

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas

by Caravaggio (1601-1602)

Second Sunday of Easter
12 April 2026

Saint Cecilia

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12 APRIL 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDES | Three settings of *Christ lag in Todesbanden*
Richard Webster, guest organist

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Georg Philip Telemann
(1681-1767)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | This is the Feast of Victory

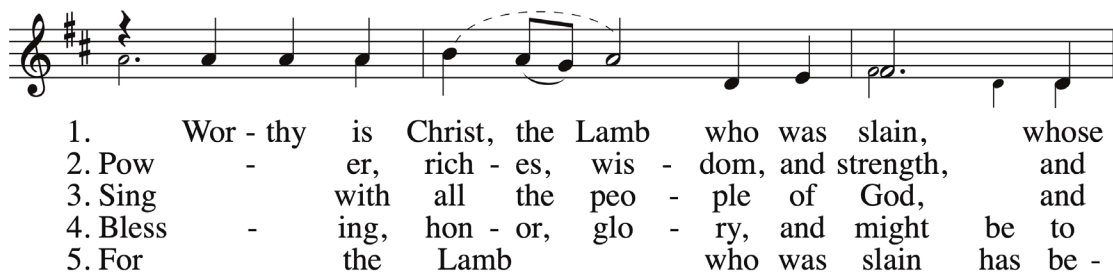
FESTIVAL CANTICLE



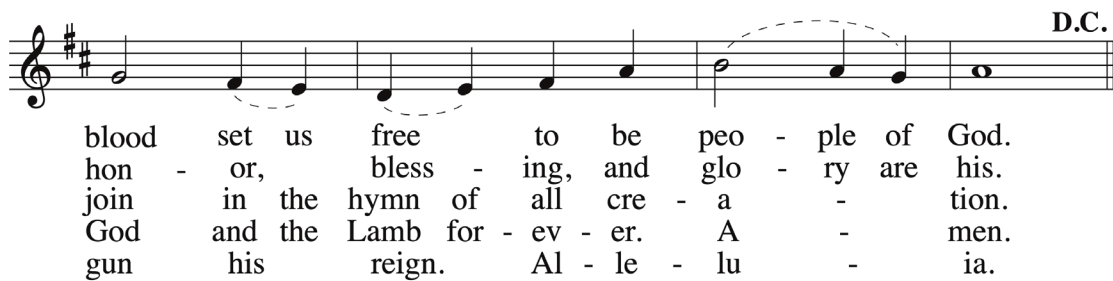
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. lu - ia.



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

D.C.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: Amen.

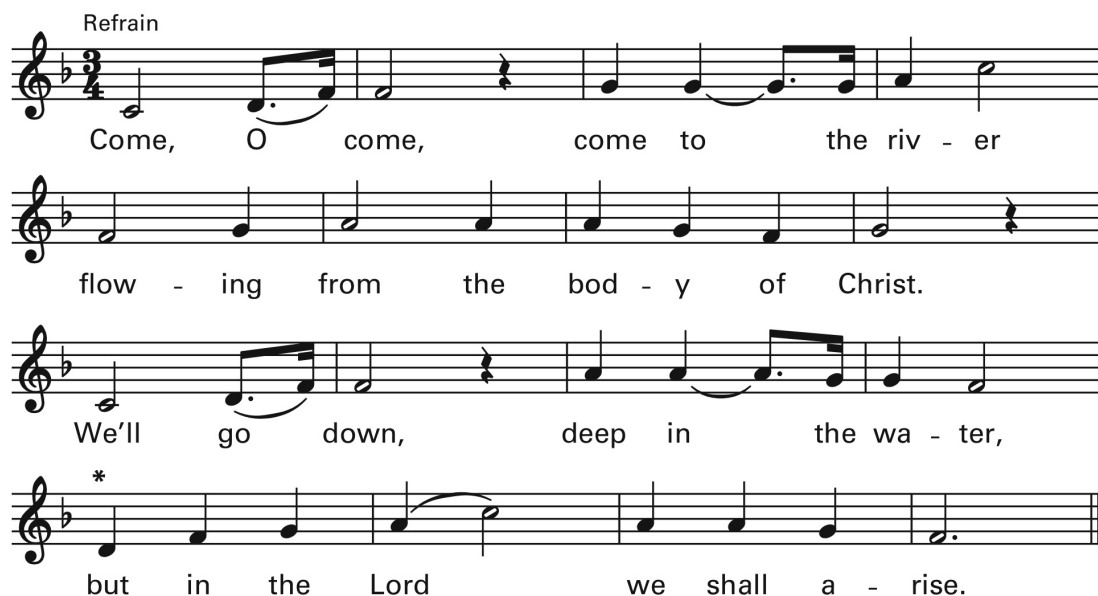
✘ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

