Second Sunday Easter

24 April 2022

“The Incredulity of Thomas” from an English manuscript,
Artist Unknown, c.1504
24 April 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | Cantabile

César Franck
(1822-1890)

Elegie

Sergei Yuferov
(b. 1945)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | This is the Feast of Victory

ST. THEODULPH

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: Amen.

* The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.
PENITENTIAL RITE

GLORIA | Mass from Age to Age

Chris De Silva

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

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
FIRST READING | Acts 5: 12-16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 118: Give Thanks to the Lord Marty Haugen

1. Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.” Let the house of Aaron say, “His mercy endures forever.” Let those who fear the Lord say, “His mercy endures forever.”

2. I was thrust down, thrust down and falling, but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song: he was my savior. There are shouts of joy and salvation in the tents of the just.

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

SECOND READING | Revelation 1: 9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Franciscan Alleluia Peter M. Kolar

GOSPEL | John 20: 19-31
HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

Bob Hurd

Refrain

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 rebirth,
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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

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

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115
PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | No Greater Love

Michael Joncas

Eucharistic Prayer

No Greater Love

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Refrain

There is no greater love, says the Lord, than to lay down your life for a friend; there is no greater love, than to lay down your life for a friend.

Verses

1. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.
   Live on in my love.
   You will live in my love if you keep my commands,
   even as I have kept my Father’s.

2. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours
   and your joy may be complete.
   Love one another as I have loved you:
   This is my command.

3. You are my friends if you keep my commands;
   no longer slaves but friends to me.
   All I heard from my Father,
   I have made known to you: Now I call you friends.

4. It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you,
   chose you to go forth and bear fruit.
   Your fruit must endure, so you will receive
   all you ask the Father in my name.

Eucharistic Prayer

* The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.

* Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.
HOLY, HOLY | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin

GREAT AMEN | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin
THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION | In the Breaking of the Bread

Bob Hurd

Music in this worship aid is printed with permission under Onelicense.net #A700-137.

For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia,
please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDuff@stceciaboston.org.
CONCLUDING RITES

★ The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
★ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
★ Go forth, the Mass is ended.
All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL | The Strife is O'er

VICTORY

POSTLUDE | Etude in F-major, Op. 10, no. 8

Frederic Chopin
(1810-1849)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Karim will receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. Ever since an early age, Karim had a fascination with churches and Christianity—in particular Roman Catholicism. Unable to explain this sensation, Karim knew it was like a calling from within. While always believing in a higher calling, Karim could never see himself following the religion of his birth country because of the atrocities that were being committed in its name all around him. Fast forward years later and, after having met the love of his life, Karim found that last bit of courage he needed to take the plunge into RCIA and what he always saw as his destiny. For Karim, this past year has been fulfilling, life-affirming, and exciting to say the least. Karim looks forward to being a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church and Saint Cecilia Parish!

Eric Cigan

Eric was born outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Eric’s background is different from our other RCIA participants in that he was raised in a Roman Catholic family, receiving the sacraments of baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation in his youth. As an adult, Eric converted to Judaism and practiced that faith for nearly 30 years. When Eric’s father fell seriously ill in 2020, though, Eric found solace in returning to Mass, and after his father’s death Eric resolved to rejoin communion with the Church. He chose to participate in the RCIA program to deepen his Christian faith in concert with his RCIA classmates. Eric would like to thank Deacon David, Father John, Scott, and the RCIA group for their support, but especially the enduring love and kindness of his parents, his children, his beloved Diana, and Diana’s parents.

Eric James Andrew Dykes

Eric will be receiving the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Eric is originally from Naugatuck, Connecticut, where he was baptized Protestant, and was first introduced to the teachings of Catholicism in high school while he attended Holy Cross High in Waterbury, Connecticut. Eric attended Bryant University and graduated with a degree in finance and moved to Boston in 2017 to pursue a career in business. Eric met his fiancée Kelly shortly after moving to Boston and will be celebrating their marriage here at Saint Cecilia in December of 2022. Eric began attending Mass at Saint Cecilia in fall of 2021 and was immediately drawn to the sense of community the parish creates. Eric looks forward to continuing to be a part of the Saint Cecilia community, and would also like to thank his fiancée Kelly and her parents, Mike (sponsor) and Deirdre Keenan for their love and support through this process.
Mackenzie Dare Philomena Elvin

