Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 February 2022

A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit.

(Today's Gospel)

Evolution Is So Cool
Alex Testere
Saint Cecilia
PARISH

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
27 February 2022

PRELUDE | Fantasia in G major, BWV 572
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Festival Canticle: This is the Feast of Victory
Richard Hillert

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

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we ad-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, Lam-b 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 | Sirach 27: 4-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 92: Lord, It is Good

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 15: 54-58

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
Eucharistic Prayer

* The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.

* Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.

1. O breathe on me, O breath of God, Fill me with life anew, That I may love the things you love, And do what you would do.
2. O breathe on me, O breath of God, Until my heart is pure; Until my will is one with yours, To do and to endure.
3. O breathe on me, O breath of God, My will to yours incline, Until this selfish part of me Glows with your fire divine.
4. O breathe on me, O breath of God, So shall I never die, But live with you the perfect life Of your eternity.
HOLY, HOLY | Mass of the Angels and Saints

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

GREAT AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD | Mass of the Angels and Saints

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an “Act of Spiritual Communion.” During this time when we are not able to celebrate the Eucharist together in person, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of grace. We can be assured that when we express our desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, God will be with us spiritually in a special way. Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion that we encourage you to pray as you participate in our live-streamed liturgies:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Loving Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.
Refrain

To this meal and sacri-fice, Lord, you draw us near:

Taste of God’s a bun-dant grace for all gath-ered here.

In your love you sum-mon us; bro-ken now we come. By your bod- y and your blood, heal us, make us one.

Verse 1

1. May this meal be med-i-cine for the weak,

that we may love as you have loved. At this har-vest of
good-ness, may we feast in u-ni-ty.

Verse 2

2. May this feast bring heal-ing for the poor,

that we may serve as you have served. At this ta-ble of jus-tice, may we serve in u-ni-ty.
For the beauty of the earth, sing, O sing today.
Join creation’s grandeur in singing endless praise.
Here, where hands and hearts are open, love is our embrace, and the beauty all around is God’s radiant face.

Your providence, O God, is shown in abundant fields; growing food to nourish all, your splendor is revealed. Help us learn to only use what we truly need, and share the bounty of the earth with all humanity.

Call creation by her name; “Wondrous Gift from God!” We are merely travelers on this holy ground. As stewards of the land and air gently may we tread, and in our living show our care for creatures of the earth.

The sacred story of our lives unfolds your mystery. Receiving all as blessing, help us live each day, for your magnificence is spoken in each season’s grace, and your promises are opened in our babies’ eyes.

In haunting wind and children’s cries we hear your plaintive voice. Called from our complacency, we must work for peace! When faithful gather in your name, you promise answered prayer. So we raise our fervent plea for lasting peace on earth.

All glory and honor to our God: You are the Breath of Life. As you move the universe, bless us in this place. Moon and mouse and red-winged blackbird shine your radiant gaze. We join the adoration as we offer grateful praise.
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| We Are Your People

SINE NOMINE

Postlude | Chaconne from “Phaenton”  
John Baptiste Lully (1632-1687)

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.
AN EVENING WITH
MICHAEL O’LOUGHLIN

Tuesday, March 8 | 7 p.m.

Saint Cecilia Parish   18 Belvidere Street   Boston

Michael O’Loughlin will discuss his 2021 book, Hidden Mercy.

Michael J. O’Loughlin is the author of Hidden Mercy: Catholics, AIDS, and Untold Stories of Compassion in the Face of Fear, which is based on the America Media podcast series, Plague: Untold Stories of AIDS and the Catholic Church. The “Plague” series was honored with awards from the Catholic Press Association, the Religion News Association and NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists.

Mike is also the national correspondent and an associate editor at America.

O’Loughlin writes and speaks regularly about religion and politics, Catholic young adults, and the role of religion in the public square. He is also the author of The Tweetable Pope: A Spiritual Revolution in 140 Characters.

A former staff writer for the Boston Globe and its standalone Catholic news site, Crux, his work has also appeared in the New York Times, The Atlantic, the Washington Post, Foreign Policy, and The Advocate. He has been interviewed by a number of media outlets, including NPR, the BBC, ABC, CBS, Fox News, and MSNBC. He frequently gives talks on a range of Catholic issues.

He lives in Chicago.

