

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Guatemala: Procession

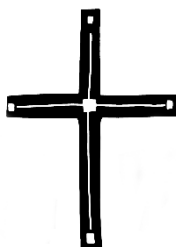
Betty LaDuke, c. 1978

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

13 April 2025

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

13 APRIL 2025

PRELUDE | Fugue in C minor, BWV 847
Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

GOSPEL | Luke 19 : 28-40

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | All Glory, Laud and Honor

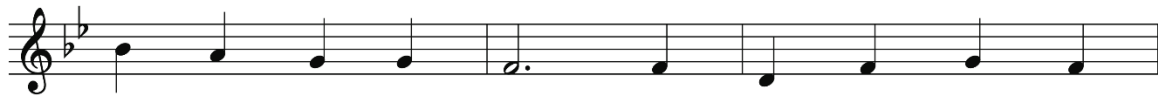
ST. THEODULPH

Refrain



Verses





Da - vid's roy - al Son, Now in the Lord's Name
prais - ing you on high; And we, with all cre -
palms be - fore you went; Our praise and prayers and
sang their hymns of praise. To you, now high ex -
cept the prayers we bring, Great source of love and



com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
a - tion, In cho - rus make re - ply.
an - thems Be - fore you we pre - sent.
alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
good - ness, Our Sav - ior and our King.

PENITENTIAL RITE

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 50: 4-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 22: My God, My God



My God, my God, why have you a - ban - doned me?

1. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
"He trusted in the Lord, let God save him, and come to free him if this is God's Son."
2. Many dogs have surrounded me, a wicked band besets me.
They tear holes in my hands and feet and lay me in the dust of death.
I can count all my bones.
3. They divide their clothes among them. The cast lots for my robe.
O, Lord, do not leave me alone. My strength, make haste to help me.
4. I will tell your name to my people and praise you where they gather.
All you who fear the Lord, sing your praises, all tribes of Jacob, give God glory.

SECOND READING | Philippians 2: 6-11

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

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

GOSPEL | Luke 22: 14- 23: 56

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
 the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all things visible and invisible.
 I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the Only Begotten Son of God,
 born of the Father before all ages.
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us men and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
 and became man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
 he suffered death and was buried,
 and rose again on the third day
 in accordance with the Scriptures.
 He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
 I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
 and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

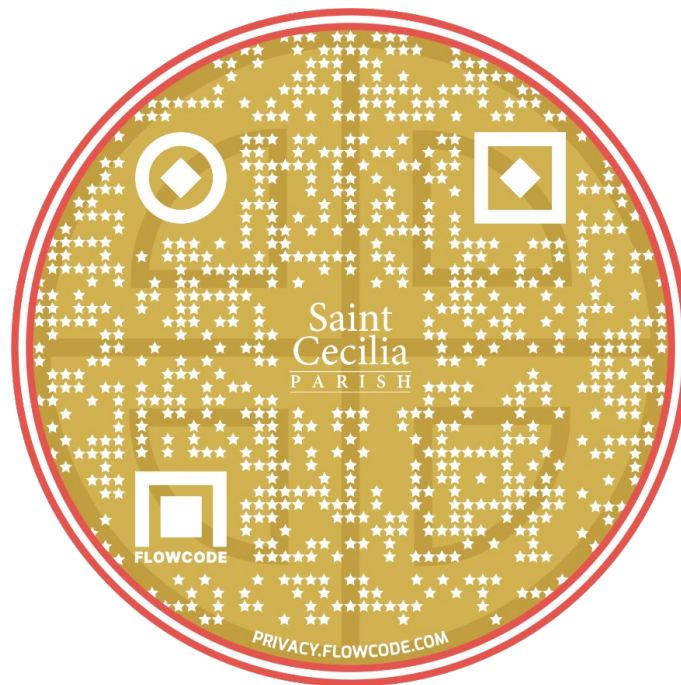
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

Using the Flowcode with the camera on your smartphone is as easy as Aim & Tap. Aim your camera at the Flowcode image and tap the notification banner when it appears on your phone's screen. You may need to zoom in a bit to focus on the code.

If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115




LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Only This I Want

Dan Schutte

Refrain

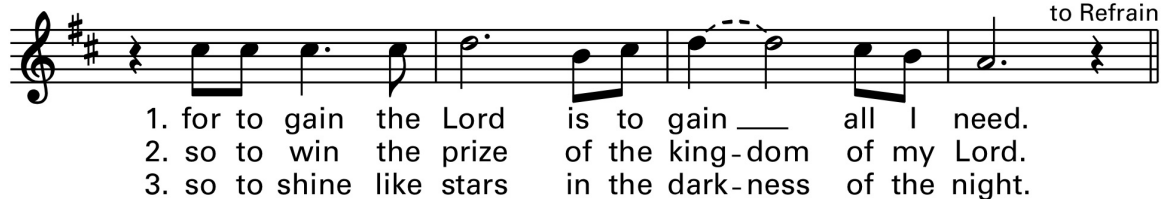


On - ly this I want: but to know the Lord,
and to bear his cross, so to wear the crown he wore.

Verses



1. All but this is loss, worth-less ref-use to me,
2. I will run the race; I will fight the good fight,
3. Let your heart be glad, al - ways glad in the Lord,



1. for to gain the Lord is to gain — all I need.
2. so to win the prize of the king-dom of my Lord.
3. so to shine like stars in the dark-ness of the night.

to Refrain

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.

