Palm Sunday
of the Passion of the Lord

10 April 2022

Christ’s Entry into Jerusalem
Jean-Hippolyte Flandrin
10 April 2022

**Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion**

**Prelude** | Funeral March for Taras Schevchenko  
Mykola Vitaliyovych Lysenko  
(1842-1912)

The Crucifixion  
Samuel Barber  
(1842-1912)

Emma Robertson, soprano and Thomas Mellan, organ


**Entrance Procession** | All Glory, Laud and Honor  
ST. THEODULPH

**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 | Isaiah 50: 4-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 22: My God, Why Have You Abandoned Me  Rachel Burckardt

They have taken my clothes to divide among them, they cast lots for my robe. Be not far from e Lord, o my strength come to help me, deliver my soul from the sword.

My heart is like wax; it is melted inside me, my strength is dried up like a stone. My tongue cannot speak, and you have brought me into the dust of death.

I will praise your name to my brothers and sisters, I will praise you where they are found. I will live for you, Lord, and my children will serve you. They shall trust in you, Lord.

SECOND READING | Philippians 2: 6-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Ruah Mass  Ian Callanan


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 | Tree of Life**

Marty Haugen

1. Tree of Life and awesome mystery, In your death we are reborn, Though you die in all of his t'ry, Still you rise with every morn, Still you story We may die to rise anew, We may broken Wears the body of our Lord, Wears the sorrow, We the river, you the sea, We the

2. Seed that dies to rise in glory, May we see ourselves in you, If we learn to live your

3. We remember truth once spoken, Love passed on through act and word, Every person lost and

4. Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit, Come into though our hearts a new, We may all your joy in-

5. Christ, you lead and we shall follow, Stumbling rise with every morn, die to rise anew, body of our Lord, bear the cross with you, river, you the sea.

**Meditation | Vere Languores Nostros**

Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

Vere languores nostros ipse tulit et dolores nostros ipse portavit cujus livore sanati sumus

Dulce lignum, dulce clavos, dulcia ferens pondera quae sola fuisse digna sustinere regem coelorum et Dominum.

Truly, our failings he has taken upon himself and our sorrows he has borne By his wounds we have been saved.

O sweet wood, O sweet nails that bore this sweet burden which alone were worthy to support the King of heaven and Lord.
**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** | Chorale No. 2 in B minor  
César Franck  
Thomas, Mellan, *parish organist*
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 Massachusetts 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.
Holy Week at Saint Cecilia

Palm Sunday
Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Mass of the Lord’s Passion [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
7:00 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]
7:00 p.m. Paschal Vespers—Facebook

Saint Cecilia
18 Belvidere Street, Boston MA
617-536-4548 | www.stceciliaboston.org
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, April 9 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Eileen Maguire, Tom O’Brien, and
Emily Bogert, lectors

Sunday, April 10 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ celebrant
Bob Mann, Jordan Barnes, and
Emily St. Germain, lectors

Sunday, April 10 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Eden Kelly, Julie Desautels, Karen Vachon, Chika
Offurum, Christie Hedges, Letitia Howland lectors

Sunday, April 10 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Jen Kowieski, Moira Macdonald, Tanya Rybarczyk, Karen McMenamy, lectors

Sunday, April 10 | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Virgen Palermo, Letitia Howland, Kelly Mc-Clintock, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 9 | 5:00 p.m.
Kai Nicole, Memorial

Sunday, April 10 | 8:00 a.m.
Mary Todd, Memorial

Sunday, April 10 | 9:30 a.m.
Tristan Miller, 1st Anniversary
Patricia Corcoran, Memorial
Carol Toca Jr., 10th Anniversary
Sr. Annette McDermott, SSI, Special Intention

Sunday, April 10 | 6:00 p.m.
Dr. Jose Garcia, Memorial

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.
Liturgies last approximately half an hour.

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Acts 10:34A, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9
PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased
Fred Mason’s mother died last Monday. Pray for the repose of the soul of Josephine Mason, and for the consolation of Fred, Cathy, and their family. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Delia Alvarez, Charlie Naughton, Peter Tracy, MaryAnn Weber, Bob Haas, Bob Roppolo, Christopher Gobron, Joy Gilbert, Mary Walters, John Powers, Marc Pelletier, 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: Mahaney Sippel and Blair Miller of Boston, Jeanne and Peter Barnett of Cedar Grove, New Jersey, Michelle Yanik of Boston, Leo Steiner of Brighton, Nora Weber of Cambridge, Maureen Nardella of Beverly, and Fatima Arevalo of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/.

