Third Sunday of Lent

20 March 2022

Moses Before the Burning Bush

Gebhard Fugel (1863-1939)
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

20 March 2022

PRELUDE | O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 656

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | From Ashes to the Living Font

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.

COLLECT
LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Exodus 3: 1-8a, 13-15

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.
   Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

2. It is the Lord who forgives all your sins, who heals everyone of your ills,
   who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

3. The Lord does just deeds, gives full justice to all who are oppressed.
   He made known his ways to Moses, and his deeds to the children of Israel.

4. The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.
   For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong his mercy for those who fear him.

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Ruah Mass


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 | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin

GREAT AMEN | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin
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 | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin

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.

COMMUNION | Make Us One

Refrain

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

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

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

Verse 1

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

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

Verse 2

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

that we may serve as you have served. At this ta-ble of jus-tice, may we serve in u-ni-ty.
COMMUNION MEDITATION | O How Amiable

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be alway praising thee. The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handiwork. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

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.
There’s a wideness in God’s Mercy

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy
Like the wideness of our sea;
And the heart of the eternal
Is most wonder-ful and deep.

For the love of God will you scatter
Like a crowd of our mind;
Fool-ish hearts, why will you wander
From a love so true?

Trou-bled souls, why will you scatter
Like a crowd of our mind;
Fool-ish hearts, why will you wander
From a love so true?

There’s a kind-ness in God’s justice
And the heart of the eternal
Is most wonder-ful and deep.

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy
Like the wideness of our sea;
And the heart of the eternal
Is most wonder-ful and deep.

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

For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia, please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDUff@stceciliaboston.org.
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.
Summary:
We've been working with Health Resources in Action (HRiA) to determine how we can become a more inclusive parish while promoting equity and antiracism.

Our working group is expanding these 3 focus areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Area 1:</th>
<th>Focus Area 2:</th>
<th>Focus Area 3:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Improving Belonging</td>
<td>Parish Culture</td>
<td>Solidarity in Action</td>
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<td>and Inclusivity for Parishioners</td>
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Our Anchor:
Our work has been guided by race explicitly, but not exclusively. This means we're considering a wide range of populations and their concerns.

*How we define antiracism:
The active practice of opposing racism and promoting racial tolerance.

As Pope Francis said...
"We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism* and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life."
[June 2020 via Vatican News]
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, March 19 | 5:00 p.m.**
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Mary Kane, lector

**Sunday, March 20 | 8:00 a.m.**
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Bob Mann, lector

**Sunday, March 20 | 9:30 a.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, Chika Offurum, and Cathy Anderson, lectors

**Sunday, March 20 | 11:30 a.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
James Paradis and Sarra Hajjaj, lectors

**Sunday, March 20 | 6:00 p.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Matthew Duprey and Hannah Ostwald, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Sunday, March 20 | 9:30 a.m.**
Alice Havel, *Memorial*
Ruth Farley, *1st Anniversary*
George Zammit, *Memorial*
Theresa Zammit, *Special Intention*

**Sunday, March 20 | 11:30 a.m.**
Grace DeCrescenzo, *Memorial*

**Sunday, March 20 | 6:00 p.m.**
Patricia Cecilia O’Donnell, *Memorial*

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

LENTEN VESPERS
JOIN US FOR EVENING PRAYER ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.
March 9, 16, 23, 30
April 6 & 13

LENTEN LAUDS
JOIN US FOR MORNING PRAYER
Saturday, March 19 at 9:00 A.M.
Solemnity of Saint Joseph
Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 A.M.
Holy Thursday & the Conclusion of Lent

Join us live on the Saint Cecilia Facebook page or via Zoom.
Email sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com for details.
Liturgy last approximately half an hour.
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, Josephine Mason, Marian Licameli, Ray Cronin, Rosalind Sica, Nicholas Collins, Liam Nedell, and Rick Gaillardetz.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: Lauren Telesz of Boston, Tamar Barsamian of Boston, The Grinnen Family of Watertown, and Aleksey Gorman of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Happy Anniversary!
This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversaries of Amy Paulin, baptized on March 21, and Whit Tau, baptized on March 22. May the Lord continue to bless them with the grace to live out their baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Amy and Whit!

Wednesday Evening Mass During Lent
On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent we will celebrate Mass at 6:00. Following Mass, confessions will be heard until 8:00 for anyone who wishes to celebrate the sacrament.

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.