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your

Cross and Res-ur-rec-tion you have set us free.

AMEN | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

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.

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace." The score is divided into three lines. The first line is labeled "Cantor or choir:" and "All:". The second line is labeled "Cantor or choir:" and "All:". The third line is labeled "All:". The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sins of the world, 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

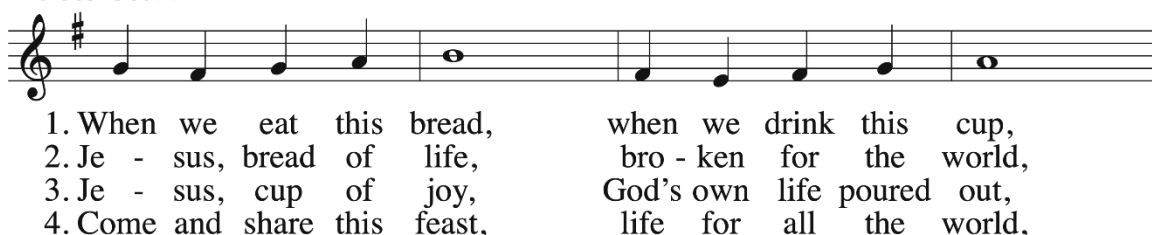
Loving Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there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

Refrain

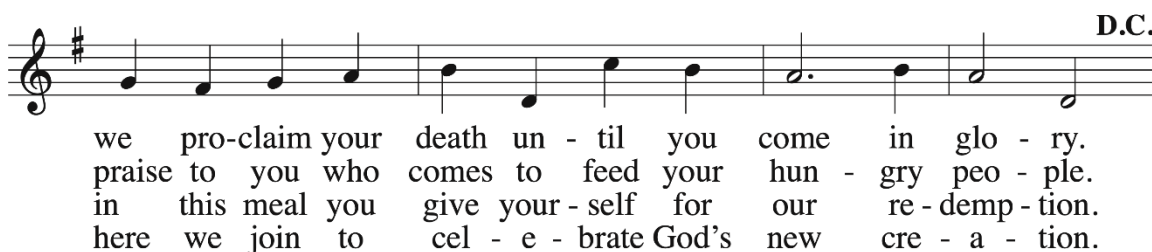


We re - mem - ber how you loved us to your death,
and still we cel - e - brate, for you are with us here;
and we be - lieve that we will see you when you come
in your glo - ry, Lord. We re - mem - ber, we
cel - e - brate, we be - lieve.

Verses-Set A



1. When we eat this bread, when we drink this cup,
2. Je - sus, bread of life, bro - ken for the world,
3. Je - sus, cup of joy, God's own life poured out,
4. Come and share this feast, life for all the world,



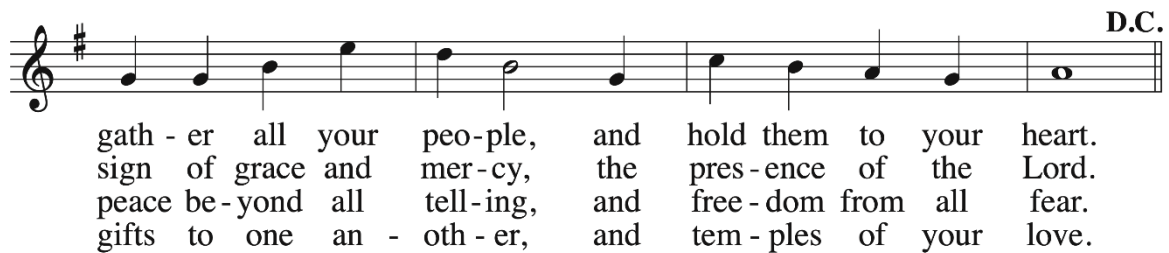
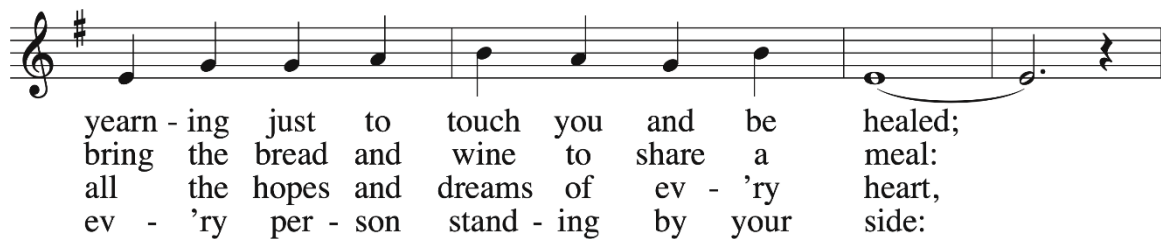
D.C.

we pro-claim your death un - til you come in glo - ry.
praise to you who comes to feed your hun - gry peo - ple.
in this meal you give your - self for our re - demp - tion.
here we join to cel - e - brate God's new cre - a - tion.

