neighborhoods.

What is a “campaign?”

A campaign is a strategic, community-driven social justice initiative led by a coalition of diverse religious and community organizations to create legislative or policy change. GBIO campaigns focus on systemic issues—such as housing justice, healthcare, or civil rights—using storytelling and direct action to influence policymakers and improve lives across the Greater Boston area.

Will there be any more listening sessions?

- If you are active in a parish ministry, you will have an opportunity to participate in a listening session with others from your ministry. Listening sessions will be scheduled by ministry leaders in consultation with ministry members. For more information, please email gbio@stceciliaboston.org.
- If you would like to participate in a listening session, but weren't able to attend one last weekend, please contact gbio@stceciliaboston.org and we will do our best to add additional listening sessions.

I think I'd like to get involved. What are my next steps?

- Join a listening session. Our goal is to hear from 50 parishioners, parish wide.
- Contact gbio@stceciliaboston.org to join the parish GBIO team, sign up to participate in a listening session, or to learn more.

What changes would you like to see? Come share your thoughts, and let's help make a difference!

LENT APPROACHETH!



As winter Ordinary Time draws to a close, we look toward Lent, the Church's annual retreat. Lent is a time of renewal and preparation for the feast of Easter and is marked by the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Taking some time to get ready for Lent will ensure that we aren't going to miss the first week or two because we are just getting started. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, but we want to be ready to really take off on that day, rather than just beginning to think about it. Part of what makes a vacation or a significant anniversary so special is the build-up to it.

There are various ways to make Lent meaningful, but it's good to remember that the Lenten disciplines we adopt are not meant to be ends in themselves—an endurance test of sorts. Rather, the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, along with whatever else we may take on, are aimed at bringing us into closer relationship with God and making us more loving people. If our Lenten practices do not bear this fruit, we may need to reevaluate. We hope you'll be able to participate in either our 8:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday liturgy, but we also invite you to give some thought to other more personal ways to make the beginning of Lent special.

It doesn't take a lot of time to prepare for the beginning of Lent. It just takes desire and focus; God can do so much with that. By beginning to establish some simple patterns, we create a bit of space where God is able to touch our hearts. Perhaps we might begin the day mindful that we are entering a period of renewal and refocus. We might ask God to help us to be agents of mercy and reconciliation.

Lent is also a good opportunity to practice gratitude, mindful of the many gifts and graces we have in our lives. These types of simple practices can help stir our spirits and bring us closer to God. And remember, Lent is meant to be a joyful season and a time to keep in mind how much God desires to be in relationship with us. In the words of the prophet Hosea, Jesus says, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." Lent then, is a time to pay attention to matters of the heart.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday begins our forty days of joyful renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter! Those who are mindful of the call to hear the Gospel more fully, receive ashes as a sign of repentance. The ashes we use are the burnt palm from last year's celebration of Passion (Palm) Sunday. We will distribute ashes at both the 8:00a.m. and 6:00p.m. Masses on Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday is a day of universal fast and abstinence. In addition to whatever personal penitential practices you might take up during Lent, Catholics are also asked to observe the practices of fast and abstinence during the forty day period. The Lenten Fast and Abstinence Regulations are as follows:

1. Everyone 14 years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (the obligation of fasting ceases with the celebration of one's 59th birthday).
3. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other smaller meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs; but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed penitential practices. By the threefold discipline of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the Church keeps Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening of



Holy Thursday. All of the faithful and the catechumens are encouraged to undertake the practice of these three Lenten practices. Fasting and abstinence, along with prayer and almsgiving, are the foundations of a good and holy Lent.

What does it mean to fast?

To fast is to do without food. The purpose of fasting is to experience the effects of not eating. It also serves as a penance or sacrifice—with the goal of strengthening us. When we don't eat, for even a little while, we become hungry. When we are aware of our hunger, we have a heightened sense of awareness. If, when we eat too much, we have a sluggish feeling, when we fast, we have a feeling of alertness. Fasting is a wonderful exercise whenever we want to sincerely ask for an important grace from God. It is not that our fasting "earns" God's attention, but by fasting, we clarify our thinking and our feeling. It is purifying and prepares us to pray more deeply.

When do I fast?

Catholics, as a group, are required to fast on only two days of the year—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these days, fasting means something very specific and limited. It means that one eats only one full meal in a day, with no food in-between meals. It is understood that two other meals, if one eats three meals a day, should not total one full meal. One might fast in a more complete way, i.e., eating only a portion of a single meal. Of course, anyone is free to fast at any time that it is helpful for their prayer and reflection. It is not recommended that anyone with impaired health should fast in any way.

What does it mean to abstain?

