The Great Vigil of Easter
17 April 2022

Detail of Manuscript Illumination with Scenes of Easter in an Initial A, from an Antiphonary, ca. 1320
16 April 2022

**HOLY SATURDAY**

On Holy Saturday the Church waits at the Lord’s tomb in prayer and fasting, meditating on his Passion and Death and on his Descent into Hell, and awaiting his Resurrection. The Church abstains from the Sacrifice of the Mass, with the sacred table left bare, until after the solemn Vigil, that is, the anticipation by night of the Resurrection, when the time comes for paschal joys, the abundance of which overflows to occupy fifty days.

- The Roman Missal

**THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT**

The service begins outside. Members of the congregation are invited to witness the blessing of the new fire, and to follow the paschal candle in procession into the church.

**THE BLESSING OF THE FIRE, AND PREPARATION OF THE PASchal CANDLE**

As the paschal candle is placed in its stand, if you are worshipping with us virtually, we invite you to light a candle in your place of worship and consider placing candles in your windows, if safe, to bear witness to the light of Christ in the world.

**THE BLESSING OF THE FIRE AND PREPARATION OF THE CANDLE**

**PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH | Lumen Christi**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deacon:</th>
<th>All:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lu-men Christi, The Light of Christ. De-o gra-ti-as, Thanks be to God.</td>
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As the paschal candle is carried into the church, we share with one another the light of Christ.
Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,  
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,  
let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty  
King's triumph! Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,  
ablaze with light from her eternal King,  
let all corners of the earth be glad,  
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.  
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,  
arrayed with the lighting of his glory,  
let this holy building shake with joy,  
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

V/: Lift up your hearts.  
R/: We lift them up to the Lord.

V/: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
R/: It is right and just.

It is truly right and just,  
with ardent love of mind and heart,  
and with devoted service of our voice,  
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.  
Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and pouring out his own dear Blood wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.  
These then are the feasts of Passover,  
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears,  
Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt  
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.  
This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin.  
This is the night that even now, throughout the world,  
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin,  
lending them to grace, and joining them to his holy ones.  
This is the night when Christ broke the prison-bars of death, and rose victorious from the underworld.  
Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us!  
O love, O charity beyond all telling,  
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!  
O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!  
O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!  
O truly blessed night, worthy alone to know the time and hour  
when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night of which it is written:  
The night shall be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness.  
The sanctifying power of this night dispels all wickedness,
washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty. On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants’ hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God’s honour, a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light, for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human. Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honour of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.

May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who coming back from death’s domain has shed his peaceful light on humanity and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Genesis 1:1-2:2
RESPONSOIRAL PSALM | Psalm 104: Lord, Send Out Your Spirit

Tony Alonso

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth,

send out your Spirit, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and honor,
wrapped in light as with a robe! R.

You set the earth on its foundation,
immovable from age to age.
You wrapped it with the depths like a cloak;
the waters stood higher than the mountains. R.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow in between the hills.
There the birds of heaven build their nests;
from the branches they sing their song. R.

From your dwelling you water the mountains;
by your works the earth has its fill.
You make the grass grow for the cattle
and plants to serve mankind’s need,
that he may bring forth bread from the earth. R.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your creatures.
Bless the Lord, O my soul. R.

PRAYER

SECOND READING | Genesis 22: 1-18

RESPONSOIRAL PSALM | Ps. 16: You are My Inheritance

Tony Alonso

You are my inheritance, O Lord.
Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord.”
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
you yourself who secure my lot. R.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord before me always;
with him at my right hand,
I shall not be moved. R.

And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my flesh shall rest in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
nor let your holy one see corruption. R.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand, bliss forever. R.
1. Let us sing to the Lord for he has gloriously triumphed; horse and rider he has hurled into the sea. 
   The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. 
   This is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

2. The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name. The chariot of Pharaoh and his army he has cast into the sea. 
   The pick of his army are drowned in the sea.

3. The deeps hide them, they sank, they sank like a stone. 
   Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power, has shattered the enemy.

PRAYER

FOURTH READING | Isaiah 55: 1-11
RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Isaiah 12: We Shall Draw Water

Paul Inwood

We shall draw wa - ter joy - ful-ly, sing-ing joy - ful-ly,
sing-ing joy - ful-ly; we shall draw wa - ter
joy - ful-ly from the well - springs of sal - va - tion.

1. Truly God is our salvation; we trust, we shall not fear.
   For the Lord is our strength, the Lord is our song;
   he became our Savior.

2. Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord; give praise to his holy name!
   Make his mighty deeds known to all of the nations; proclaim his greatness.

3. Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds.
   Make known his works to all of the earth; people of Zion, sing for joy,
   for great in your midst, great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

PRAYER

FIFTH READING | Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 19: Lord, You Have the Words of Everlasting Life

Rawn Harbor

Lord, you have the words of ev - er - last - ing life, the
words of ev - er - last - ing life.

1. The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.
   The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
   giving wisdom to the simple.

2. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.
   The command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye.

3. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.
   The ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.

4. They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold;
   sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb.

