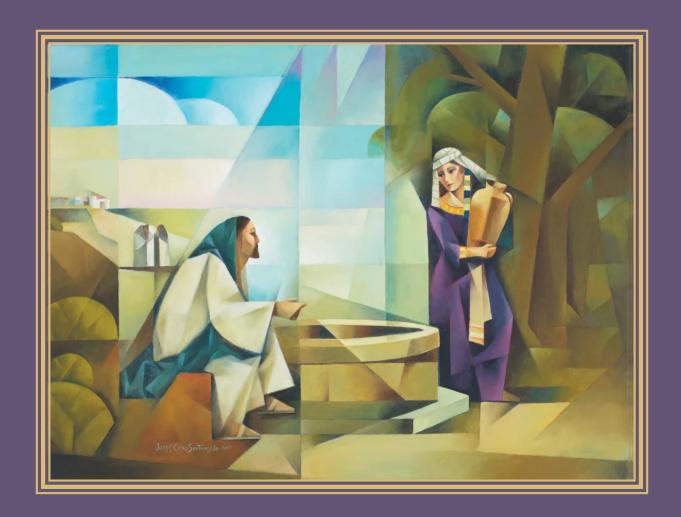
Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Third Sunday of Lent 12 March 2023

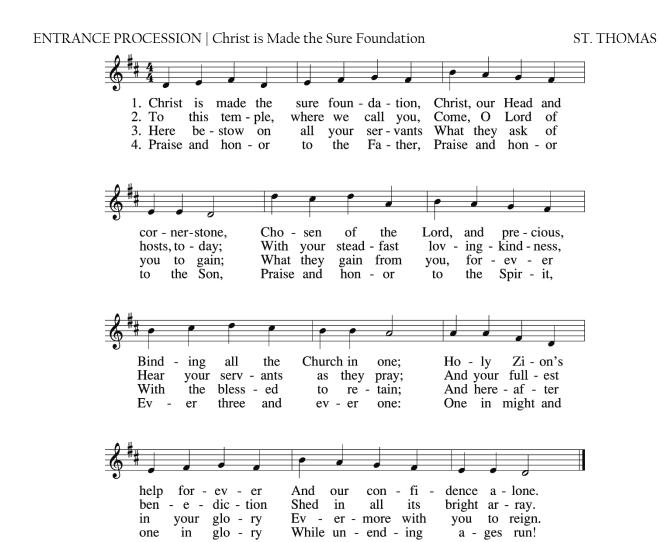
Jesus and the Samaritan Woman by Jorge Cocco Santangelo

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

12 March 2023

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



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.

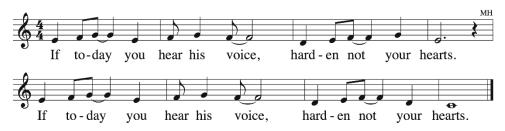
All: And with your spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Exodus 17: 3-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 95: If Today You Hear God's Voice

Marty Haugen



Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;

hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;

let us hail him with a song of praise. ₹.

O come; let us bow and bend low.

Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,

the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand. R.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

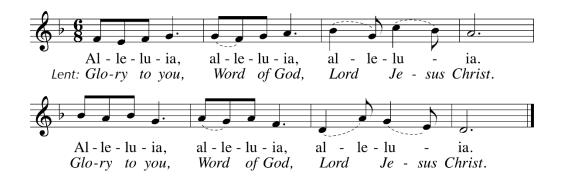
as on that day at Massah in the desert

when your forebears put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work." R.

SECOND READING | Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony Alonso



GOSPEL | John 4: 5-42

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!

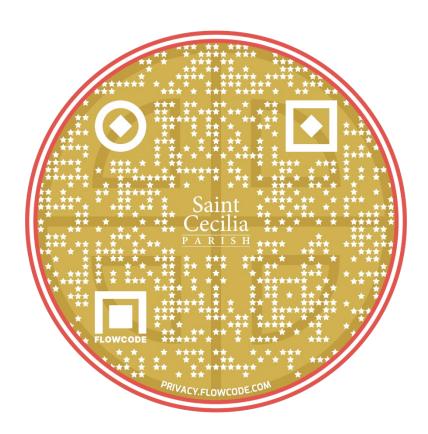
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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:

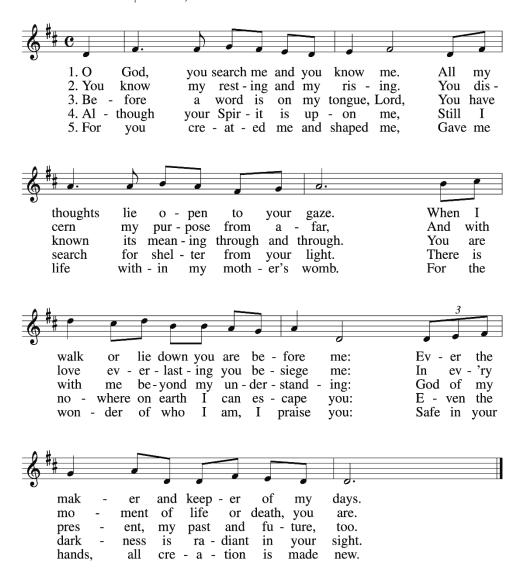
Saint Cecilia Parish 18 Belvidere Street Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | O God, You Search Me

Bernadette Farrell



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

▼ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

▶ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

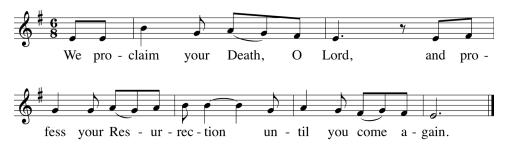
 \maltese Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.



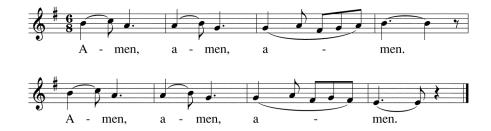
 $\label{thm:memorial-accumulation} Memorial Accumulation \mid Mass of the Angels and Saints$

Steven R. Janco



 $\operatorname{\mathsf{GREAT}}\nolimits\operatorname{\mathsf{AMEN}}\nolimits \mid \operatorname{\mathsf{Mass}}\nolimits$ of the Angels and Saints

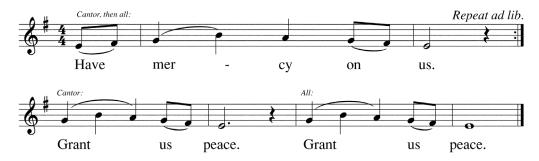
Steven R. Janco



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." 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. Amen.



Open My Eyes Jesse Manibusan



COMMUNION MEDITATION | I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

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.



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

For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia, please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDuff@stceciliaboston.org.

WELCOME!

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 Massachusett 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, March 11 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant Cynthia Wanner, lector

Sunday, March 12 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant Jordan Barnes, lector

Sunday, March 12 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Michael Egan, Tanya Rybarcyzk, and Erin Young, lectors

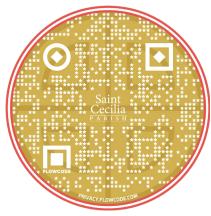
Sunday, March 12 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Kevin Dumas, Chika Offurum, and Eileen Maguire, lectors

Sunday, March 12 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant Julie Bogdanski and Jen Kowieski, lectors

SCAN THIS CODE FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 12 | 8:00 a.m.
John & Angela Machado, *Memorial*

Sunday, March 12 | 9:30 a.m.

Margot Grady, 4th Anniversary Bill Deery, 17th Anniversary John Roth, Memorial Mary "Marie" Butler, Memorial Elaine Wallace, Memorial Frank Monte, Memorial

Wednesday, March 15 | 8:00 a.m. Martin Engelken, 1st Anniversary

Thursday, March 16 | 8:00 a.m.James Arthur DePietro, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

Exodus 17:3-7 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 John 4:5-42

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Mike Mulrenan, Tim Finn, Mary Torok, Glenn Gallo, Carol Tebo, John Hosang, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rick Gaillardetz, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: Kingsley Maddie and Robert Mastrogiacomo of Boston, Cayla Vila and Michael Desmarais of Boston, Danielle Navarrete of Boston, Alexis Schneider and Matthew Parra of Freeport, Maine, Bob and Diana Russo of Largo, Florida, the Bourgoin Family of Somerville, the Lawlor-Boursican Family of Boston, Diane and Tim Borton of Harvard, and the Dennen Family of Milton. If you have not previously registered, we invite you to do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Order a Little Black Book for Lent

Spend just six minutes a day in reflection to prepare for our celebration of Easter! Though we're sold out of these books, you can order your own directly from their website (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.