To abstain is to not eat meat. Abstinence is meant to be an act of penance—an act of sacrifice that helps us grow in freedom to make much bigger sacrifices. Of course, it would be nonsensical to make the sacrifice of not eating meat only to then indulge in a wonderful meal of seafood that one might enjoy even more. Many people keep a vegetarian diet and, for them, eating meat is not an issue. In the spirit of Lent, one possibility is to abstain from a non-meat meal that one really likes, on all the Fridays of Lent.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Praying the Stations of the Cross is a wonderful Lenten tradition in the Church. We will pray them as a community on Good Friday, but you can pray the Stations online by visiting: www.stjames-cathedral.org/Prayer/jkblstations/stations.aspx.

WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

THURSDAY EVENINGS | 7:30–8:30 PM | ZOOM
SUNDAY MORNINGS | 8:30–9:30 AM | ZOOM

The parish Wisdom & Mature Spirituality group holds two weekly online gatherings, with the hope of sharing ways in which faith can inform and enrich us during the second half of life. Conversations are often informed by shared spiritual reading, but reading the book is always optional. The next book that this group will be reading is *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, by Richard Rohr, OFM. In one review, American historian, author, scholar, and ordained Episcopal priest, Lauren Winner writes,

"The message of *Falling Upward* is straightforward and bracing: the spiritual life is not static. You will come to a crisis in your life, and after the crisis, if you are open to it, you will enter a space of spiritual refreshment, peace, and compassion that you could not have imagined before."

To request more information about joining these online gatherings or to be added to the ministry's mailing list, please send an email to the ministry (wisdom@stceciliaboston.org).



WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

A MORNING OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND COMPASSION
SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | 10:00 AM | PARISH HALL

In honor of International Women's Day (March 8), join us for a women's breakfast as we gather around the table to pray, connect, and reflect on how Christ calls us to care for one another. This morning will introduce a shared vision of women helping women—especially our sisters at Women's Lunch Place and similar area programs. Together, we'll listen, learn, and explore simple, meaningful ways to respond to the needs of one another with mercy, dignity, and hope.

For more information, please reach out to Ann Faldetta or Mary Wessel at her parish email.

LENT ISN'T ABOUT SELF-IMPROVEMENT, BUT OUR SOULS PINING AND THIRSTING FOR GOD

BY JEFFREY F. KIRBY



Image: 1st Art Gallery

Meditations. Ash Wednesday by Witold Wojtkiewicz

After [five Sundays of winter] Ordinary Time, Christian believers will soon begin the penitential season of Lent. It will begin with the rather stark, annual observance of Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, in which believers seek to dive deeper into the living out of the Paschal Mystery in their lives. Lent is forty days

in spiritual observance of the forty days of the Lord Jesus in the desert.

All of this begs the question: What is the Paschal Mystery? And why are ascetical practices needed to participate in it?

The Paschal Mystery is the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the fulfillment of ancient prophecies,

the purpose of his saving mission in destroying sin and death, and is the manifest expression of his immense love for us. The Paschal Mystery is the source of our belief in eternal life. It is the foundation of all our hopes.

Every believer, therefore, needs to know what the Paschal Mystery is and why it's essential to the Christian way of life.

It is for this reason that we need Lent.

The mystery of the Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection calls out to be re-lived every day in the life of believers. In baptism, we become members of Christ's own body. We become participants in his Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

With the pace of our world and its multiple distractions, it's too easy for us to miss the mystery. We need some help in refocusing and reorienting our lives to the fundamental mystery of our faith. And so, Lent comes to us as a help. It demands some reflection. It compels us – through various penances and ascetical practices – to choose the way of the Lord Jesus once again. Lent points us to the passion and suffering of life that we sometimes want to avoid, or the death to ourselves or the grieving of our fallen world that we'd prefer to avoid, or the Resurrection to newness of life that we'd rather neglect since it realigns and humbles everything else in our lives.

Lent brings us to a full stop, puts ashes on our foreheads, makes us abstain from meat, calls us to prayer and to the poor, and summons us to other ascetical practices, so that the value of our lives and the purpose of our discipleship can be rediscovered. Lent takes our souls and moves them to a renewed focus on the Paschal Mystery. Lent says to us, "The Paschal Mystery is what life is all about. Keep your eyes on this mystery."

The penitential season of Lent, therefore, is not merely about self-help, or self-improvement, or self-therapy for their own sake. Such things can border on pride or narcissism. Lent is not just about giving up caffeine or chocolate or about eating right, starting a fitness program, or being more punctual. While any of these could be good within an overall living out of the Paschal Mystery, especially when they are intended as a means to give greater service to others, they are not the reason for the Lenten season.

No holds barred, Lent is about a deepening in our knowledge and experience of the Suffering, Crucified, and Resurrected God who loves us and seeks union with us. Lent is about experiencing our souls pining and grasping for God, as well as the deeper realization of being grasped by God through the self-emptying love of Jesus Christ.