Catholic Appeal
We are so grateful to all of you who have helped launch a successful 2022 Catholic Appeal campaign here at Saint Cecilia. We have received 41 gifts so far, which means we are only 59 gifts away to our goal of 100 gifts. If you have not had a chance to do so, please consider making your gift to the Appeal today by picking up an envelope at the back of the church or make an online donation at www.bostoncatholicappeal.org. Participation from every household in the parish is important and every gift makes a meaningful difference in putting faith into action to support the parishes, schools, and communities within our Archdiocese. Thank you.

Special Second Collection
Due to the unprecedented needs brought about by the war on Ukraine and the immigration of millions of victims fleeing the ravages of the war, Cardinal Séan has authorized a special collection for Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, and to the Vatican agency for outreach to the Churches in Eastern Europe. Please donate here: https://www.osvhub.com/steceliaboston/funds/second-collection-for-ukraine

Lectionary Note
You might notice that the readings for this and the next two Sundays are different at the 11:30 liturgy. This year, the Church’s lectionary cycle follows Year C for Masses on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, but, it is part of the Church’s ancient tradition that, at liturgies during which the Scrutinies of the Elect take place, the readings assigned for Year A are used. The gospel reading that will be proclaimed at most of our weekend liturgies is The Parable of the Fig Tree and the gospel reading that you will hear at the 11:30 liturgy is The Samaritan Woman at the Well.

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/Konxjethn82UG442y6. The names of those remembered will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Palm Sunday (April 10) will be the last opportunity to donate toward the Easter flowers.

OFFERING FROM PASTORAL CARE
Father Jim Shaughnessy and Giovanna Franchi will be hosting a day of prayer on Wednesday March 30th at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester. For details and to register, please contact Giovanna at gfranchi@stceciliaboston.org or (857) 317-3823.

TRIDUUM & EASTER CHOIR
The Saint Cecilia Choir invites any parishioner interested in singing at Triduum and/or Easter to join the choir for these moving liturgies. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:00–9:00 p.m.

If you are interested, please contact our director of music, Robert Duff, at rduff@stceciliaboston.org.
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:

Karim Arsanjani • Mackenzie Elvin • Astrid Love • Caroline Fish

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.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

On all the Wednesdays of Lent, from 6:30–8:00 p.m., Saint Cecilia and all the parishes and chapels of the Archdiocese of Boston will be open for individual confessions. Inviting Catholics to experience Christ’s healing love through the Sacrament of Reconciliation continues to be one of the major initiatives of Cardinal Sean and the Archdiocese. Please consider coming on Lenten Wednesdays (March 23 and 30; April 6 and 13) and help us spread the word about this special outreach of mercy. If you’ve been away from the sacrament for a long time, rest assured, the clergy will guide you through the sacrament 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.

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

LENT WITH DEACON DAVID

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

SOCIAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY - CLIMATE JUSTICE

Meet the Climate Justice group in the Parish Hall after the 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday March 20, see how to start your climate action plan using the Laudato Si’ Action Platform (https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/), and find out how to be involved in the work of Caring for Creation in the Parish. For more information email sc.climatejustice@gmail.com.

APOLOGIZE! DECOLONIZE! PRAYERS IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE MEETING WITH POPE FRANCIS

Sunday, March 27 | 7:00–8:30 p.m., ET | Zoom registration: https://tinyurl.com/apologize-3-27

Join the Social and Racial Justice Ministry in prayer for truth and healing in solidarity with Indigenous Canadians and Pope Francis as they meet in Rome March 28–April 1 to confront the tragedy of residential Indian schools. We will also pray for a just response to the Department of the Interior report on Native boarding schools in the United States being released in early April. This event will be co-sponsored by Massachusetts Catholics for Indigenous Rights, Saint Cecilia Parish Social and Racial Justice Ministry, Boston Catholic Climate Movement, and The Agape Community. For more info about these schools visit: https://tinyurl.com/detailsApologize. For more information about the event and about Massachusetts Catholics for Indigenous Rights, email Craig Simpson at: cs4202144@yahoo.com.
We are actively recruiting people to join our Greeters & Coffee Hospitality Ministries.

Parish Greeters bring to life the part of our Parish Vision that states, "God’s grace lives in the warm smiles of those who greet all parishioners and guests." And our Coffee Hospitality volunteers help ensure, in the words of our Vision, that "no one feels on the fringes."

If this sounds appealing and you think you might like to help either occasionally or on a more regular basis, please send an email to Lisa Pickering (lpickering@stceciliaboston.org).

