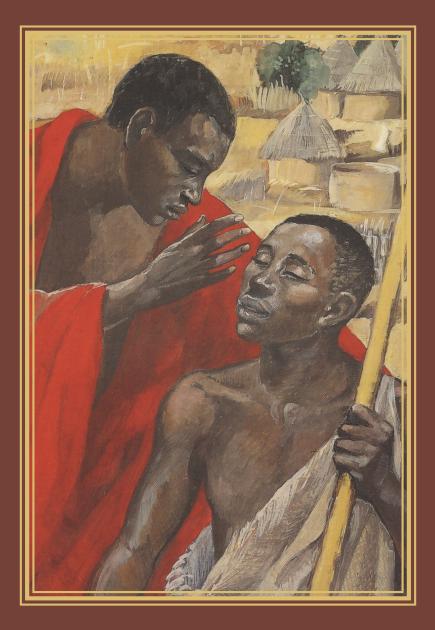


P A R I S H



The Fourth Sunday of Lent

19 March 2023

Jesus Cures the Man Born Blind by Jesus Mafa



19 March 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | God of Day and God of Darkness

BEACH SPRING

1. God of day and God of dark - ness, Still the na - tions curse the dark - ness, Still the 3. Show us Christ in one an - oth - er, Make us 4. You shall be the path that guides us, You the 5. Praise to you in day and dark - ness, You our stand be - fore the night; and dark - ness, You our stand be - fore the night; and the earth is ser - vants strong and true; Give us all your love of light that in us burns; Shin - ing deep with - in all source and you our end; Praise to you who love and deep - en, Come and make our dark-ness bright. bro - ken By the ones who still want more. jus - tice So we do what you would do. peo - ple, Yours the love that we must learn. nur - ture As a fa - ther, moth - er, friend. All cre-
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nur - ture As a fa - ther, moth - er, friend. Grant us
a - tion still is groan - ing For the dawn - ing of your
wake us from our sleep - ing, So our hearts can - not ig -
call all peo-ple ho - ly, Let us pledge our lives a -
hearts shall wan-der rest - less 'Til they safe to you re-
all a peace-ful rest - ing, Let each mind and bod - y
might, When the Sun of peace and jus - tice
nore All your peo - ple lost and bro - ken,
new; Make us one with all the low - ly,
turn; Find - ing you in one an - oth - er,
mend, So we rise re - freshed to - mor - row,
•
Fills the earth with ra-diant light.
Fills the earth with ra-diant light.
Fills the earth with ra-diant light. All your chil - dren at our door.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: Amen.

 \blacksquare The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Collect

LITURGY OF THE WORD

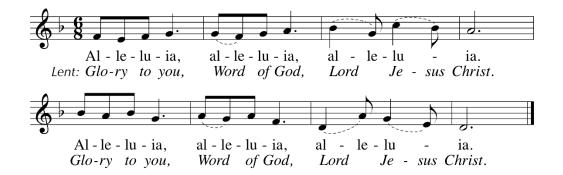
FIRST READING | 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 23: The Lord is My Shepherd

Marty Haugen



SECOND READING | Ephesians 5: 8-14



GOSPEL | John 9: 1-41

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!

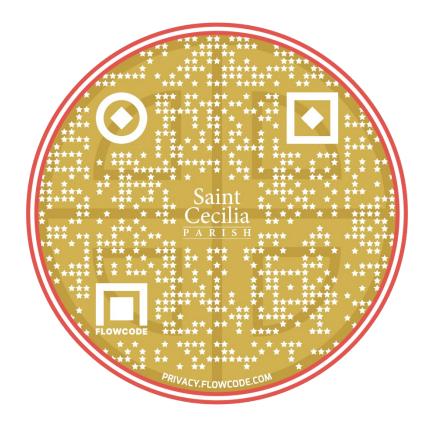
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 |In the Stillness, God of Mercy

Mary Louise Bringle



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

▪ The Lord be with you.

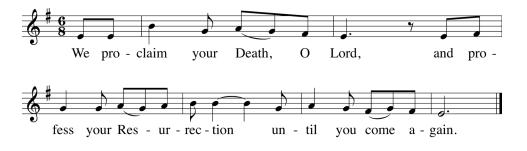
All: And with your spirit.

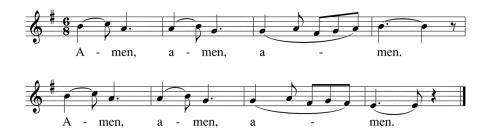
- ✤ Lift up your hearts.
- All: We lift them up to the Lord.
 - Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- All: It is right and just.



