Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare!

27 March 2022

The Prodigal Son

Kaye Redman
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

27 March 2022

**PRELUDE** | Pavane in F# minor

Louis Couperin

**ENTRANCE PROCESSION** | Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

**TALLIS’ CANON**

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1. Diverse in culture, nation, race, We
come together by your grace, God, let us be a
meeting ground Where hope and healing love are found.

2. God, let us be a bridge of care Confront all
fear and hate And that sep - a - rate.

3. When chasms widen, storms arise, O steel, be strong To stand with those who suffer wrong.

gifts of love and broken bread, Where all find welcome,

4. Let us be a table spread With grace attends, And enemies arise as friends.
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**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**
FIRST READING | Joshua 5: 9a, 10-12

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 34: Taste and See

1. I will bless the Lord at all times; praise of him is always in my mouth.
   In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad.

2. Glorify the Lord with me; together let us praise his name.
   I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.

3. Look toward him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.
   This lowly one called; the Lord heard and rescued him from all his distress.

4. The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who fear him, to rescue them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

SECOND READING | 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Ruah Mass

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God!

HOMILY

RCIA DISMISSAL | May God Bless and Keep You (II:30 Mass)  Christopher Walker

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 | Healer of Our Every Ill**  
Marty Haugen

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**Refrain**

Healer of our ev’ry ill, light of each to-mor-row,
give us peace be-yond our fear, and hope be-yond our sor-row.

**Verses**

1. You who know our fears and sad-ness,
   Grace us with your peace and glad-ness,
   Spir-it of all com-fort: fill our hearts.
2. In the pain and joy be-hold-ing,
   How your grace is still un-fold-ing,
   Give us all your vi-sion: God of love.
3. Give us strength to love each oth-er,
   Ev’ry sis-ter, ev’ry broth-er,
   Spir-it of all kind-ness: be our guide.
4. You who know each thought and feel-ing,
   Teach us all your way of heal-ing,
   Spir-it of com-pas-sion: fill each heart.

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**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

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 | Taste and See

Refrain

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Verses

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.  
2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
3. Worship the Lord, all you people.

Praise shall always be on my lips;  
Together let us all praise God’s name.  
You’ll want for nothing if you ask.

D.C.

my soul shall glory in the Lord  
I called the Lord who answered me;  
Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
for God has been so good to me.  
from all my troubles I was set free.  
in God we need put all our trust.
O taste and see how gracious the Lord is. Blessed are they who put their trust in Him.
O taste and see the Lord.

There is one body. There is one spirit. There is one Lord of all
whose grace fills every need and purpose, embracing great and small.

So let us love one another well, as God loved us when He gave the perfect love,
His Son, our Lord, that all our souls might be saved.

**CONCLUDING RITES**

[* The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

[* May almighty God bless you, the Father, (*) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

[* Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.

**RECESSIONAL| Amazing Grace!**

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
   That saved a wretch like me!
   grace my fears relieved;
   word my hope secures;
   have already come;
   and see how gracious the Lord is. Blessed are they who put their trust in Him.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
   And word my hope secures;
   have already come;
   and see how gracious the Lord is. Blessed are they who put their trust in Him.
3. The Lord has promised good to me,
   His grace my fears relieved;
   He will my shield and
ting as the sun,
   We've no less days to
4. Through man- y dan-gers, toils, and snares,
   I have al- ready come;
   'Tis grace has brought me shining as the sun,
   We've no less days to
5. When we've been there ten-thou-sand years,
   Bright now am found,
   grace appears
   por- tion be
   safe thus far,
   sing God's praise
   and see how gracious the Lord is. Blessed are they who put their trust in Him.
   saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but grace my fears relieved;
   word my hope secures;
   have already come;
   and see how gracious the Lord is. Blessed are they who put their trust in Him.
   grace my fears relieved;
   word my hope secures;
   have already come;
   and see how gracious the Lord is. Blessed are they who put their trust in Him.
   grace my fears relieved;
   word my hope secures;
   have already come;
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   word my hope secures;
   have already come;
   and see how gracious the Lord is. Blessed are they who put their trust in Him.
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   have already come;
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   word my hope secures;
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   and see how gracious the Lord is. Blessed are they who put their trust in Him.
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.
Are you warm & joyful?
Do you like to smile?
IF SO, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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!
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, March 26 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Pat Scofield, lector

Sunday, March 27 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Bob Mann, lector

Sunday, March 27 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Karen McMenamy, Natasha Bolton-Pierre, and Letitia Howland, lectors

Sunday, March 27 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Virgen Palermo and Kelly McClintock, lectors

Sunday, March 27 | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Nikko Mendoza, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 26 | 5:00 p.m.
Nathan Paul, Memorial