Easter Flowers – Last Chance!
You can remember your loved ones by donating toward our Easter flowers. Please fill out the form by clicking here: https://forms.gle/Konjxetn82UG442y6. The names of those remembered will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Palm Sunday (today) will be the last opportunity to donate toward the Easter flowers.

Wednesday Evening Mass & Last Opportunity for Confession Prior to Easter
Mass will be celebrated this Wednesday evening (a day traditionally known as "Spy Wednesday" because we hear Matthew’s account of the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot) at 6:00. Following Mass, confessions will be heard until 8:00. This is the last opportunity at Saint Cecilia for confession prior to Easter.

Stations of the Cross
Praying the Stations of the Cross is a wonderful Lenten tradition in the Church. We will pray them in-person and post them to Youtube on Good Friday at 3:00. You can also pray the Stations online by visiting www.stjames-cathedral.org/Prayer/jkblstations/stations.htm.

Mass Time Change & Coffee Hour
Please note there will be no 6:00 Mass on Easter, but we will conclude our celebration of the Paschal Triduum with Paschal Vespers at seven o’clock. There will be no coffee hospitality on Easter Sunday.

Parking Information
On Palm Sunday and during the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday there should be no cars parked directly in front of the church on Belvidere Street.

Good Friday Collection
The Good Friday collection supports the sacred places and the educational, charitable, and peace-seeking ministries of the Church in the Holy Land. You can make donations online here: https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/funds/good-friday-collection-holy-land

Easter Collection
Next week, at all our Easter Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org. To donate online visit: https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/funds/clergy-health-trust-easter-collection

EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION

On Saturday, April 16, following our celebration of the Great Vigil of Easter, we will honor our twelve newly initiated Catholics at a one-hour reception in the Parish Hall. This reception will begin around 11:15 p.m. and will include light refreshments. If you would like to help set up or break down, please email Lisa Pickering at lpickering@stceciliaboston.org. Thank you in advance!
As we commemorate the Passion of the Lord this Palm Sunday, we are in the final days of Lent which will end at sundown on Holy Thursday. We hope you will be with us for our solemn celebration of the Paschal Triduum—the three-day Easter celebration that begins on Holy Thursday with the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, continues on Good Friday with our Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord, reaches its high point at Saturday night's Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter, and closes with Paschal Vespers on Easter Sunday. Please consider joining us for this liturgy that stretches out over three days.

If you come on Holy Thursday, be sure to bring back your Rice Bowl or another gift for the poor. Please feel free to bring a check made out to Catholic Relief Services or some food from your pantry. The Great Vigil of Easter is a long and beautiful liturgy that tells the story of salvation history and God's desire for relationship with us. The Vigil is also where we welcome the newest members of our community through the waters of baptism and full communion with the Church.

OUR ELECT AND CANDIDATES

Lastly, please keep our four Elect and eight Candidates for Full Communion in your prayer this coming week. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to enliven them with the fire of God's love.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

Parents are the primary source of children’s faith formation. A wonderful tradition for families to cultivate is participation at the liturgies of the Paschal Triduum. These are the holiest days of the liturgical year and are the heart of the Paschal Mystery. The liturgies of the Triduum are ancient in their format and have the ability to shape and form us. It will speak volumes and have long-lasting effects upon the liturgical formation of children for parents to model participation in these sacred rites.

We invite all families to attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening. At this liturgy, children can participate in the communal Washing of the Feet with their families. At the end of Mass, you might spend a few minutes in prayer together before the Blessed Sacrament, which will be carried in procession to the altar of repose.

On Good Friday, consider observing some period of silence at home, especially during the hours of noon and 3:00 p.m.—the traditional time to honor and reflect on the death of the Lord. Plan to attend the liturgy of the Lord’s Passion as a family. It’s best to explain to smaller children the meaning of this liturgy before the service begins. When venerating the cross, lead your little ones by the hand and carry those too small to walk. Allow the children to reverence the cross in ways that are comfortable for them. We will also pray the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

Expect the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night to be very long (three hours!) but don’t let this deter you from bringing your children. Allow them to dress comfortably and bring their pillows and blankets. If they fall asleep during the Vigil, that’s okay! You might also consider coming for just the beginning of the Easter Vigil with the outdoor lighting of the new fire, the blessing of the paschal candle, and the singing of the Easter Proclamation. Everyone should feel comfortable coming for just that portion of the Vigil and returning on Easter morning for Mass. This is a good way to introduce children to this wonderful liturgy and still be home by 8:30 p.m.