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco





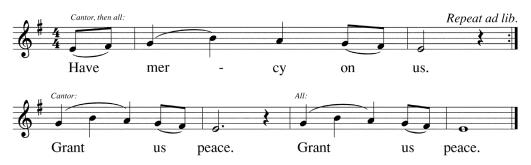
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LAMB OF GOD | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



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.





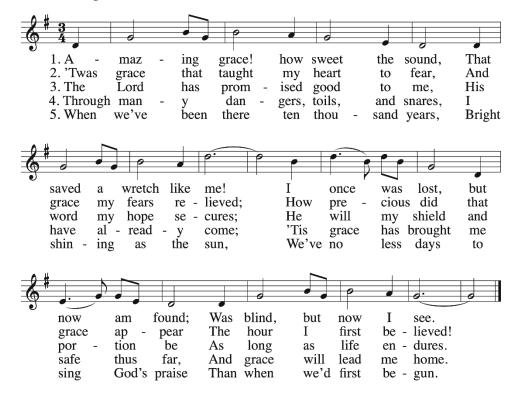


COMMUNION MEDITATION | Amazing Grace

Marianne Forman

CONCLUDING RITES

- ♥ The Lord be with you.
- All: And with your spirit.
- ${\bf \bigstar}$ 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: <u>RDuff@stceciliaboston.org</u>.

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. 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

Stephen Pope is a professor of moral theology at Boston College, as well as 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.



18 Belvidere Street | Boston | 617.536.4548 | www.stceciliaboston.org

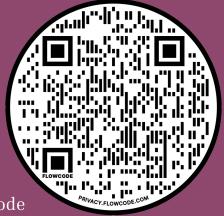


Help Our Faith Formation Classes Make Easter Baskets for Catholic Charities!

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!

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, March 18 | 5:00 p.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Emily Bogert, lector

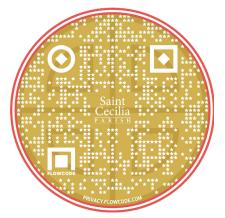
Sunday, March 19 | 8:00 a.m. Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant celebrant Emily St. Germain, lector

Sunday, March 19 | 9:30 a.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Julie DesAutels, Cathy Anderson, and Letitia Howland, lectors

Sunday, March 19 | 11:30 a.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Virgen Palermo, Eileen Maguire, and Jim Dougherty, lectors

Sunday, March 19 | 6:00 p.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Kevin Dumas and Nikko Mendoza, lectors

SCAN THIS CODE FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 19 | 8:00 a.m. Joseph G. Maciora, *Memorial*

Sunday, March 19 | 9:30 a.m. Jack Lonerdelli, Anniversary George Zammit, Memorial Mary Jo Donovan, Memorial Leo J. Pray, Memorial Noreen Clancy, Memorial Coach James O'Connor, Memorial

Sunday, March 19 | 11:30 a.m. Kevin Leary, *Memorial*

Friday, March 24 | 8:00 a.m. Sam Hingston, 24th Anniversary

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Ezekiel 37:12-14 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Pray for the respose of the soul of **Michael J. Mulrenan**, who died on March 11. Pray also for the consolation of Mike's family and friends. 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 **Tim Finn**, **Mary Torok**, **Glenn Gallo**, **Carol Tebo**, **John Hosang**, **Mary Walters**, **Marc Pelletier**, **Ray Cronin**, **Rick Gaillardetz**, **Michele Maniscalco**, **Nick Hunger ford**, and **Fred Tufts**.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: Madison Chan of Allston, Alaina Chmielinski and Lutfi Lutfi of Boston, Robbie Zingaro of New York City, New York, Marta Stepien and David Coneway of Boston, Julie Rocheleau of Cambridge, Joy Facella-Ervolini and Nathan McGuire of Boston, Noelle Tota and Michael McGrath of Boston, and Anastaja Lee. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Laetare Sunday

Today is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday. The word "Laetare" is the first word of the Introit (also known as the entrance antiphon) for the Fourth Sunday of Lent and is the Latin word for "rejoice." Before we started singing hymns to begin Mass, the Introit was normally chanted in



Latin as the priest approached the altar. Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word of the Introit. Laetare Sunday is one of these.

Easter is fast approaching and the

Fourth Sunday of Lent is marked by a spirit of joy. We are much closer to the renewal of our baptismal promises and to celebrating the Easter sacraments with our three Elect. The optional use of rose–colored vestments today symbolizes our joy at the nearness of Easter.

