

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Third Sunday of Easter

23 April 2023

Road to Emmaus by Michael Torevell

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

23 APRIL 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | I Know that My Redeemer Lives

DUKE STREET



1. I know that my Re - deem - er lives!
2. He lives to bless me with his love;
3. He lives and grants me dai - ly breath;
4. He lives, all glo - ry to his name;



What joy this blest as - sur - ance gives!
He lives to plead for me a - bove;
He lives, and I shall con - quer death;
He lives, my Sav - ior, still the same;



He lives, he lives who once was dead;
He lives my hun - gry soul to feed;
He lives my man - sion to pre - pare;
What joy this blest as - sur - ance gives:



He lives, my ev - er - last - ing Head!
He lives to help in time of need.
He lives to bring me safe - ly there.
I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: Amen.

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Refrain in English

Cantor *All / Todos*

You will draw wa - ter joy-ful - ly You will draw wa - ter
joy-ful - ly from the springs of sal - va - tion. from the
springs of sal - va - tion.

Estribillo en Español

Cantor *Todos / All*

Sa - ca - rán a - guas con a - le - grí - a Sa - ca -
rán a - guas con a le grí - a de las fuen - tes de sal - va -
ción. de las fuen - tes de sal - va - ción.

God indeed is my Savior, I am confident and fearless. My courage is the Lord, for God has been my Savior!

Proclaim God's name to the nations, tell the world of God's works.
Praise the Lord, all you people, how glorious is God's name!

Sing the wonders God works, make them known in every land.
O people of Zion, shout: The Holy one is among you.

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

To verses *Last time*

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

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

Cantor: *Cantor:* *Assembly:* *Cantor:*



Verse 3

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

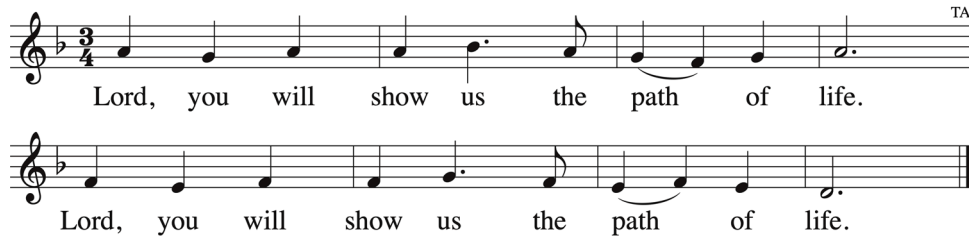
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 2: 14, 22-33

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 16: Lord, You Will Show Us the Path of Life

Tony Alonso



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.*

SECOND READING | 1 Peter 1: 17-21

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 24: 13-35

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

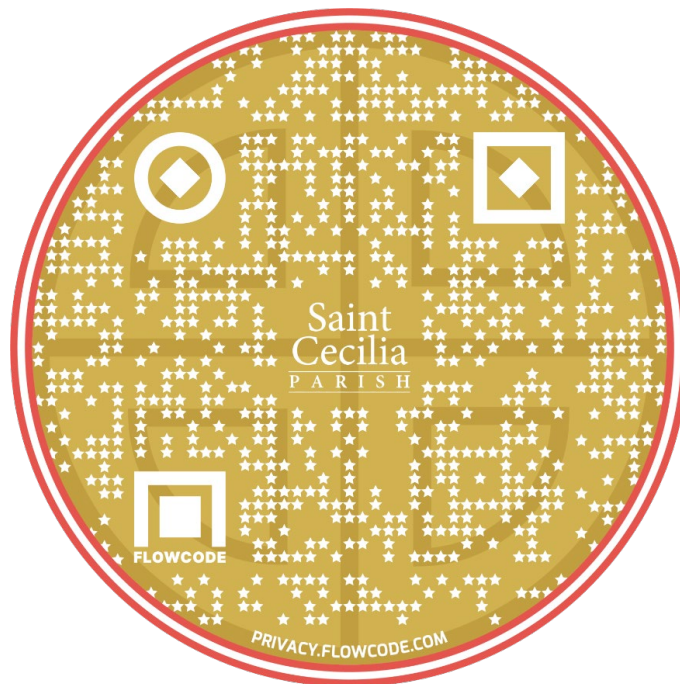
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 | Emmaus