SPRINKLING RITE | Come to the River

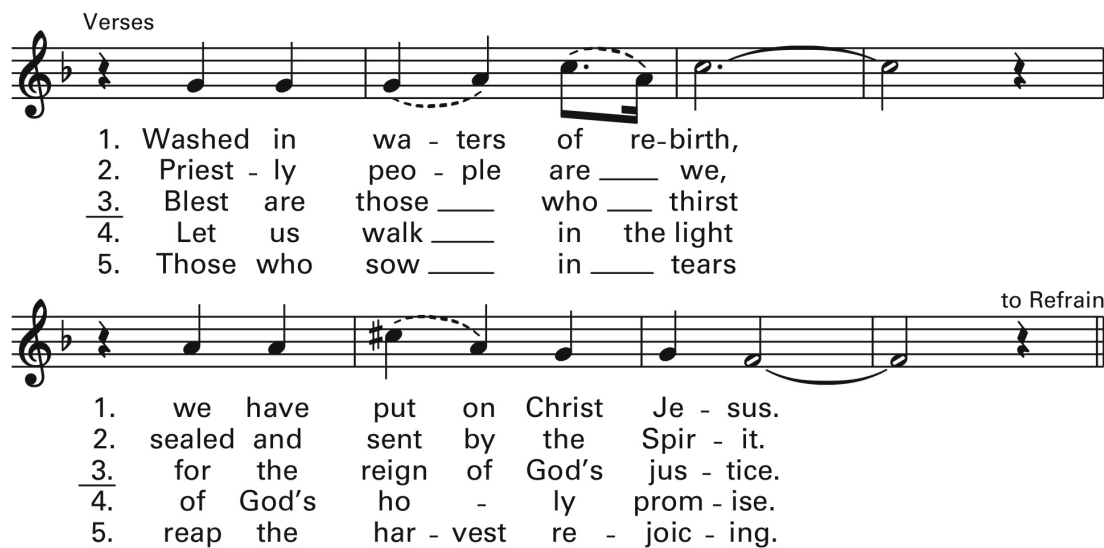
Bob Hurd

Refrain



Come, O come, come to the riv - er
flow - ing from the bod - y of Christ.
We'll go down, deep in the wa - ter,
*
but in the Lord we shall a - rise.

Verses



1. Washed in wa - ters of re-birth,
2. Priest - ly peo - ple are ___ we,
3. Blest are those ___ who ___ thirst
4. Let us walk ___ in the light
5. Those who sow ___ in ___ tears

to Refrain

1. we have put on Christ Je - sus.
2. sealed and sent by the Spir - it.
3. for the reign of God's jus - tice.
4. of God's ho - ly prom - ise.
5. reap the har - vest re - joic - ing.

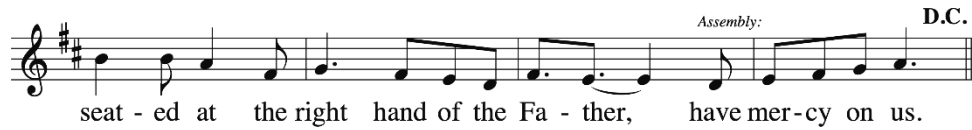
Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est,
 glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and on earth peace to peo - ple,
 peo - ple of good will. and on earth
 peace to peo - ple, peo - ple of good will.

Verse 1

1. We praise you,
 we bless you,
 we adore you,
 we glorify you,
 we give you thanks for your great glory,
 Lord God, heavenly King,
 O God, almighty Father.

Verse 2

2. Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of
 God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the
 sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you
 take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are



Verse 3

3. For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father.
 Amen.

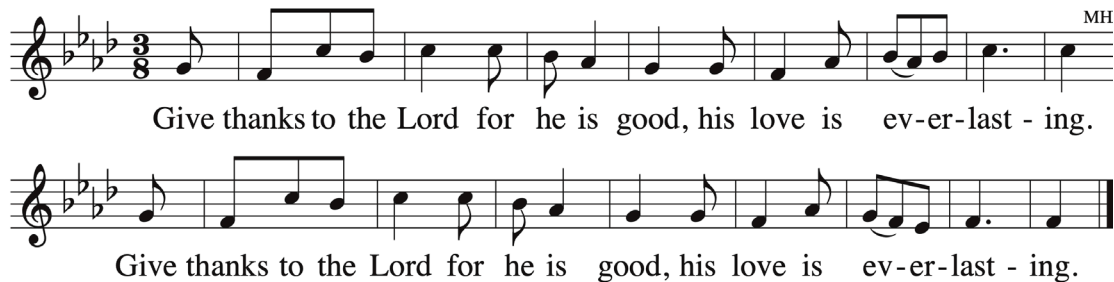
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 2: 42-47

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 118: Give Thanks to the Lord

Marty Haugen



Let the house of Israel say,
 "His mercy endures forever."
 Let the house of Aaron say,
 "His mercy endures forever."
 Let those who fear the LORD say,
 "His mercy endures forever." R̄.

They pushed me, pushed me hard to
 knock me down,
 but the LORD was my helper.
 The LORD is my strength and my song;

he was my savior.
 There are shouts of joy and salvation
 in the tents of the upright. R̄.

The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the cornerstone.
 By the LORD has this been done,
 a marvel in our eyes.
 This is the day the LORD has made;
 let us rejoice in it and be glad. R̄.

SECOND READING | 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Al - le - lu - ia,
Lent: Glo-ry to you, al - le - lu - ia,
Word of God, al - le - lu - ia.
Lord Je - sus Christ.

Al - le - lu - ia,
Glo-ry to you, al - le - lu - ia,
Word of God, al - le - lu - ia.
Lord Je - sus Christ.