This event is free, open to the public, and will be streamed live on YouTube.com/c/SaintCeciliaParish
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, February 26 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Matthew Duprey, lector

Sunday, February 27 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Jordan Barnes, lector

Sunday, February 27 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Julie DesAutels, Cathy Anderson,
and Natasha Bolton-Pierre, lectors

Sunday, February 27 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Mark Richburg and Hannah Ostwald, lectors

Sunday, February 27 | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Pat Scofield and Nikko Mendoza, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 26 | 5:00 p.m.
James Paul McDonough, Memorial
Mark & Mary Haseltine, Memorial

Sunday, February 27 | 9:30 a.m.
John Bennett, Memorial
Chuck Gamble, Memorial
John Morse, Memorial

Sunday, February 27 | 11:30 a.m.
Paul Farmer, Memorial
Robert Stevinish I, Memorial

Thursday, March 3 | 8:00 a.m.
Teddy Chagnon, 6th Anniversary

Friday, March 4 | 8:00 a.m.
Frank Chagnon, Memorial

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Sirach 27:4-7
1 Corinthians 15:54-58

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Romans 10:8-13
PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased
We mourn the loss of Dr. Paul Farmer, cofounder of Partners in Health, who died Monday at the age of 62. We pray for the repose of Paul’s soul as well as for the consolation of his wife, Didi Bertrand Farmer, and their three children. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: Jacob Small of Brookline, Elyse Chapski of Boston, Angela Rowan of Cambridge, Jackie Gonzalez of Boston, James Geoghegan of Hartford, Connecticut, and Veronica Bloom of Weston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stcecillaboston.org.

Second Grade Faith Formation Class
Yesterday, we celebrated the sacrament of first reconciliation with the children in grades two and three. Our youngsters in second grade are currently learning the parts of the Mass as they prepare to be welcomed to the Eucharistic table for the first time on May 7. Pray for our first communicants and for all the children in our Faith Formation program—that the gentle and loving presence of God continues to be made known to them.

Second Collection
This week’s second collection will support Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe, and three important national Catholic missions: The Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Your generosity will help fund the spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world. To donate, please copy and paste this link: https://www.osvhub.com/stcecillaboston/funds/support-of-the-church-around-the-world

Ash Wednesday
The season of Lent begins this Wednesday and Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please note that these are the only times ashes will be distributed at Saint Cecilia.

Happy Mardi Gras!
The Lenten Fast begins this week. 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. Happy Mardi Gras!

Take a Little Black Book for Lent
These books are available in the narthex. Please 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 ($4) formats. You can also get all the seasonal books on the Little Books app available for iOS and Android devices at littlebooks.org/app.

Reconciliation
Come to Saint Cecilia to experience Christ’s healing love through the Sacrament of Reconciliation on all the Wednesdays of Lent, from 6:30 to 8:00 in the evening. More information to follow next week.

Catholic Appeal
Next weekend, the 2022 Catholic Appeal will be officially announced here in our parish and across the Archdiocese. In addition to supporting the programs and operations of our parish, the Appeal also puts faith into action in our schools and in our broader communities. We invite you to prayerfully consider making a generous gift to this year’s appeal. When our parish reaches its goal of $105,149 and 100 donors in paid pledges, a portion of the additional funds received will be returned to us for use in our parish. To make a gift online scan the QR code or visit www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now. Thank you!

Coffee Hospitality Resumes!
We look forward to March 6 when Coffee Hospitality in the parish hall will resume. We will need volunteers to support this life-giving, community building, and delicious ministry this week and into the Spring. Please email Lisa Pickering at lpickering@stcecillaboston.org to get involved. We hope to see you after Mass!
LENT APPROACHES!

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.

Before we get to Ash Wednesday, we might ask ourselves some questions. “What does God want to give me this year?” This question may require that we slow down a bit and listen to our inner spirit. For example, sometimes if I’m very busy, I may realize I’m hungry only when I hear my stomach start “growling.” “What am I going to be doing on Ash Wednesday?” Too often, Ash Wednesday is like every other day, except that I manage to get to church and receive ashes. We hope you’ll be able to participate in either our 8:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. livestreamed 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 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 palms from last year’s celebration of Passion (Palm) Sunday. We will distribute ashes at both the 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.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 I might enjoy even more. Many people keep a vegetarian diet and, for them, eating meat is not even an issue. In the spirit of Lent, one possibility is to abstain from a non-meat meal that I really like, on all the Fridays of Lent.

LENT WITH DEACON DAVID

Deacon David Kiblinger, SJ is giving an online Lenten Retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola for The Jesuit Post. The theme is the Vine and the Branches. Every Saturday starting March 5, a video reflection and points for prayer will be released. Find it soon at https://thejesuitpost.org/, or on TJP’s social media pages.