Sunday, March 27 | 9:30 a.m.
Rita Fermano, Anniversary
Marion Sansivero, Memorial
Ed Walsh, Memorial
Carmina Garcia, Memorial
Glenn Calmus, 15th Anniversary

Sunday, March 27 | 11:30 a.m.
Mabel Frayling, 1st Anniversary
Ernie Frayling, 26th Anniversary

Sunday, March 27 | 6:00 p.m.
Mary Jayne Luedee, Memorial

Wednesday, March 30 | 8:00 a.m.
William F. Glavin Sr., Memorial

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11

FAITH & FILM SERIES 2021-2022

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SEASON’S EIGHTH FILM IN OUR FAITH & FILM SERIES:

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 6:00 P.M.
The film will be shown in Fellowship Hall following the 5:00 Mass on Saturday (approximately 6:00 p.m.).

Pizza and popcorn will be served during the movie. Following the film there will be a short discussion for those who are interested.

Saint Cecilia
PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

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: Rita Barnes and Anna Eisen of Cookeville, Tennessee, Kaitlyn Rimol of Boston, Meg McPherson of Carver, Barbara Camila Ozores and Stefan de Solo of Boston, Marisa and Jeffrey Cohen of Boston, Una and Kevin Gillis of Lexington, and the Coakley Family of Wellesley. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at https://www.stcecilaboston.org/joining-our-parish/.

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 four Elect. The optional use of rose-colored vestments today symbolizes our joy at the nearness of Easter.

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.

Easter Flowers
You can remember your loved ones by donating toward our Easter flowers. Please fill out the form by clicking here: https://forms.gle/Konxjtn82UG442y6. 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.

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 56 gifts so far, which means we are over halfway 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.

The Second Scrutiny & Lectionary Note
At the 11:30 liturgy we celebrate the second scrutiny of our Elect. We pray that, like the man born blind, the eyes of our four Elect are opened to the salvation offered by Christ. Keep them in your prayers as they continue this period of Purification and Enlightenment in preparation for the celebration of the Easter sacraments.

You might notice that the readings for this and next Sunday 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.

FAITH FORMATION NEEDS EASTER BASKET MATERIALS

Our Faith Formation students need materials to make 48 Easter Baskets for Catholic Charities' families experiencing poverty. Make the day of a local child by purchasing and donating crayons, coloring books, chocolate bunnies, jellybeans, and a whole host of other goodies listed on our sign-up sheet: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094aa4ab29aaf49-saint

If you're in the area, you can bring these items in to the Parish Office, or if you worship with us from afar, you can order online and have them shipped directly to Saint Cecilia. The deadline is Saturday, April 2, so if you're feeling generous, please hop to it! Thank you to everyone who has already contributed items for this project!

Prayers & Occasions
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

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 aluna 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.

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.

JOIN THE YOUNG ADULTS!

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

Spring has arrived and so have 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!

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 wish lists, instructions for donating gift cards, and more ways to help, go to bit.ly/PC-SC-help

APRIL 3 ONLINE COFFEE HOUR WITH FATHER JOHN

April’s online coffee hour will be April 3 at 4 p.m. ET. This month’s online coffee hour for the Remote Fellowship Community—or St. C’s “far-flung flock”—will feature Fr. John himself as our special guest speaker! Join us for this opportunity to hear Father John address our unique concerns as a remote community attending Mass virtually and how we fit in the larger Saint Cecilia community. There also will be time to entertain questions from attendees, so, grab a cup of coffee, pull up your Barcalounger, and join us as Father John “goes off the card!” If you have registered or attended any online coffee hour in the past, you will automatically get the link for April. Otherwise, you can email Mary Ann Gallagher at gallaghercomms@gmail.com for the link.

LENT WITH DEACON DAVID

Deacon David Kiblinger, SJ is giving an online Lenten Retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola for The Jesuit Post. The theme is "The Vine and the Branches." Every Saturday 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.
PILGRIMAGE ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

*pilgrimage, verb: the journey to a distant sacred goal*

A pilgrimage is a journey both outwards to hallowed places and inwards to spiritual growth. Join parishioners Nancy Nee Hanifin and Karen McMenamy for a series of presentations on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. In 2010, Nancy walked the 500 miles across Spain to the tomb of Saint James. On her return she founded the Boston Chapter of the American Pilgrims on the Camino. Karen McMenamy joined Nancy as co-chair after her own 500 mile journey in 2015. Since then they have walked several more times, volunteered in Santiago (Karen) and mentored hundreds of aspiring pilgrims from across New England. Join us and start planning your post-COVID pilgrimage!

The Camino can be seen as an extended, moving retreat, offering tremendous opportunities for meditative walking, reflection, and introspection. Meetings will be held Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on the dates listed below and streamed virtually via Zoom. Each meeting will last about an hour.