GOSPEL | John 20: 19-31

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

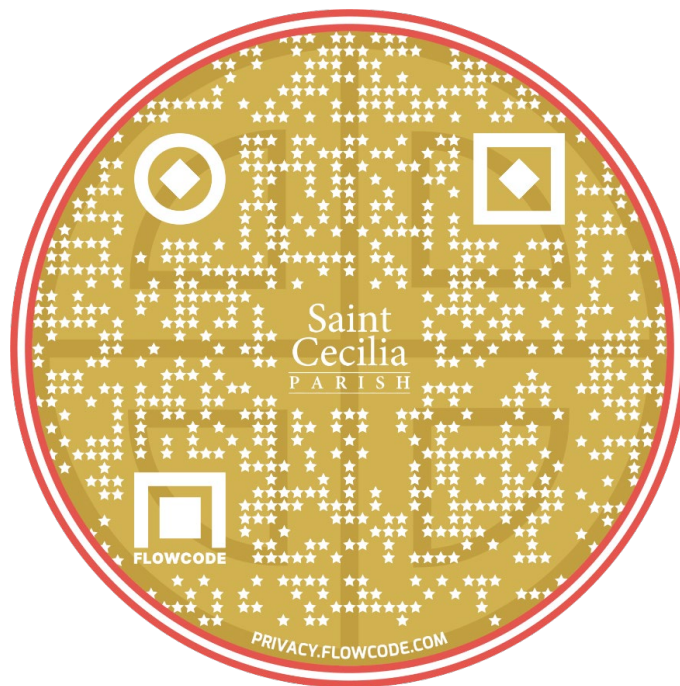
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 | We Walk by Faith

Marty Haugen



1., 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight; No
2. We may not touch his hands and side, Nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4. That, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; But in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound To call on you when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you



none e'er spoke; But we be - lieve him near.
we re - jice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near, And seek where you are found:
as you are, With full and end - less sight.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

SANCTUS | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

Two staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the lyrics: "We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -". The second staff contains the lyrics: "fess your Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes with various rests and phrasing slurs.

AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

Two staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. Both staves contain the lyrics: "A - men, a - men, a - men." The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes with rests.

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.

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: And with your spirit.

Cantor: Have mer - cy on us. *All:* Have mer - cy on us. *Repeat ad lib.*

Cantor: Grant us peace. *All:* Grant us peace.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an “Act of Spiritual Communion.” When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of grace. We can be assured that when we express our desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, God will be with us spiritually in a special way. Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion that we encourage you to pray as you participate in our live-streamed liturgies:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Loving Jesus,
 I believe that you
 are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
 I love you above all things,
 and I desire to receive you into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace you as if you were already there
 and unite myself wholly to you.
 Never permit me to be separated from you.



1. All who hun-ger, gath - er glad - ly; Ho - ly man - na
 2. All who hun-ger, nev - er stran-gers; Seek-er, be a
 3. All who hun-ger, sing to-geth - er; Je - sus Christ is



is our bread. Come from wil - der - ness and wan-d'ring.
 wel - come guest. Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing.
 liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing.



Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for
 Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were
 Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who



days of full - ness, All a - round us is our food.
 lost and scat - tered In com - mun-ion's love have stood.
 from this ta - ble Live their days in grat - i - tude.

Refrain



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

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.

Refrain

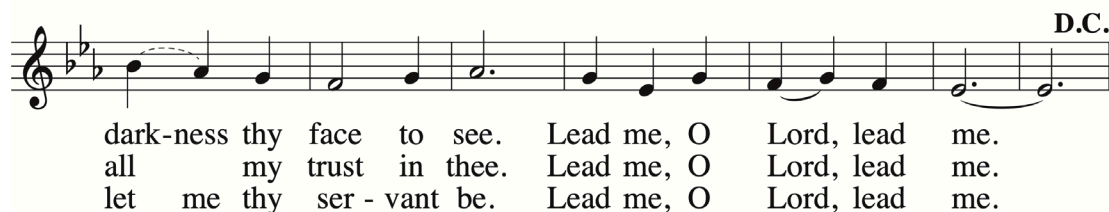


Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r To
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness. Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am
help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
blind with - out thy Light to see. Lord, just al - ways



dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

POSTLUDE | Toccata on *O Filii et Filiae*
Richard Webster, *guest organist*

Lynwood Farnam
(1885-1930)

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.

HAPPY EASTER!

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.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, April 11 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Maggie Giles, lector

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

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Jim Dougherty, lector

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

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Nikko Mendoza, Elli St George, Valerie Sheehy, lectors

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

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Vivica D'Souza, Jeremy Shields, lectors

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

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Kevin Dumas, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

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

Pauline McCarthy, *12th Anniversary*
John and Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

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

Tony Silvaggio, *Memorial*
Paul DeSabato, *Memorial*
Edmund and Katherine Hayes, *Memorial*

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

Thomas DeYoung, *Memorial*



Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:14, 22-33
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Suzanne** and **Yves Rathle**, **Karla Anderson**, **Lucas Doherty**, **Victoria Hood**, **David Zamojski**, **Angelique Uhlmann**, **Gaurrika Bhandarri**, **Will Cannata**, **Jenna Gilligan**, **Claire Drone-Silvers**, **Bernadette Holland**, **Sydney Gutierrez** and **Mikhail Svetov**, **Anmarie Ciccolo**, and **Robert Masi**. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Our Neophytes and Fully Initiated