On Easter Sunday morning, start the day with hot cross buns, attend Mass, and celebrate the Risen Christ!
PILGRIMAGE ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

*pil-grim-age, verb: the journey to a distant sacred goal*

Join parishioners Nancy Nee Hanifin and Karen McMenamy for a series of presentations on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. 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.

- **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 (Bascue 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 nancyeehanifin@gmail.com or Karen McMenamy at karen_mcmenamy@yahoo.com

LGBTQ+ CATHOLICS UNITE MONTHLY MEETING

Sunday, April 24 | 1:30 p.m. | Community Room and Zoom

This month, Rabbi Camille Shira Angel will engage our Catholic community in a conversation around LGBTQ+ Pride in Jewish prayers. We will read and discuss Jewish prayers written by LGBTQ+ people that celebrate and lift up our experiences with pride. Rabbi Camille teaches at the University of San Francisco—a Jesuit university—in the Swig Program of Jewish Studies and Social Justice. Along with her teaching, she is the rabbi-in-residence for Jewish life and multi-faith LGBTQIA+ spiritual life on campus. LGBTQ+ Catholics Unite is a forum in which LGBTQ+ Catholics and their allies can share faith experiences, thoughts, beliefs, and feelings, in a safe and affirming setting, where people are heard, supported, and spiritually nourished. 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 SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

**Catholic Social Teaching, and Its Implications for Global Society**
Presenter: Sr. Mary Johnson, SNDdeN
Monday, April 25 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom Pres.

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: https://www.saintsusanna.org/Attachments/aff_yearly_program_standard.pdf

SACRED THREADS — NEWTON

Presenter: Br. Mickey McGrath, OSFS
Wednesday, April 27 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Registration Fee: $20.00

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: https://sacredthreadscenter.org/events/
'During Lent, our Social and Racial Justice Ministry Book Club has been focusing on articles and action. We've been leveraging the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching developed by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to frame our focus. Our final Lenten session will take place this Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 EDT via Zoom. Anyone who wishes to join us is welcome. To obtain the Zoom link, please register at at https://bit.ly/BookClubLent22.

**Week 5: Solidarity**

We believe that we are one human family, regardless of differences, and we must protect others as if they are our siblings. As we work toward solidarity with others, we pursue justice and peace in a world plagued by conflict.

**From Scripture:**
"Here there is not Greek or Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave free; but Christ is all and in all. Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection." -Colossians 1:10-14

**Explore:**
- Watch Video: Fr James Martin SJ - “I was a stranger and you did not welcome me.”
- Read “Solidarity: Catholic Social Teaching 101” by Kasey Butcher

**Reflect:**
- Who has been ‘other’ to you? What justice & peace could you create by treating him/her/them as family?
- Did you know that asylum seekers are barred from working for at least a year, preventing them from supporting themselves during their asylum claim?
- Who in your community demonstrates solidarity in their actions?
- If you’d like to discuss this sixth principle, please join us this Wednesday, April 13, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. EDT via Zoom. Please register at Register at bit.ly/BookClubLent22.

**Take Action:**
**Locally:**
- St. C’s and the Paulist Center are supporting two Afghan refugee families. Learn how to donate or volunteer at bit.ly/POWIRvoluteer
- Support the Safe Communities Act, which ensures that everyone can seek medical care, emergency assistance, and protection without fear of deportation.
- Make a donation to "The Unafraid Scholarship" — a scholarship founded to provide financial support for Boston Public School graduates who are not eligible to receive financial aid from the federal government due to their immigration status. https://mira-coalition.org/get-involved/unafraid/

**Nationally:**
- Support the Afghan Adjustment Act

Image Credit: *Solidarity*, Br. Mickey McGrath, OSFS
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WITH LEGAL/ PARALEGAL EXPERIENCE

St. Cecilia, a 123-unit housing development serving people ages 62 and over and Robert McBride House, a residence with 17 apartments for disabled individuals and their families, are not-for-profit housing in the Fenway neighborhood, developed by the Planning Office for Urban Affairs of the Archdiocese of Boston and sponsored by Saint Cecilia Parish. These properties are funded through a capital grant from HUD with ongoing rental assistance for residents and are guided by strategic oversight and support from a board of directors on which several parishioners serve alongside individuals from the local community.