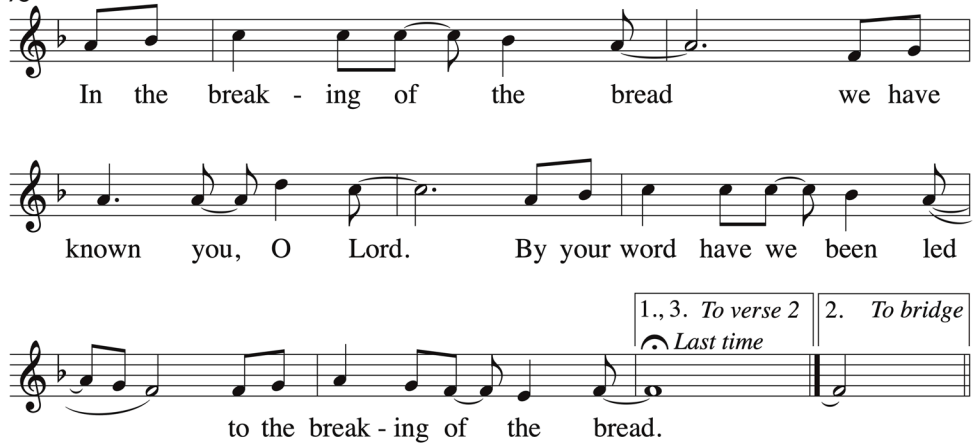
Tony Alonso

Verse 1



1. As we jour-neyed on our way and re - mem-bered Christ our friend,
our eyes were slow to rec - og - nize, our
hearts to com-pre - hend. Now a stran-ger at our side,
we talked with him on the way of all the things
that hap - pened that led us to this day.

Refrain



In the break - ing of the bread we have
known you, O Lord. By your word have we been led
to the break - ing of the bread.

1., 3. To verse 2
2. To bridge
Last time

Verse 2



2. Then he o - pened up the Word of the

proph-ets who had said, “Your Sav-ior first must suf - fer, then
rise from the dead.” As our jour - ney found its end
and the dark of night drew near, we told the stran-
ger, “Stay with us till morn-ing’s light ap - pears.” **D.S.**

Bridge
It was at ta - ble then we knew why our hearts were set a - blaze:
This stran-ger was our broth-er a - ris - en from the grave!

Interlude **4** **D.S.**

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.

HOLY, HOLY | Mass of the Angels and Saints

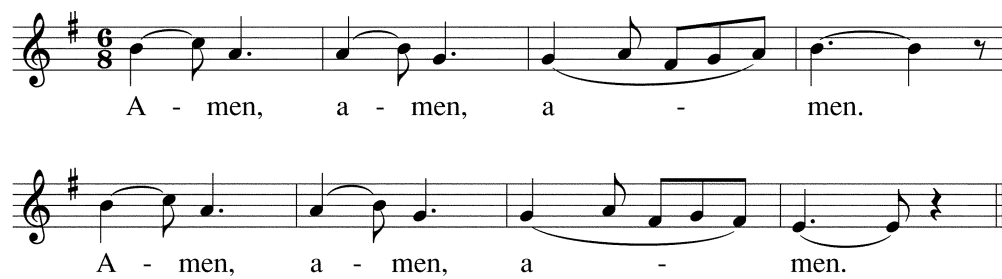
Steven R. Janco

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -
fess your Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.

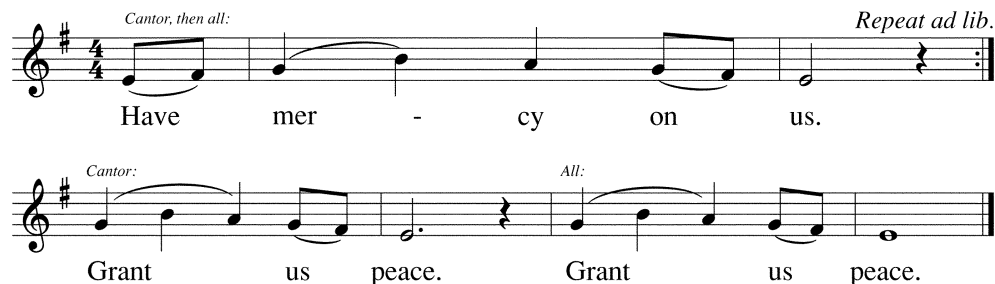


THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
 Amen.