- March 29 "A Spiritual Camino"—will cover the history and traditions of the Camino and day-to-day details of pilgrim life.
- April 5 "Planning, Packing, and Preparation"—how to train, when to travel, as well as what to bring on your pilgrimage.
- April 12 "Camino Ignaciano"—2022 marks the 500th anniversary of St. Ignatius’ pilgrimage during which he converted as a spiritual soldier for God. It leads from his birthplace in Loyola, Spain (Basque Country) to the monastery of Montserrat outside of Barcelona, where he lay down his sword. It ends in Manresa where he wrote his Spiritual Exercises.

For more details and to RSVP, please e-mail Nancy at nancyhanifin@gmail.com or Karen McMenamy at karen_mcmenamy@yahoo.com

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.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

LENTEN ACTION OPPORTUNITY ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING — WEEK 4

Clickable links and additional resources at bit.ly/SRJMlentWeek4

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 4: Preferential Option (Commitment) for the Poor**

We must put the well-being of our society’s most vulnerable members first. By bettering the support for the poor, we better our community as a whole.

**From Church Teaching:**

“In protecting the rights of the private individual...special consideration must be given to the weak and the poor.” -Pope Leo XIII *On the Condition of Workers Rerum Novarum*, No. 54

**From Scripture:**

Luke 4:16-21—When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim the release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**Explore:**

- Catholic Relief Services: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable — youtu.be/c3gxBjtOzNM
- Watch our curated playlist of videos featuring the many organizations that Saint Cecilia's Hunger and Homelessness partners with: Women’s Lunch Place, Community Servings, Pine Street Inn, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless (bit.ly/HHpartners)
- Read:“More Eviction Filings Seen in Nonwhite Neighborhoods” Boston Business Journal
- “…the deprivation and powerlessness of the poor wounds the whole community”, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Economic Justice of All, no 88

**Reflect:**

- How do I walk together with the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalized?
- In what ways might the principles of “Not in My Back Yard” stop me or my community from fully opening to the poor and vulnerable?
- When I do charitable work, how can I also fight against the systems that perpetuate inequality?
- If you’d like to discuss this fourth principle, please join us Wednesday March 30th 6-7pm EST via Zoom. Register at https://bit.ly/BookClubLent22.

**Take Action:**

- Volunteer to prepare a meal for our sisters living in poverty or without a home at Women’s Lunch Place (Church of the Covenant) in the Back Bay. (They also need help with food delivery to congregant housing, and appreciate donations of current magazines in their library.)
- Contact your state representatives in support of Right to Counsel for Evictions (H.1434) and the ACLU’s other Legislative Priorities
My generation — Gen Z — is one of the most progressive generations according to a nationwide poll conducted in 2021 by MTV and AP-NORC. Born between 1997 and 2010, we have embraced a new sort of activism in our pursuit for social justice. Over the past three years, I have seen my generation step up to the plate as we look to do our part in changing the world for the better. I have witnessed friends and classmates work to resolve issues of injustice within my own school. Personally, I’ve answered the call to action by working to organize events that bring attention to our most pressing issues like immigration and racial injustice. Through organizing protests, creating different school advocacy clubs, and speaking out in our own lives, Gen Z has been able to break the cycle of complacency. This pushback against complacency concerning justice issues is what Gen Z is most known for.

But there is another thing Gen Z is well known for: detaching from religious institutions. Pew Research conducted a study in 2020 examining teens’ relationship to religion compared to their parents: data from that report showed that while 43 percent of parents claimed religion was “very important to them,” only 24 percent of teens answered similarly. In 2021, Springtide Research Institute, where I am a student ambassador, found that 52 percent of young people believe that religious communities are “rigid” and too “restrictive.”

As our fight for social justice strengthens, our affiliation with religious institutions weakens. Why is this? One major reason: Religious institutions have continuously failed us when taking positions on issues such as the treatment of the LGBTQ+ community, climate change, and the fight for racial justice. Whether these institutions have been neutral or directly opposed to these and other justice issues, the result has been a swath of Gen Zers feeling alienated from religious institutions.

The ongoing pandemic adds to this feeling of alienation. When COVID-19 hit in 2020, our lives were upended as the United States entered an unprecedented age of uncertainty and division. Nearly 7 in 10 young people (67 percent) told Springtide in March 2021 that “the pandemic has really torn people apart.” Many religious people, specifically Christians, sowed division with COVID-19 misinformation. As a result, people from my generation began to move away from their faith or their religious community.

But despite these shifts, Gen Z found reason to hope. As a generation, we were able to use our hunger for change to imagine new ways of thinking about issues like politics, faith, and morality. During the height of the pandemic, I saw how isolation affected my peers’ belief systems. Many Gen Zers, myself included, began to re-evaluate our beliefs as we took a critical look at how religious intuitions responded to cries for justice.