Parish Greeters & Coffee Hospitality Ministers—a small commitment with a big impact!
LGBTQ CATHOLICS UNITE MONTHLY MEETING
Sunday, March 27 | 1:30 p.m. | Community Room and Virtual Meeting

This month, Maddie Jarrett will invite conversation around the notion of a “Disabled God.” This image, which disability theologians find support for in John's Gospel, challenges conceptions of "wholeness" and invites all to consider the revelatory dimensions of the disabled experience. Maddie is a Ph.D. candidate in systematic theology at Boston College. Her research interests include embodiment, grace, disability, and temporality. As a former high school teacher and an alumna of the University of Notre Dame and Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry (MDiv), she is passionate about making theology accessible and relevant to all. LGBTQ Catholics Unite provides a forum in which LGBTQ+ Catholics and allies can share faith experiences, thoughts, beliefs, and feelings, in a safe and affirming setting. Meetings and events are held where people are supported, heard, and spiritually nourished. We hope that all LGBTQ+ Catholics know that God created you, God loves you, God is on your side, Jesus cares about you, and the Church is your home. Everyone is welcome—including allies! If you are interested in how to connect via Zoom, please email stceciliarainbowministry@gmail.com to request a Zoom invitation.

Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry has compiled a list of recommended books and other resources. If you would like to receive this list, please send your request to stceciliarainbowministry@gmail.com.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR AFGHAN FAMILIES

All of the children we are supporting in our two refugee families through our POWIR site are enrolled in school and soaking it all up like sponges! They are in need of some school supplies and new clothes. For our amazon wishlists, instructions for donating gift cards, and more ways to help, go to bit.ly/PC-SC-help

JOIN THE YOUNG ADULTS!

TRIVIA NIGHT
Thursday, March 31 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. | Parish Hall

Spring is on its way and so are our in-person gatherings! Come join us for dinner and trivia. We’ll form teams that evening, so don’t be concerned if you don’t know anyone yet. Please RSVP at https://rb.gy/cyv11h. All young adults ages 18–40 are welcome!

TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES

Please keep in mind that two of our nonprofit partner agencies have an ongoing need for donations of travel-size toiletries. Individual size shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and soap are always needed. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant (none of which can typically be found in a hotel room!) are also always in demand. Donated toiletries need to be unused, of course, and there are plastic bins in the narthex for donations. The two agencies are: Women’s Lunch Place on Newbury Street (www.womenslunchplace.org) and Y2Y Youth Shelter in Harvard Square (www.Y2YNetwork.org).
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

LENTEN ACTION OPPORTUNITY ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING — WEEK 3

During Lent, our Social and Racial Justice Ministry Book Club will focus on articles and action. We’ll be leveraging the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching developed by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to frame our focus. All parishioners are welcome to join us any week(s) you like. We meet Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. EST via Zoom. Register at https://bit.ly/BookClubLent22 for the Zoom link.

Week 3: Rights and Responsibilities
In order to promote a healthy community, we must be responsible for protecting human rights. Every person deserves to live and have their basic needs met. We all have responsibilities to our communities to protect these rights.

From Church Teaching:
Beginning our discussion of the rights of man, we see that every man has the right to life, to bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for the proper development of life; these are primarily food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and finally the necessary social services. Therefore a human being also has the right to security in cases of sickness, inability to work, widowhood, old age, unemployment, or in any other case in which he is deprived of the means of subsistence through no fault of his own.” -Pope John XXIII, Peace on Earth, no 11

From Scripture:
Psalm 146:5-8 Freedom from Oppression
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous.

Explore:
• Catholic Social Teaching: Rights and Responsibilities, Pax Christie Eden Prairie — https://youtu.be/_DgsWSeAvfU
• "What Exactly Is The Common Good?" Duquesne University — https://youtu.be/x6o5jg6wuBg
• Peter Gyves, SJ, "The Weekly Word—A Faith That Does Justice" “In these difficult times, we are challenged to live beyond ritual observance and religious piety to action on behalf of those in need. We can raise our voices against the violence in Ukraine. We can support world-wide economic sanctions against Russia to hasten an end to its aggression. We can offer charitable donations to non-profit organizations for anticipated refugee assistance. And we can also pray that our witness to the values that Jesus lived by will hasten the restoration of a peace that is founded in God’s justice and dignity for a world still in need of redemption.”
• Consider Lives and Work of These Individuals: Gregory Boyle, SJ , Dorothy Day, Bryan Stevenson, Sr Julianna DeWolf
• Paul Farmer followed the Scriptures which instruct us to take special care of those who are on the margins of society. He encouraged people to: Reimagine equity, foster cooperation and partnership, accompany through relationship those who we serve, Understand “The Know-Do Gap”—We know what to do, but we just aren’t doing it