At the Easter Vigil, we celebrated the initiation of twelve new Christians in the Easter waters. **Lena Brown**, **Cyrene Donnellan**, **Nova Donnellan**, **Ronan Foley**, **Olivia Olsen**, **David Pepin**, **Jared Richards**, **Josie Sawhney**, **Caroline Sha**, **Nicholas Ward**, **Natalie Vlyaran**, and **Quinn Zhang** professed their faith in Christ and were baptized, confirmed, and welcomed to the Eucharistic table for the first time. They are now known as “neophytes,” from the Greek word for “newly planted.” During these fifty days of Easter, it is our task to nurture their faith and to help them feel welcome and supported. Please keep them in your prayer as they begin the period known as “mystagogia.” Mystagogia is an ancient Greek word meaning, “education in the mysteries.” Christian believers in the first century used the word mystagogia to describe the period of continuing spiritual instruction following the celebration of the initiation rites.

We are also called to support those who were received into the full communion of the Catholic Church: **Cutter Arey**, **Kristin Bafaro**, **Adrienne Pettiett Erlinger**, **Thomas Gallagher**, **Christina Hong**, **Morgan Huffman**, **Lauren Olson-Sidford**, **Erica Schofield**, and **Georgette-Vanell Wandji** were confirmed and welcomed to the table of the Lord. Already baptized in the Catholic Church, **Kate Ravenscroft**, **Molly Donahue**, **Renato Henrique de Gaspi**, and **Sullivan Shackelford** were confirmed and received Eucharist for the first time. **Marina Zucker Marques** and **Walker Stressenger** received the sacrament of confirmation at this year's Easter Vigil.

Take Home a Little White Book for Easter

In the narthex we have little white books for the fifty days of Eastertide. Take one home and spend just six minutes a day in reflection. This is a great way to celebrate this time of great rejoicing!

Our Paschal Candle

Our beautiful Paschal candle was made in New Hampshire by Martin Marklin, the godson of Monsignor Martin Hellreigel, a leading American liturgical reformer of the mid-twentieth century and one of the only movers of the liturgical reform who was actually a pastor! Monsignor Hellreigel was influential in promoting the restoration of the Easter Vigil and the participation of the assembly in the chants of the Mass. We are grateful that he inspired his namesake to such a noble profession. The Paschal candle burns next to the ambo throughout the fifty days of Easter, and is thereafter kindled for baptisms and funeral Masses. Take a moment before or after Mass to admire the beauty of the candle up close—it is truly a work of art.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

With the goal of highlighting the importance of protecting minors from abuse, every April, child and youth serving organizations, including Catholic dioceses, parishes, and schools across the United States, participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Cardinal Seán has designated this week-end as a time to pray for continued healing of those who have been abused, to pray for all those imported by abuse, to offer prayers of thanks for the work of all those who focus on child safety, and to recommit to ongoing practices to keep all children free from abuse. We pray that God may grant those affected by abuse in any way the courage to tell their story and seek healing. We pray also that bishops and other church leaders will promote justice and healing for victims and that those who commit these crimes will be held accountable.

Catholic Appeal 2026

Please enter into solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need and spread hope by making a gift today. Thank you to those who have already responded generously to Father John's invitation to contribute. Our parish has now reached 78% of our financial goal and 49% of our donor goal. Together, we are on our way to greater success. To donate, head to bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you for your support!



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 | PARISH HALL
9:30AM - COFFEE AND CONNECTION
10AM - GROUP DISCUSSION

The Saint Cecilia Women's Ministry will meet for its first session on Saturday, April 11. April's topic is Mary Magdalene: the Apostle to the Apostles. Women of all ages and stages are welcome to join us for faith, fellowship, and encouragement. Through prayer, conversation, and reflection, we seek to support and uplift one another as sisters in Christ.

FAR FLUNG FLOCK COFFEE HOUR: "WALKING FOR PEACE & HOPE"

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 | 4PM ET VIA ZOOM



In 1994, a Boston mother turned her unimaginable grief into a legacy of healing after the murder of her son in the crossfire of a shootout. That legacy became the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, an organization dedicated to breaking cycles of violence and supporting those affected by trauma.

We invite you to join us for an

informative conversation with Jeanne Bruno, Kathleen Doyle, and Gregory Drake—the coordinators of our parish Mother's Day Walk for Peace team. They will share personal stories of what inspires them to walk each year, and you can learn how to participate in the May 10 walk, either here in Boston or in your own area.

First time joining us? We'd love to have you! Please email the Far Flung Flock by 2:00 p.m. (EDT) on Sunday, April 12 to receive the Zoom link.

SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 | AFTER THE 9:30 MASS
CLASSROOM 3

Each session reflects and discusses Father John's three questions while deepening our connection to Saint Cecilia and with fellow parishioners.

Small Groups Schedule:

- **In person:** Sunday, April 12 & 26 | After the 9:30 Mass | Classroom 3
- **Online:** Wednesday, April 15 & 29 | 8pm via Zoom

To register, please contact the Parish Pastoral Council. Walk-ins always welcome!