For previous generations, religious institutions offered solace in times of turmoil and uncertainty. But my generation is finding solace through combining and redefining religions. While it is true that Gen Z is skeptical of religious institutions, we remain interested in myriad religious beliefs, the relationships derived from religious spaces, and the questions of morality and justice that are often associated with religion.

Springtide Research Institute discovered that nearly half of young people feel like they can fit in any religion (47 percent), while the majority say they don’t need to be connected to a specific religion (55 percent). Many Gen Zers understand their spirituality as a conglomeration of differing beliefs and morality, a combination of numerous religious and non-religious traditions; different philosophies, morals, and theological teachings end up being combined into a single tapestry. This is why more than half (53 percent) of young people say they agree with “some” but not “all” of what their religion teaches.

An important distinction needs to be made here: While our approach to religion may be drastically different from older...
generations, our belief in God, our interest in spirituality, and questions regarding morality have not been lost on us. What has been lost is our trust in institutions. Data from Morning Consult, a data intelligence company, continues to track Gen Z’s level of trust in institutions over time, finding that their trust in government, media, Wall Street, big tech, and more is falling across the board.

Our distrust of institutions is partially due to the fact that we have grown up in such troubling times. Whether it was the U.S.’s response to 9/11, the stock market crashing in 2008, the 2016 election, the governments’ failure to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, or the continuous acts of police brutality, Gen Z has reason to distrust institutions.

Adding to this distrust are politicians and religious leaders claiming to understand the will of God yet failing to meet the standard of morality. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), a Christian, criticizes China’s treatment of its Islamic minority, the Uyghurs, but has advocated that “Muslim neighborhoods” in the U.S. be patrolled by police. Pope Benedict XVI has faced harsh criticism for his part in the child abuse scandals that happened during his papacy, prompting some to accuse the former pontiff of participating in a cover-up.

Religious and political leaders perpetuating injustice has caused us to distrust religious institutions but it has not made us cynical regarding questions of morality and justice. As we have seen the United States spin out of control due to obsequious citizens who hold an almost religious belief in “law and order,” we have wrestled with questions concerning humanity’s capacity for good and the future of our species. That so many adults can identify as religious while also perpetuating QAnon conspiracies, working to overturn the 2020 election, or embracing climate denial has led Gen Z to doubt the morality of traditional religions.

Growing up in this environment has motivated us to reevaluate what faith outside of religious institutions might look like. Faith is no longer about attending church on Sunday, blindly following tradition, or finding all of our answers in scripture. Faith is about developing a morality that seeks to preserve humanity in a time when those claiming to be leaders are actively working to destroy our world.

With that in mind, faith is no longer beholden to a strict or specific articulation of “God.” For me, faith has more to do with belief in our shared humanity and a belief in our future. For my generation, treating people with kindness, putting life over material items, and embracing generosity is what our new interpretation of faith highlights. Our rallying cry is that we are all people, and we all deserve justice. The beautiful thing about religion is that, at its best, it offers the same affirmation. We see examples of this throughout many of the world’s religions but this passage from the Quran says it perfectly, “Be steadfast in the cause of Allah, bearing witness in equity; and let not a people's enmity incite you to act otherwise than with justice. Be always just, that is nearer to righteousness” (Al-Ma’idiah 5:8).

That need for justice and salvation is what drives many young people. We are yearning for salvation from the gross realities of the world and justice for those who have already succumbed to them. As Gen Z continues to come of age and enter the world as adults, we are hoping to redefine the meaning of faith.

~Zaina Qureshi is a 17-year-old activist living in Boston. While Islam provides the foundation for Zaina’s faith, she is also interested in incorporating other religions and spiritual practices into her faith and advocacy work.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LABOURE CENTER SPRING RECEPTION

Registration is now open for the 38th Annual Catholic Charities Labouère 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 Laboure Center will honor The Claddagh Fund—Charitable Foundation of the Dropkick Murphys, a longtime supporter of Laboure 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.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY
INTERFAITH SERVICE

Celebrate trans visibility through prayer, music, and reflections with various faith communities. All are welcome!

Light refreshments will be available following the service.

Thursday, March 31st, 7:00 p.m.
St. Ignatius of Loyola Church
In-Person and Livestream https://youtube.com/cadgr2Y068s
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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

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Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Rev. Mr. David A. Kibling, SJ, Deacon
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Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
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Assisting Clergy
Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect
children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the
nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe
environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dan-
gerous situations. The full text of the policy is also available in the nar-
then 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-
glutten 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 Sun-
days 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 fol-
low it with the chaser ticket.

Joining Our Community
We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual
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hoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners
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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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