PRAYER

SIXTH READING | Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28
After the last reading from the Hebrew Scriptures with its Responsorial Psalm and its prayer, the altar candles are lit, the bells are rung, and the Gloria in excelsis Deo is sung as the time of vigil ends and the First Mass of Easter begins.
GLORIA | Mass from Age to Age

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 Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive 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

EPISTLE | Romans 6:3–11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Alleluia! Let Us Rejoice

GOSPEL | Luke 24: 1-12

HOMILY
Sacraments of Initiation
And Rite of Reception into Full Communion

Baptismal Liturgy

Presentation of the Candidates for Baptism

The candidates for baptism are called forward and their godparents present them:

Karim Arsanjani
Mackenzie Dare Elvin
Caroline Bee Fish
Astrid Ursula Love

Invitation to Prayer

Litany of the Saints

John Becker

Blessing of Baptismal Water

Renunciation of Sin & Profession of Faith
BAPTISM

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

PRESENTATION OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

SPRINKLING WITH BAPTISMAL WATER | Come to the River

Bob Hurd

Refrain

You have put on Christ, Alleluia!

In Christ you have been baptized, Alleluia!

Come, O come, come to the river flowing from the body of Christ.

We’ll go down, deep in the water, but in the Lord we shall arise.

Verses

1. Washed in waters of re-birth,
2. Priestly people are we,
3. Blest are those who thirst
4. Let us walk in the light
5. Those who sow in tears

1. we have put on Christ Jesus.
2. sealed and sent by the Spirit.
3. for the reign of God’s justice.
4. of God’s holy promise.
5. reap the harvest rejoicing.
CELEBRATION OF RECEPTION

CALLING OF THE CANDIDATES FOR RECEPTION

Eric James Dykes  
Susan Bernek Fugliese  
Jason Peter Knowles  
Kaitlyn Marie Nassab  
Paul Thomas Quistberg  
Kian Riley  
Sabrena Ellen Tufts  
Douglas Tilghman Wilson

INVITATION

PROFESSION BY THE CANDIDATES

ACT OF RECEPTION

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

CALLING OF THE CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

Karim Anthony Arsanjani  
Eric James Andrew Dykes  
Mackenzie Dare Philomena Elvin  
Caroline Bee Elizabeth Fish  
Susan Bernek Catherine Fugliese  
Jason Peter Gregory Knowles  
Astrid Ursula Teresa Love  
Kaitlyn Marie Cecilia Nassab  
Paul Thomas Peter Quistberg  
Kian Pantaleon Riley  
Sabrena Ellen Teresa Tufts  
Douglas Tilghman Joseph Wilson

INVITATION

LAYING ON OF HANDS | Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Les Presses de Taizé

ANointing with CHRISM

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Today's collection will benefit Clergy Trust which provides programs and support to care for the health and well-being of all active and senior diocesan priests in good standing. By supporting this collection, you are helping to ensure that our active priests receive the care they need to continue their important work and our senior priests have support and access to quality care. This collection is a critical source of funding for the Trust and your generosity is greatly appreciated. On behalf of Father John and the priests of the Archdiocese who benefit from the support of Clergy Trust, thank you so much for your continued support and generosity. To donate online visit:

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | You Make All Things New**

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

* The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
* Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.

**HOLY, HOLY | Missa Pacem**

L. Randolph Babin
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

GREAT AMEN | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin

Amen, amen, amen.

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.
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an “Act of Spiritual Communion.” During this time when we are not able to celebrate the Eucharist together in person, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of grace. We can be assured that when we express our desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, God will be with us spiritually in a special way. Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion that we encourage you to pray as you participate in our live-streamed liturgies:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Loving Jesus,  
I believe that you  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there  
and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.
1. I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; and who believes in me shall not thirst.
2. The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you believe in me you are the life. If you believe in me you shall live for ever.
3. Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man you shall not have life in you. You who believe in me have life everlasting. Who has given me power to do this?
4. I am the Resurrection. I am the Resurrection and the Life. I am the resurrection and the life. If you believe in me you shall have life even though you die.
5. Yes, Lord, I believe that You, St. Señor, you create.
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

And I will raise you up, and I will
You le resu-ci-ta-ré, You le re-
raise you up, and I will raise you
su-ci-ta-ré, Yo le resu-ci-ta-
up on the last day.
ré el di-a de El.

DISMISSAL
1. Jesus Christ is ris’n to-day, Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav’n-ly King, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he’s King, Alleluia!
Praise him, now his might confess, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia.
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia.
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia.
Father, Son and Spirit blest, Alleluia.

POSTLUDE | Toccata from Organ Symphony No. 5
Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to everyone who helped to make our Triduum celebration so meaningful and prayerful. Thank you to all who have given of their time and talent to plan the liturgies and create such a beautiful worship space.

Special thanks to our Triduum Choir and instrumentalists under the leadership of Robert Duff, Director of Music and Thomas Mellan, Parish Organist. Their openness, devotion and countless hours of preparation have helped us to celebrate and pray the music with reverence and joy.

Rev. John J. Unni, presider
Rev. Mr. David Kiblinger, SJ, deacon
Robert Duff, director of music
Thomas Mellan, parish organist
Jessica Lizak, flute
Andrea Heyboer, oboe
Paola Caballero, violin
Annegret Klaua, violin
Nicholas Johnson, cello
Sarah Heimberg, trumpet
Emma Robertson, soprano
Alexis Peart, mezzo-soprano
Ryan Lustgarten, tenor
Harrison Stenson, baritone

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

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

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci’s The Last Supper, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius’ life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We've been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God’s love makes all things new.
healthier priests. stronger communities.