Reflect:
• When was the last time you participated in a campaign, march, rally to defend others’ rights?
• “Start small but allow yourself to imagine very expansively.” Ophelia Dahl, Partners in Health

Take Action:
• Advocate for the protection of voting rights so that everyone has a voice: Call the White House or your representative to restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Call the White House at 888-436-6478 or email President Biden about this here: https://networklobby.org/democracywhemail/
• Support CRS in Ukraine here: https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/where-we-work/ukraine

For additional connections to scripture, links to resources to explore, and actions to take, go to: https://bit.ly/SRJMlent-Week3
SUPPORT WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE

On Thursday, April 14th, 2022, Women’s Lunch Place will celebrate the 11th annual “eat LUNCH give” fundraiser. Join friends of the agency at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel as they elevate the voices of resilient women in our community and commit to walking alongside them as they work towards a brighter future.

This special luncheon will include a delicious meal, exciting raffle, and the opportunity to hear about the great work and mission of WLP from some of Boston’s brightest women leaders! We recommend purchasing your tickets before April 4, 2022. To purchase tickets, which are $200 each, please go to: https://womenslunchplace.org/donate-elg-2. For questions about the event, please email: Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LABOURE CENTER SPRING RECEPTION

Registration is now open for the 38th Annual Catholic Charities Labouré Center Spring Reception on Thursday, April 28 from 5:30–8:30 p.m. This year’s event will be in person again. This year Labouré Center will honor The Claddagh Fund—Charitable Foundation of the Dropkick Murphys, a longtime supporter of Labouré Center’s mission.

Complimentary beverages & hors d’oeuvres will be served. The event will be held at The Exchange, located at 212 Northern Ave, Boston. Limited complimentary parking will be available courtesy of MassPort. Earlybird tickets for $100 (through April 15) Tickets can be purchased at https://www.ccab.org/Laboure-Spring-Reception.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIRTUAL EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

CAMPUS EVENTS/WEBINARS

Witnessing Jesus Hang: Reading the Gospel Accounts of Jesus’ Crucifixion through African American Biblical Histories
Presenter: Rev. Dr. Shively T. J. Smith, Assistant Professor of New Testament, Boston University School of Theology
Thursday, March 24 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Free Webinar
Registration Required

THIRD ANNUAL DANIEL J. HARRINGTON, S.J. LECTURE

Spirituality for Mission: Connecting in an Era of Disconnectedness
Presenter: Maryanne Confoy, RSC, Professor of Spirituality and Pastoral Theology, Jesuit College of Spirituality, University of Divinity (Melbourne) Australia
Thursday, April 7 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Virtual Event
Registration Required | Free of charge

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

BOISI CENTER FOR RELIGION AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

How Secularization Impacts Religion: A Conversation with Nancy Ammerman and José Casanova
Moderator: Mark Massa, S.J.
Tuesday, April 5 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. | Zoom Webinar
Registration Required | Free of charge

Further details and to register in advance: https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/centers/boisi-center/events.html

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH—DEDHAM

A Presentation on Islam, Specifically the Qur’an
Presenters: Denis M. Hurley
Monday, March 21 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: https://www.saintsusanna.org/Attachments/aff_yearly_program_standard.pdf
I am not sure where the popular expression “Hate the sin, love the sinner” comes from. It may derive from St. Augustine’s Letter 211, written in A.D. 424, in which he says, Cum dilectione hominum et odio vitiorum, or “With love for mankind and hatred for sins.” A more contemporary reference is Mahatma Gandhi, who wrote in his autobiography, “Hate the sin and not the sinner is a precept which, though easy enough to understand, is rarely practiced, and that is why the poison of hatred spreads in the world.”

The phrase is not in the Bible, though Jesus asks us in the Gospels, in a variety of ways, to love one another and frequently admonishes us against sin. Perhaps the closest analogue to the contemporary saying is found in the Letter of Jude, which says, “Have mercy on some who are wavering; save others by snatching them out of the fire” (1:22-23).

But it might as well be in the Bible, so often is it used. It is an almost canonical saying, alongside “God helps those who help themselves” as a verse that people think is—or should be—in the Bible.

“Hate the sin, love the sinner” makes a good deal of sense. As Christians we are called to love everyone, even our enemies, said Jesus, who forgave his executioners from the cross. Thus, we should love everyone, and that includes sinners. Jesus demonstrated that love repeatedly: He was frequently criticized for eating with “sinners and tax collectors,” when “table fellowship” was a sign of acceptance. At the same time, avoiding sin was at the heart of Jesus’ ministry. “Go and sin no more,” he says to the woman caught in adultery (Jn 8:1-11).