Mac will be receiving the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. She is from Unionville, Pennsylvania and attended Penn State University where she majored in biology and Spanish. After graduating, Mac discovered her passion for working with children and is now employed as a preschool teacher in Boston. She moved from Pennsylvania to Boston in 2021 to be with her boyfriend and sponsor, Brian Prewitt, who introduced her to Saint Cecilia and its wonderful community. After several years of exploring Catholicism through books and podcasts, Saint Cecilia felt like the perfect place to begin her journey of becoming a full member of the Church. Mackenzie would like to extend her gratitude to David Kiblinger, SJ for being an exceptional guide through her faith formation process, as well as Beth and Richard Prewitt for traveling to be with her this Easter.

Caroline Bee Elizabeth Fish

Caroline will be receiving the three sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. She is from Newton, Massachusetts, and is currently studying pediatric nursing at Boston College. Caroline and her fiancé, Kian, who is also in the RCIA program, are graduates of the University of Notre Dame—the location where their deep interest in the Catholic faith was born and has since grown. Caroline is very excited to be accepted into the Catholic faith and continue to integrate faith into her daily life; she and her fiancé will be parishioners at Saint Cecilia. Caroline would like to thank Father John Unni for his unconditional support and guidance—Father Unni is a gift to the Church and a blessing in Caroline’s life. Caroline would also like to thank those that have shared their experience of faith and supported her on this formational journey, including Caroline’s late grandmothers Ann Marie Fish and Mary Ann Goldthorpe; Cynthia and John Fish (parents); Sister Jeanne (godmother); Kian Riley (fiancé); Jennifer Fish (sister); Robert Lane; Kathleen Dunphy; Deacon David Kiblinger, SJ, and many others!

Susan Bernek Catherine Fugliese

Susan will be receiving the sacraments of confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Susan grew up in Connecticut and was raised as an Episcopalian. She graduated from Colby-Sawyer College where she majored in American studies. Susan’s father was raised Catholic and his values, and those of his family, especially her Aunt Mary, have been strong influences in her life. Shortly after college, Susan moved to Boston where she loves her career in philanthropy, which began at Mass General Hospital. Susan has fundraised for a variety of not-for-profit organizations and is happy to be back at what is now Mass General Brigham. During this time, Susan has had the great opportunity to learn about powerful examples of Catholic faith in action. She is deeply grateful to her sponsor, and to those who gave her the experience, education, and inspiration to learn about Catholic Social Teaching. Her confirmation feels like a return home, and Susan thanks Deacon David Kiblinger, SJ and her super-terrific great RCIA class, as well as the hugely warm and welcoming Saint Cecilia community!
Kaitlyn Marie Cecilia Nassab

Kaitlyn will be receiving the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Kaitlyn grew up in Florida, where she was raised as an active member of Protestant churches and volunteered in the childcare and music ministries. She began attending Mass four years ago with her boyfriend Samuel Nassab, and they discovered Saint Cecilia together in 2019 where they fell in love with the warm and inviting community. Kaitlyn made the decision to pursue becoming Catholic when she became engaged to Sam in November 2020, and the couple was married in December 2021 at Saint Cecilia on a beautiful wintry day in Boston. She would like to thank her husband, Sam, her wonderful in-laws, Deacon David, Father Unni, and the entire Saint Cecilia community for supporting her on this journey.

Paul Thomas Peter Quistberg

Paul Thomas Peter Quistberg will be receiving the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Paul grew up in New Britain, Connecticut in the Lutheran faith. His wife, Christine, is active in the Catholic Church and inspired and encouraged him to explore Catholicism. Paul and Christine have been married for 32 years, live in Back Bay where they attend Saint Cecilia, and have three adult children. Paul would like to thank Fr. John Unni and the welcoming Saint Cecilia Parish; Fr. Peter Gyves, SJ—founder of “A Faith that Does Justice;” Deacon David Kiblinger, SJ; RCIA classmates; and family and friends for helping him with his journey.

