Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6 February 2022

Christ Healing Peter’s Mother-in-Law
Rembrandt
**CALL TO WORSHIP**

- In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

  All: Amen.

- The Lord be with you.

  All: And with your spirit.
Gloria | Mass of Renewal

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 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 sear-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy, 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 | Isaiah 6: 1-2a, 3-8**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 138: In the Sight of the Angels**

Tony Alonso

In the sight of the angels I will sing, in the sight of the angels I will sing, sing your praises, sing your praises, I will sing your praises, Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; you have heard the words of my mouth. In the presence of the angels I praise you. I bow down toward your holy temple. I give thanks to your name.

I give thanks for your merciful love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted over all your name and your promise. On the day I called, you answered me; you increased the strength of my soul.

All earth’s kings shall thank you, O Lord, when they hear the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, “How great is the glory of the Lord!”

With your right hand you save me; the Lord will accomplish this for me. O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

**SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints**

Steven Janco

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**GOSPEL | Luke 5: 1-11**
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.
HOLY, HOLY | Mass of the Angels and Saints  

Steven Janco

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\textit{Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.}
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MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints  

Steven Janco

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\textit{We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion un-til you come a-gain.}
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THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

1. Lord, when you came to the seashore
Tú has venido la o ría,

2. Lord, you knew what my boat carried;
Tú sabes bien lo que ten go;

3. Lord, have you need of my labor,
Tú no has buscado ni her ni es;

4. Lord, send me where you would have me,
En mi barca no hay otro res;

5. Tú, pesca dor de otros los voy a ter na que a otros des an sido;

You weren't seeking the wise or the flora,
Nor weapons for fight ing,

Hands for service, a heart made for lo ving,

To a village, or heart of the per son;

wealth y, But only ask ing
fight ing, But nets for fish ing,

lov ing, My arms for lift ing

I will remember ri y;

tan sólo quiero re des
								
tan sólo que quiere ra

that I might follow
my daily la bor.

the poor and b ro ken? that you are with me.

que yo te si ga.

y mi tra ba jo.

se guir a man do.

que a st me lla mas.
COMMUNION MEDITATION | Duo Seraphim

Richard Deering

Duo seraphim clamabant alter ad alterum:
Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Plena est omnis terra gloria ejus. (Isaiah 6:3)

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.
1. From the table of Christ Jesus To the table of the world, Now to live the Gospel vision Of a world, We are nourished by this banquet; May we
2. From the table of Christ Jesus To the table of the world, We are nourished by this banquet; May we
3. From the table of Christ Jesus To the table of the world, We return to daily labor, Lives of land where goodness reigns— Not to seek the beggar’s hunger, fear and need. All transformed here in our

“thank you,” Not for earthly, vain reward, mercy, Sing of love that brings forth peace. meeting, All who struggle to believe:

But to do the work of justice, Laying May we humbly serve all people, Share the Let us go forth from this table To be -
don the an-gry sword. richness of this feast. come what we receive.

POSTLUDE | Étude in C# Minor, Op. 10 #7
Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

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For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia, please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDuff@stceciliaboston.org.
Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children’s faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus’ teachings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday, February 5 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Pat Scofield, lector

Sunday, February 6 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Nicholas Hayes-Mota, lector

Sunday, February 6 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Nicole Boyce, Cathy Anderson, and
Mary Ann Hinsdale, IHM lectors

Sunday, February 6 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
James Paradis and Sarra Hajjaj, lectors

Sunday, February 6 | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Virgen Palermo and Tom O’Brien, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 5 | 5:00 p.m.
Betty Nichols, Memorial
Carol Dubuque, Memorial

Sunday, February 6 | 8:00 a.m.
John & Angelina Machado, Memorial

Sunday, February 6 | 9:30 a.m.
Liz Pino, 12th Anniversary
Anna Elizabeth Hennessey, Memorial
Peter Curioli, Memorial

Sunday, February 6 | 11:30 a.m.
William J. Sullivan Jr., Memorial

Sunday, February 6 | 6:00 p.m.
Lauren Sampson, Memorial

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

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

Live on the Saint Cecilia Facebook Page or via Zoom – Email gl.kelly@bellsouth.net for details.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased
Mary Burns died on Wednesday, February 2. Mary was a parishioner of the Jesuit Urban Center and Saint Cecilia Parish. Pray for the repose of her soul as well as for the consolation of her family and friends. May her 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, Marican Licameli, Ray Cronin, Rosalind Sica, Nicholas Collins, Liam Nedell, and Nancy Jordan.