Lenten Wednesdays—Mass & Reconciliation

On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent (March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; April 5) we will celebrate Mass in the sanctuary at 6:00. Following Mass, confessions will be heard until 8:00 for anyone who wishes to celebrate the sacrament. If you've been away from the sacrament for a long time, rest assured, the clergy will guide you through reconciliation and there's no need to be nervous about the structure of the rite. Come celebrate the sacrament of God's mercy and healing love this Lent.

First Communion Class

We are pleased to have twenty-eight students in this year's First Communion class. Recently, they received the sacrament of reconciliation and they will continue sitting with their parents at the front of the church during the 9:30 Mass. We positioned our youngsters here so that they can fully take in the parts of the Mass that they're dutifully studying in their classes. We ask all members of the Saint Cecilia community to pray that our First Communicants

and all children in our Faith Formation program continue to experience God and Jesus Christ as real presences in their lives.

Laetare Sunday

Next Sunday we will be at the midpoint of our Lenten journey. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday and is marked by a joyful anticipation of the Easter celebration. Laetare means "Rejoice!" and the introit, or entrance antiphon, of the Mass begins with that word. Like Gaudete Sunday in Advent, the optional liturgical color is rose. Help brighten our celebration by wearing something rose—colored to Mass next Sunday.

Easter Flowers

Starting this weekend, you can remember your loved ones by donating toward our Easter flowers. Please fill out the form by clicking here: https://forms.gle/sSvaVxQboEJHa7Hp7. Envelopes will also be available in the narthex for people who would like to print the names of their loved ones. The names of those remembered will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Palm Sunday (April 2) will be the last opportunity to donate toward the Easter flowers.

Catholic Appeal Commitment Weekend

We're very excited to launch the Catholic Appeal this weekend at Saint Cecilia. Thank you to those who have already responded generously to the Cardinal's invitation! As Catholics, each of us shares the responsibility of the Church community—both directly within our parish and to the greater Church. Thank you for responding in faith, hope, and charity by making a gift to the 2023 Catholic Appeal. We are stronger together and your generosity is greatly appreciated! You can donate to the Catholic Appeal here: www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate

Welcome, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur!

We give a warm welcome to **Sr. Leonore Coen**, **Sr. Ellen Dabrieo**, **Sr. Bárbara Gutiérrez**, and **Sr. Ellen McAdam**— all members of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. The Sisters will be with us for the 6:00 Mass this Sunday, after which they will join us in the Parish Hall for this week's pizza dinner. All are welcome to come to the Parish Hall following the 6:00 liturgy for some pizza and group conversation led by the Sisters about "How we've experienced God during the pandemic and how COVID-19 has changed our spiritual lives." If the pizza doesn't tempt you, the Sisters are bringing dessert! Please join us after Mass.

THE FIRST SCRUTINY

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults describes the scrutinies as "rites for self—searching and repentance... meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good." The scrutinies are celebrated at the 11:30 Mass on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. Today we celebrate the first scrutiny of our Elect:

Brynna Autumn Finley Ruby Liza Rollins Helen Sherrah-Davies

These four men and women are in the period called "Purification and Enlightenment" and their goal is to deepen their conversion to life in Jesus Christ, as they prepare to celebrate the Easter sacraments. We are invited to journey with them and prepare to renew our own baptismal promises this Easter.

On this and the upcoming two Sundays, rites called "the scrutinies" help us affirm and strengthen their resolve. The scrutiny is essentially a penitential act wherein the Elect express their desire for "living water," and their need for salvation. They may be standing in front of the assembly, yet it is also the quality of our faith that is being scrutinized. The word "scrutiny" is not the best translation and can have negative connotations. For our purposes, the idea of scrutiny is closer to what a jeweler does when he discovers a beautiful gem, turning it over and over to discover its hidden beauty and potential. That's our kind of scrutiny. Pray for our Elect, that, with the help of this community, they will uncover the hidden beauty and potential of their lives in Christ.



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.htm

PIZZA AND PANDEMIC

Where has God been during the pandemic?

Following the 6:00 p.m. Mass on March 12, join us in the Parish Hall for pizza and conversation with Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Let's share how we experienced God during the pandemic and how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our spiritual lives.

IOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CONCERT!