The Second Scrutiny

At the 11:30 liturgy we celebrate the second scrutiny of our Elect. We pray that, like the man born blind, the eyes of **Brynna**, **Ruby**, and **Helen** are opened to the salvation offered by Christ. Keep them in your prayers as they continue this period of Purifcation and Enlightenment in preparation for the celebration of the Easter sacraments.



Easter Flowers

Remember your loved ones by donating toward our Easter flowers. Please fill out this form: <u>https://forms.gle/sSvaVxQboEJHa7Hp7</u>. 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.

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.

Catholic Appeal



Thank you to those who have already responded generously to the Cardinal's invitation! We are currently at 10% of our monetary goal and 32% of our donor participation goal. As Catholics, each of us shares the responsibility of the Church community—both directly within our parish and to

the greater Church. We are stronger together and your generosity is greatly appreciated! Donate here: www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate

Dear Friends,

In the Archdiocese of Boston, last weekend was the official launch of the 2023 Catholic Appeal. For Catholics, being part of a diocese is central to our understanding of church. We are members of not only our parish community, but also of the wider church community. With membership comes both benefits and responsibilities. The Catholic Appeal is the primary source of funds for so many programs and ministries that extend far beyond the scope of any one individual parish. Your gift to the Appeal will help support the everyday functions and operations of Saint Cecilia, while also assisting the most vulnerable within the Archdiocese.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church, but the Spirit needs our cooperation. In his first letter to the church in Corinth, St. Paul makes it clear that the Spirit requires love to be the context in which the Spirit acts. Donating to the Catholic Appeal is one good way to cultivate love in our diocese, our parish, and in all of our parishes. We are stronger together and the success of the Appeal relies on all of us. This year's Catholic Appeal video showcases testimonies from parishioners throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. You can watch this video from the homepage of our parish website.

For those of you who have already made a gift—thank you! If you would like to make a gift today, please visit: <u>https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate/</u>. Thank you for responding in faith, hope, and charity as you consider showing your support for the 2023 Catholic Appeal. Faith in Action...it all starts with YOU!

Thank you for your generous support,



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

Mass of the Lord's Passion Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. [9:30 Mass will be in-person & YouTube livestreamed]

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer—Livestreamed to Facebook 7:30 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper In-person & YouTube livestreamed 10:00 p.m. Night Prayer—In-person following adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Good Friday

9:00 a.m. *Morning Prayer*—Livestreamed to Facebook
3:00 p.m. *Stations of the Cross*—In-person & YouTube
7:30 p.m. *Commemoration of the Lord's Passion* In-person & YouTube livestreamed

Holy Saturday

9:00 a.m. *Morning Prayer*—Livestreamed to Facebook 8:00 p.m. *The Great Vigil of Easter*—In-person & YouTube livestreamed

Easter Sunday

8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. *Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord* [9:30 Mass will be in-person & YouTube livestreamed] 6:00 p.m. *Paschal Vespers*—Facebook



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 important for these liturgies. Thursday Rehearsals are on 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.

HOME REMEDY: A BREAKFAST TO BENEFIT PINE STREET INN



Pine Street Inn's Home Remedy fundraising breakfast brings together Greater Boston's corporate and philanthropic leaders. Thanks to Pine Street Inn dedicated partners like you, funds raised through this breakfast will assist over 2,000 individuals daily,

who turn to Pine Street for help in rebuilding their lives. The event will take place on Thursday, April 27 at 7:15 a.m. at the Westin Copley Hotel. Individual tickets are \$250. If you are interested in joining a Saint Cecilia table at the event, please email Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY CAMPUS EVENTS/WEBINARS

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: <u>https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/</u> 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

LOW-GLUTEN ALTAR BREAD

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. These hosts are prepared by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Missouri.

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

IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

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: <u>https://ivcusa.org/info/</u>

NEWS FROM THE BOSTON CHAPTER OF CRS: OPERATION RICE BOWL

A few weeks ago, we distributed Rice Bowls from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The money saved in your Rice Bowl supports the worldwide efforts of CRS and 25% of the funds collected goes to support the local anti-poverty work of our friends at Catholic Charities of Boston. On the Second Sunday of Easter, you will be invited to bring your filled bank back to church and we will send the money we collect to CRS. Learn more here: <u>http://orb.crs.org/</u>



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: <u>https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/</u> <u>ls/2VUJISQ0QS3P9?ref_=wl_share</u>

Most of the items are reasonably priced and we hope that, by everyone doing just a little, we can turn this 4-yearold'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. If you send an item through Amazon, consider putting in a note saying, "Great idea, Owen!"