The strength of our communities depends on the well-being of our priests who tirelessly serve others.

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS EASTER

donate at clergytrust.org

--- OR ---

SCAN HERE for Venmo, Google/Apple Pay, PayPal via Givebutter.

Supports our priests in good standing
EASTER GREETINGS FROM FATHER JOHN

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Saint Cecilia for Easter 2022! Whether you’re in the pews or joining with us virtually; whether you’re near or far; wherever you are in the world to celebrate the Lord’s resurrection, we’re very excited to know that you are with us.

These past two years have been filled with ups and downs on so many levels. There have been a bunch of false starts with the Covid-variants. We have lost loved ones and brought new ones into the world; we have been baptizing and marrying...lemme tell you, people weren’t bored during Covid, they were making babies!!! At Saint Cecilia, we’re booked with baptisms and weddings till the end of the year and trying to make available even more dates. But over the past two years, we also have seen division in the country and the shadow side of partisan politics (no matter what side one is on); we have seen upheaval in the world—blatant, undiminished violence, terror, and war as Vladimir Putin invades Ukraine and continues to kill so many innocent civilians...needlessly. With inflation, we’re experiencing prices going up, the gap widening between folks who have and those who have less. Gas, food, basics, rents...all stressing people out, especially the most vulnerable. And we watch as addiction and overdoses don’t discriminate while they take the lives of so many.

So how do we not lose hope and try to make sense out of the senseless? How do we make our way whether we are the have-s or have-nots, the young or the old, the addicted or the clean and sober? How do we hope—whether we have been here for generations or whether we are refugees at the border or those coming new into our country while trying to navigate systems and differences in culture? How do we make our way through (and not avoid) the clear racial tensions and inequities in our country? What do we do with our knowledge of the atrocities being committed in Ukraine, Yemen and Myanmar? It’s appealingly easy to bury our heads, anesthetize ourselves, and not care or be concerned. We don’t know what to do about these things so, oftentimes, we do nothing...I fall into this torpor all the time. “But really John, do we have to think about this depressing stuff today??? It’s Easter Sunday for God’s sake!”

Yes, we do because Easter is about all this even more than being about the three B’s: bunnies, baskets, and bonnets. Every year it’s the living reminder that none of the horror and bad stuff of this world has the final say if we believe in Jesus. If it does, then we cave to cynicism, fear, hopelessness, despair and selfishness. Remember, Good Friday doesn’t have the last word...Easter Sunday does! The awful happenings to Jesus that we remember on Good Friday move us to and toward Easter Sunday and the empty tomb, to the risen Jesus, and to resurrection to new and eternal life...yes, after the last breath and even in the many little “last breath dyings” along the way. Belief in Jesus and His rising gives us the hope, the courage, the wisdom, and strength to speak up and do something, however big or small it may be. Jesus doesn’t magically take away our pain and suffering. His didn’t get taken away. It’s about going through it but, with Him. He knows our suffering. God didn’t magically take away the suffering of Jesus but He was there with him...even if Jesus Himself cried out like we do, “My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?” Belief in the Lord, in his being fully human like us and in his being fully divine, I believe, helps us to make our own way through life on life’s terms without the bad keeping us stuck and ineffective. It doesn’t allow Good Friday to have the final word over Easter Sunday. “Jesus Christ is Risen from the dead” means that we have agency, in whatever time we have been given on this earth, to rise again to every new challenge to bring light and goodness, healing, forgiveness and love into the world. Without the empowerment of Jesus (which is the Holy Spirit), it’s a Sisyphean task. With Him, we could still lose our lives, or not even end up fixing something forever, but we continue His work “toward a future that is not our own.” I imagine Jesus would have loved to be on this earth longer than thirty-three years. We now take up His way in our own lives making a difference through what’s called the Paschal Mystery: the life, the suffering and death, and the resurrection of Jesus. “It is what we are about...we can’t do everything but we can at least to do something and to do it well...it may be incomplete but it is a [necessary] step along the way.” We never lose hope.

On behalf of everyone on our wonderful parish staff here at Saint Cecilia, God bless you and your beautiful families. I am more grateful than you know for your friendship, love, and support. The generosity in this parish community, long-distance and in-person, is overwhelming. So, on behalf of those who you unknowingly take care of through your generosity, thank you for giving us the opportunity to be good stewards of your resources. JCRFD!!!

Alleluia! He is Risen!!!