Verses-Set B



5. Here, a mil - lion wound - ed souls are
6. Now we re - cre - ate your love, we
7. Christ, the Fa - ther's great "A - men" to
8. See the face of Christ re - vealed in



COMMUNION MEDITATION | *Vere languores nostros*

Tomás Luis de Victoria
(c. 1548-1611)

*Vere languores nostros ipse tulit,
et dolore nostros ipse portavit;
Cujus livore sanati sumus.
Dulce lignum, dulces clavos,
dulcia ferens pondera,
quae sola fuisti digna
sustinere Regem coelorum et Dominum.*

Truly he himself bore our griefs,
and he himself carried our sorrows;
by his wounds we are healed.
Sweet cross, sweet nails,
sweetly bearing the weight,
you alone were worthy
to bear the King of heaven and the Lord.

CONCLUDING RITES

All are asked to depart in silence.

POSTLUDE | Prelude in C minor, BWV 549

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

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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@stceciaboston.org.

WELCOME!

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children's faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus' teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids ("Irish working out girls") and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings. Our church building resides on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket and 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.



Saint Cecilia
P A R I S H

HOLY WEEK 2025

PALM SUNDAY ~ 12 & 13 April

Mass of the Lord's Passion

Saturday | 5:00 p.m.

Sunday | 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., & 6:00 p.m.

[9:30 Mass will be in person & YouTube livestreamed]

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY ~ 17 April

7:30 p.m. | **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

[In person & YouTube livestreamed]

GOOD FRIDAY ~ 18 April

3:00 p.m. | **Stations of the Cross**

[In person and YouTube livestreamed]

7:30 p.m. | **Commemoration of the Lord's Passion**

[In person and YouTube livestreamed]

HOLY SATURDAY ~ 19 April

8:00 p.m. | **The Great Vigil of Easter**

[In person and YouTube livestreamed]

EASTER SUNDAY ~ 20 April

8:00, 9:30, & 11:45 a.m. | **Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord**

[9:30 Mass will be in person and YouTube livestreamed]

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, April 12 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Zach Boutin, Emily Bogert, lectors

Sunday, April 13 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Tom Skorupa, Natasha Bolton-Pierre, lectors

Sunday, April 13 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Tom O'Brien, Letitia Howland, Rosaria Salerno,
Moir Macdonald, Cole Young, lectors

Sunday, April 13 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Kate McGillicuddy, Tim McGillicuddy, Karen
McMenamy, Chika Offurum, Letitia Howland,
lectors

Sunday, April 13 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Uma Staehler, Laura Melle, Nikko Mendoza, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 13 | 9:30 a.m.

Catherine Mootos, *2nd Anniversary*
Ariel Silvaggio, *Memorial*
Tony Silvaggio, *Memorial*
Paul DeSabato, *Memorial*
Carol Walton, *Memorial*
Frank A. Cammisa, *Memorial*
Michael Thomas, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Luke 22:14—23:56

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9



SUNDAY, APRIL 27
After the 9:30 Mass

SAINT CECILIA SUNDAY CELEBRATION

**at SAINT
CECILIA CHURCH**

On Sunday, April 27, several of our guests from Thursday night's *An Evening with My Friends* event will be with us at the 9:30 Mass, extending the friendship and inspiration from Thursday evening into our Sunday worship.

Following Mass, we will spill out onto a tented St. Cecilia Street for a celebration with food trucks, family activities, and fellowship.

Please note that the 11:30 Mass will be suspended that day so that we can all come together at 9:30. The 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. liturgies will be held as usual.

We look forward to sharing this special day with you!



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, Fred Tufts, Baby Eloise Josephine Mason, Kevin J. Owens, So Kwai Sim, and Andrea Surette.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Jeanne-Aimee De Marrais** of Easton, CT, **Elizabeth Burns** of Marblehead, **Vanessa Ruiz** and **Elias Mallette** of Arlington, **Megan Hopkins** of Newton, and **Janice Simoneau, Joe Albanese,** and **Carol Mezzari** and **Philip Lombardo**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Easter Flowers - Last Chance!

This weekend is the last opportunity donate towards our Easter flowers to remember your loved ones. First, submit the names of your loved ones using this form: forms.gle/wvLUQzK1Pieg2LG86. Then, use the following donation link: www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/2025-easter-flowers. Envelopes will also be available in the narthex for people who would like to print the names of their loved ones. The names of those remembered will be printed in the Easter bulletin.

Final Lenten Wednesday Mass & Reconciliation

This upcoming Wednesday evening (April 16) will be the last opportunity for confession at Saint Cecilia prior to Easter. We will celebrate Mass in the sanctuary at 6:00, after which confessions will be heard until 8:00 for anyone who wishes to celebrate the sacrament. If you've been away from the sacrament for a long time, rest assured, the clergy will guide you through reconciliation and there's no need to be nervous about the structure of the rite.

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. Thank you!

Mass Time Change & Coffee Hospitality

Please note there will be no 6:00pm Mass on Easter. Also, there will be no Coffee Hospitality in the Parish Hall on Easter Sunday (4/20) as well as the following weekend (4/27) during the Parish Celebration as we would like our dedicated volunteers to enjoy the festivities.

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 using the following link: www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/good-friday-2025-holy-land

Easter Collection

Next week, at all of 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 of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. To donate, visit www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/easter-2025-clergy-trust

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TRIDUUM

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 one liturgy that stretches out over three days.

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

Please keep our Elect and Candidates for Full Communion in your prayer this upcoming 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. They may touch the cross, kiss the cross, genuflect, or bow; they may prefer to simply stand before the cross for a moment of silence. 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!