LAMB OF GOD | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



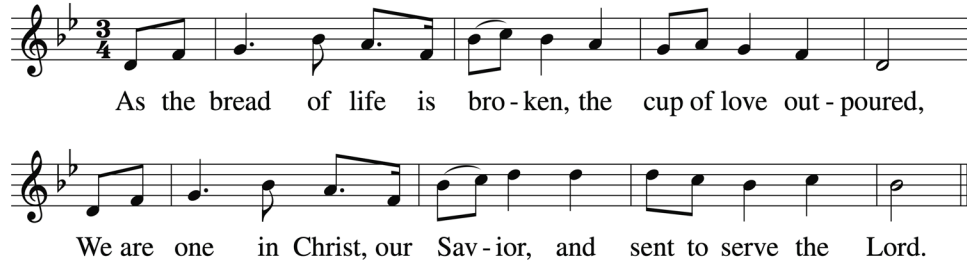
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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



Verses

1. We, the man - y who are gath - ered, are u -
2. In the word of God pro - claimed here the good
3. In the bread of life here giv - en, we be -
4. Sent as bless - ing for God's peo - ple, to go

nit - ed now as one. In this joy - ful cel - e -
news of truth is heard. In the tell - ing of the
come what we re - ceive. In the cup of love here
forth in love and peace, In our wit - ness to God's

D.C.

bra - tion, we re - call what God has done.
sto - ries, we are o - pen to God's word.
of - fered, we af - firm what we be - lieve.
king - dom, may our char - i - ty in - crease.

CONCLUDING RITES

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.


✠ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.

to Refrain



1. tri-umph won; O let the song of praise be sung: Al-le-lu - ia!
2. ty to reign; O let us swell the joy - ful strain: Al-le-lu - ia!
3. set us free, That we may live e - ter - nal - ly! Al-le-lu - ia!

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!

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.

A MODERN TAKE ON TODAY'S GOSPEL READING

The Gospel reading from Luke 24:35-48 describes the moment when Jesus appears to his disciples after his resurrection. The disciples are initially frightened and think they are seeing a ghost, but Jesus assures them that he is real and invites them to touch his hands and feet. To further convince them, Jesus eats a piece of baked fish in front of them. He then explains the Scriptures to them, revealing how his death and resurrection were foretold. Jesus commissions his disciples to proclaim repentance and forgiveness in his name to all nations. The reading emphasizes the reality of Jesus' resurrection and his continued presence among his disciples. It also highlights the importance of the Scriptures in understanding the significance of his death and resurrection, and the mission of his followers to spread his message of universal repentance and forgiveness.

Artists across time have depicted the Biblical stories of the Road to Emmaus and the Supper at Emmaus, but we wanted to share two works in particular—a modern one by Cameroonian artist Marc Padeu and another by the Baroque master Caravaggio.

ABOUT THE SUBJECT MATTER:

Supper at Emmaus by Caravaggio depicts the moment when two disciples of Jesus Christ recognize him as he breaks bread with them after his resurrection. By looking closely at the works of Caravaggio and Padeu, side by side, you can see the compositional similarities between the works and how Padeu uses the composition of this work as a springboard for his own work. The paintings feature a dramatic use of light, shadow, and color, which creates a sense of depth and drama. In addition, the figures are depicted in a realistic and naturalistic manner, with the artists' signature attention to detail and texture. By dressing their subjects in contemporary clothing and creating a dinner spread reflective of the time in which the works were created, the artists bring this Gospel reading into their own worlds and subsequently keep this narrative relevant.