Peace,

Fr. John
It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

This prayer was first presented by Cardinal Dearden, Archbishop of Detroit in 1979 and quoted by Pope Francis in 2015. This reflection is an excerpt from a homily written for Cardinal Dearden by Fr. Ken Untener on the occasion of the Mass for Deceased Priests, October 25, 1979. Pope Francis quoted Cardinal Dearden in his remarks to the Roman Curia on December 21, 2015. Fr. Untener was named bishop of Saginaw, Michigan, in 1980.
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, April 16 | 8:00 p.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Rev. Mr. David Kiblinger, SJ, deacon  
Moira Macdonald, Cathy Anderson, Rick Gaillardetz, Chika Offurum, Jordan Barnes, Tom O’Brien, Greg Rybarczyk, Julie Desautels, and Letitia Howland, lectors

**Sunday, April 17 | 8:00 a.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Emily St. Germain, lector

**Sunday, April 17 | 9:30 a.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Will Kelly, Jen Kowieski, and Karen McMenamy, lectors

**Sunday, April 17 | 11:30 a.m.**
Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Michael Lake, James Paradis, and Kelly McClintock, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Wednesday, April 20 | 8:00 a.m.**
Joseph & Mary Maciora and Family, *Memorial*

EASTER

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord’s Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

~Collect for Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

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

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Acts 5:12-16  
Revelations 1:9-11A, 12-13, 17-19  
John 20:19-31
PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Delia Alvarez, Charlie Naughton, Peter Tracy, MaryAnn Weber, Bob Haas, Bob Roppolo, Christopher Gobron, Joy Gilbert, Mary Walters, John Powers, Marc Pelletier, Marian Licameli, Ray Cronin, Rosalind Sica, Nicholas Collins, Liam Nedell, and Rick Gaillardetz.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: the Burbage Family of Boston, the Yao-Fullerton Family of Boston, Kevin Sullivan of Boston, John and Jo-Anne Deelley of Hingham, and Donna O’Brien of Charlestown. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/.

Happy Anniversary!
This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of Jeanne Cronin, who was baptized on April 19. May the Lord continue to bless Jeanne with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Jeanne!

Boston Marathon
We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this weekend. On Patriots’ Weekend we always have a number of marathoniors, both parishioners and visitors, with us for Sunday worship. Through our prayer let us support and encourage all who will be running tomorrow.

Easter Collection
Today’s collection will benefit Clergy Trust which cares for the health and well-being of all our diocesan priests in good standing. Through your donation to this collection, you not only provide active priests with the support they need to continue their ministry, but also ensure that our senior priests continue to live in community with access to the high-quality care they need. Clergy Trust relies on your generosity to this collection, and every gift is greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping support our priests this Easter. To donate online visit: https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/funds/clergy-health-trust-easter-collection or scan this QR code.

Children’s Books
Generous parishioners have donated a supply of children’s books that can be found in a box in the narthex. Please feel free to borrow these during one of our liturgies.

Our Newest Members
At this weekend’s Great Vigil of Easter, we celebrate the initiation of four new Christians in the Easter waters. Karim Anthony Arsanjani, Mackenzie Dare Philomena Elvin, Caroline Bee Elizabeth Fish, and Astrid Ursula Teresa Love will profess their faith in Christ and be baptized, confirmed, and welcomed to the Eucharistic table.

Eric James Andrew Dykes, Susan Bernek Catherine Fugliese, Jason Peter Gregory Knowles, Kaitlyn Marie Cecilia Nassab, Paul Thomas Peter Quistberg, Kian Pantaleon Riley, Sabrena Ellen Teresa Tufts, and Douglas Tilghman Joseph Wilson (all previously baptized in other Christian traditions) will be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church and be confirmed and welcomed to the table of the Lord.

Keep these men and women 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.

VIRTUS TRAINING
Sunday, May 15 | 11:00 to 12:30 | Classroom 1

All volunteers who may have contact with children or vulnerable people are required by the Archdiocese to complete VIRTUS "Protecting God’s Children" (PCG) training. This is a one time obligation unlike the annual CORI process. This particularly includes catechists, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, greeters, choir members, and members of Saint Cecilia CARES who have not already attended a VIRTUS "Protecting God’s Children" training session. If this date doesn’t work for you, you may sign up for one of the diocesan courses on https://www.virtusonline.org/mypage/user_edit_preregistration.cfm, or save the date for the next Saint Cecilia training on September 18. Included will be an overview on mandated reporting, and info on how to file a 51A report. No need to RSVP.
Easter Flowers

The Abrahamyan Family
  Joan Abruzzi
  Heather Allen
  Jennifer Anderson
  Elsie & Tony Andrade
  Mary Anselmo
  "Ant" Anthony

Mary Dennehy Anzivino
  Cora Arnold
  Mike Arnold
  Michael Attridge
  Patrick Attridge
  Catherine Aylward
  Nicole Bairos Heck
  Maria Barbosa

Mr. & Mrs. Vasco Barbosa
  Romainia Barclay
  Joanne Bean
  Bill Bennett
  Mark Berg

Julius & Eleanor Bienkowski
  Rita Miller Bill Miller
  Joseph Francis Black
  Jacinto Bento Botelho
  Jacinto Sousa Botelho
  Maria Belmira Botelho
  Chuck & Betty Botosh
  Treshawn Boyd
  Mary Bradley
  Mary M. Bradley
  John Brait
  Jack Brent
  Pat Brooks

The Brooks Family
  MaryLee Brown
  Patricia Brown
  The Brown Family
  Sergio Bru
  Francisco Bucaus
  The Burda Family
  Jibie Butler
  Robert T. Butler
  Robert Byrne
  Mark & Jeanna Byron
  Josephine Caliguire
  Paul Caliguire
  Glenn Calmus