PRAY AND PLAY - WATERTOWN

APRIL 12 | 3PM | CASEY (W.O. JAMES P.) PARK

On April 12th at 3pm, we'll be meeting up to Pray and Play at Casey (W.O. James P.) Park in Watertown. As a reminder, Pray and Play is a gathering for children who enjoy a good playground and their parents who want to upgrade their playground chitchat. We'll have playground time, snacks, and prayerful discussion for parents. We hope you can make it!

Don't forget to sign up at the link below so that we know you're coming, have enough snacks, and can share any last-minute details (like rain cancellations).

Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/r/0JduTsUGxt>



BHCHP'S MEDICINE THAT MATTERS GALA

MAY 8, 2025 | RECEPTION AT 5:30PM; DINNER & PROGRAM AT 6:30PM | OMNI BOSTON SEAPORT HOTEL

As Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) honors their 40th anniversary, the Saint Cecilia community is invited to attend our Medicine that Matters Gala on May 8, 2025 at the Omni Boston Seaport Hotel. The gala will be honoring the legacy and impact of two transformational individuals who have helped advance BHCHP's mission in countless ways over the decades: Saint Cecilia parishioner Jean C. Tempel and the late Jack Connors Jr.

Individual tickets are \$500 – details can be found at www.bhchp.org/events/2025-gala/. Your support of the work of Dr. Jim O'Connell and BHCHP staff will help provide the highest quality health care to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Greater Boston. Thank you for all you do for BHCHP patients throughout the year! For questions or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Linda Wood-O'Connor at loconnor@bhchp.org.

CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 | 7:00 P.M. |

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY - WILLIAMS HALL

The fourth Boston concert of Music for Food's 15th season will highlight works by Poulenc, Schoenberg, and Tuller. 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.

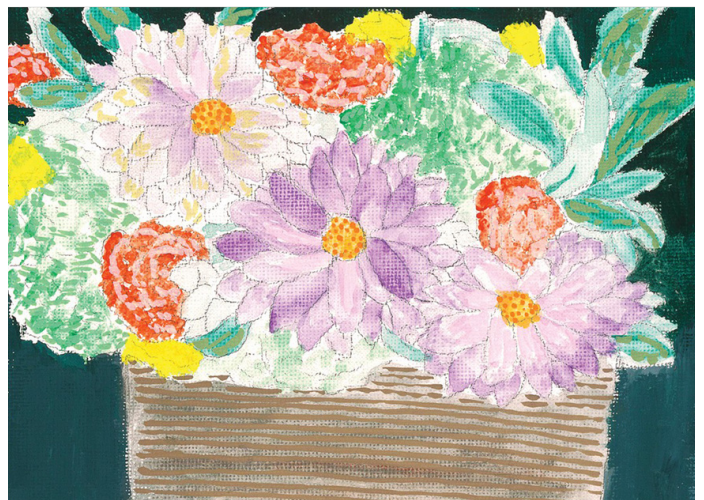
HELP WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

One of the major fundraisers for our friends at the day shelter is their Mother's Day card sale. The Women's Lunch Place on Newbury Street currently provides services to more than 250 women and their children each day. Each \$25 card provides a week of lunch for a guest at the agency's shelter and advocacy center.

A guest at Women's Lunch Place created the artwork that adorns the card below. Sis is alone in Boston without family or an outside support system. When asked what the shelter and advocacy center means to her, she said:

"Women's Lunch Place is a welcoming community. They provide me with safety, nutrition, showers, clothing, advocacy... even a therapist. WLP helps me survive."

Mother's Day cards will be sold starting this weekend after weekend liturgies.





29TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE 2025

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE LOUIS D. BROWN PEACE INSTITUTE

Founded in 1996 by a Boston mother who transformed her grief into action following the murder of her teenage son, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute is committed to breaking cycles of violence and fostering healing through survivor empowerment, youth investment, and the support of communities impacted by trauma, grief, and loss. The annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace has become a powerful symbol of hope and resilience in Boston, bringing together thousands of people committed to creating more peaceful communities. On Mother's Day, this 3.2-mile route will begin and end at Dorchester's Town Field Park, and once again, Saint Cecilia will have a walking team to support the Institute's mission. Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000, and, as an incentive, we're pleased to announce that the parish has committed to matching up to \$2,500 in combined donations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- 1. Make a donation:** Support the Institute's mission and help us reach our parish goal.
- 2. Join our parish team:** Walk with us as part of the Saint Cecilia & Friends Walking Team.

To learn more, make a donation, or join our parish team, visit www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/stcecilia

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

APRIL 10 - 18

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Simeon and Anna Seniors | 10am | Parish Hall

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Wisdom Group | 8:30am

Mass of the Lord's Passion | 5pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom

Mass of the Lord's Passion | 8:00, 9:30, 11:30am

SCYA Contemplative Prayer | 2pm | Family Flex

Mass of the Lord's Passion | 6:00pm

MONDAY, APRIL 14

SCYA Women's Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Lenten Mass + Reconciliation | 6pm

Bereavement Group | 6pm via Zoom

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Communion Circle | Hale House | 4pm

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper | 7:30pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Stations of the Cross | 3pm

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion | 7:30pm



ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?