ABOUT MARC PADEU:

Marc Padeu is a Cameroonian artist who uses his work to explore themes of identity, colonialism, and the African diaspora. He believes that art can be a powerful tool for challenging dominant narratives and creating new representations of Blackness. Padeu is interested in the complex relationships between Africa and Europe, and he uses his art to question the legacies of colonialism and the ongoing effects of cultural imperialism. Padeu's work often incorporates elements of traditional African art, such as masks and textiles, but he also draws on contemporary pop culture references to create pieces that are both timeless and of-the-moment. He is committed to creating a dialogue between different cultures and artistic traditions, and his work is characterized by its vibrant colors, bold patterns, and dynamic compositions. Overall, Padeu's point of view is one that celebrates the diversity and richness of African culture, while also challenging the stereotypes and prejudices that have historically been imposed upon it. His art is a reflection of his belief that culture is a living, breathing entity that is constantly evolving and adapting, and that it has the power to unite people across boundaries of race, ethnicity, and geography.



Le souper a Penja by Marc Padeu (Cameroonian, 1990–), 2019, Acrylics.



Supper at Emmaus by Caravaggio (1571–1610), c. 1601, Oil on canvas.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, April 22 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Richard Gaillardetz, lector

Sunday, April 23 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Jim Dougherty, lector

Sunday, April 23 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Natasha Bolton-Pierre, Rosaria Salerno,
and Zachary Boutin, lectors

Sunday, April 23 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Mark Richburg, Karen McMenamy, and Jen Kowieski, lectors

Sunday, April 23 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Karen Vachon and Julie Bogdanski, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 23 | 9:30 a.m.

Thomas Delco, *Memorial*
Paul DeSabato, *Memorial*
Dottie L'Abbe, *Memorial*
Carmen Burti, *Memorial*

Sunday, April 23 | 11:30 a.m.

Michael Stockman, *6th Anniversary*
Brendan Charles O'Reilly, *Memorial*
Robert Peterlin, *Memorial*
Catherine Mootos, *Memorial*

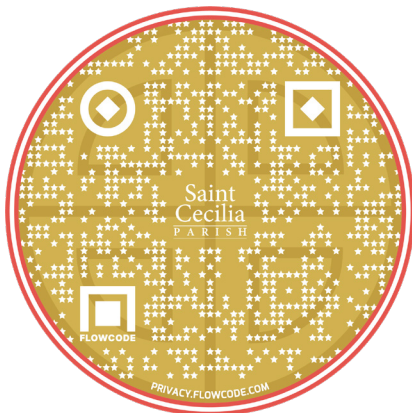
TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:14, 22-23
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
1 Peter 2:20b-25
John 10:1-10

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Jim Mootos' mother died on April 18. Pray for the repose of the soul of **Catherine Mootos**. Pray also for the consolation of Jim, his father Ted, and their family and friends. May Catherine's soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Sue Ryan, Necee Regis, Tim Finn, Glenn Gallo, Carol Tebo, John Hosang, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rick Gaillardetz, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts**.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: **Conor Murphy** of Boston, **Stephen Foley** of Wellesley, the **Pulido-Soler Family** of Barcelona, Spain, **Jaclyn Brewster** and **Stephen Fleury** of Boston, and the **Mellyn-Vera Family** of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Catholic Appeal

Thank you to those who have given to the Catholic Appeal! We've exceeded our donor goal, but we are only at 45% of our financial goal. We are stronger together and your generosity is greatly appreciated! Donate here: www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate

Visit Our Family Center

As we gather together to celebrate Mass, we are reminded of the importance of community and the shared experience of worship. However, we understand that attending Mass with young children can sometimes be challenging. That's why we encourage you to visit our Family Center, located to the left of the parish café and underneath the staircase on Saint Cecilia Street. The center is open during liturgies and provides a comfortable environment for parents with young children. Here, parents can watch Mass as their children play, and nursing mothers can enjoy a quieter, more private space. If you have any questions about the Family Center, please contact Director of Facilities and Events, Lisa Pickering at lpickering@stceciliaboston.org.