VIRTUS TRAINING: PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | 2:30PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

VIRTUS is the umbrella term for a two-part training designed to keep children safe in the parish setting. The Archdiocese requires this two-part training of all volunteers and staff who have the potential for direct contact with children or the vulnerable due to their involvement in the parish. The first part, Protecting God's Children (or PGC), is a training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms that a child is being abused and how to talk with children about these issues. The second part is mandated reporter training. All parish staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to attend this one-time training. If you intend to volunteer in the future and haven't attended this training before, please join us. Please note that both parts will be covered in Sunday's session and the training will be approximately 3 hours, including videos and group discussion.

Help us by officially registering for this course at www.virtusonline.org/. Doing so will create a permanent record of your participation and completion of the training. If you can't register online, please join us anyway and come a few minutes early so you can be registered in the system. Thank you so much, and we look forward to seeing you!

CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 | 7PM - 9PM
NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY - BROWN HALL

A wonderful group of professional classical musicians will be performing by Beethoven, Schumann, and Messiaen. Admission is free with a suggested donation (\$40/adult, \$15/student); no tickets or RSVPs are necessary. All proceeds will go to support Women's Lunch Place. For more information, head to www.musicforfood.net/boston.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP: EASTER EDITION

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 | 7PM | SANCTUARY

Come and worship the risen Lord with song and adoration! All parishioners, regardless of age, are invited to join in praise and worship (led by the Young Adult Ministry) in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. This month we will be celebrating the Resurrection with music, and praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Please enter from the side door on Saint Cecilia Street and ring the bell to be let in.

Can't join us in person? We'll be live-streaming our worship service over Zoom. Register for the link using the following link: www.tinyurl.com/stc-night-of-worship.

SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14 | 7PM | BOSTON COLLEGE
WALSH HALL FUNCTION ROOM, 150 ST. THOMAS MORE
RD., BOSTON, MA 02135**

Join America Media for a faith-filled discussion with President & Editor in Chief, Fr. Sam Sawyer, SJ, and Associate Editor, Molly Cahill, on how Jesuit education shaped their vocations and continues to guide their work in America's media ministry. Light refreshments will be served at 6:30pm and programming will begin at 7pm.

Parking is available in the Commonwealth Avenue Garage on 40 St. Thomas More Rd. Walsh Hall is also accessible by the MBTA Green Line (B) Boston College stop. If you have any questions, please contact Jackson Goodman at jgoodman@americamedia.org.

Kindly RSVP using the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebR8FsnGM5JMy9EpcTWmamVxnf_m-D3ljjs027cQT8xSj0Vg/viewform.



PEOPLE OF HOPE: FAITH-FILLED STORIES OF NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17 | 10AM - 3PM
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON PASTORAL CENTER
66 BROOKS DRIVE, BRAINTREE**

On Friday, April 17, Catholic Charities USA will be visiting the Boston Area with "People of Hope: Faith-Filled Stories of Neighbors Helping Neighbors," a national storytelling initiative built around a one-of-a-kind traveling museum. We invite you and your students to come celebrate the power of Catholic service and its transformative impact on our neighbors.

The museum is open from 10am to 3pm and is free to visit. Private group/student tours are available. If you have any questions, please call reception to receive Alicia Ridenour's contact information.

ONE SUN, ONE EARTH, ONE PEOPLE: A SACRED CELEBRATION OF CREATION

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19 | 1:30PM | EMBRACE MEMORIAL ON
BOSTON COMMON**

Boston Interfaith Climate Allies invites you to gather on Sunday April 19th 1:30pm at the Embrace Memorial on Boston Common and process to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on Tremont Street for a celebration of solidarity with the earth and its people. The guest speaker will be Bill McKibben, author, educator, and environmentalist, who is the founder of 350.org and Third Act. His 1989 book *The End of Nature* is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change. More information at bica.earth.

COMPANY OF GRACE: KINDLE THE FIRE

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 | 7PM ET (6PM CT) VIA ZOOM

Ignatian Spirituality Project's annual "Company of Grace: Kindle the Fire" event is Thursday, April 23 @ 8pm. This virtual event features a fireside conversation with Christine Haley (Illinois' Chief Homelessness Officer) and Fr. Tim McCabe, SJ (Pope Francis Center, Detroit) about why tending to the spirit is critical in recovery from homelessness and addiction. ISP is a Jesuit ministry bringing the gift of Ignatian spirituality into recovery settings in Boston and 20+ cities. Attendance is free... come learn about us! Register at ispretreats.org/cog.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY: FINDING HOPE IN DARK TIMES

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH | 1PM | CLASSROOM 1

If you are navigating anxiety, grief, depression, or simply feeling overwhelmed, you are not alone. Our Catholic Mental Health Group offers a compassionate and faith-filled space to reflect, share, and find hope together.

Christine M. Williams, PhD, will lead us this session as we explore how the principles of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) can resonate with the wisdom of our Catholic faith—helping us acknowledge our struggles with honesty while remaining rooted in hope, purpose, and God's loving presence. Together, we will reflect on how acceptance, mindful awareness, and living according to our deepest values can open a path toward healing and renewed strength.

Please feel free to call reception to receive Michael Murphy, EdD, Kathy Sanders, MD, or Mary Wessel's emails for more information.

ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 9AM TO 3PM

Are you an adult Catholic who has been baptized and received first Communion, but was never confirmed? If so, perhaps this is the right time. The retreat will focus on the sacraments, moral theology, and Catholic Social Teaching. Participants may be confirmed at Saint Cecilia on Sunday, May 17th at 3:00 PM. If you would like more information or would like to register for this retreat, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

BHCHP'S MEDICINE THAT MATTERS GALA

**TUESDAY, APRIL 28 | 5:30-9PM
OMNI BOSTON SEAPORT HOTEL**

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) extends a warm invitation to the Saint Cecilia community to attend the Medicine that Matters Gala on April 28, 2026 at the Omni Boston Seaport Hotel. The gala will be honoring the impact of two longtime partners in their work: Saint Cecilia parishioner Sharon McNally, CEO of Camp Harbor View and the Biogen Foundation. Sharon will be receiving the Dr. Jim O'Connell Award for her 20 year commitment to ensuring the highest quality health care for BHCHP patients, and the Biogen Foundation will be presented with the Tim Russert Award for their the extraordinary efforts to improve access to critical resources and innovative services for the people BHCHP serves.

Individual tickets are \$500 – details on tickets and sponsorships can be found at www.bhchp.org/events/2026-gala/. Support for the work of Dr. Jim O'Connell and the BHCHP staff will help provide the highest quality health care to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Greater Boston. For questions on sponsorship opportunities, please contact: Linda O'Connor at 617-733-5850.



MY ENTIRE FAITH RESTS ON EASTER

BY FR. JAMES MARTIN, SJ



I'm not sure about you, but my entire faith rests on Easter. That's a pretty big statement, I know, so let me unpack it. As I see it, Easter changes everything. Just think about the state of the disciples immediately after the Crucifixion. Think about what they were feeling. Their leader, their hero, their friend had been executed in most public,

gruesome and shameful way imaginable. Most of them, except for a handful of faithful women, had abandoned Jesus after his arrest and trial. By the evening of Good Friday, they were cowering behind closed doors, worried that they too would be rounded up by the Roman soldiers, maybe the same ones who had killed Jesus.

But then, on Easter Sunday, everything changes. He is risen! The most dramatic turnabout in history. And to whom does he show himself first? Another surprise! Not to Peter, the putative leader of the apostles, but to Mary Magdalene. And remember, in the time between when Mary Magdalene encounters the Risen Christ and when she announces the news of his resurrection to the others, she is the church on earth. Because only she understands the Paschal Mystery. And what is her message to the disciples? He is risen, yes. But also: Love is stronger than hate. Hope is stronger than despair. Life is stronger than death. And nothing, nothing, is impossible with God.

Happy Easter.



Easter Flowers



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GET OUT OF THE HOUSE!

BY MICHAEL K. MARSH

It's been one week since Easter, one week since the chaos and excitement, one week since the empty tomb, one week since our first "Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia." It's one week after the resurrection and the disciples are in the same place they were Easter night. They are in the same room behind the same locked doors. (John 20:19-31)

So if the resurrection is such a big deal, such a life changing event, why are they still stuck in the same place? What difference has the empty tomb made? How has it changed them? Has it let them see themselves and their world differently? Has it done anything for them? It doesn't look as if it's made much difference. They are in the same house behind the same locked doors as a week ago. What's changed?

I wonder, one week after Easter, what has Christ's resurrection done for us? Is your life different? Do you see and engage the world in new ways? What difference has the empty tomb made in your life over the last week? When I look at my life it looks a whole like it did last Sunday, the week before, and the week before that. And when I look at the world it looks pretty much the same as before.

I used to hear today's gospel (John 20:19-31) and be critical of the disciples. They are stuck in the same place. They should have done better than that. After all death has been defeated. "Christ is risen. Alleluia." Why aren't their lives different?

I was really asking about my own life. Why isn't my life different after Easter? Why am I stuck in the same place? I should be doing better than that. I should be living the resurrection better, more powerfully, more fully, more authentically, than what I am. After all, "The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia."

I've begun, however, to hear today's gospel differently from how I used to. Here's what I think today's gospel is telling us:

- Christ's resurrection is a big deal;
- The empty tomb is a life changing event;
- The resurrection does make a difference in our lives; and
- It also takes time.

Resurrection takes time. It is not a one time event. It's something that we grow into. It's a process. It's a way of being and a life to be lived. By the grace of God we evolve into resurrected people through our relationships and the circumstances of our lives. God wastes nothing. Every day we are stepping into the resurrected life. It's not always easy and some days are just plain hard.

I wonder if we sometimes come to Easter Sunday and the empty tomb expecting to wake up on Monday to a whole



Photo: Vanderbilt University Divinity Library - Art in the Christian Tradition Archive

Mosaic of Christ showing himself to Thomas at the Washington National Cathedral

new life and world. I am guessing that you awoke on Easter Monday to the same life and world you had on Good Friday. I did. It's not because the resurrection failed or because Jesus didn't do "the Jesus thing" in our lives. It's because the Jesus thing takes time.

Maybe we need to let go of the fact of the empty tomb and start claiming the story of resurrection. There's a difference between facts and story. Facts are one dimensional, stories are multidimensional. Facts inform the mind, stories touch the heart. Facts transmit information, stories transform lives. Think about it like this. A fact is static, like a snapshot of a particular moment in time. A story is dynamic, like a movie that takes us across time.