MIGHTY CLOUDS OF LOVING WITNESS FOR LGBTQ PEOPLE BY MICKEY MCGRATH, OSFS

I recently led a weekend retreat with the theme "Be Who You Are, Perfectly Well," the title drawn from a favorite quote by St. Francis de Sales. And since St. Thérèse of Lisieux, his fellow Doctor-of-the-Church-who-was-wise-beyondher-years, expressed similar sentiments in her writings, I designated them the primary guides of the retreat. They each lived in times of heightened clericalism and ecclesial power and authority—he in the early seventeenth century, she in the late nineteenth—yet each managed to rise high above the confining walls of institutional religion and journeyed deep within themselves, where they discovered a God of boundless love and mercy, alive and well beneath the surface.

Since I didn't want to put the full burden of the weekend retreat on the holy shoulders of these two wisdom figures alone, I enlisted the assistance of four other BFF's in heaven, none of whom is an official saint just yet, but each of whom is on the way: Venerable Augustus Tolton; and Servants of God Dorothy Day, Thea Bowman and Nicholas Black Elk. In light of the many injustices they each endured in an institutional church and nation riddled with racism and misogyny, I sensed that they would be more than happy to share morsels of their wisdom and experience with 35 adult children of God who identify as LGBTQ and their beloved and loving allies.

The retreat was sponsored by the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative and was held in the beautiful Mercy Center in St. Louis, described as "an environment of hospitality and healing in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy." It is worth mentioning here that the planning team originally had a different location in mind for the retreat but were denied permission to do so by the local bishop of that diocese. It is also worth mentioning that a mercy-filled and fulfilling retreat experience was enjoyed by one and all in the Plan B location. So, my heartfelt thanks to the Holy Spirit and that bishop for making possible such a "good time in the Lord" in the words of Sr. Thea.

I have a lot—a *whole* lot—of material in my trove of artwork and stories on each one of these saints who have been inspiring my creative imagination for many years and have filled me with hope, courage and determination. So, in a spirit of "Less is More," I condensed my thoughts into one tidy image called A Cloud of Witnesses to set the tone. I then highlighted each saint separately and gave them the opportunity to visit us in word and image. Or—technically speaking—their words and my images.



St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

St. Francis was a bishop, а canon lawyer and a civil lawyer, which to my creative right brain can be a pretty terrifying trifecta. But the thing I love about Francis de Sales is that he never put laws and his pursuit of perfection above the human heart. It is said that the word love appears at least

once on every single page he ever wrote. In addition to books, treatises and articles, he composed letters of spiritual direction, mostly to women, a pretty invisible population in the all-male, clerically dominant church of the Counter-Reformation era. St. Francis celebrated the extraordinary ordinary, saying we are all little birds seeking shelter under the maternal wings of God, no matter who we are: male or female; rich or poor; mighty or humble, clergy or lay.

"All Through Love, Nothing Through Fear"

In the Salesian tradition, the essence of a happy life is not just *being* who you are perfectly well, but loving who you are; and doing *everything* in a spirit of love, not fear. St. Francis was also a proponent of the notion that *all* people—not just priests and religious—would benefit from having a trusted spiritual director with whom they could share their questions, insights and imaginations. I often think of St. Francis as the



first psychotherapist because he understood so clearly and sensitively the inner workings of the human heart and mind—and the human longing for love and acceptance.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897)

What's not to love about St. Thérèse, the Little Flower, the most beloved saint

of modern times? She has something to offer everyone because, like St. Francis de Sales whom she admired, she celebrated the little and the ordinary. In her own simple way she keeps telling me time and again, "Come on, you can do this. I am here. Embrace the sparrow you are meant to be, not the eagle you only wish you were meant to be."

The beauty of the Little Way, the name for her spiritual path to wholeness and maturity, is that it centers on God's boundless love and mercy, not on guilt, sin and selfloathing. In fact, she rarely mentions the word sin in her writings. Like St. de Sales Francis whom she loved, St. Thérèse encourages us not simply to be ourselves, but to love being ourselves.