Take Home a Little White Book for Easter

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

The Third Sunday of Easter

The Paschal Triduum was truly a time of grace and beauty for us at Saint Cecilia. We are now two weeks into the Great Fifty Days of rejoicing, culminating in the celebration of Pentecost on May 28. Each year on the Third Sunday of Easter, the Gospel proclaims a post-Resurrection appearance of Christ in which he shares a meal with his disciples. The Eucharistic theme is obvious. Let us rejoice and celebrate the fact that Christ is indeed made known to us in the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

April Meteor Shower

As we gaze upon the beauty of the night sky, we are reminded of the wonder and mystery of God's creation. This month, we have the opportunity to witness the April Lyrids meteor shower, which will be active between April 20 and 30. In the United States, the best time to view the Lyrids' peak will be around 9:00 p.m. ET on April 22, according to the American Meteor Society. Let us take a moment to appreciate the magnificence of the cosmos and the majesty of our Creator.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

VIRTUS Training
Sunday, April 30 | 1:00 p.m. | Community Room



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

SUPPORT OUR NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Spring is traditionally the time of year when the majority of the nonprofit agencies Saint Cecilia supports through our Hunger & Homelessness Ministry have their most critical fundraisers. This is true again in 2023, except that, with COVID seemingly winding down, everyone is returning to in-person events.

Wednesday, May 10

LifeSavor — Community Servings

Location: Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse Galleria, Back Bay

Information about the event: <https://www.servings.org/lifesavor/>

Friday, May 12

Eat Lunch Give — Women's Lunch Place

Location: Grand Ballroom, Park Plaza Hotel | Information about the event:

<https://womenslunchplace.org/eat-lunch-give>

Monday, May 15

Medicine that Matters Gala — Boston Health Care for the Homeless

Location: Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport | Information about the event:

<https://www.bhchp.org/events/2023-medicine-that-matters-gala/>

Wednesday, May 17

Spring Celebration — Catholic Charities

Location: JFK Library | Information about the event:

<https://www.ccab.org/news-updates/catholic-charities-spring-celebration/>

Sunday, May 21

Elderbration — Friendship Works

Location: Jamaica Pond | Information about the event:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/elderbration/>

For more information about any of these events,
please email Mark Lippolt at Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com



HOME REMEDY: A BREAKFAST TO BENEFIT PINE STREET INN

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 assist over 2,000 individuals daily, who turn to Pine Street for help in rebuilding their lives. The event will take place on Thursday, April 27 at 7:15 a.m. at the Westin Copley Hotel. Individual tickets are \$250. If you are interested in joining a Saint Cecilia table at the event, please email Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com.

CARE-TAKERS SUPPORT GROUP

Calling all parishioners who visit the sick, the elderly, or the homebound! Are you visiting people as part of a hospital or hospice volunteer group or through the CARES ministry and feel that you would benefit from peer support? We are considering starting a parishioner-led group to meet virtually, in person, or on a hybrid basis (likely once a month) to build spiritual connection and share experiences. Anyone who attends Saint Cecilia in person or virtually is welcome. If you are interested, send your thoughts to aerusso2015@gmail.com. Our best, Silvina Ibanez, Bob Sances, and Amy Russo.



NEWS FROM THE BOSTON CHAPTER OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Sadly, the critically important work done by Catholic Relief Services staffers around the globe is not without risk: As Reuters recently reported: "Two Catholic Relief Services (CRS) workers were shot and killed on [Easter] Sunday in Ethiopia's Amhara region, the charity said, amid violent anti-government protests triggered by a federal government decision to disband regional special forces units. CRS director of communications Kim Pozniak said on Monday that the incident occurred in the town of Kobo, where residents reported heavy artillery fire on Sunday."

In a statement released after the murders, CRS said: "We operate across all parts of Ethiopia where needs are critical, including areas marked by conflict and high tensions, and we rely on all parties involved to allow us to carry out our work. Humanitarian workers must be able to operate without fear of harm, and it is essential that all actors respect our neutrality. This

safe space is necessary for us to operate at scale and continue providing essential lifesaving support to millions of people in need."



The work of CRS is supported, in part, by the Rice Bowl collections that occur during the Easter season.



JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Almost every day, we learn in the news of more acts of violence in our country. How do we, as a parish family, take action against the acts that break our hearts each day? Saint Theresa might advise us to take small steps with great love.

We have such an opportunity on May 14 by supporting the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's 27th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. The Institute began in 1996 when a Boston mother turned her grief into action after her teenage son was murdered on his way to a peace meeting. Clementina Chery formed the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in his name to help heal the lives of families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief, and loss.