Howard and Marjorie Camden
  Charles Campion
  Maria C. Campo de Paez
  Lenora Campoli
  James & Mary Carolan
  Connie & Jack Carver
  John Allen Cates
  Teddy Chagnan
  Caleb Chapman
  The Charland Family
  Eleanor Cole
  John Cole
  Jerry Coleman
  The Coleman Family
  Charlene Anne Colgan

Patricia & Walter F. Colgan
  Ann Colman
  Fr. Chuck Connolly SJ
  Michael Cormier
  Rita Corsello
  Jack Corsello Jr.
  Ryan Costa

Francis & Madeline Cotton
  Mario Couto
  The Cowley Family
  Susanne E. Coyne
  Troy Coyne
  Robert Crawford
  Maria Cullen
  Daniel & Jeanne Curley
  Daniel T Curley
  Mark Czystochowa
  Cyril D'Souza

Peter & Charlotte D’Souza
  Helen Da Cruz

Eleanor Byrne Mooney Dahar
  Mr & Mrs Saheed W. Dahar Sr.
  Hank Dane
  Dr. Frederic W. Davis
  Evelyn Davis
  Earl & Irene DeBlieux
  Diane Decker
  Bernard DeFusco
  Rachael DeFusco
  Bob Deignan
  The DeMers Family
  John Z. Dennehy

Mr & Mrs Philip F. Dennehy Sr.
  Anthony and Christine Depta
  Tony Depta
  Norma DeRobinson
  Marc DeSousa
  Kathy Devin
  Nancy Diaco
  Marie R. Diegnan
  Frank and Marjorie DiGennaro
  Tina & Anthony Dilanni
  Cecelia Dodson
  Walter Doherty
  Rosella Donlan
  Madeline & Ed Donohue
  Michael & Hilda Doran
  George J Doran, Sr.
  Adam Dragon
  Eugenica & Eugene Dragon
  Paul Dragon
  Joel Drexslius
  John Drexslius
  Julia Dsilva
  Robert Dsilva
  Arthur F. Dunnett
  R. Margaret Dunnett
  Dr. Tom Durant
  Charlotte Durham
  John Duxbury
  Alice Egan
  Stephen Ellis