The empty tomb is a fact. Resurrection is a story. Maybe we need to begin to understand resurrection as the movie of our life instead of a snapshot of Christ's life. The fact of the

empty tomb is not the story of the resurrection. The facts of Jesus life are not the story of Jesus. The facts of your life and my life are not the story of our life.

The facts are just the starting point for the story. The fact of the empty tomb is the starting point for the resurrection story. Whatever facts you woke up to on Easter Monday are simply the starting point for your story of resurrection. Too often, however, we take the facts as the entire story. Isn't that what we've done with St. Thomas?

What facts come to mind when you hear his name? He was a doubter. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." That Thomas doubted may be the only fact that comes to mind. It is so prevalent that we call him Doubting Thomas.

What if that fact, however, is just the starting point for his resurrection? What if it is not the whole story? What if where we start is less important than where we go, where we end?

Do you know the end of Thomas' story? Do you know where he died? He died in India. He was the apostle to the people of India. He brought the gospel of Christ to India. He died a martyr after he was run through with five spears by five soldiers. That doesn't sound much like a doubter, does it? It sounds like someone who grew and changed, someone for whom the resurrection of Christ was real, someone for whom the empty tomb made a difference. It just took a little time, as it does for most, maybe all of us.

We know Doubting Thomas but let's not forget Confessing Thomas. He's in today's gospel as well. "My Lord and my God!" With those words Thomas has recognized and named a new relationship, a new worldview, a new way of being. Somewhere between Doubting Thomas and Confessing Thomas is the story of resurrection in Thomas' life.

All that stuff about Doubting Thomas, the fact of his disbelief, is just Thomas' starting place, nothing more and nothing less. It's neither good nor bad. It's a starting place. And we all have our starting places.

What is your starting place? What are the facts of your life today? The starting place for the story of our resurrection is whatever is. Whatever your life is today, whatever your circumstances are, that's the starting point for your story of resurrection. So if you're dealing with deep loneliness, sorrow, and loss, that's your starting point. That's the room which Christ enters. If you are locked in a house of fear, confusion, or darkness, that's your starting point and the place in which Jesus stands. If illness, old age, disability, or uncertainty are facts of your life, that's your starting point and the place in which Jesus shows up. If you feel lost, betrayed, disappointed, overwhelmed, that's your starting point and the house Jesus enters. If joy, gratitude, and celebration are the facts of your life today, that's the

starting point for your story of resurrection. All those things I just described and a thousand others are the many ways the doors of our house get locked. Whatever it might be for you, it is just the starting point.

The great tragedy is not that the disciples are in the same house behind the same locked doors. That's just their starting place. The great tragedy will be if the disciples refuse to unlock the doors, refuse to open the doors, and refuse to get out the house.

What are the doors that are locked in your life? What are the things that have kept you stuck in the same place? I'll say it again, that's just the starting place. Don't judge it as good or bad, right or wrong. It's just where you are and it's the place Christ shows up. It happened twice in today's gospel. Both times the disciples are in the same house behind the same locked doors and Jesus shows up. He stands in the midst of them. The walls and the locked doors of their house could not keep Jesus out. And the walls and locked doors of your house will not keep him out.

He steps into the midst of our house, through the locked doors, and breathes peace and life into us. He breathes peace and hope into us. He breathes peace and courage into us. He breathes peace and strength into us. And that breath of peace is the key that unlocks the door. So take a deep breath, take it all in, let it fill and enliven you. Let it give you the hope, courage, and strength to unlock and open the doors of your life, and then get out of the house.

Last week I told you to go home and you would see Jesus. Well this week I am telling you to get out the house. Open the doors to the story of your resurrection and get out of the house.



Originally published in Michael K. Marsh's blog, Interrupting the Silence, on April 24, 2017.

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Marsh is the rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Uvalde, Texas—a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. He has served there since 2005. Fr. Mike is also the owner and author of the blog, Interrupting the Silence, interruptingthesilence.com, a place for spiritual reflection, guidance, and growth, offering practical spirituality grounded in the contemplative tradition. We are always grateful to him for his gospel reflections and sermons.



DOUBT STRENGTHENS FAITH

BY TIMOTHY G. WARREN



Photo: Art and Theology

*Mural of Doubting Thomas, Saint Joseph's Church in New Plymouth, New Zealand
by Michael Smither (c. early 1970s)*

One of the greatest blessings we encounter as Christians is the freedom to admit when we have doubts. As faithful Christians, we should have the audacity to ask tough questions concerning our faith and traditions.

For some, doubt is synonymous with having a lack of faith, but doubt and faith are two sides of the same coin. They are the Ying and Yang, if you would, of the Christian life.

According to Paul Tillich, doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith. Rather than suppress our doubts, we should explore them and allow them to set us on a journey of discovery and a deepening of our beliefs and convictions. In our Gospel reading today, Thomas asked for proof, and we also want proof as well that our faith is not in vain.

Thomas often gets a bad rap for doubting the resurrection of Jesus; however, he was no more doubtful than the other disciples and apostles.

The other disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen until he appeared to them, so why should we expect Thomas to be any different?