Jason Peter Gregory Knowles

Jason is a candidate for full communion and comes from Bass Harbor, Maine. He recently graduated from the MGH Institute of Health Professions in 2020 as a psychiatric nurse practitioner. This is where he met his fiancée, Alex Haney, who was also attending the same school in the occupational therapy program. Alex was raised Catholic and introduced Jason to the church. Jason and Alex are getting married next October 8 at Saint Cecilia. Jason has a passion for music and plays guitar, bass, and likes to sing. This is part of what he enjoys about Saint Cecilia—its amazing music ministry. Jason would like to thank his fiancée, Alex, for introducing him to the church, Father John for being so welcoming, and Deacon David along with the RCIA group for providing personal guidance.
Kian Pantaleon Riley

Kian will be receiving the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil alongside his fiancée, Caroline. Kian currently lives in Newton, Massachusetts and is a medical student at the Boston University School of Medicine. Kian is originally from Wisconsin, where he was baptized in the Protestant church. Kian assumed ownership of his faith formation while attending the University of Notre Dame, where he met his now fiancée. Following graduation, the couple sought to cultivate their faith together and found peace in the welcoming community of Saint Cecilia. They plan to be married in the Catholic Church this summer. Kian would like to recognize Father John Unni, Sister Jeanmarie Gribaudo, CSJ, and Deacon David Kiblinger, SJ for their substantial contributions to his spiritual journey.

Sabrena Ellen Teresa Tufts

Sabrena Ellen Teresa Tufts was raised in the Boston area and is now back after more than 30 years of living in New York City and Washington, DC. She relocated back to Massachusetts to live near her family. Her faith deepened and she was drawn to Christianity following the passing of her mother. Sabrena was baptized in the Episcopal Church as an adult. She has fond memories of attending Catholic Mass with her grandparents throughout her childhood. Prior to returning to Boston, Sabrena was an active member of The Brick Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, serving on the communications committee and participating in numerous ministries supporting the community. Sabrena started attending Saint Cecilia in early 2021 after being introduced to the parish by close friends, including her sponsor, Becky Kidder. Having participated in the Hunger and Homelessness ministry, driving for food pantry donations, and serving at Pine Street Inn, Sabrena knew this community was her home. Sabrena is especially grateful to Becky, Katie, Patty, and Eric, along with Father John, Deacon David Kiblinger, SJ, and Mark Lippolt, for their warm support and guidance on her spiritual journey.

Douglas Tilghman Joseph Wilson

Doug will be receiving the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. He grew up and now resides in Danvers, Massachusetts with his wife, Kristin, and their two boys, Jeremy (4) and Patrick (1). The youngest of three kids, Doug was raised by his loving parents, Pam and John, in the Episcopal Church. Since becoming a father and husband, his faith has been reignited in a journey that has brought him to the Catholic Church. Raised Catholic, Kristin recently received the sacrament of confirmation as well. Additionally, the Wilson family recently celebrated a special day at Saint Cecilia in which Doug and Kristin convalidated their marriage, and both Jeremy and Patrick were baptized. Doug is a graduate of St. John's Prep and Boston College. He works as a certified financial planner and relationship manager at TimeScale Financial, Inc. Doug is grateful to Kristin, Jeremy, and Patrick for their love, and now the faith they share together as a family. He would also like to thank the Wilson, Caron, Russo, and Colombino families for their continued support (and babysitting!) since beginning down this path. Lastly, he would like to thank Deacon David, Father John, and the entire Saint Cecilia staff for their spiritual guidance and wisdom.
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, April 23 | 8:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Grover, SJ, celebrant
Emily Bogert, lector

Sunday, April 24 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. Terry Devino, SJ, celebrant
Jordan Barnes, lector

Sunday, April 24 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Zachary Boutin, Karen McMenamy, Nikko Mendoza, lectors

Sunday, April 24 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Chika Offurum and Pat Scofield, lectors

Sunday, April 24 | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Matthew Duprey, lector

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Acts 5:12-16
Revelation 1:9-11A, 12-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 24 | 8:00 a.m.
Francis Leo Shay, 70th Anniversary

Sunday, April 24 | 9:30 a.m.
Lila McKenzie Henry-Starr, Memorial
Ronald Charles Martin, Memorial
William Daniel Ryan, memorial
Victor Marreto, Memorial
Kim Stutz, Memorial
Thomas Prado, Special Intention

Sunday, April 24 | 11:30 a.m.
Richard Brennan, Memorial

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT:
This joyful Eastertide, join us for Evening Prayer.