Come hear a short concert by the Brandeis Chamber Singers and conductor Robert Duff at 1:00 p.m. on March 12! The repertoire includes sacred and secular works by Brahms, Rheinberger, Forrest, LaBarr, Marquette, Levente Gyöngyösi, and a premiere of "Fabliau of Florida" by Eric Chasalow.

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 Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Catherine of

Genoa Church in Somerville.

We will be offering a class at Saint Cecilia for adults who wish to prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. Four classes will be held at Saint Cecilia from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the following dates: March 23, March 30, April 13, and April 20. If you would like more information or would like to register for this class, please contact Scott MacDonald at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org.

TRIDUUM & EASTER CHOIR

The Saint Cecilia Choir invites any parishioner interested in singing at Triduum and/or during the Easter season to join the choir for these important liturgies. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings, March 16 to 30 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 25 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. If you are interested, please contact our director of music, Robert Duff, at rduff@stceciliaboston.org.

IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

Your most important work may be after you retire!

IVC is an opportunity for adult men and women "50 and better" to offer their skills, wisdom, and life experience in service to those in need. In return for a commitment of 1 or 2 days a week with a local service opportunity, the IVC program provides monthly spiritual guidance for personal reflection, prayerful conversations with fellow IVC members and occasional retreats. Together, we hope to see the face of Christ in those we serve.

IVC serves schools and a variety of non-profits throughout the city of Boston and beyond! If you would like to learn more, you can contact Tanya at trybarczyk@ivcusa.org. For a virtual information session with Fr. James Martin, SJ on March 21st, please visit: https://ivcusa.org/info/

Share your lifetime of experience and get the experience of a lifetime!



Holy Week Discernment Retreat with the Daughters OF ST. PAUL



April 5-10, 2023

Daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, Triduum liturgies, silent retreat day, conferences by the Sisters, experience of the Pauline apostolate, community time and recreation, and more.

For single women ages 18-30

TO REGISTER, VISIT: https://connect.pauline.org/vocation-events/
OR EMAIL: vocations@paulinemedia.com



WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group is reading Fr. Greg Boyle's latest book, Forgive Everyone Everything. Greg Boyle, SJ is the founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. The organization supports 10,000 men and women annually as they work to overcome their pasts, reimagine their futures, and break the intergenerational cycles of gang violence. This book is a powerful collection of Fr. Greg's most poignant writings based on decades of experiences of loss and pain, redemption, and renewal. The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group is always happy to welcome new members who are in the second half of life. The group meets on the first Sunday of the month in the parish Community Room following the 11:30 liturgy. On the other Sundays of the month, they meet at 8:30 on Sunday mornings via Zoom. Whether on Zoom or in person, the meetings provide a space for participants to discuss what the group is reading and to have conversations that deepen their spiritual lives, help create friendships, and respond to the Spirit's promptings regarding social justice issues. Feel free to drop in on any first Sunday or, to get the link for one of the Zoom meetings, please email Deb Garcia at sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com.

HELP THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HELPED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES' FOOD PANTRY IN DORCHESTER

As you may know, the Catholic Charities' Yawkey Center in Dorchester also operates an infant and young child's daycare center. Two years ago, the pantry received a donation from a 4-year-old parishioner who sent cake mix through Amazon so that one of the families who receive assistance from Catholic Charities could make a birthday cake. That has sparked an interest in creating a "Birthday Pantry" within the food pantry so that families in need can have some of the items needed to have a birthday celebration for their children.

Here is the Catholic Charities' Amazon Wish List: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ ls/2VUJISQ0QS3P9?ref_=wl_share

Most of the items are reasonably priced and we hope that, by everyone doing just a little, we can turn this 4-year-old's generosity into an ongoing program. Let's see if we can amplify young Owen's giving by adding to it in the next week. And if you send an item through Amazon, consider putting in a note saying, "Great idea, Owen!"



HELP HABITAT FOR Humanity Welcome Families to their New Homes!

Here's Habitat Greater Boston's
Amazon Wish List of items that will make
moving into a new Habitat home even more
special for local families! Your generosity makes
a significant impact on the lifes of these families.
All items on this list are reasonably priced under \$75: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/
ls/38KJ36TTTSL8Y?ref_=wl_share



ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY CAMPUS EVENTS/WEBINARS

ANNUAL LECTURE IN HONOR OF RICHARD J. CLIFFORD, S.J.