In fact, we applaud Thomas for his insistence on wanting tangible proof. After all, Thomas was well aware that Jesus wasn't the first messianic figure on the scene to be crucified by the Roman occupiers. Thomas showed great religious restraint and demonstrated the proper amount of rational doubt. But when Jesus appeared to him, Thomas proclaimed without reservation, "My Lord, and my God."

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Doubt can be a wonderful tool that propels us into deeper learning, earnest soul searching, and spiritual revelation. Faith based on absolute certainty leads to fanaticism, but faith tempered with doubt is mature and stable.

Many believers struggle with their own doubts brought about by life's unpredictability and tempestuous nature. We have very real struggles in our lives that generate an uncertainty about where God is to be found in all the turmoil.

Sometimes we look to spiritual giants, the superstars of Christianity, and feel inferior in our own personal walk in comparison. However, the greatest in the Kingdom sometimes deal with the greatest doubt.

Mother Teresa's diary reveals a saintly person who struggled with a type of doubt that would crush the faint of heart. She wrote to her spiritual confidant, the Rev. Michael Van Der Peet, in 1979, "Jesus has a very special love for you. As for me, the silence and the emptiness is so great that I look and do not see, listen and do not hear."

For the last nearly half-century of her life Mother Teresa felt no presence of God whatsoever — neither in her heart or in the Eucharist. That absence seems to have started at almost precisely the time she began tending the poor and dying in Calcutta and— except for a five-week break in 1959 — never abated.

Although perpetually cheery in public, Mother Teresa lived in a state of deep and abiding spiritual pain. She bemoans the "dryness," "darkness," "loneliness" and "torture" she was undergoing. She compares the experience to hell and at one point says it has driven her to doubt the existence of heaven and even of God. Nevertheless, she continued to love the least in God's creation and dedicate her life to Christ to the very end.

Mother Teresa isn't alone in her struggle with doubt. The Polish-born Jewish-American author Isaac Bashevis Singer states that doubt is part of all religion, that all the religious thinkers were doubters. The art critic Robert Hughes said, "The greater the artist, the greater the doubt. Perfect confidence is granted to the less talented as a consolation prize."

Catholic priest Henri Nouwen wrote, "So I am praying while not knowing how to pray. I am resting while feeling restless, at peace while tempted, safe while still anxious, surrounded by a cloud of light while still in darkness, in love while still doubting."

Despite Fr. Nouwen's own struggle with doubt, he was able to mentor and encourage countless thousands through his writings, lectures, and sermons. One particular quote from a book of his has been a lifeboat for many who find themselves overcome with the waves of life's stormy doubts: "Have the courage to trust that you will not fall into an abyss of nothingness, but into the embrace of a God whose love can heal all your wounds."

Faith is a daily, ongoing exercise. It is a risk. Doubts arise. We struggle with God. And hopefully, faith grounded in the goodness of God triumphs — even when we do not have all the answers and life doesn't make sense.

Will we believe in a God of love who wants to be near us and has our best interest at heart? Or will we believe in a God who plays games with us, and is ultimately cruel and uncaring? Will we believe in a God who stands beside us in our troubles, or one who is distant and difficult?

The author of Hebrews writes, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith is not void of doubt, but requires a daily commitment to developing our spiritual walk despite life's uncertainties and sometimes cruelties.

Faith doesn't take away our doubts, but is strengthened by them. And faith doesn't deliver us from our problems and heartaches, but gives us the strength to persevere through them and lead others as well as they navigate around the abyss of nothingness.

May his resurrection power be at work in our lives as we learn to allow our doubts to strengthen our faith.

Amen.



Originally published in the Sermons That Work series by the Episcopal Church on April 23, 2017.

The Rev. Timothy G. Warren is the founder and pastor of St. Francis Independent Old Catholic Church, an emergent outreach ministry that serves at-risk teens and young adults in Southern California's High Desert Region, and President/CEO of LifeSkills Development, a nonprofit dedicated to providing assistance to at-risk young adults.



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Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Ben Worthley, Audio Engineer

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, and 6:00 p.m.

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Father Jim Shaughnessy, SJ is available by appointment for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To schedule an appointment, please call the Parish Office. On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent, Mass is celebrated in the sanctuary at 6:00 and following Mass, Father Shaughnessy will hear confessions until 8:00—no appointment necessary.

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.

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.

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$15, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$15 after 4:00 every day of the week. To get this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Pastoral Director of Operations, Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien.

Building Accessibility

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

Baptism for Infants

Infant baptism is celebrated on the first and third weekends of the month. For more information, please contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office.

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 provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, Erin Young, or Kathy Sanders if you have any questions. 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 policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

This 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. For more information, contact Mary Wessel 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.

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.

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our parish offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics from many neighborhoods in and around Boston; we also have friends from around the country and the world. We invite local individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter your present status in the Catholic Church, current family or marital situation, gender or gender expression, sexual orientation, personal history, age, race, or self-image, you are invited and will be welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected here at Saint Cecilia. We are here to accompany and serve you.

Please note:

According to online safety guidelines released by the Archdiocese of Boston, we have removed email addresses from our online parish bulletin to avoid the danger of potential phishing scams. If you need a staff member's email address or a ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists will be happy to share the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online.