Mary & Peter Famiglietti
  Franchi & Mancini Families
  Anthony, Ann & John Farinelli
  Mary Fazio
  Rev. José S. Ferreira
  Dora Ferritto
  Thomas Ferritto
  Elio Fine
  Emma Fischer
  Ann Flaherty
  Annie Flaherty
  Josep Flaherty
  John and Evelyn Flannery
  Walter Fletcher
  Arnulfo Flores
  Nora Frank
Arthur Carl Frithsen
Arthur Robert Frithsen
Constance Frithsen
Margaret Frithsen
Doris Gabrielli
Felice Gabrielli
Helen Gallagher
Chuck Gamble
Carmina Garcia
Joseph Garcia
Patricia Garcia
Jose Garcia Jr.
Jose Garcia Sr.
Bill Gardner
Michael Garvey
Rudy Garza
William & Anne Giles
The Golden Family
Mikey Goodwin
Faith Grady
Shawn Grady
Patrick Graf
Sara Graf
Walter Grant
James J. Griffin
Lucy B. Griffin
The Griffin Family
Mortimer & Eileen Griffith
Patricia Griffith
Rev. Msgr. Michael F. Groden
Meaghan Grotz
Doug Guidry
Maria Olivieri Hakansson
Richard N. Hart, Jr.
Charles & Nancy Heaslip
Jillian Heaslip
John & Ellen Hendron
Helenmarie Hickey
Albert Hodge
Ellen Hogan
Father Jerry Hogan
Hazel Hollingsworth
Bryce Holton
Leah and Thomas Holton
Rolande Houle
Carol Howland
Charlie Howland
Richard Howland
William James
Boyd Jefferies
George Joseph
Martha Joseph
John Patrick Joyce
Margaret Mary Joyce
Charles and Rosemary Judge
Marie Julian
Rose Kacich
Bohdan Kaczmarek
The Karl Family
Bob Kenney
Josephine Kiesewetter
Brig. Gen. Leo A. Kiley
Jack Kiley
John Kiley
Nadia & Joseph Kiley
Hedwick Klick
Brima Koroma
Beth Kuehler
Cecilia Kurta
Joseph Kurta
Rene & Dottie L'Abbe
Bob Lacey
Lawrence & Mary Angela Lacey
Jack Lally
Robert F. & Ruth M. Lally
Mickey Leahy
Larry Leahy
Neil Leonard
Kenny Liebling
Maris Liepa
Jaime Jacinto Lima
João Lima
Manuel Lima
Claire & Joseph Lippolt
Diane A. Love
Beirne Lovely
Francis B and Dorothy Lovely
Barbara Luacaw
Dave Macaulay
Barbara & John MacDonald
Loretta Macdonald
Patricia Macdonald
John & Angelina Machado
Kenneth MacNeil
Fred Maglero
Ilda Maguire
Paul Maguire
Peter Maguire
Brendan Maguire
Joel Maksymowicz
Gerry & Bridie Maloney
Norman Maravilla
Gregorio Maravilla Sr.
Leonard Mariani
Efrain and Dolores Marrero
The Maslack Family
Manuel Matos
Ana Matta
Natividad Matta
Judy Matteson
Stephen Matteson
Joanne Mauldin
William John McCarron
Carmela McCoy
Margaret M. McDonagh
Patrick J. McDonagh
Peter & Bertha McIntyre-Wheatley
Bill McLaughlin
Jim McLaughlin
Cheryl Mehalik
The Meloni Family
Monika Menasche
Peter Menasche
Richard Meuse
Fred Michael
Joe Michalski
Miloslav and Anne Mikus
Leon Miller
Kathleen Modeste
Francis, Claire, & Barbara Moffatt
Helen & Patrick Moffatt
John Kent Mohart
Josephine Moitoso
Jeff Monroe
Mr & Mrs. Henry J. Mooney Sr.
George Morales
Irene Morillo
Paul Morris
Francis & Margaret Morse
John Morse
Mikhail Mugerwa
Billy Mullin
Dorothy and Frank Mullin
Francis Mullin
Edwin Murphy
Elizabeth "Betty" Murphy
Rev. Richard Murphy
Robert Murphy
Cassidy Murray
Jim Nausadis
Cleveland Nelson
Dorothy Nelson
Gary Nichols
John Nicholson
Virginia Nicholson
Sr. Jeannette Normandin
George O'Brien
Pauline O'Brien
Jerry O'Connor
Ryan O'Donnell
The O'Malley Family
Ethel O'Neil
Patricia Oakes
C. Anthony Olivieri
Maria Olivieri Hakansson
Angel Oller
Edward & Margaret Pacana
Ellen Pacuilli
Placido Paez C.
Cristobal Paez L.
Elena Paez L.
Ana Teresa Palermo
Ernesto Palermo
Anne Palmer
Christine Anne Palmer
Carmela and Anthony Pandolfo
Nora and Ern Parsons
Bob Patterson
Delia & Michael Flynn Pauline & Denis Cote
Apolonio Pena
April Pierson-Keating
Maria do Carmo Pimental
Carlota Pipes
Paul A. Pollastri
Julia Powell
Mary Powell Richardson
Mary Frances Pressley
Joanne Howlin Purcell
Michael Joseph Purcell
Elaine Rago
Geoff Reilly
Janet E. Reilly
Richard Reilly
William J. Reilly
Ruth Reiss
Jeffrey Reyes
Lauren Rice
Sheldon Rich
Mary Richard
Giuseppina & Carmelo Roccuzzo
Jack Roche
Guadalupe Rodriguez
Jose Rodriguez
Grace Romasanta
Edgar & Josephine Roy
Elizabeth Rose Russo
Laura Ryan
Michael Sabato
The Santoro Family
Father Richard Segreve
Elise Senior
Jim Senior
Sophia Sgourakes
Elizabeth Shatswell
John Shatswell
Peter Shatswell
Susan Shaughnessy
Lucille Shaw
Laura Ann Shea
Siobhan Shea
Joan Shelto
Tony Shelto
Elizabeth Sheridan
Regina Sheridan
William Sheridan
Kathleen Shortt
John Shugars
Nancy Shugars
Paul & Mary Siebert
Pete Sigmund
Anthony C. Simboli
Dale Simmons
Jillian Slateus
Ellen Solomita
Edith Sorrentino
Dorothy Starzyk
William Starzyk Jr
Mary & Frank States
Elaine Stritch
Daniel E. Sullivan
Mary Kay Sullivan
Virginia V. Sullivan
Elizabeth Ann Testa
Lenor Thistle
Sue & Mike Toomey
Angela & Raymond Towle
Jude Vachon
Larry Vachon
Mary Vachon
Rico Valencia, Jr.
Brian Van Nostrand
Gregg Van Nostrand
Louis & Margaret Venditti
Angie Verderane
Frank Verderane
The Veysey Family
Kevin Walsh
Stephen J. Walsh
Stephen Joseph Walsh
William "Billy" Walsh
Nicholas Wanderley
Doug Weaver
Frank Williams
Bernadette Wiseman
Johnny Wiseman
Robert Yobaccio
Rosemary Young
UPCOMING CONCERT

On April 22 the Botetourt Chamber Singers from William & Mary will be giving a concert at 8:00 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Church. The ensemble sings a wide variety of choral literature from the Renaissance through contemporary works, including a full concert of jazz and Broadway standards at their annual Gala Concert Fundraiser in the Kimball Theater each February. They have released 3 CDs including “Something Olde, Something New”, “Sing We Joyous, All Together” and “All My Heart This Night Rejoices.” This concert is free and open to the public.

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WITH LEGAL/ PARALEGAL EXPERIENCE

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

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

PILGRIMAGE ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

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

Join parishioners Nancy Nee Hanifin and Karen McMenamy for a series of presentations on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. The Camino can be seen as an extended, moving retreat, offering tremendous opportunities for meditative walking, reflection, and introspection. Meetings will be held Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on the dates listed below and streamed virtually via Zoom. Each meeting will last about an hour.

- **April 12**: “Camino Ignaciano”—2022 marks the 500th anniversary of St. Ignatius’ pilgrimage during which he converted as a spiritual soldier for God. It leads from his birthplace in Loyola, Spain (Basque Country) to the monastery of Montserrat outside of Barcelona, where he lay down his sword. It ends in Manresa where he wrote his Spiritual Exercises.