It is for this reason that Lent points us to Holy Week, in which we liturgically celebrate the very Paschal Mystery we have been living in our daily lives. Lent prepares us to observe Holy Week. It helps us to spiritually participate in the sacred liturgies and to say, as we witness the liturgical re-representation of the Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, "Yes, I know this mystery. I've lived this mystery – it's a part of me."

The joy of Easter is not meant to be born from the conclusion of Lent and its ascetical practices, but from the Resurrection of the Lord, as we see the fulfillment of our every hope and desire. Having been purified and refocused by a good Lent, we can experience the victory of the Lord Jesus over sin, death, and the darkness of this world. This is the purpose of Lent. This is the fruit of a good and holy Lent.

*Originally published in Crux on February 20, 2022.
Rev. Jeffrey Kirby, STD, is a priest of the Diocese of Charleston, SC, a moral theologian, and a Papal Missionary of Mercy. He serves as pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Indian Land, South Carolina. Father Kirby also serves as an adjunct professor of theology at Belmont Abbey College.*



A CONCERT BY THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY GLEE CLUB

MARCH 7 | 8:00 PM | SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

We are honored to host the United States Naval Academy Glee Club for a concert at Saint Cecilia on Saturday, March 7. The program of choral works will include sea shanties, patriotic selections, classical repertoire, and contemporary selections from the club's specialty ensembles—barbershop quartet, women's ensemble, and men's a cappella. The USNA Glee Club has achieved national prominence as one of America's premier choral ensembles, and has performed extensively throughout the United States and abroad.

This concert is free and open to the public.

TEACHING MY BLACK SONS THEY ARE BELOVED

BY ADAM RUSSELL TAYLOR

Every morning, I drive my two sons, ages 11 and 13, to school. Normally these rides are mostly quiet as I listen to podcasts, and they watch something on their iPads. But this February, I told my sons we were starting a new tradition: Taking turns naming a figure of Black history and sharing why we believe that person was significant. To my surprise, my sons' initial reticence quickly turned to enthusiasm. So far, we've talked about Louis Armstrong, Jesse Owens, Sojourner Truth, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, and Carter G. Woodson—the leader of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History who established the second week of February to be “Negro History Week” to counterbalance the ongoing erasure of Black contributions in the U.S.

As a dad, I've loved this new tradition, both to connect with my sons and to supplement their knowledge about the beauty and importance of Black history. My sons are quick to resist making everything about race, but they are also becoming increasingly aware of the realities and challenges of racism. As they get older, I want them to be able to recognize but not internalize the racism around them; I want them to have a deep pride and understanding of all of who they are—including their Jamaican, African American, and British heritage. I want to ensure they're shaped by a commitment to advance the unfinished business of racial justice. And for me, there's a spiritual element too. My sons need to know Black history so they can see themselves as God sees them: beloved.

I'm grateful that my sons have plenty of ways to learn about Black history: My oldest son is reading the youth edition of Ibram X. Kendi's book *Stamped from the Beginning* for school—a title some schools in Florida and South Carolina have banned. My family attends Alfred Street Baptist Church, where Black history is celebrated both during and beyond the month of February. This past summer, my sons participated in a mini Freedom School run by the Children's Defense Fund. But I fear that when it comes to knowing Black history—and its role in the wider history of the U.S.—the chasm between my sons' experience and that of other kids is only growing wider.

The call to “remember” echoes throughout the Hebrew scriptures. On the precipice of entering the promised land, Moses implores the Israelites to remember all that God has done for them: “Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live,” says Moses, “Teach them to your children and to their children after them” (Deuteronomy 4:9). God's concern is that the people of Israel remember who they are and what they've come through—a concern that I think is still relevant today. It's essential for people and nations to remember the history that shaped them, even the painful stories.

But instead of honoring the sacred call to remember, this nation sometimes seems hell-bent on trying to forget. We've seen this manifest in a moral panic around the supposed teaching of “critical race theory” in K-12 public schools or the backlash against diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in higher education. According to Education Week, at least 18 states have instituted bans or restrictions on teaching topics related to race or gender. It may take years to fully grasp how these bans will set back our goal of a more just and multiracial democracy, but we already know there's a climate of uncertainty and fear among many teachers in states like Florida and Texas who are now unsure what aspects of Black history will run afoul of the new restrictions.

To be sure: People in many of these states aren't about to give up on teaching their students the truth. Through what March on Washington Film Festival founder Robert Raben described as “our own educational Underground Railroad,” organizations in these states are creating opportunities to teach Black History outside of the classroom like Black History Saturdays in Tulsa or Freedom School summer programs in Florida aimed at high school students.

Counter to what its bad-faith critics allege, teaching Black history isn't about making people feel guilty. As I've written before, the whitewashing of U.S. history—like what's happening in schools and universities

around the country—leaves our nation vulnerable to repeat the sins of the past and creates a distorted view of our present challenges. So yes, we should teach kids about the period of white Southern backlash to Reconstruction after the Civil War, both so they understand a pivotal moment in our nation’s history and so they can spot a historical pattern in which racial progress has so often been met with periods of regress—a pattern that still repeats today.