Saint Cecilia Parish

Friday, April 29 @ 7:00 p.m.
Memorial of Saint Catherine of Siena

Tuesday, May 3 @ 7:00 p.m.
Feast of Saints Philip and James

Tuesday, May 10 @ 7:00 p.m.
Memorial of Saint Damian of Molokai

Tuesday, May 24 @ 7:00 p.m.
Sixth Week of Easter

Tuesday, May 31 @ 7:00 p.m.
Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Join us live on the Saint Cecilia Facebook page or via Zoom. Liturgies last approximately half an hour.
Email sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com for details.

Sunday, June 5 @ 5:00 p.m.
Solemnity of Pentecost

In person at St. Francis de Sales Church in Philadelphia. Stay tuned for details on how you can join virtually.
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, Mariアン Licameli, Ray Cronin, Rosalind Sica, 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 Deeley 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 Mary Ann Hinsdale, IHM, baptized on April 27. May the Lord continue to bless her with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Mary Ann!

Thank You!
Many thanks to everyone who helped make our celebration of the Easter Triduum such a special time in the life of the parish. So many people helped make the Easter Vigil reception a warm celebration of welcome for our newest members. We also are thankful for everyone who helped create such a beautiful environment for our Easter celebration. Our parish is truly blessed with an abundance of generous hearts and hands!

Take Home a Little White Book for Easter
In the narthex we have little white books of six minute reflections 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 these fifty days of great rejoicing!

Flowers
If you would like to contribute flowers for our gathering space on a Sunday in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving to God, contact Scott MacDonald (smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org) Tuesday in advance of the weekend.

Our Neophytes and Fully Initiated
At the Easter Vigil we celebrated the initiation of nine new Christians in the Easter waters. Karim Arsanjani, Mackenzie Elvin, Caroline Fish, Astrid Love professed their faith in Christ and were baptized, confirmed, and welcomed to the Eucharistic table for the first time. They are now known as “neophytes,” from the Greek word for “newly planted.” During these fifty days of Easter, it is our task to nurture their faith and to help them feel welcome and supported. We are also called to support those who were received into the full communion of the Catholic Church: Susan Fugliese, Jason Knowles, Paul Quistberg, Sabrena Tufts, Kaitlyn West, Doug Wilson, Eric Dykes, Kian Riley were confirmed and welcomed to the table of the Lord.

Please 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.

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

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

All volunteers 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. Volunteers are defined as parishioners participating in ministries, serving on councils, and doing any type of volunteer work. If this is you, and you have not done the training you must complete it by Sunday, May 15, 11:00 a.m. 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.
QUASIMODO SUNDAY?

This Sunday was once called “Low Sunday,” a step-down from Easter glory, and thus an unfortunate nickname since Easter rejoicing is meant to last for fifty days. Traditionally this is the day when the newly baptized put away their white baptismal robes and returned to their everyday life after a week of intense celebration. Of course, the goal was to take up everyday duties with a decidedly new point of view.

A long title for this day was “Dominica in Albis Deposito,” or “The Lord’s Day for Putting Away the Albs,” after the whiterobed neophytes in the assembly. If you are connecting the dots, this is why the priest’s white garment is called an “alb,” it is in fact his baptismal garment. Yours too. In our old calendar, before 1969’s reform, it was also known as “Quasimodo Sunday” after the first words of the opening chant “Quasi modo geniti infantes,” or “as newborn infants,” a reference to the newly-baptized taken from the Epistle of Peter. Victor Hugo’s bell-ringing hero in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* was abandoned as an infant on the threshold of the cathedral of Paris on Low Sunday, 1467, and named “Quasimodo” for the feast.”

Rev. James Field, © J.S. Paluch Co.

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. Cards will be sold in the narthex after our 9:30, 11:30, and 6:00 p.m. liturgies. For more information, please contact Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com or you can order a card directly by clicking on www.MotherDayCards.org

**Easter at Saint Cecilia**

With the help of volunteers Judy DiGennaro, Cathy Mason, and Anna DeMare, our Faith Formation classes crafted 40+ Easter baskets to donate to Catholic Charities Boston, who gave them to children at the Yawkey Childcare Center in Dorchester. A special shout-out to parishioner Pam Halpern spearheaded the whole operation AND sewed 40+ stuffed bunnies for the baskets!