Thérèse hid a lifetime's worth of suffering beneath her radiant smile and cheerful demeanor—from the emotional pain of grief and loss in her motherless childhood to the physical agony of tuberculosis which led to her death at twenty-four. Through it all she journaled; she wrote encouraging letters to people in need of hope and healing; she painted; and she wrote poems and plays. St. Thérèse nurtured her highly creative spirit because she found in it

a peaceful, contemplative outlet for her innermost needs, concerns and desires.



Venerable Augustus Tolton (1854-1897)

Imagine you are born into slavery. Then imagine you are five years old and forced to watch your mother being viciously beaten and whipped by her Catholic slave owner. Then imagine you are twelve and forced to leave the local Catholic school because white parents don't want their kids sharing the classroom and playground with you. (And imagine the names they call you.)

Then imagine you feeling a genuine call to the priesthood, but not one of the 18 Catholic seminaries in the United States will admit you, for essentially the same reasons as those white parents back in grade school—only they give it a loftier, more theological spin.

Imagine you have to go all the way to Rome, in steerage no doubt, to study for ordination after saying goodbye—you assume forever—to the same mother who escaped with you from slavery when you were a little boy. Then imagine your life as a pastor back home in the US, where everyone loves you, even white folks and Protestants, except for your fellow Catholic pastors who probably think you are intrinsically disordered because of your race and thus unfit for priestly life—and are insanely jealous of your popularity.

Imagine you grow sickly and old beyond your 43 years and you collapse on the streets of Chicago in a heatwave and die in utter exhaustion with your mother by your side, the same

faithfully Catholic mother who taught about vou more living Jesus and the Gospel than all those troublesome pastors who hadn't a clue about true Christian love but man-ohman, could they ever preach about laws and doctrines and dogmas.

Now, perhaps, you can imagine why I love Venerable Gus Tolton!

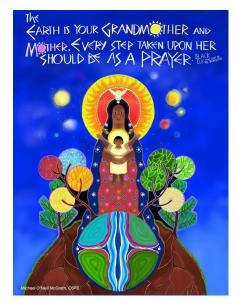


Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk (1863- 1950)

This past year, while on a Maryknoll Mission Immersion tour, I was blessed to stand on the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre, where in 1890 American soldiers mowed down over 300 Indian men, women and children whom they falsely claimed were staging an insurrection.

Black Elk, a Lakota medicine man, arrived on the scene after the killings and helped to carry the wounded to a nearby church, where many more died, and then to the nearby Jesuit mission the next day. In 1904, he became Nicholas Black Elk when he was baptized on the feast of St. Nicholas. He spent the rest of his years as a widely loved and highly regarded evangelist, preacher and healer who worked closely with the Jesuits. He was also a devoted father and grandfather.

Like Gus Tolton, Black Elk knew that the Gospel of Jesus and its message of universal love was deeper, wider, higher and more inclusive than the legalistic and abusive approach too often preached by the institutional Catholic Church in the US—as seen especially in the "Christian" boarding schools of the time, which we as church are still coming to terms with. Nicholas Black Elk transcended the confines of the institutional church and found profound connections between Lakota spirituality and traditional Roman Catholic spiritual traditions, especially Ignatian spirituality.



The quote here illustrates the sacred cosmic connections between humanity, the Holy Spirit and the earth itself. The most basic principle of Lakota spirituality is that We are all connected: people to people; people to creatures; and people to all of creation. Sounds traditional pretty Franciscan if you ask me!

Servant of God Dorothy Day (1897-1980)

Dorothy Day was born on November 8, 1897-the same

year that St. Thérèse and Augustus Tolton each died, he on July 9 and Thérèse on September 30. I like to imagine that their faith-filled spunk, courage and creative determination miraculously floated in her direction and filled her infant soul. In her pre-conversion days as a student at the University of Illinois Dorothy was horrified at the anti-Semitism leveled at



her best friend and wondered why the hypocritical Christian churches didn't speak out about it. Later in her life, she certainly took care of that!

With the heart, eyes and ears of a journalist, Dorothy Day eventually grew to become the very icon of Catholic social teaching and justice, and a prophetic voice of reform in the Catholic Church. She had a Vatican II soul two generations before the Second Vatican Council was even remotely considered. As co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, Dorothy Day was Martha and Mary rolled into one complex yet simple model of pure *love* and *peace* in action. She loved praying in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, but her awareness of Christ's very real presence wasn't confined to a monstrance or tabernacle, as we see evidenced in the quote illustrated here.