Are you an adult Catholic who has been baptized and received first Communion, but was never confirmed? If so, perhaps this is the right time. We will be offering a retreat at Saint Cecilia on Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for adults who wish to prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. Participants will be confirmed at Saint Cecilia on Sunday, June 1st at 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information or would like to register for this retreat, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA PRESENTS A FREE COMMUNITY OPERA:

BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S NOAH'S FLOOD

**SATURDAY, MAY 3 | 2P.M. |
BOSTON SYMPHONY HALL**

Noah's Flood is based on a 15th-century play recounting the story of one family's resilience in the face of an earth-shattering storm. Composer Benjamin Britten wrote this opera just a few years after experiencing a devastating flood in his own coastal town. Nearly 70 years later, climate resilience has taken an even greater spotlight.

Under the baton of David Angus and the direction of Dayron Miles and in collaboration with Boston Children's Chorus, Boston String Academy, Back Bay Ringers, VOICES Boston, Boston Recorder Orchestra, Community Music Center of Boston, Boston Symphony Orchestra, New England Conservatory Preparatory School — and more — hundreds of Boston area youth alongside BLO artists will come together to bring you a timely, tour-de-force event.

Noah's Flood is made possible by BLO supporters who are invested in building the next generation of opera lovers in Boston. Join BLO in its first community opera uniting Boston through music, collaboration, and fun — a perfect outing for the whole family! The performance will take place at Boston Symphony Hall on May 3, 2025 at 2pm.

To reserve tickets: events.blo.org/noahs-flood

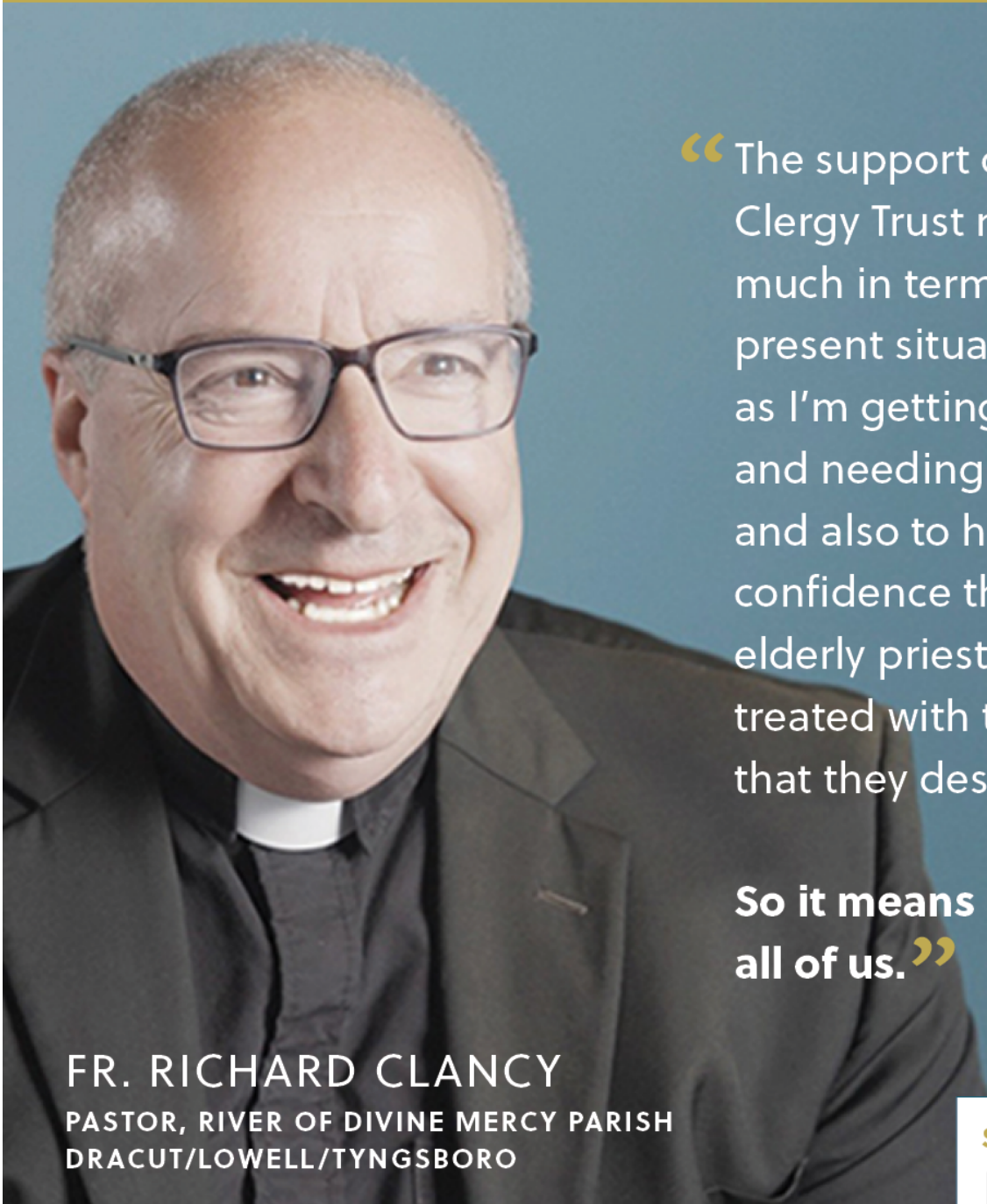


Image: OSV News photo/Gregory A. Shenitz

PALM SUNDAY MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP HENNING

Dear Friends, for this Palm Sunday we will join in the proclamation of the Passion according to Saint Luke. Luke's Passion places a special emphasis on healing forgiveness offered to us by and through the mercy of the Lord. In this Passion we hear the repentant thief receive the promise of Paradise and we hear Jesus even as he suffers pray "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." I hope that this proclamation will help us to begin our Holy Week journey with humility and gratitude before the wideness of God's mercy.