A huge THANK YOU to all our parishioners—both local and long-distance—who contributed to this project and dropped off or shipped materials for our Easter baskets. We couldn’t have done it without you!
ADULT FAITH FORMATION PRESENTS:
ANDREW PREVOT, PHD – “THE PRESENCE AND ABSENCE OF GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE”
Thursday, April 28 | 6:00—7:00 p.m | Zoom Presentation

Andrew Prevot is Associate Professor of Theology at Boston College. His research spans the areas of mystical, philosophical, and political theologies. He is the author of *Theology and Race: Black and Womanist Traditions in the United States* (Brill, 2018) and *Thinking Prayer: Theology and Spirituality amid the Crises of Modernity* (Notre Dame, 2015), and co-editor of *Anti-Blackness and Christian Ethics* (Orbis, 2017). He has a forthcoming book about the mysticism of ordinary life. He lives in Waltham with his wife and likes taking his dog for walks along the Charles.

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.

JOIN US AT COMMUNITY SERVINGS

We need eight volunteers on Friday, April 29 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. to assist in preparing and packaging free, nutritious meals for those who are homebound with life-threatening illnesses throughout Eastern Massachusetts. 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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIRTUAL EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Women’s Voices in Practical Theology
Presenter: Dr. Jane E. Regan, Associate Professor Emerita, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
Thursday, April 28, 2022 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | In-Person Event | Registration Required

Texts Less Traveled: What Would Be Missed Without Them
Presenter: Rev. Thomas D. Stegman, S.J., Dean and Professor at Boston College School. This will celebrate the launch of his latest book, *Texts Less Traveled: Exploring Hebrews, the Catholic Epistles, and Revelation.*
Thursday, May 5 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. | Cadigan Alumni Center, Atrium | In-Person and Virtual Event | Registration Required

For further details or to register for this event, please check the STM Online: Crossroads website: https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education/campus-events.html

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

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

Facilitators: Pat Ferrone and Father Rocco Puopolo, co-chairs, Pax Christi Massachusetts.
Monday, May 2 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom Presentation

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

SACRED THREADS — NEWTON

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

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: https://sacredthreadscenter.org/events/
Easter Flowers

The Abrahamyan Family
  Joan Abruzzi
  Heather Allen
  Jennifer Anderson
  Elsie & Tony Andrade
  Mary Anselmo
  "Ant" Berg
Mary Dennehy Anzivino
  Cora Arnold
  Mike Arnold
  Michael Attridge
  Patrick Attridge
  Catherine Aylward
  Cynthia Bagatelas
  Nicole Bairois Heck
  Maria Barbosa
Mr. & Mrs. Vasco Barbosa
  Romainia Barclay
Widal Bazdik Tarzikhan
  Joanne Bean
  Heribato Bello
  Lydia Bello
  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
  Lenorla Campoli
  Josephina & Jack Capizzi
  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
  Bob Carroll
  Catherine & William Carroll
  Rita Corsello
  Jack Corsello Jr.
  Ryan Costa
  Pauline & Denis Cote
  Francis & Madeline Cotton
  Mario Couto
  The Cowley Family
  Susanne E. Coyne
  Troy Coyne
  Robert Crawford
  Maria Cullen
  Daniel & Jeanne Curley
  Daniel T Curley
  Mark Czestochowa
  Cyril D’Souza
  Peter & Charlotte D’Souza
  Helen Da Cruz
  Eleanor Byrne Mooney Dahar
  Mr & Mrs Saheed W. Dahar Sr.
  Alfredo Delao
  Telesfora Dalao
  Hank Dane
  Dr. Frederic W. Davis
Evelyn Davis
  Earl & Irene DeBlieux
  Diane Decker
  Bernard DeFusco
  Rachael DeFusco
  Bob Deignan
  The DeMers Family
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Mr & Mrs Philip F. Dennehy Sr.
  Anthony and Christine Depta
  Tony Depta
  Norma DeRobinson
  Marc DeSousa
  Kathy Devin
  Nancy Diaco
  Marie R. Diegnan
  Frank & Marjorie DiGennaro
  Tina & Anthony Dilanni
  Cecelia Dodson
  Walter Doherty
  Rosella Donlan
  Madeline & Ed Donohue
  Francis and Martha Donovan
  Michael & Hilda Doran
  George J Doran, Sr.
  Adam Dragon
  Eugenia & Eugene Dragon
  Paul Dragon
  Joan Drexelius Joel Drexelius
  John Drexelius
  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
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Ann Flaherty  
Annie Flaherty  
Jospeh Flaherty  
John and Evelyn Flannery  
Walter Fletcher  
Arnulfo Flores  
Delia & Michael Flynn  
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  
William Haney  
Richard N. Hart, Jr.  
Charles & Nancy Heaslip  
Jillian Heaslip  
John & Ellen Hendron  
Helenmarie Hickey  
Albert Hodge  
Ellen Hogan  
Father Jerry Hogan  
Hazel Hollingsworth  
Bryan 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 Maslak Family  
Frederick & Josephine Mason  
Manuel Matos  
Ana Matta  
Natibidad 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 Mehalki  
The Meloni Family  
Monika Menasche  
Peter Menasche  
Richard Meuse  
Fred Michael  
Joe Michalski  
Miloslav and Anne Mikus  
Leon Miller  
Kathleen Modeste  
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Josephine Moitoso  
Jeff Monroe
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John Morse
Mikhail Mugerwa
Billy Mullin
Dorothy & 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
Glenn & Mary Noret
Sr. Jeannette Normandin
George O’Brien
Pauline O’Brien
Jerry O’Connor
Ryan O’Donnell
The O’Malley Family
Ethan 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 & Anthony Pandolfo
Nora & Ern Parsons
Bob Patterson
Apolonio Pena
April Pierson-Keating