Yet we also teach Black history to celebrate and inspire: The beauty and diversity of Black history has too often been flattened into stories of dehumanization and criminalization—stories that ignore the beauty and diversity of Black history and culture. Kids also need to learn about people like Gwendolyn Brooks, the first Black author to win a Pulitzer Prize; Charles Hamilton Houston, the first Black editor of Harvard Law Review; Ruth Simmons, the first Black woman to be president of an Ivy League university; George Washington Carver, an agriculturalist and inventor; Alvin Ailey, a brilliant choreographer who founded an influential Black dance company; Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress; and so many more—people whose stories show what it means to be trailblazers and reach the very heights of achievement in their field. And we also teach kids about the people who helped our nation live up to its promise of “liberty and justice for all,” both so they can celebrate the resilience of those who came before and so they can be inspired to carry that project forward in their own life. Teaching Black history is not just about strengthening our democracy or fixing injustices; it’s also about affirming and celebrating an essential part of our nation’s culture and identity.

As another way to practice the sacred act of remembering during Black History Month, my wife and I took our sons to see *Origin*, a new film directed by Ava DuVernay that brings to life Isabel Wilkerson’s bestselling book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. The film weaves together the personal tragedy Wilkerson overcame while writing about the connective tissue between the oppression of Jews in Nazi Germany, Dalits in India, and Blacks through slavery and Jim Crow segregation in the U.S. Each system relied upon dehumanization, separation of people (including in marriage), and applying pernicious tests of purity. Wilkerson examines the hierarchy of human value through the lens of caste, and her book compares America to an “old house” with a caste system “that is as central to its operation as are the studs and joists that we cannot see in the physical buildings we call home.”

There were many scenes that were difficult to watch as a father of Black sons, including the opening scene that reenacts the tragic killing of Trayvon Martin in 2012 and an incredibly poignant sequence that tells the story of Al Bright, a Black boy who, in 1951, was blocked from joining his Little League teammates in a segregated pool by lifeguards who feared he would contaminate the water. But what the film also showed was the power of the human spirit to overcome the sin and idolatry of racism—the spirit I hope infuses my sons as they grow into young men.

After the film was over, I pulled my sons in close and reminded them that they are made in the very image of God and that nothing could take that inestimable worth and beauty away from them. Echoing in my head were the lyrics Eugene Kiing sings in “Pretty Brown Skin” by Maverick City Music: “One thing’s for sure / You’re made in the image of God [...] Remember who you are and whose you are (shooting star) / Don’t forget that part / Know that you belong just as you are / With your pretty brown skin.”

Originally published in Sojourners on February 8, 2024. Rev. Adam Russell Taylor is president of Sojourners and author of A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community. Follow him on Bluesky@revadamtaylor.

**AN EVENING WITH
JAMES MARTIN, SJ**

Saturday, March 21st | 6:30pm

WORK IN PROGRESS
CONFESSIONS OF A BUSBOY, DISHWASHER, CADDY, USHER, FACTORY WORKER, BANK TELLER, CORPORATE TOOL, AND PRIEST
JAMES MARTIN, SJ
AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER LEARNING TO PRAY

Father Jim Martin will be joining us to discuss his latest book, “Work In Progress.” Following the talk, books will be available for purchase. A reception will follow, where Father Jim Martin will be signing books.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

Hours | Seven days a week, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, Deacon

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities Operations & Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Ben Worthley, Audio Engineer

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., and 6:00 p.m.

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Father Jim Shaughnessy, SJ is available by appointment for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To schedule an appointment, please call the Parish Office. On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent, Mass is celebrated in the sanctuary at 6:00 and following Mass Father Shaughnessy will hear confessions until 8:00—no appointment necessary.

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.

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.

Building Accessibility

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

Baptism for Infants

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

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$15, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$15 after 4:00 every day of the week. To get this discount, ask a greeter 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, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Pastoral Director of Operations, Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien.

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 provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, Erin Young, or Kathy Sanders if you have any questions. 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 policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

This 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. For more information, contact Mary Wessel 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.

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our parish offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics from many neighborhoods in and around Boston; we also have friends from around the country and the world. We invite local individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter your present status in the Catholic Church, current family or marital situation, gender or gender expression, sexual orientation, personal history, age, race, or self-image, you are invited and will be welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected here at Saint Cecilia. We are here to accompany and serve you.

Please note:

According to online safety guidelines released by the Archdiocese of Boston, we have removed email addresses from our online parish bulletin to avoid the danger of potential phishing scams. If you need a staff member's email address or a ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists will be happy to share the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online.