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS EASTER

A portrait of Fr. Richard Clancy, a middle-aged man with glasses, smiling. He is wearing a black clerical shirt with a white collar and a dark suit jacket. The background is a solid blue color.

“The support of the Clergy Trust means so much in terms of my present situation, and as I’m getting older and needing it more... and also to have the confidence that our elderly priests are treated with the dignity that they deserve.

So it means a lot to all of us.”

FR. RICHARD CLANCY
PASTOR, RIVER OF DIVINE MERCY PARISH
DRACUT/LOWELL/TYNGSBORO



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LEARN MORE AT [CLERGYTRUST.ORG](https://clergytrust.org)

SCAN TO GIVE



PALM SUNDAY

BY NADIA BOLZ-WEBER



Image: Jyoti Sahi | artandtheology.com

Entry into Jerusalem by Jyoti Sahi (c.2012)

Cringe

Palm Sunday always makes me reflect on some of my more stupid decisions in life. The perm my mother gave me when I was 10. That mean boyfriend I kept around for way too long. That horrible tattoo some junkie gave me in his filthy apartment. The thing I did that one time. The promise I never kept. There are so many regrets to choose from. We all have regrets, but while some of my mistakes are undeniable doozies, unlike some of you...the one mistake I never ever made ...was having big hair in the 80s. You know who you are.

But I wonder if the nature of regret, and the practice of morbid reflection itself, is in some way rooted in the idea

that we are **different** now. We like to think it's true, that given the opportunity to go back and do things differently, we would. We would, as improved, wiser people, make completely different choices. After all, we are better versions of ourselves now. And I kind of think that's true and I kind of don't.

I mention this because of how uncomfortable the Palm Sunday story always makes me.

As we read about the fickle crowds waving their palms and laying down their cloaks and shouting *hosanna in the highest* to the guy riding into Jerusalem on an unimpressive animal, I cringe. I am embarrassed about how sure they

seem of themselves and how miserably they are about to fail when put to the test; how quickly their shouts go from *hail him to nail him*.

That's what is so melancholic about Palm Sunday to me. We know what's about to happen. The betrayal and denial and abandonment. The monkey trial and the beating and the carrying of the cross. The nails and the spear and the sour wine.

So all that joyful shouting just feels embarrassing in the shadow of what's to come.

Those People

This week at a live event, I was asked, "Were he to come back today, do you think Jesus would even *recognize* his church?"

To which I responded, "Oh, for sure. I mean, the church is full of the exact same people it has always been full of. He'd look around and be like, yep, these are mine!"

We may be tempted to think that we are different from the faltering disciples. We may cringe at their so-called triumphal entry into Jerusalem because we are in the special position of knowing what's about to happen.

But the thing is, they did too.

At least they did if they were paying even the least amount of attention to Jesus. He told them more than once that this was all going to happen. He'd do something really cool, like heal someone or some other act of power and his followers would be like *hell yeah!* And then he'd take the opportunity to say that he is going to be betrayed into the hands of the authorities and then suffer and die. He kept telling them this was about to happen.

And before we blame the disciples for not stopping it, we should remember that there was one guy who stepped in, one guy who did what my instinct would be - which is to try and put a stop to such a pathetic and preventable death. It was Peter. Peter tried. He said *God forbid. Don't go into Jerusalem, Jesus. Because that's where the prophets get themselves killed and you're too good to lose. Too peaceful. Too loving for that kind of thing. Surely we can do something about this.*

But this was an unstoppable march of events, and when Peter tried to talk Jesus out of it, Jesus didn't pat him on the back and say *You know, you're right. Thanks friend.* Not even close. Jesus said *Get behind me Satan.*

We People

Because no amount of improved humanity could have stopped it. No good intentions, no nobility, no sin avoidance, no piety. Nothing could have stopped this Paschal mystery of God and humanity. No amount of super-good discipleship or wisdom or woke-ness would make a lick of difference to God's determination to draw all people to God's self.

We are no different than the shouting crowds - there is no better class of improved people. There are just people.

And as soon as we think the good news is that we know better than those caught up in into the tragic events of that first Holy Week, we are mistaken.

I think maybe it had to happen like this. When the Pharisees told Jesus to stop his disciples from such an embarrassing display, he said that were they to stop, even the stones would cry out. So there had to be crowds who shout praise and friends who betrayed and followers who denied and women who wept and soldiers who mocked and thieves who believed. It would have happened like this even if the Jesus event were happening now instead of then. Even if we knew everything in advance - were we the ones on the street we too would shout *Hosanna* one day and *crucify him* the next.

And that's the good news when it comes down to it.

Because **these** embarrassing people of the Holy Week story **are** we people. And we people are the likes of which God came to save from ourselves. God did not become human and dwell among us as Jesus to save only an improved, doesn't-make-the-wrong-choices kind of people. There is no improved version of humanity that could have done any differently. Because we, as **we are** and not as some improved version of ourselves...we are who Jesus FOR SURE looks at (in all our cringe-worthiness) and say, "yep. these are mine."