Dorothy was inspired in her love of Christ through reading about and imitating her favorite saints, especially Saint Thérèse about whom she wrote a biography. They each believed and taught that *nothing* is more important than *love*, certainly not exclusion or marginalization, nor the clerical abuse of power and authority. Dorothy said that our corrupt church carries within itself the seeds of its own regeneration. She also said we should not do anything but *love*, whether we feel it or not. Just love, love, love. Now keep that Beatles tune in your head as you face the day.

Servant of God Thea Bowman (1937-1990)

Thea was the toughest subject for me because I have created what seems like a million images over the years inspired by her life and words—and only had time to share

a handful. I focused on that aspect of her life in which she was always "the other": the only Black in her Catholic world and the only Catholic in her Black world. In her early convent years in the 1950s, Thea was the only Black woman from the Jim Crow South in a sea of white nuns from Wisconsin. who didn't know what to make of her and were not always as



kind and gentle as they now wish they had been. Thea later said that she wasn't happy she was there in those early years, but she persevered because she felt Jesus and St. Francis were calling her and would never abandon her.

In the 1960s when both the Civil Rights movement and Vatican II appeared on the scene, Thea moved right along with the waves of liberation promised by each. Through her gift of music; her years of teaching at Viterbo University in LaCrosse, Wisconsin; and her nationally acclaimed speeches and presentations, Thea not only discovered the beauty of her Blackness and religious faith, but shared it unabashedly with everyone she encountered—getting folks of all backgrounds up on their feet, swaying and singing in holy rhythm. This included the Bishops of the United States, whom she addressed at their annual meeting in 1989, just nine months before her death.

Among her remarks to the 400 bishops assembled that day, Sr. Thea spoke the words we see here. I cannot help but think she was prophetically alluding to the synodal church in our current Pope Francis era.

As she concluded her speech, racked with pain from her cancer, Thea got those bishops on their feet, swaying and singing "We Shall Overcome" in a most memorable display of the future church—the one I like to believe awaits us when this awkward current time of disunity comes at long last to an end. Oh Happy Day!

Love, Love, Love

I offer some closing advice about ignoring the barking dogs from the same saintly guy who opened things up for us:

Francis de Sales. Sr. Thea said something similar: "It doesn't matter if you're scared, just keep on steppin'!"

I hope these tiny glimpses into the lives of these brilliant and bold people of faith inspire you to pursue their lives in more depth. Pick the one who calls for your attention and develop a prayer discipline that works for you. Pour your morning cup of coffee, light a candle and pray with them and to them. Keep your eyes on the prize, walking forward in pride and faith while ignoring the barking of so many dogs surrounding us both in and out of the Church.

Above all, be patient and gentle with yourself. And remember you are not alone. Bit by bit and step by step, may you discover Christ's love gently glowing in your heart and driving away the shadows of fear and abuse, of marginalization, persecution and discrimination. Ask Jesus and Mary, Gus and Black Elk, Dorothy and Thea for help and inspiration and don't do anything but love, love, love.

~ Michael O'Neill McGrath is a Religious Brother in the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales.

"Friends, I want to say a word about your role as a prophet.

When most lay people hear about prophecy, they sit back and their eyes glaze over. "That's something for the priests and the bishops to worry about; they're the modern-day prophets. I don't have that call or that responsibility."

Well, think again! Vatican II emphasized the universal call to holiness, rooted in the dynamics of Baptism. Every baptized person is conformed unto Christ priest, prophet, and king. Whenever you assist at Mass, you are exercising your priestly office, participating in the worship of God. Whenever you direct your kids to discover their mission in the Church, or provide guidance to someone in the spiritual life, you are exercising your kingly office.

As a baptized individual, you are also commissioned as a prophet—which is to say, a speaker of God's truth. And the prophetic word is not your own. It is not the result of your own meditations on the spiritual life, as valuable and correct as those may be. The prophetic word is the word of God given to you by God."

> - Bishop Robert Barron on Luke 4:24–30 from the Third Sunday of Lent

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 Keith Brinkley, Mike Currier, Rudy Flores, Parker Olson, Corey Ortiz, Reception reception@stceciliaboston.org Christine Burns, Digital Media Coordinator cburns@stceciliaboston.org Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music tcesario@stceciliaboston.org Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org Robert Duff, Director of Music rduff@stceciliaboston.org Giovanna Franchi, Pastoral Minister gfranchi@stceciliaboston.org Olivia Hastie, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation ohastie@stceciliaboston.org Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development cmelaugh@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

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show mcdeery@gmail.com Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer 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 (VIR-TUS). 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 lowgluten 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.