This Weekend's Flowers
The flowers in front of the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Liz Pino by her husband, Martin.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: Brett Francis and Melanie Pagan of Boston, James Fernandez of Boston, Andrew Crothers of Boston, Sarah Chomos of Boston, and Patricia and John Coderre of Ontario, Canada. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

World Day for Consecrated Life
In 1997, Pope John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration occurs on the Sunday following the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2). Today we pray for all those who have consecrated their lives to Christ in the religious life by professing the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. We pray in a special way for Fr. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ and Rev. Mr. David Kiblinger, SJ, both members of the Society of Jesus who are on our pastoral staff; Sr. Ann Marie Cook, SNDdeN of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and Sr. Mary Ann Hinsdale, IHM of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary—both active members of our parish. We pray also for the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, the Congregation of Holy Cross, and the Society of Jesus, whose members assist us by presiding at our weekend liturgies. May all men and women in consecrated life continue to live their lives in accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ and respond with generosity of heart to the gift of their vocation.

Black History Month
During the month of February we recognize that Black history is American history. To divorce the two is to perpetuate the systematic oppression and violence our neighbors of color face. While only 28 days long, Black History Month is a time to celebrate and lift up the lives and achievements of Black Americans past and present. We plan to celebrate this year by sharing articles, music, and highlighting some facts about some noteworthy Black figures in history. These values echo the main principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and we pray that such values are increasingly embraced by all Americans.

Scout Sunday Observance
Scouts BSA designates the Sunday that falls before Scouting Anniversary Day, February 8, as Scout Sunday, a day to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. On Scout Sunday we would ordinarily have Boy Scouts from Troop 74, Girl Scouts from Troop 65321, and Scouts from BSA Troop 489 serving as greeters and lectors at our 9:30 liturgy. They would also bring their donations for those with food insecurity and would receive Scout Sunday patches blessed by Father John. Sadly, we cannot do all these things this year, but we will remember our young scouts in prayer. Boy Scout Troop 74, Girl Scout Troop 65321, and Scout BSA Troop 489 are located here in Back Bay/Beacon Hill, numbering over 70 boys and girls all working together to make our neighborhoods and our world a better place. We are so proud of our scouts and look forward to celebrating with them virtually this Sunday. Oh—and if weather permits, following the 9:30 Mass a Girl Scout will be outside the church selling America’s favorite cookies!
WORLD DAY OF THE SICK
"Is there anyone sick among you?"

This question, found in the New Testament Letter of James, gives the response that the sick should call for the priests of the Church who are to pray over and anoint the sick with oil in the name of the Lord. Never hesitate to call the parish office to ask for prayer and the Sacrament of the Sick prior to surgery or when diagnosed with serious illness. This sacrament is not to be looked upon as the "Last Rites" but rather as a powerful instrument of God’s healing presence.

On February 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Church observes World Day of the Sick. This celebration is a reminder to pray for all those who are sick and to recognize and honor those who work in healthcare and those who serve as caregivers. At Saint Cecilia we will observe this day next Sunday, February 13 at the ninety-three and eleven-fifteen liturgies with a blessing of healthcare workers and caregivers.

ONLINE COFFEE HOUR
This Sunday, February 6 | 4:00 p.m. EST | Zoom

The next Online Coffee Hour for our remote fellowship community is this Sunday, February 6, at 4:00 p.m. EST. This month our topic is "Music at Saint Cecilia: Its History, Instruments, and Ensembles" with Robert Duff. Robert is the Director of Music at Saint Cecilia where he plans all liturgical music, conducts two choirs, and oversees seven people in the music and livestream programs. If you’ve ever wondered how the music is chosen or where the singers in the choir hail from, or just wish you could meet our fabulous music director, you won’t want to miss this coffee hour! After Robert’s talk, we’ll have time to break into smaller groups for discussion. To receive the Zoom link for this meeting please email Mary Ann at gallaghercomms@gmail.com.