Originally published on April 10, 2022 in The Corners by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran Pastor and the founder of House for All Sinners & Saints, an inclusive Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Denver, CO. She is also the author of three NYT bestselling memoirs, including Pastrix and Shameless: A Sexual Revolution.

HOW DO I NOT HAVE MY HEART BROKEN?

A QUESTION FOR HOLY WEEK

BY ZAC DAVIS

*"Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me."
Deeply distressed at this,
they began to say to him one after another,
"Surely it is not I, Lord?"*

(Mt 26:21-22)

Betrayal is one of those unavoidable consequences of being alive.

There are big, capital "B" Betrayals, like adultery, or treason or stabbing your friend 23 times at a meeting of the Roman Senate because he has consolidated too much power, threatening the foundations of the republic.

But there are also the much-overlooked, everyday, mediocre betrayals that we are all well-practiced at; the abandonment of an obligation we have to another person in favor of some petty convenience or small pleasure. We dominate a conversation when someone desperately needs someone else to listen; we cancel plans to rest, because, after all, they'll understand; we promise to call, and we lose track of time.

We hurt people and are hurt by them, repeatedly and without end. We apologize, we promise to do better, and not a week, day or hour goes by before we do it again. We aren't aware of even half of the ways we betray other people. People are notoriously bad at articulating their needs, and we are equally as bad at paying attention and responding to those needs when they do. So often we set up others to betray us when we expect them to satisfy a yearning in our hearts that only God can. No one gets out of this world alive, but it is not even possible to get out without having your heart broken at some point, by a lover, a friend, your community or your family.

Jesus tells his disciples at the Last Supper, "One of you will betray me," but he could have easily said, "All of you will betray me." All of the men at the Last Supper will be



Judas and the Chimera by Alice Rahon (c.1952)

missing when Jesus is on the cross (a reminder that it was the women who stayed).

That said, the Betrayer in Chief in today's Gospel is Judas. Very little is known about the historical Judas Iscariot. We don't know why he handed over Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, but it has not stopped speculation. Rather than fixate

Image: BBVA Collection Mexico / coleccionbbva.com

on a motive, I want to call to mind a detail hidden in the Gospel text that is easy to overlook but makes the betrayal all the more real and sobering: Jesus and Judas loved one another.

Nick Cave, a musician and spiritual director, was asked by a fan, “How do I not have my heart broken?” His response does offer a possible way out of our human condition:

“The surest way to avoid a broken heart is to love nothing and no-one — not your partner, your child, your mother or father, your brothers or sisters; not your friends; not your neighbour; not your dog or your cat; not your football team, your garden, your granny or your job. In short, love not the world and love nothing in it. Beware of the things that draw you to love — music, art, literature, cinema, philosophy, nature and religion. Keep your heart narrow, hard, cynical, invulnerable, impenetrable, and shun small acts of kindness; be not merciful, forgiving, generous or charitable”

Yet Cave, who has buried two sons, recognizes that the vocation of all humans is to love despite the promise of heartbreak, because “to resist love and inoculate yourself against heartbreak is to reject life itself, for to love is your primary human function.” For Christians, Jesus, who experienced the depths of betrayal and heartbreak, shows there is no other response than to go on loving. Cave advises further,

“You will discover that love, radical love, is a kind of supercharged aliveness, and all that is of true value in the world is animated by it. And, yes, heartache awaits love’s end, but you find in time that this too is a gift — this little death — from which you are reborn, time and again.”

This is the promise of Easter. On the other side of every heartbreak, of every betrayal, is a resurrection. Every wound will be healed, every hurt repaired and we will see each other face to face, the way we truly are.



Originally published on March 4th, 2024 in America Magazine.

Zac Davis is an associate editor and the senior director for digital strategy for America Magazine. He also co-hosts the podcast, Jesuitical.



BULLETIN COVER SPOTLIGHT:

GUATEMALA: PROCESSION BY BETTY LADUKE

In *Imaging the Word, Volume 3*, Betty LaDuke describes the inspiration behind this painting:

Before Christmas, at the Mayan village of Chichicastenango in Guatemala, statues of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the saints are . . . carried aloft in an annual procession. In my painting *Guatemala: Procession*, Christ appears on a donkey surrounded by the masks worn by the Mayans who dance to honor and celebrate their indigenous roots. They also dance a re-enactment of the brutal Spanish invasion, with satirical masks representing conquistadores. Inside the church many candles are lit and prayers are offered. (pg. 181)

Victoria Emily Jones, author of the blog *Art and Theology*, sees the painting as LaDuke imagining Christ entering this Maya community of Christian celebrants who remember biblical history alongside their history as a people. Although the image is tied to the beginning of the liturgical year, Jesus’s presence in the center on donkeyback, in a gateway backlit with glowing yellow light, flanked by crowds and angels flying in the sky evoke his triumphal return into Jerusalem five days before his death.

Check out Victoria Emily Jones’ beautiful and thought-provoking blog, *Art and Theology*, at artandtheology.com.

THE TRIDUUM IN YOUR 20S: WHAT HOLY WEEK TAUGHT ME ABOUT CHANGE

BY JENNIFER SAWYER



Image: Stephen Crotts | scrotts.com

Triptych for the Paschal Triduum by Stephen Crotts

I know, theoretically, that one's late 20s are ripe with change and transition. I just didn't realize that everything would happen all at once.