Saint Cecilia Parish has given its heartfelt support to this essential work for many years. Through the pandemic, we joined the walk remotely by walking and fundraising virtually. Last year, our parish team purposefully joined with grieving families, other churches, and hospitals teams walking through city streets to demonstrate our support. Through our presence, our prayer, and financial donations we become part of the healing process that strives to break these cycles of violence.

This year, we have set a parish goal of \$7,000 as our contribution to the program's essential mission. The parish will add a match to help make this goal attainable. Your gift can have a lasting impact for the healing steps that move us toward peace through compassionate justice. Please visit the Saint Cecilia Team page on the Mother's Day Walk for Peace website: <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/stcecilia> to donate. Here, you can also sign up to join our Walking Team for an unforgettable community experience. If you want to learn more about the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and the Walk, we will have a special visit and presentation from the program's founder, Chaplain Clementina Chery, after the 11:30 Mass on April 30. Don't miss it!

CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

"Music for Food" is a musician-led initiative to fight hunger in our local communities. According to Project Bread: "Prior to the pandemic, household food insecurity in Massachusetts was at 8.2%. The coronavirus pandemic fueled a hunger crisis unlike any other in our lifetime, at it's peak rendering 19.6% of households food insecure." Music for Food's concerts have raised funds to create more than 1.5 million meals. Music for Food's 13th season concludes at 7:30pm on Sunday, April 23, in New England Conservatory's Brown Hall, featuring Brahms Piano Quintet, Beethoven String Quartet Op. 59, No. 1, and selections from Robert Schumann's Zwölf Gedichte von Justinus Kerner, op. 35, performed by the ever-inspiring Ayano Ninomiya, Lucy Chapman, Kim Kashkashian, Peter Stumpf, Alessio Bax, Corey Gaudreau, Tanya Blaich, and the Parker Quartet.

Admission is free, and all donations will benefit Women's Lunch Place (WLP). Suggested donation is \$30+ and \$10+ for students, collected at the door. 100% of donations will benefit Women's Lunch Place. To reserve your tickets: <https://musicforfood.net/checkout/donate?donatePagelId=6414e1c161e8286caa844d1f>

Understanding Homelessness in a Post-Covid Environment

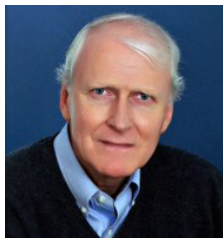
Tuesday, April 25, 2023 | 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM ET

Join A Faith That Does Justice for a conversation with Jim O'Connell, MD, President of Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program, for a Fireside Chat exploring issues of homelessness in today's post-Covid environment. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the challenges and root causes of homelessness, and what can be done to provide better care and support for those experiencing homelessness.



Register for free:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8816771838865/WN_GT0YircNRROV08e3fqPC5w

Or scan the QR code
to register:



Inspiring faith in action, serving society's most vulnerable



www.faithtodoesjustice.org | www.bhchp.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY CAMPUS EVENTS/WEBINARS

ANNUAL WOMEN IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY LECTURE

Women Religious and the Transformation of Theological Education

Presenter: Margaret Eletta Guider, OSF, Th.D.,
Associate Professor of Missiology, *Professora Ordinaria*,
Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
Thursday, April 27, 2023 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Hybrid
**School of Theology and Ministry Library, Auditorium -
Room 113 | Boston College - Brighton Campus, 117 Lake
Street, Boston, MA | Registration Required | Free**

To learn more or register, visit: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education/featured-events.html#tab-continuing-education>

SACRED THREADS

Faith Food & Friendship

Presenter: Walter J. Smith, S.J., Boston College,
School of Theology and Ministry
Thursday, April 27, 2023 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Zoom
Registration Required | \$25

A Widow's Journey: Moving Forward After the Death of Your Spouse

Presenter: Sarah Clancey, Hospice Chaplain and Widow
Thursday, May 4, 2023 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Zoom
Registration Required | \$25

To learn more or register, visit this website:
<https://sacredthreadscenter.org/events/>


SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

Open Our Hearts and Minds

Presenter: John Bailes, a Zen Buddhist priest
Monday, April 24, 2023 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

For further details on this presentation, please check this website:
https://saintsusanna.org/adult_faith_formation.html





WHY HOPE AND VAPID OPTIMISM ARE NOT THE SAME THING

BY NADIA BOLZ-WEBER

Bulletin Editor's Note: House for All Sinners and Saints (HFASS) is a group founded by the author of this article, Nadia Bolz-Weber. HFASS is a group of folks figuring out how to be a liturgical, Christo-centric, social justice-oriented, inclusive, incarnational, contemplative, irreverent, ancient/future church with a progressive but deeply rooted theological imagination. It is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Also, this article was edited for clarity.