Mercy in the Old Testament: The Fruit of the Womb Presenter: Dr. Andrew R. Davis, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Thursday, March 16, 2023 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Boston College - Brighton Campus, 117 Lake Street, Boston | Theology and Ministry Library, Auditorium - Room 113 | Registration Required | Free of charge

21st ANNUAL EVELYN UNDERHILL LECTURE IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

"...To Labor and Not Seek to Rest"? Rest's Vital Place in Spirituality and the Work of Justice

Presenter: Christine Firer Hinze, Professor of Theological and Social Ethics, Department of Theology Chair, Fordham University

Saturday, April 1, 2023 | 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. | Boston College - Chestnut Hill Campus, Gasson Hall, Room 100 | Registration Required | Free of charge

To learn more or register, visit: https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education/campus-events.html

ONLINE COURSES

The Church: People of God on a Mission
March 22 – April 25, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00

To learn more or register, visit the STM Online Crossroads website: https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads.html

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

Death With Dignity

Presenter: Rev. Rebekah Ingram, Unitarian Universalist minister and Board-Certified Chaplain

Monday, March 13, 2023 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: https://saintsusanna.org/adult_faith_formation.html











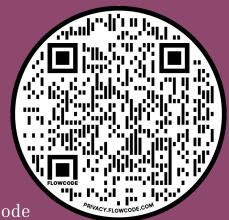


Help Our Faith Formation Classes Make Easter Baskets for Catholic Charities!

Last year, our Faith Formation students created Easter Baskets for Catholic Charities to distribute to local families experiencing poverty. We were FLOORED by the generosity of our community members who stepped up and donated goodies for our baskets.

This year, we're hoping to spread Easter joy to even more local children by upping our goal to 60 Easter baskets. *Can you help us gather the materials we need?*

Along with our normal Easter materials, we ask that you donate baby food, bibs, sippy cups, teething rings, and more as we are also making baskets for the Families in Transition program at the Huntington Avenue YMCA. Help support local young families by providing essential food and resources by scanning the Flowcode with your smartphone and checking out our sign-up list!



If you're in the area, you can bring these items to the Parish Office. If you worship with us from afar or aren't in the area this week, you can order any of these items online and have them shipped directly to Saint Cecilia. We need these items by Sunday, March 19, so if you can help out, please hop to it!

THE SAINT CECILIA ADULT FAITH
FORMATION COMMISSION IS PLEASED
TO PRESENT A LENTEN VIRTUAL
GUEST SPEAKER EVENT

STEPHEN POPE, Ph.D.

REPENTANCE: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT IS THE POINT?

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

6:00 P.M.

This presentation will be entirely virtual and will take place on Zoom. To register and be sent the Zoom link, please email Reception@stceciliaboston.org

Following the presentation there will be some time for questions and answers.



STEPHEN POPE, Ph.D.
SPEAKER

Professor Pope is an expert on Roman Catholic social teaching. His areas of interest include Catholic ethics and social thought; forgiveness and reconciliation; evolution and ethics; science and theology; preferential option for the poor; marriage and family; social and economic justice; the Church and politics; human rights; war and peace. Professor Pope has published numerous articles and is the author or editor of ten books.

Saint Cecilia PARISH

SAINT CECILIA PARISH



A bishop recently recounted for me a humorous incident that occurred during a Mass he had celebrated. When it came time for the washing of the hands during the preparation of gifts, the altar server informed the bishop that the sacristan had failed to put out the bowl of water and towel.

"That's OK," the bishop replied. "We can skip it this time." Not convinced, the young man objected: "But, Bishop, what about your iniquities?"

While the priest's prayer, "Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquities and cleanse me of my sins," is supposed to be recited silently, the altar server had obviously listened to it often enough to take it to heart.

Lent surely is a season to be cleansed of our sinfulness. But it must be so much more than the washing of our hands of sin, especially given what we understand about sin. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) observes that sin, an offense against reason, truth and right conscience, is a "failure in genuine love for God and neighbor ... (that) wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity" (CCC 1849).

In effect, by sinning we become less than what God has called us to be, and we injure ourselves and our relations with one another. Lent, then, is an invitation to repair the damage sin has done to ourselves and our relationships with God.

This has much to say about how we should approach the Lenten penitential practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These practices are opportunities to cultivate new growth in the field of our lives. Perhaps this is why the word Lent was chosen as the name for this season. It is a shortened form of the Old English word *lencten*, meaning "springtime."