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

SUPPORT WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE

One of the major fundraisers for our friends at the Newbury Street shelter is their Mother’s Day card sale. The Women’s Lunch Place is a day shelter community for women experiencing poverty and homelessness. Six days a week, trained staff and volunteers work as a team to provide hundreds of women healing, hope and dignity. Some guests use the shelter’s services on a daily basis, while there are others who we see less frequently. For each $25 donation to WLP, you will receive a card designed by one of the shelter’s guests as a thank you. Proceeds from the Mother’s Day card campaign support a wide array of services to the most vulnerable women in our community, including healthy meals and individualized services that empower women to make positive changes in their lives. In addition to our cards, you can sponsor a breakfast for $300 or a day of fresh fruit for $150 in honor or memory of a meaningful person in your life. For more information, please contact Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com or you can order a card directly by clicking on www.MothersDayCards.org.
Pine Street Inn’s Home Remedy fundraising breakfast brings together Greater Boston’s corporate and philanthropic leaders. Thanks to dedicated partners like you, funds raised through this breakfast will support approximately 1,500 men and women daily, who turn to Pine Street for help in rebuilding their lives. The featured speaker for the event is Dr. Matthew Desmond. MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond’s Pulitzer Prize winning bestseller Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, draws on years of fieldwork and data to transform our understanding of inequity and economic exploitation in America. To learn more or attend visit: https://givebutter.com/HomeRemedy2022

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LABOURE CENTER SPRING RECEPTION

Registration is now open for the 38th Annual Catholic Charities Laboure Center Spring Reception on Thursday, April 28 from 5:30–8:30 p.m.! This year’s event will be in person again. This year Laboure Center will honor The Claddagh Fund–Charitable Foundation of the Dropkick Murphys, a longtime supporter of Laboure Center’s mission, at The Exchange, located at 212 Northern Ave, Boston. Limited complimentary parking will be available courtesy of MassPort. Early bird tickets for $100 are available through April 15, and can be purchased at https://www.ccab.org/Laboure-Spring-Reception.

JOIN US AT COMMUNITY SERVINGS

We have an upcoming opportunity for volunteers to assist in preparing and packaging free, nutritious meals for those who are homebound with life-threatening illnesses throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

Eight volunteers are needed on Friday, April 29 from 4:00-7:00p.m. Please feel free to join us even if you can’t be there until a bit later than 4:00 p.m.

No culinary skills are needed to make a difference, but volunteers need to be at least thirteen years of age and free of COVID and its symptoms. Community Servings is conveniently located next to the Stony Brook T Station in Jamaica Plain. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Mark Lippolt at: mark.lippolt@gmail.com.

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

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

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

SACRED THREADS — NEWTON

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

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: https://sacredthreadscenter.org/events/
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING — WEEK 7

Clickable links and additional resources at

During Lent, our Social and Racial Justice Ministry Book Club focused on articles and action. Even though Lent is over, this final week they’ll be leveraging the Seventh Principle of Catholic Social Teaching developed by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. All parishioners are welcome to join Wednesday, April 20 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. EDT via Zoom. Register at https://bit.ly/BookClubLent22 for the Zoom link.

Week 7: The Care for God’s Creation

By showing care for others, we show our care for God. We are called to protect the Earth and all of its inhabitants.

From Scripture:
"The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it." -Genesis 2:15

Explore:
• Watch (you can search for the following on YouTube):
  • Earthrise by Amanda Gorman
  • Earth Day 2022 “Integral Ecology” from Catholic Climate Covenant
• Read: Laudato Si’—On Care for Our Common Home

Reflect:
• There is a need for conversion of the world, not just to renewables, but also in how we live. How does Jesus call you to live your life? How does Jesus call you to care for others? How might listening to this call impact your life? The earth?
• Where do you see the intersection between economic, racial, and environmental justice? What privileges do you recognize in your own experience as they relate to the environment? How might you leverage that privilege to support environmental justice for those who are more vulnerable?
• If you’d like to discuss this seventh & last principle, please join us Wednesday, April 20, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. EST via Zoom. Sign up at bit.ly/BookClubLent22

Take Action:
• Extinction Rebellion Freedom From Fossil Fuels March, Friday April 22nd 3:30 p.m. Copley Square
• Speak for the Trees Boston April 22-30. Volunteer, donate or just join one of their tree-friendly activities in the city. https://treeboston.org/sftt_news/arborweek/
• Enroll in the Laudato Si’ Action Platform (LSAP) and start your plan for addressing climate change. The Platform is a new faith-driven and ecological initiative to engage the Catholic Church in a seven-year journey to global sustainability and spiritual conversion. The Platform is a collaboration between the Vatican and a coalition of Catholic organizations across the world. Enroll at the Vatican LSAP website https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/
  • Please email us at sc.climatejustice@gmail.com when you enroll, and we will add you to the list of parishioners participating so that we can encourage each other and share information and stories.
The Easter Sunday Gospel seems very disappointing. After the blowout of the vigil, today's Gospel presents "good news" of confusion, misunderstanding and at least a touch of fear. Maybe we should let Peter and Paul lead us through the day.