The board of directors of St. Cecilia House and Robert McBride House is looking for a volunteer with legal or paralegal experience to assist with a small corporate-related project. This project will likely take no more than eight to ten hours and will involve some in-person work with current board members. If you think this might be a good fit and would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact Molly Diggins (mdiggins@monumentgroup.com) or Austin McGovern (austinmcgovern2@gmail.com).

SUPPORT WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE

One of the major fundraisers for our friends at the Newbury Street shelter is their Mother’s Day card sale. The Women’s Lunch Place is a day shelter community for women experiencing poverty and homelessness. Six days a week, trained staff and volunteers work as a team to provide hundreds of women healing, hope and dignity. Some guests use the shelter’s services on a daily basis, while there are others who we see less frequently. For each $25 donation to WLP, you will receive a card designed by one of the shelter’s guests as a thank you. Proceeds from the Mother’s Day card campaign support a wide array of services to the most vulnerable women in our community, including healthy meals and individualized services that empower women to make positive changes in their lives. In addition to our cards, you can sponsor a breakfast for $300 or a day of fresh fruit for $150 in honor or memory of a meaningful person in your life. For more information, please contact Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com or you can order a card directly by clicking on www.MothersDay-Cards.org

UPCOMING CONCERT

On April 22. the Botetourt Chamber Singers from William & Mary will be giving a concert at 8:00 p.m. in Saint Cecilia Church. The ensemble sings a wide variety of choral literature from the Renaissance through contemporary works, including a full concert of jazz and Broadway standards at their annual Gala Concert Fundraiser in the Kimball Theater each February. They have released three CDs including “Something Olde, Something New”, “Sing We Joyous, All Together” and “All My Heart This Night Rejoices." This concert is free and open to the public.

HOME REMEDY

A VIRTUAL EVENT TO BENEFIT PINE STREET INN

Wednesday, April 27 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Pine Street Inn’s Home Remedy fundraising breakfast brings together Greater Boston’s corporate and philanthropic leaders. Thanks to dedicated partners like you, funds raised through this breakfast will support approximately 1,500 men and women daily, who turn to Pine Street for help in rebuilding their lives. The featured speaker for the event is Dr. Matthew Desmond. MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond’s Pulitzer Prize winning bestseller Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, draws on years of fieldwork and data to transform our understanding of inequity and economic exploitation in America. To learn more or attend visit: https://givebutter.com/HomeRemedy2022

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, at The Exchange, located at 212 Northern Ave, Boston. Limited complimentary parking will be available courtesy of MassPort. Early bird tickets for $100 are available through April 15, and can be purchased at https://www.ccab.org/Laboure-Spring-Reception.
Well, here we go. It’s Palm Sunday. And so Holy Week begins.

Palm Sunday used to be just Palm Sunday in Lutheran churches. But now it’s Palm slash Passion Sunday. We felt we had to do that because people weren’t showing up for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. It was kind of sneaky. They were going from the triumphant “Hosanna” of Palm Sunday to the glorious “He is Risen” of Easter Sunday without going through the horrifying “Crucify him!” of Good Friday.

So Lutheran churches started making today into Palm—slash—Passion Sunday so that we were sure people would hear the scriptures readings of the Passion of our Lord otherwise known as the betrayal, denial, insulting, spitting, beating, suffering death of Jesus of Nazareth.

And hey, I understand the impulse. Who doesn’t want to go from glory to glory and just skip the messy embarrassing condemning stuff in the middle.

It seems reasonable to me that people choose to go from the Big Parade to the Empty Tomb and skip the stuff that makes them uncomfortable: stuff like how Jesus ate his last meal with the people he loved most, all of whom (perhaps like me) would betray abandon or deny him, that these friends (perhaps like me) couldn’t even stay awake while he prayed in the garden, that the crowd (perhaps like me) would strike and taunt him for not living up to their expectations, that the people would (perhaps like me) shout crucify him! And twist him a crown of thorns, that passersby would (perhaps like me) shout “for God’s sake, save yourself”. Because we would save ourselves. And the fact that Jesus got himself killed in a totally preventable way never once showing enough self-respect to fight back or get himself off that damned cross…well maybe he had it coming.