The saying also promotes a healthy demarcation between the person and the act. We can love and reverence a person who may have committed heinous sins. Helen Prejean, C.S.J., who ministers to inmates on death row, often says, “A person is more than the worst thing they’ve ever done.” An element of “hate the sin, love the sinner” is operative here.

The problem with this seemingly compassionate dictum is that today it is applied almost exclusively to one group: L.G.B.T.Q. people. The thinking is that we can love L.G.B.T.Q. people so long as we condemn their actions—including same-sex relations and same-sex marriage—and label them all as “sinners.”

With this selective application, the saying is used as a weapon against L.G.B.T.Q. people, because it effectively reduces L.G.B.T.Q. people to “sinners,” first and foremost. Of course we are all, in one way or another, sinners; but the use of the term in reference to L.G.B.T.Q. people can be particularly cruel, for there is no other group to which this term is applied so regularly, so reflexively, so relentlessly.

Here is a thought experiment I often use to help people understand this. Imagine if I told you I had been invited to give a lecture to college students—as I often am. As most people know, a great many college students are both unmarried and sexually active, and so are therefore not in conformity with church teaching, which prohibits any sex outside of marriage. The numbers are declining, but a recent study showed that 66 percent of college students had sex in the last year. Thus the majority are “sinful.”

Upon hearing that I was going to speak on a college campus, would you say, “Well, hate the sin, love the sinner”? Would you castigate me for speaking to a group of “sinners”? Probably not, since no one has ever said that to me in the hundreds of times I have spoken on college campuses. No one has ever used language remotely like that to describe college students to me.

Likewise, the majority of married Catholic couples these days (89 percent) believe that contraception is not a moral problem. Many use birth control and are therefore, according to church teaching, sinning. But if I told you I was leading a retreat for married couples, would you say, “Hate the sin, love the sinner?”
Probably not, because, again, I have never heard anyone say this in the context of married couples in my 30 years as a Jesuit or 20 years as a priest. Not once.

So about whom is this statement most used? Who is most regularly labeled “sinful” in a world of immorality of all sorts—greed, cruelty, lying, selfishness, racism, warmongering, callousness to the poor, and so on? L.G.B.T.Q. people.

It is hard not to conclude that when people use “Hate the sin, love the sinner” exclusively when speaking about L.G.B.T.Q. Catholics, they are singling them out as if they are the only people whose lives are not in conformity with church teaching. Even worse, the “sin” that people focus on is the way that they love one another. William A. Barry, S.J., the spiritual writer and psychologist, once told me that this is especially damaging, because the way we love influences almost every aspect of our emotional, mental and spiritual lives. Saying “Your love is a sin” is an attack on part of a person’s deepest self. Our selves are a mixture of mind, body and heart. Saying “Your love is a sin” strikes at each part of the human person.

And sadly, I hear “Hate the sin, love the sinner,” most often from people who don’t seem to love the L.G.B.T.Q. person at all.

Last year, I celebrated a memorial Mass for my friend Carlos, who had been married to his husband Jim for many years, and had been with him for over 30 years. Carlos was a pillar of the community at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City and served as a eucharistic minister, lector and spiritual director, in addition to his daytime job as a hospital chaplain at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital. After Carlos was diagnosed with cancer, his husband, Jim, lovingly cared for him, accompanying him from doctor visit to doctor visit, through major surgery, through rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, all the way until his death. Even though the memorial Mass took place many months after Carlos’s death, the church was packed. It was a sign of the love that the parish had for him and for Jim—as well the love that both had shown the parish.

A few weeks later I was speaking about L.G.B.T.Q. issues on a video call with another parish. I recounted the story of Carlos and Jim as an example of the lives led by many L.G.B.T.Q. people. One person said, “Well, hate the sin, love the sinner, right, Father?” He seemed to miss the point of the story, which was that we need to listen to the experiences of L.G.B.T.Q. people. That remark ignored their rich lives, reduced 30 years of companionship to a slogan, and categorized the two as “sinners,” when, again, we are all sinners. I thought of Jesus’s line, “Do you still not understand?”

The next time you are inclined to say, “Hate the sin, love the sinner,” you might ask yourself several questions. First, am I using this slogan only for L.G.B.T.Q. people? Second, where do their lives express not sin, but love? And finally, what can I learn about God from the people I am calling sinners?

~The Rev. James Martin, S.J., is a Jesuit priest, author and editor at large at America.
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
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Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Rev. Mr. David A. Kiblinger, SJ, Deacon
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Giovanna Franchi, Pastoral Minister
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
Joseph Roche, Parish Associate
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 mandatory 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), 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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