To understand Peter's homily, we need to see it in the context of the whole chapter of Acts 10. Peter preached this in the home of the Roman centurion, Cornelius, as he was about to baptize the first official Gentile Christians. This incident describes the bridge on which the faith crossed from belonging to a small group of the chosen people to embracing "everyone who believes in [Jesus of Nazareth]."

Peter's earlier homilies cited the traditions of Israel; now, among the Gentiles, he simply proclaims that God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power and that Jesus went around doing good. Peter carefully described Jesus' death and the fact that God raised him up "and granted that he be visible, not to all people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God."

To a skeptic, that is a terribly flimsy argument. In effect, Peter was saying: "Everyone knows Jesus died. Lo and behold, a few of us were privy to seeing him alive again!"

Why would anyone believe that? Why would Jews accept being excommunicated from their synagogues and Romans risk the derision of their sophisticated, anti-Jewish colleagues on the basis of such statements made by former fishermen or tax collectors — and even by women?

Those of us who've been churchgoers for most of our lives often assume the Resurrection like we assume that the sun rises in the morning. It's part of our often-unquestioned worldview.

In fact, bringing real critical questions to the topic might lead us to shaky ground. Really, why would Peter's audience (or we) accept such an absurd story? What was happening that led people to side with the disciples and believe what they had not seen for themselves?

It has to do with what Peter and Cornelius shared. In Cornelius' house, Peter witnessed the presence of the Holy Spirit, and because of that, he took the unprecedented and scandalous step of baptizing Gentiles.

In choosing this scene for our Easter liturgy, the church reminds us that discipleship does not flow from dogma or theology and has nothing to do with ethnicity, status or gender. Christian discipleship is truly catholic, meaning universal. Christian discipleship springs from an experience of God's Spirit as revealed in Jesus.

Here's where Paul helps us out. In the Letter to the Colossians, he tells us, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above. ... For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Paul is inviting the Colossians to remember a personal experience — the metanoia, the conversion and new insight after which nothing could be the same. Their conversion and Christian commitment did not result from hearing a rational argument or an advantageous proposal; it flowed from a shared experience of God's grace/Spirit working in and among them, convincing them beyond reason that Jesus was the Messiah.

For the Colossians as for Cornelius, the experience of the risen Christ and the grace of the Spirit was like the experience of the first disciples who accepted the call to follow Jesus wherever he would lead. Although it may have begun with an overwhelming
experience of faith and hope, it became real over the course of a lifelong series of moments of insight followed by questions, temptations, failures and recommitments.

This helps us appreciate the puzzling rationale for the church's use of this ambivalent Resurrection narrative on Easter Sunday. Today's inconclusive Gospel forces us to remember that faith is always a risk.

Real faith fears no questions or doubts because it knows that God is bigger than our imagination. Faith invites us into a commitment that offers no insurance policy except that which comes from experiences of grace that are as strong and certain as they are inexplicable.

Today's Gospel invites us to accompany Peter or John or Mary during the early hours of the first Easter as their certainties about death and failure were thrown into question. They allowed themselves to be confused. They didn't know the answers, but they permitted their hearts and minds to break open.

God's plan in Jesus is far bigger than our imaginations. Today, let us not be afraid to face the tomb of old certainties and become thoroughly confused and, naturally, even a bit afraid. Easter reveals God's desire to transform our doubts, worries and fears into blowout experiences of the Spirit.

God's plan is for this to happen again and again, leading us to "go around doing good" just like Jesus did.

~St. Joseph Sr. Mary M. McGlone, CSJ serves on the congregational leadership team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace is approaching on May 8. The walk began as an opportunity to be in solidarity with mothers and families who have experienced the murder of their loved ones on the streets of Boston. In its 26th year, the Peace Institute is a grass roots community organization supporting families through this trauma and working for healing and peace.

Saint Cecilia Parish and many individual parishioners have participated in this walk for the past many years, as it raises vital resources for the organization and the communities it supports. This year we step up to address this dire need with an expanded commitment. The parish will match individual donations up to $5,000. There will also be a Saint Cecilia walking team that will join with families, hospital workers, and other churches waving banners of hope and unity. To learn more, join the team to walk or make a donation, please visit: https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/159446/St-Cecilia-Parish.

Are you warm & joyful?
Do you like to smile?
If so, we need your help!

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

If this sounds appealing and you think you might like to help either occasionally or on a more regular basis, please send an email to Lisa Pickering (lpickering@stceciliaboston.org).
Parish Greeters & Coffee Hospitality Ministers—a small commitment with a big impact!
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address
18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & by Appointment
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax: 617 536 1781
E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff
Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Rev. Mr. David A. Kiblinger, SJ, Deacon
Keith Brinkley, Mike Currier, Rudy Flores, Lauren Healy, Parker Olson, Corey Ortiz, Reception
leahbennett@stceciliaboston.org
Leah Bennett, Communications and Operations Manager
christineburns@stceciliaboston.org
Christine Burns, Digital Media Coordinator
robertduff@stceciliaboston.org
Robert Duff, Director of Music
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Giovanna Fanchi, Pastoral Minister
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Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
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Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance
cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org
Thomas Mellan, Organist
tmellan@stceciliaboston.org
dmorris@stceciliaboston.org
Assisting Clergy
Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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