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 these during one of our liturgies.

OFFERINGS FROM PASTORAL CARE

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

ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?

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

We will be offering a five-session virtual class at Saint Cecilia for adults who wish to prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. These classes will take place on Zoom from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on the following Thursdays:
- February 17
- February 24
- March 3
- March 10
- March 17 *this date is likely to change to accommodate those celebrating with corned beef & cabbage!

If you would like more information or would like to register for this class, please contact Scott MacDonald at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org.

CATIE’S CLOSET

We are excited to again invite you to support Catie’s Closet! Catie’s Closet assists children and teens aged 4-18 who are experiencing poverty by giving them clothing in a discreet and respectful way through their schools. Their goal is to improve school attendance and graduation rates. They have targeted 100 schools locally and serve, on average, 70,000 students daily.

This February, in honor of Saint Valentine’s Day, we are holding a virtual clothing drive for Catie’s Closet. You can get detailed information about donation criteria, their Amazon Wish List, or delivering your donation directly to their location at https://www.catiescloset.org/get-involved/#donate or check their website for opportunities to get involved - www.catiescloset.org. We are unable to accept donated items at Saint Cecilia at this time.
JOIN THE YOUNG ADULTS FOR "THE CHOSEN" SEASON 2
February 8, 22 | 6:00 p.m. | On Zoom

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

WISDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIRTUAL EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

SPRING 2022 ONLINE COURSES

- *Ignatian Spirituality*
  - February 2 – March 1, 2022 | 6-Week Online Course
  - Registration Required | $60.00

- *Lent 2022: Reflecting Together*
  - February 23 – April 5 | 6-Week Online Course
  - Registration Required | $60.00

- *Sacraments: The Fabric of Catholic Life*
  - February 23 – March 29 | 5-Week Online Course
  - Registration Required | $60.00

For further details or to register for these events, please check the STM Online: Crossroads Website: https://bostoncollege-stm.catalog.instructure.com/

CAMPUS EVENTS/WEBINARS

- *Pilgrimage: Invitation and Challenge*
  - Thursday, February 24 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
  - Free Webinar | Registration Required

For further details or to register for this event, please check the STM Online: Crossroads website: https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education/campus-events.html

WINTER WALK BOSTON

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

By LAUREN W. RELIFORD

In January 2020, COVID-19 was first detected in the United States. In the two years since, we’ve experienced death and mourning on a massive scale, lost relationships over politically driven misinformation about the deadly virus, and felt constant fear and anxiety as we try to protect ourselves and our loved ones. This trauma has shaken many to their spiritual core in ways that will leave lasting effects. As the omicron variant rips through communities, I’ve heard many people express feelings of resignation. Helplessness. Hopelessness. And given how trauma works, we shouldn’t be surprised when we notice ourselves experiencing these feelings, even in our churches.

The first step in moving through trauma is recognizing it. There is currently no national or global standard definition of trauma, though there have been efforts to create a shared understanding. In 2014, the United States’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) published a landmark report titled “SAMHSA’s Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach.” This guidance integrated three areas of trauma work: research, current practice, and the lived experience and first-person narratives of trauma survivors. The goal was to create a shared definition that would help coordinate trauma research, practice, policy, and education to aid people navigating trauma — or at the risk of experiencing it.

The report’s definition explains that:

Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being (emphasis mine).

This language helps us understand the spiritual and/or moral dimensions of the trauma we’ve been experiencing in the current COVID-19 pandemic (that is soon to become endemic to our global society).