Jim Pillow
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
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Caroline Schmidt
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
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Dale Simmons
Jillian Slateus
Ellen Solomita
Edith Sorrentino
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William Starzyk Jr
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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
Ramona Williams
Bernadette Wiseman
Johnny Wiseman
Robert Ybacceo
Rosemary Young
Dianne Zimmerman
St. Francis de Sales is the patron saint of journalists, and that's fine. I have nothing against him. But I've always thought it should have been St. Thomas the Apostle.

I think of doubting Thomas as the world's first journalist, determined to get confirmation for rumors he heard floating around the neighborhood about his former rabbi and a mysterious resurrection.

Thomas is considered something of a weak character because he had to see to believe, but I have a great deal of sympathy for him. I get it. He's like me, looking for a reason to believe.

Once he touched the wounds and got the verification he was looking for, nothing held the no-longer-doubting Thomas back. He traveled the known and some parts of the barely known world, becoming one of the church's finest good news reporters.

I was pretty much doomed to be a journalist. There is something deep in me that is most at ease with skepticism. My faith, too, resides anxiously in a muddle of doubt. Even as I write these words I feel it a faint, fleeting thing. So I go to Mass and I doubt; I pray and I doubt. I seek consolation in my doubt. I raise my children in the faith, and I frankly try most of the time to hide my doubt. Often I feel quite alone.

I shouldn't, Shannon K. Evans tells me. “In my life and in the lives of people I love, I’ve noticed that doubt, as painful as it can be, really is an impetus to a more authentic, personal spiritual life,” she says by email. Ms. Evans is writer and speaker and, most recently, the author of *Rewilding Motherhood: Your Path to an Empowered Feminine Spirituality*.

“When we follow our curiosity and our questions, we often find ourselves in more honest dialogue with God and with ourselves,” she says. “Deconstruction is a buzz word for my generation, and it's often treated like doubt, but in reality it is usually a sign of a maturing, critically-thinking faith.”

She suggests not hiding from doubt but rather normalizing it and even discussing it with a spiritual director, spouse or friends. And even, yes, talking about doubt with the children you hope to be raising in the faith—but perhaps only when you discern they are ready for it, and on a level they can understand, she says.

Before hosting these conversations myself, I have realized I might want to get my thoughts straight about what it is I am doubting.

“Experiencing doubt can mean a lot of things to different people or in different seasons of the same person's life,” Ms. Evans says. “Doubting whether God exists and doubting the Catholic Church’s teachings might overlap, but they also might be entirely different experiences.”

**Defeating Doubt**

There is little point in seeking a faith free of doubts, Roger Haight, S.J., advises, describing doubt as “endemic.” But he also argues that it can be a positive tool: “Always asking new questions and getting new answers is good.”

Father Haight, a theologian, author and visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York, tries to make distinctions not only about different degrees and “sharpness” of doubt, but also between belief and faith.

“Faith, it seems to me, does not reside in the mind. It resides in the whole person,” he says, noting how many individuals
are moved to faith in ways that are often hard to articulate, including “affections and emotion, being drawn to liturgy and worship and music and bells and ritual.”

He describes faith as an act of will and a “total response of the whole person to what one considers to be transcendent, that which is beyond anything that you can imagine, anything you can conceive, anything you can formulate, anything that you actually know.”