"...suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us" —Romans 5

As many of you know, I have a regular spiritual practice of warning people that I will disappoint them. A couple of times a year, we host a *Welcome to House for All Sinners and Saints* brunch for newcomers. Everyone goes around the room saying what drew them to this community or what keeps them here. They usually say it's a comfortable place where they can just be who they are, or that they love the singing or the community. One time, someone said that their mom was Catholic and their Dad was atheist and that this church kinda felt like a combo of the two. And while I wasn't entirely sure I knew what that meant, I thought it was awesome. I am usually the last to speak at these events, and when I do, I always say how great it is to hear all of that but that I need them to hear something—and that is—*this church will disappoint you*. Or I will fail to meet your expectations or I'll say something stupid and hurt your feelings. It's not a matter of *if*, it's *when*. Welcome to *House for All Sinners and Saints*. We will disappoint you.

I mention this because in our reading from Romans, Paul speaks of hope, and he says hope does not disappoint. Honestly, I have a hard time relating to this since I, like many of you, have had a lot of hopes which have ended in disappointment. And sometimes it's easier to not hope at all rather than to risk starting with hope and ending up with disappointment.

It reminds me of that story at the end of Luke's gospel, when a few days after Jesus' death a couple of his disciples

were walking the road to Emmaus trying to make sense of what had just happened in Jerusalem...the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, the shared meal, the betrayal, the arrest, the trial, and the crucifixion. And as they discussed all of this, a stranger walked up (spoiler alert—it was Jesus) and he was like "Hey what are you guys talking about?" They did not recognize him and so they told the story of Jesus' life, ministry, and death—at which point they speak what are maybe the three saddest words in scripture: *We Had Hoped*. We had hoped Jesus was the one to redeem us. Instead, Jesus is dead and it is *we* who are defeated. Those two disciples started with hope and ended with disappointment.

We Had Hoped. We had hoped that the time and money spent on a graduate degree would mean we'd have a job by now. We had hoped that our parents would love us unconditionally. We had hoped that by this time in life, we would be married, or we would have a meaningful career, or we would be able to retire, or we would feel like we at least knew what we were doing. And that didn't happen.

Because hope as a starting point looks like Palm Sunday. It looks like the crowds entering triumphantly into Jerusalem shouting Hosanna. But Palm Sunday always turns to Good Friday eventually.

Which is maybe why Paul speaks of a hope that does not disappoint and he connects it to suffering of all things. Which feels a little sketchy to me. Connecting hope and suffering. I, for one, would have a hard time liking anyone who, if in the midst of my own suffering, cheerfully reminded me that suffering produces endurance, and endurance character, and character hope...and hope doesn't disappoint us.

I've said it before, but whenever I am in a real mess of pain, when a relationship has ended or I am in some kind of emotional suffering, and some well-meaning Christian says: "Well, when God closes a door, he opens a window," I start immediately looking around for that open window so I can push them out of it. Which is to say, I don't find ignoring the difficult reality of our lives in favor of some kind of blindly cheerful optimism to be hopeful. I find it to be delusional.

So, yes, it feels like hope can be risky and connecting hope to suffering can be sketchy.

But maybe the way suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character and character produces hope is that suffering, endurance, and character actually free us from the burden of having to be naively optimistic. Maybe if hope isn't a very reliable starting point, then hope is not something we strive to muster up for ourselves. Maybe real hope is always something we are surprised by. This week I started to think of hope as that which is left after all else has failed us. And that is an Easter hope.