This pandemic has made the past two years of life and living feel heavy. This is not to say that life was anything close to easy before COVID-19 and all of its mutated minions entered the picture. Prior to 2020, there were millions of families, children, and communities struggling with the stress and burden of poverty exacerbated by decades of underinvestment in rural, urban, and suburban America. More than 1 in 4 households experienced a major hardship such as an inability to afford adequate food, housing, or utilities over a three-year period prior to the pandemic. A third of those households had children; Black and Latino households with children were twice as likely to experience these hardships as white households with children.

Our world was weary well before COVID-19 hit; now, things feel worse and are worse for so many.

Part of why so many people are feeling hopeless is their belief they are doing the right thing — taking all precautions necessary to decrease risk to self and others — while witnessing others around them refusing to act with that same level of care. Getting vaccinated, boosted, and wearing masks to protect others and hasten an end to waves of mass death should be basic responsibilities for people who claim to care for their neighbors. The frustration that some Christians are
touting individual rights over the common good and common responsibility, coupled with the grief of witnessing and experiencing ongoing tragedies wrought by the pandemic, creates doubt in the promise and hope that God hears us and answers our prayers. This promise is echoed in Isaiah 43:2-4:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you.

As Christians, we look to this promise to sustain us when we feel like we are fighting against the world to survive. This promise is at the core of our faith. We believe in a God that is patient, kind, loving, a God who sent us God’s only Son to save our souls and equip us to build God’s kingdom here on earth. Isaiah 43:2-4 is also a guide for how we should uplift others, a call to action for Christians to govern ourselves accordingly. We also care for our fellow human because of their inherent dignity, as people holy and precious in God’s sight.

Therefore, it injures us when we bear witness to the suffering of others during the pandemic, especially when that suffering has been exacerbated by other people of faith acting in a way that violates our shared moral, spiritual code. We start wondering whether the good we are scripturally called to do is worth it, especially when it feels impossible to protect the vulnerable and least among us. It plants a seed of doubt that overtakes our hope in God’s promise. This rupture in our belief system also induces a strong emotional and physical response that shows itself as many of the same symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder such as loss of sleep, racing thoughts, feelings of anger and irritation, and even avoiding places or people who remind you of your moral wound. Your spirit is weary, so the flesh becomes weak.

Healing from trauma is difficult and is not a linear journey; it takes many fits and starts for a trauma survivor to feel safe and secure. It’s also difficult to heal from trauma when you’re still in the middle of it. While many are proclaiming they are “over it” and burying their heads, the omicron variant has quickly surged through schools and communities, once again causing hospitals to operate above capacity and leaving medically fragile people in limbo. We are still living through a collective trauma; if we want to arrive at a place of hope, we must come together as a community to accept that we’re living through trauma and look toward the work of repair.

~ Lauren W. Reliford, MSW; is political director at Sojourners.

OUR AFGHAN FAMILIES HAVE ARRIVED
YOU HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH,
NOW WE’RE ASKING FOR A FEW “LUXURIES”

We are pleased to announce that both of our Afghan refugee families have arrived in the Boston area, and have settled into their homes. All children in our first family have started school and have been welcomed by talented and caring educators. Our second family is settling in and getting to know their neighborhood (and Boston weather!)

Volunteers have already helped so much: supporting home furnishing, school registration, benefits applications, shopping and English language development.

As our families get more settled and their basic needs have been met, we are asking for some "luxury" items. Specifically, we would like to gift each family a television. We believe TV can help with English acquisition and provide a break from the challenges of adjusting to such a new place. You can find this, and other item requests on our Amazon wishlists, which are linked in this document: http://bit.ly/PC-SC-help. If you see something on our list that you already have lightly used, please reach out to sc.socialrionaljustice@gmail.com.

Our "How to Help" document also provides instructions for making gift card donations and volunteering. Gift cards are tremendously important, as they allow families to make essential purchases on their own, increasing their level of independence. We welcome anyone interested to fill out our volunteer form (http://bit.ly/POWiRvoulunteer) but we especially need volunteers who live in or near Quincy. Thank you again for your generosity and kindness!
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
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Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events lpickering@stceciliaboston.org
Tim Rozier-Byrd, Reception reception@stceciliaboston.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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