LGBTQ CATHOLICS UNITE MONTHLY MEETING

Sunday, February 27 | 1:30 p.m. | Zoom Virtual Meeting

Synod: LGBTQ+ Ministries and Bishops – Where Do You Fit In?” Here, Don will share the contributions of Sacred Heart Parish (Tampa, FL) to the Synod process. The Synod on Synodality is intended to be a community journey and a space where all People of God can share their thoughts and feelings. Don Murray is currently co-chair of Sacred Heart’s Open Doors LGBTQ ministry in Tampa, FL, as well as St. Peter’s Gay Ministry in Provincetown, MA. LGBTQ Catholics Unite provides a forum in which LGBTQ+ Catholics and allies can share faith experiences, thoughts, beliefs, and feelings, in a safe and affirming setting. All are welcome—including allies! If you are interested in how to connect via Zoom, please email stceciliarainbowministry@gmail.com to request a Zoom invitation.

CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE

"Music for Food" is a musician-led initiative to fight hunger in our local communities. According to Feeding America, 1 in 9 people in the United States struggles with food insecurity. Music for Food’s concerts have raised funds to create more than 1.5 million meals. In Boston their concerts benefit Women’s Lunch Place. The next concert will feature works by Hindemith and Mendelssohn and will be held on Sunday, February 27 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at New England Conservatory’s Brown Hall on Huntington Avenue. The number of tickets available is limited due to the pandemic, but you can reserve at: https://musicforfood.net/boston/core3.
UPCOMING ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

The next Online Coffee Hour for our Remote Fellowship Community is Sunday, March 6, at 4 p.m. ET. We’re excited to take the opportunity in March to spend the entire hour getting to know one another better! We will break into groups based on region in the hopes attendees will discover other Saint Cecilia remote parishioners from their own area or state. How fun would that be? Think of this as your online “coffee hour” with fellow long-distance parishioners! Anyone is welcome to join us. If you have registered or attended any online coffee hour in the past, you will automatically get the link for March. If you have not attended or are unsure if you’re on our list, please email Mary Ann Gallagher at gallaghercomms@gmail.com for the link.

WISDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY

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

JOIN THE SOCIAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

GOD’S PLAN(ET): HEAL OUR COMMON HOME AND RESPOND TO THE CRY OF THE POOR
March 12 | 11-12:30 | Virtual workshop

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Boston Social Justice Ministry, the Diocese of Worcester Environmental Stewardship Ministry, and the Boston Catholic Climate Movement, learn actions we can take to combat climate change and to promote environmental justice. Join us to hear how Catholics are taking steps to build the Vatican’s ‘Laudato Si’ Action Platform” globally and right here in Massachusetts. You can help provide a safe and thriving world for future generations of all species. For details and to register: https://tinyurl.com/Home-3-12-22

SACRED AND LITURGICAL MUSIC

“Have mercy on me in your kindness.” Each year as we begin the season of Lent, the Ash Wednesday liturgy presents us with Psalm 51, known as the Miserere—one of the many parts of scripture referring to God’s abundant mercy. Rachel Burckardt, a parishioner and member of the parish Music Ministry, has recently issued a new recording of her settings of psalms and other sacred music, featuring members of the Saint Cecilia Parish choirs. Mercy: And Mercy in Abundance includes the a cappella setting of Psalm 51 that was last year’s Ash Wednesday prelude, as well as other psalm settings, a Gloria, sacred songs, and instrumentals.

To request a copy of the CD, please email Rachel (rchy. rb2@gmail.com) or see her after the 6:00 Mass. The album will also be available on the popular streaming services by mid-March. Half of the suggested $15 CD price will be donated to Women’s Lunch Place.

Afghan Refugee Resettlement:
What’s Happening;
Why We Care; What’s Next
March 10, 2022
7pm via Zoom

Join us to hear from members of the Paulist Center, Saint Cecilia, Catholic Charities, the Islamic Society of Boston and Cambridge, and the Islamic Circle of North America about what is happening with Afghan refugees, why they are supporting refugees, and how you can get involved.

Co-sponsored by the Paulist Center Adult Education Committee and Immigrant Advocacy Group
As the world reels from the sudden passing of Dr. Paul Farmer, we found this article, originally published in Humanosphere in 2014 particularly inspirational as we all seek to increase equity and inclusion in our communities and our world.

Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of the Boston-based Partners in Health, declares in an article for the Christian magazine Sojourners that two Latin American priests were among his greatest teachers: Archbishop Oscar Romero and Gustavo Gutiérrez.

Farmer was made famous through the book Mountains Beyond Mountains a profile of his work by acclaimed author Tracy Kidder. The community-based health network model that found success in Haiti can be traced back to the theological teachings of the two Catholic priests.

The lessons, Farmer says, came from all types of Catholics, from the priests to those living in poverty. Farmer credits the activists that he met as a young man in the “tough neighborhoods in Boston, the farms of North Carolina, and the slums of Lima” as living the teachings of liberation theology. He outlines the three lessons that stood out most in his mind: 1) Preferential option for the poor; 2) The existence of structural violence; 3) The power of accompaniment.

"Their activism taught me a lot about a space in the Catholic Church I’d not seen clearly before, and about the promise of long-term engagement in the monumental struggle against poverty and discrimination in all its forms. That includes gender inequality, no stranger to the institution. Most of the most inspiring activists were women."

Romero and Gutiérrez are crucial figures in the liberation theology movement within the Catholic Church. Their teachings championed social justice and human rights as central parts of Catholicism. Though it met resistance within the Church and in local politics, ideas such as the preferential option for the poor, a term coined by Gutiérrez, gained wider acceptance.

Its spread was seen as a political threat to some. Archbishop Romero was assassinated in 1980 by a Salvadoran right-wing death squad. He, among other things, urged then-US President Carter to cease aid to the military junta. The government of El Salvador officially apologized for the murder thirty years later.

“An active concern for the poor is not only an obligation for those who feel a political vocation; all Christians must take the Gospel message of justice and equality seriously,” explained Gutiérrez in a 2003 interview with America magazine.

Liberation theology took a more activist stance towards poverty. Christian Base Communities were formed at the local level for the purpose of creating religious and social cohesion. A
graffiti or ‘bottom-up’ approach to justice and poverty alleviation was advocated by leaders. Critics, including Cardinal Ratzinger (the man who would later become Pope Benedict XVI), accused the movement as Marxist.

Such ideas were evident in Farmer’s December column for Foreign Affairs that called for a rethinking of foreign aid. He cut at the idea that NGOs are the solution to ending poverty. Rather, he championed donor transparency so that money can be given from government to government and the public sector can meet the needs of its citizens.

Champions of all things local will find that even Farmer is not a devout follower. Community-based and local solutions can be great, but are not always appropriate.

"Many problems originate outside of people’s own communities: most trade regimes, all epidemics, and just about anything to do with climate change. Should every community be manufacturing its own vaccines or pedagogic materials or shoes? Of course not."

He provides five recommendations so that nations can make progress towards ending extreme poverty:

1. Reward aid institutions and staff who localize aid dollars.
2. Prioritize implementation with national counterparts at every step of the process.
3. Do not conflate weak systems with corruption.
4. Challenge common assumptions about what is considered sustainable and cost-effective in fragile settings.
5. Prioritize the transfer of aid functions to local authorities.

Despite his caveats about going local, Farmer sees development through the lens of his liberation theology heroes. The recommendations all work towards development led by developing countries, local groups and citizens, not the US and major international institutions. He believes deeply in what the public sector can deliver: health, education, clean water and more. It runs almost afoul to his former partner Jim Kim’s institution, the World Bank.

~Tom Murphy is a New Hampshire-based reporter for Humanosphere. Before joining Humanosphere, Tom founded and edited the aid blog A View From the Cave. His work has appeared in Foreign Policy, the Huffington Post, the Guardian, GlobalPost, and Christian Science Monitor.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

PARISH RESOURCES

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David Girardin, Assistant Music Director
dgirardin@stceciliaboston.org
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
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Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance
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Thomas Mellan, Organist
tmellan@stceciliaboston.org
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
lpickering@stceciliaboston.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, first place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

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

PARISH RESOURCES

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

PARISH RESOURCES

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

Parish Staff
Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Rev. Mr. David A. Kiblinger, SJ, Deacon
Keith Brinkley, Mike Currier, Rudy Flores, Lauren Healy,
Tim Rozier-Byrd, Maureen Sullivan, Reception
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Leah Bennett, Communications and Operations Manager,
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Christine Burns, Digital Media Coordinator
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Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
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David Girardin, Assistant Music Director
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Realizing your purpose is a process of spiritual awakening. We’re here to help guide you on your journey.

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