My friend Cheryl Lawrie works in the prisons in Australia so when she speaks of hope, I tend to listen. She says that "hope is an encounter that captivates our imagination so we can't help but become more than who we thought we were, and find ourselves living for something that is all at once preposterous and impossible"

And when it comes down to it, I want hope—I just want a hope that doesn't disappoint. Don't we want the beauty and the reconciliation and the possibility that comes from something other than our own limitations or the limitations of others? I want a hope that isn't really just naïve optimism. I want a hope that finds us living for something that is all at once preposterous and impossible and yet the most real and honest thing we know.

That is to say, I want God.

Because a hope that does not disappoint looks less like being idealistic about ourselves and more like being idealistic about God's redeeming work in the world. It's a hope that comes not from naïve optimism, but from being wrong and falling short, and experiencing betrayal and being a betrayer. It comes from suffering, and the grave, and what feels like a night from which dawn could never emerge, and how God reaches into the graves we dig ourselves and each other, and loves us back to life.

The Easter hope we have, brothers and sisters, the hope that never disappoints, has nothing to do with optimism or the avoidance of suffering. It is a hope that can only come from a God who has experienced birth, love, friendship, lepers, prostitutes, betrayal, suffering, death, burial, and a decent into hell itself. Only a God who has born suffering himself can bring us any real hope of resurrection. And if ever given the choice of optimism or resurrection, I'd go with resurrection any day of the week. This is the God of whom Paul speaks. And the Christian faith is one that does not pretend things aren't bad. This is a faith that does not offer platitudes to those who lost children this week to suicide or

a tornado. This is not a faith that produces optimism, it is a faith that produces a defiant hope that God is still writing the story and that, despite darkness, a light shines. That God can redeem our crap, and that beauty matters, and that despite every disappointing thing we have ever done or that we have ever endured, that there is no hell from which resurrection is impossible. The Christian faith is one that kicks at the darkness until it bleeds daylight.*

At those *Welcome to House* brunches for newcomers, after we've told them to not use idealism or hopefulness as a starting point (especially when we've been honest about how we will eventually disappoint them), we ask them to decide if they are going to stick around after that happens. Because if you leave because we've disappointed you, you will miss the way that God's grace fills in the cracks left behind by our brokenness. It's not something to miss. *Welcome to House for All Sinners and Saints*. We will probably disappoint you. But we don't think God will, and in this, and only this, do we confidently place our hope. Amen.

*From Bruce Cockburn's *Lovers in a Dangerous Time*

~ *Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran pastor, founder of House for All Sinners & Saints in Denver, Co, the creator and host of The Confessional and the author of three New York Times bestselling memoirs: Pastrix; The Cranky, Beautiful Faith Of A Sinner & Saint (2013 and re-released in 2021), Accidental Saints; Finding God In All The Wrong People (2015) and SHAMELESS; A Sexual Reformation (2019).*

31ST ANNUAL
POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL
SEMINARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 31st Annual Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary Golf Tournament is on Monday, May 15th, at The Weston Golf Club. This premier charity event is held to benefit the educational program for the seminarians. Tuition covers only half the cost of educating a seminarian and the proceeds from this tournament will help bridge the gap and keep the cost of educating them affordable. The \$250 player entry includes lunch at Weston Golf Club, 18 holes of golf with cart, and door prizes; followed by a social hour, silent auction, and dinner for each golfer and a guest at the seminary. To register, call Kate Folan (781-899-5500), email her (kfolan@psjs.edu), or visit www.psjs.edu.

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

Keith Brinkley, Mike Currier, Rudy Flores, Parker Olson,

Corey Ortiz, Reception

reception@stceciliaboston.org

Christine Burns, Digital Media Coordinator

cburns@stceciliaboston.org

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

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Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

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Robert Duff, Director of Music

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Olivia Hastie, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

ohastie@stceciliaboston.org

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

lpickering@stceciliaboston.org

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

mcdeery@gmail.com

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

gedwards@stceciliaboston.org

Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer

vizumchensky@berklee.edu

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 our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at ohastie@stceciliaboston.org.

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 (VIR-TUS). They also provide consultation and support to anyone in the parish who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Lois Flaherty (loisflaherty@gmail.com), Maria Roche (maria.roche15@gmail.com), Letitia Howland (L_howland@hotmail.com), or Erin Young (erin.t.young@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

Building Accessibility

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

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 after 4:00 every day of the week. To take advantage of 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.

Joining Our Community

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