So if we can just go from the Palms of the parade to the lilies of Easter we can avoid feeling bad about ourselves, and avoid feeling more than a little embarrassed for Jesus.

That’s the problem with the cross it feels either senseless or condemning and sometimes both.

I know for myself that at the fundamentalist church I was raised in I was taught that the cross was about the fact that, because I was bad God had to send his little boy…and he only had one, and God had to send him to suffer and die a horrible death because – well, someone had to pay for the fact that I’m bad. And therefore being a Christian meant feeling bad enough about all of this that you would then try much, much harder to be good.

So almost every Sunday growing up we’d hear readings about the crucifixion and my 12 year old self would be tortured by how the sins I’d committed that week were why God was angry enough to kill his own son. Sins which generally involved things like, you know: using swear words and eating the banana my sister was saving for her breakfast.

I’m not sure which is worse about what I was taught: the fact that we had somehow made God out to be a divine child abuser or that we had made God out to be an angry loan shark demanding his pound of flesh.

Either way, I don’t think that’s really who God really is. But I do think that whole mess is what we get when we think the cross is about us and not about God.

No wonder people want to go from glory to glory and skip the cross.
But when we think the cross is about us, the only view we can have of God is of God standing in heaven with folded arms looking down at the cross in judgment. Judging us, and punishing Jesus.

But the thing is, God isn’t standing above the cross. God is hanging from the cross.

The problem starts when we think we can know who God is by just looking at who we are and then projecting that up really big. We’re vengeful so God is vengeful. We are power-hungry so God is power hungry. We want to smite our enemies so God wants to smite our enemies. That’s why it’s hard to imagine that God would willingly choose to be poured out for us on the cross because, well, we’d never do a thing like that.

Yet in the end, it’s like that quote from Einstein “the same thinking that created a problem cannot solve the problem.” We cannot be saved by a God who is just like us but bigger. A bigger badder version of the worst parts of us or a bigger better version of the best parts of us can’t save us.

But the good news is that there is a reliable way to legitimately know about the nature of God. And it’s never to look at ourselves. And it’s always to look at Jesus. Jesus is God’s self-revelation. Jesus is like God saying This is how I want to be known. It’s like God is telling us: will you stop your projections already and just listen to Jesus, watch Jesus, follow Jesus so that you can really know who I am. The way to know the Father is through the son, anything else ends us being about us and not about God. And what’s wild is that we most notably can see who God is in how God chose to reveal God’s self in a humble cradle and on a human cross.

Because on the cross we don’t see a legal transaction where Jesus pays our debt. We see God. The Word made flesh hangs from the cross as though God is saying “I would rather die than be in your sin accounting business anymore”.

From his rough hewn throne of a cross Christ the King looks at the world and no one escapes his judgment…those who betray him, those who execute him, those who love him, and those who ignore him. He judges us all. From the cross the pronouncement is made and the judgment is ….forgiveness. Forgive them Father for they know not what they are doing is an eternally valid statement. From his cross Christ loves the betrayer, the violent, the God killer in all of us and despite our protests he will not even lift a finger to condemn those who put him up there. Because it is finally only a God unlike us- a God who enters our human existence and suffers our insults with only love and forgiveness who can save us from ourselves. It is only a self-emptying God walking among us as Christ Jesus, who, in the words of St Paul, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, humbled himself to the point of death—even death on a cross – only this one can save us.

And, I would contend that it is only through the cross that we know that God isn’t standing smugly at a distance but that God’s abundant grace is hiding in, with, and under all this broken stuff in the world around us.

Because while the suffering and death of Jesus Christ on the cross is not about you. It is certainly FOR you.

In fact, God is so for you that there is no place God will not go to be with you. Nothing separates you from the love of God in Jesus….not insults, not betrayal, not suffering, and as we will see at Easter – not even death itself.

So don’t go from glory to glory and skip the cross, because as Christ’s broken and blessed body you move into this week with only one certainty: that as you enter it, you do so in the company of a self-emptying God who pursues you and saves you with relentless, terrifying love and who ultimately will enter the grave and the very stench of death in order to say even here, even here I will not be without you. Hosanna in the highest indeed. Welcome to Holy Week. Amen.

~Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran Pastor and founder of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado—an urban liturgical community with a progressive yet deeply rooted theological imagination. She gave this sermon on Palm Sunday in 2012 at Highland’s Church in Denver.

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Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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