All in the same year, I left my job at a global media company to work for a five-person Catholic nonprofit. I began seriously dating someone. I watched several close friends become mothers. And I moved out of the charming and affordable Queens apartment I had shared with two best friends for six years, as they both prepared for their upcoming weddings.

The night before we turned in our keys, I sat alone crying in the middle of the dusty floor in my now empty bedroom. As I attempted to say goodbye to the home we all shared, memories floated around me like strings on balloons that were just out of reach. I could see the room filled with friends in costume during one of our legendary Halloween parties, hear my landlord arguing that a duct-tape fix was indeed "sufficient," feel the

cracked kitchen tile where we had repeatedly dropped kitchen appliances. I did not want to leave.

I was struck by the Lenten metaphor of it: clearing out my room, donating the clothes I no longer wore and Ikea furniture I had outgrown. In the time leading up to my move, I spent weeks considering what to discard, what to give away and what I would take with me. I had created an empty space, which would now allow someone else to adorn the walls, make their own memories and begin anew. And I guess if I was ever going to allow myself to do the same, I had to be emptied, too.

"Endings and beginnings are very hard for you," is something my therapist says in her signature therapeutic way. I force a smile at her gentleness as I consider the reality of how I actually face change: a white-knuckled grasp of resistance on a door frame I am being pushed into. I know that all of these changes were positive things or perhaps signs of a semi-successful entrance into real adulthood. But even happy

changes are complicated.

Longing for the past weighed heavily on my heart as I thought back to a homily given at my church just before Holy Week. Our priest reflected on the Paschal mystery and the range of emotions and experiences we go through as a Catholic community—mourning the death of Jesus on Good Friday, waiting in anticipation on Holy Saturday and rejoicing in the new life and hope of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Leading up to the Triduum, he posed the simple, profound question: “What do you need to die to?” In order to experience new life, in order to enter fully into the hope and renewal, what is it that you need to let go of? Maybe it’s jealousy, maybe it’s bitterness over a broken relationship, or maybe it is a part of yourself that you have been holding on to.

“Let it go,” he said. “Let it die, and acknowledge your loss in preparation for coming into the light.”

I had never really thought about the transitions happening in my life in light of the Jesus story. After all, I was not dealing with the death of a loved one or extreme suffering. But praying alongside Christ’s ultimate surrender and emergence into new life sparked my thinking about the parts of my past that I needed to surrender.

The more I let go of my old self, however slowly, the more I was able to appreciate those small beautiful moments of my new life. Witnessing my former roommates vow their lives to their now-husbands reminded me of the hope of love. Holding my best friend’s newborn daughter for the first time lifted the sadness I felt about not being able to spend time together the way that we used to. My current job lets me see the many ways God works in the lives of others. And letting go of who I was as a single person allowed me to live more fully as someone’s partner, recognizing the importance of growing with each other.

Shortly after my year of transition, I stumbled across an article called “For Lent, Give Up That Worn-Out Story About Yourself,” by Barbara Falconer Newhall. As someone who usually gives up soda or chocolate during this season of repentance, this sort of a challenge seemed monumental.

The author explains that we speak and think and feel in the language of stories, and because of this, we

sometimes get trapped by the certain ones that we keep on telling ourselves. She considers this in light of a majestic old oak tree that had fallen near her house in a violent storm. Surveying the scene, she notices that a flowering fruit tree, once hidden by the oak, was now sprawling in the sunny space. “It had filled the sky with a delicate criss-crossing of branches, which were covered with buds, thousands and thousands of them, waiting to become blossoms, waiting to change.”

In moving through the celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus in the Triduum, we are prompted to acknowledge the loss and change in our own lives that leave us anticipating new life—to prune back those branches that keep our own flowering fruit trees at bay.

The frustrating and beautiful thing about transitions is that they are always ongoing. There will never be a time when we are totally complete, when we are done growing or done changing. Our lives are a series of little Good Fridays, Holy Saturdays and Easter Sundays. We are lovingly invited to fully experience each part of the cycle. We are lovingly invited to edit our own stories.

When I find myself frustrated with the cyclical nature of transitions, unable to let go of the things I cling to or flushed with anxiety and panic about what is to come, I pause and try to think of myself as that flowering tree peeking out behind the fallen oak after the storm, covered with thousands of buds, waiting to blossom, waiting to change.



Originally published in on March 28, 2018 in America Magazine.

Jennifer Sawyer is a writer and editor currently serving as digital content manager at Busted Halo.



KNITTING AND CROCHET MINISTRY

Here are some parting photos of our Knitting and Crochet Ministry working on baby blankets for SCYA's *April Showers Bring May Flowers*.

The basket of bears to the right will be donated next week to Catholic Charities and Families in Transition at the Huntington Y.

As the ministry was meeting last Sunday, Bill Sheehan, Board Chair at *A Faith that Does Justice*, stopped by to thank the group for their recent donation of hats and scarves to students in AFTDJ's ESOL classes.

Thanks to Mark Lippolt for capturing these!



PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Seven days a week, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Carly-Anne Gannon, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development
Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
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

Schedule for Liturgy

Lenten Mass & Reconciliation | Wed 6:00 p.m. (March 12- April 16)
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.

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.

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 \$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.

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.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Carly-Anne Gannon.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They 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 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. We invite 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.

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.