Prayer often involves petitioning God for our needs. In such moments we experience our human poverty, vulnerability and dependence on God. But prayer is so much more. Turning again to the Catechism, we learn that prayer is where we encounter God's thirst for us, where we encounter God's love for us (cf., CCC 2560). This is what happens as Jesus rises from the waters of the Jordan river when John baptizes him. In this prayerful moment he hears the Father say to him, "You are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased (Mark 1:11).

We begin to recover who we are, our dignity and our relationships with God and others by setting aside time in our day to let God remind us how much we are loved, how much God thirsts for us. That is the first step to responding to the call in Lent to turn away from sin and make space in our lives for the new growth of our relationships with God and others.

It must begin by listening to God tell us how much God thirsts for us. That is how transformation takes place, allowing us to take up the mission of discipleship with fresh energy and purpose.

My favorite story about the value of fasting is found in the Gospel accounts of the temptations that Jesus experienced as he ended his 40 days in the desert. The devil tempts him to use his power to turn stones into bread. Jesus responds that we do not live on bread alone.

There is a deeper hunger in our lives that define who we are. It is the hunger to be nourishment for others, which Jesus reveals fully at the Last Supper. In the upper room with his disciples on the night before he died, he inverts Satan's temptation to turn stone into bread by turning bread into his body to be shared.

By fasting, we discover our capacity to live our lives for others and discover our power to allow our lives to be broken and shared. In doing that, we recover our dignity and our inner freedom to rebuild our relationships with God and others.

Finally, when we give alms, we not only help those who

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

receive our charity, but we become aware of how generous God has been with us, along with the value of living in solidarity, rather than competition, with others.

Jesus reveals in his own experience of temptations that the vice of greed rests on the Devil's lie that God has given all things of the world over to him. The truth is, as Jesus tells us, the Father has given everything over to the Son and the Son will not deny us what we need (Jn 3:35). Almsgiving liberates us from Satan's deception, the illusion that possessions define our lives, replacing it with the joy that comes in living a life of detachment to the benefit of those in need, thereby recovering our dignity and repairing the harm done by sin.

Yes, the young altar server's question — "What about your iniquities?" — is good for all of us to ponder during Lent, as long as it leads to a springtime of new growth. Just arranging for a bowl of water and towel won't do.

~ Cardinal Blase Joseph Cupich serves as archbishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Cupich to the Dicastery for Bishops (2016) and the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (2022). Cardinal Cupich also serves on the USCCB Committee on migration and refugee services and Subcommittee for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. He is a consultant to the USCCB Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee and Co-Chair of the National Dialogue Initiative with Muslims. He is an Executive Member of The Catholic Mutual Relief Society and Chancellor of the Catholic Church Extension Society, and the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois.





TAKE THIS SURVEY & HELP A COLLEGE STUDENT WITH HER STUDIES!



"Hello, my name is Katie Sklarosky and I am an undergraduate political science and Theology student at Providence College. This survey is part of a study I am conducting for my political science thesis. The purpose of the study is to survey Catholic parishioners and priests within the Archdiocese of Boston

on certain relevant social issues. The entire survey should take between five and ten minutes to complete, and your responses are entirely anonymous and will remain so after the study is complete. I greatly appreciate your participation should you choose to take my survey. Thank you, and may God bless you during this holy season of Lent."

If you're interested in lending a moment of your time, you can take this anonymous, parishioner survey by scanning the QR code above or visiting this link: https://providence.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV 6YjMo8q3H6uSEAK

THE FOURTH ANNUAL DANIEL J. HARRINGTON, S.J. LECTURE

Basements, Potlucks, and the Orange Line: Listening for God in an Urban Parish



Thursday, April 13 5:30-7:00 p.m. ET

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Susan B. Reynolds, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of
Catholic Studies
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Weaving together stories drawn from years of ministry and ethnographic research in a parish in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood, in this lecture Dr. Susan Bigelow Reynolds reflects on what it means to do theology in community. Lifting up the theological agency of communities on the margins of church and society, it invites us to rethink our understanding of how—and where—the work of theology unfolds.

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PARISH RESOURCES

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Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment

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E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org **Website** | www.stceciliaboston.org

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gedwards@stceciliaboston.org

Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer

vizumchensky@berklee.edu

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 our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at ohastie@stceciliaboston.org.

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 \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 after 4:00 every day of the week. To take advantage of 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.

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 arround 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.