Because “if you knew it, you wouldn’t need faith,” he adds with a chuckle.

Distinguished from faith is belief, “formulas and propositions and statements that try to define the object of faith.” That’s a feat that can’t be achieved, he says, because “that which [we] are talking about is really not available to our comprehension.”

And because of that very human inarticulateness, “doubt becomes the most normal thing imaginable, because our beliefs can never catch up with the object of our faith.”

That means in the end an individual can be filled with doubts “about all the teachings of all the doctrines of every given religion” and continue to have faith even if they can’t quite define it.

“I had faith when I was 5,” he remembers. “I had faith when I was graduating from eighth grade, and I had faith at the end of high school. I had faith when I started my career. And I have faith now. But they’re so different from each other.

“The words might be the same, but they don’t make the same sense.”

Permission to Doubt

Even after years of formation, Stephen Molvarec, a Jesuit deacon who will be ordained a priest in June, remains in cordial tension with doubt. Giving himself “permission to doubt,” he explains, has provided valuable room for the growth of his faith.

Deacon Molvarec is a regular contributor to The Jesuit Post and a chaplain at Boston University. The 20-year-old students at B.U. may believe that at 42 he has all the answers, but Deacon Molvarec says doubt has become “something that I’ve just come to accept as part of my life in the church.”

“Allowing a space for what we’re grappling with, what’s uncomfortable, what’s not working is a way through,” he says. “Doubt is often an intellectual thing,” he adds, “sometimes it can be a matter of the heart.... Sometimes I think doubt can be more experiential [after] we encounter great evil or suffering or hardship.”

Deacon Molvarec says that even after suffering that results in a profound sense of being abandoned by God, there is still often in that experience an irresistible desire “to cry out to God.”

“How can I cry out to a God that I think might not exist?” he wonders. “I think that tension or dynamic might eventually overcome the intellectual question of doubt.”

He notes the suffering of the people in Ukraine, marveling at their will to resist and their ability amid the struggle to find “something that’s good somewhere in life,” and he notes that such willingness to hope might itself be evidence of the presence of God.

Deacon Molvarec admits that the question of why a merciful God would permit such suffering cannot be answered, but adds, “If we’re going to ask a question about why evil exists in the world and why suffering exists in the world, I think we also have to be prepared to ask, ‘Well, why is there good in the world?’ Those questions can exist in tension with one another.”

The Problem With Certitude

Pope Francis has been a consistent supporter of embracing doubt in your faith life. In the historic interview published by America in 2013, Pope Francis said, “In this quest to seek and find God in all things there is still an area of uncertainty. There must be.

“If a person says that he met God with total certainty and is not touched by a margin of uncertainty, then this is not good.... If one has the answers to all the questions—that is the proof that God is not with him.”

Ms. Evans shares those misgivings. “When we’re talking about the divine, I think leaving room for a lot of mystery is the best practice. Certitude can make us rigid and uncompromising, putting us at odds with the Spirit’s desire to do new things,” she says. "Also, I think it just sucks the fun out of spirituality.”

Doubters in pursuit of a firmer faith have plenty of models to connect with in the church, beginning with Thomas through a long list of saints like St. Thérèse of Lisieux and figures of spiritual inspiration and guidance like Thomas Merton. Mother Teresa may be the most notable candidate for a patron saint of doubters following a revelation that in her letters to friends and spiritual mentors she had recorded decades of struggle with doubt.

But Deacon Molvarec also suggests another candidate: Walter Ciszek, S.J. Many people know the historical narrative of Father Ciszek’s improbable escape from Soviet imprisonment through his autobiography With God in Russia, but Deacon Molvarec also recommends reading Father Ciszek’s He Leadeth Me to learn more about the Jesuit’s “internal narrative” during
this bruising, precarious time in his life.

“If you read it closely, Walter went through an immense period of darkness while he was in Lubyanka prison, held by Soviets and interrogated repeatedly and then working in the labor camps,” Deacon Molvarec says. His struggle with doubt is evident in the text, he says, but it also reveals his persistence in faith and trust in God.

For Giszek the faith that overcomes doubt hinged on reciting a traditional prayer each day, Deacon Molvarec says, The Morning Offering, “in which everything is offered to God in kind of the way that Ignatius wants to do with the Suscipe, the prayer that closes the spiritual exercises.”

Deacon Molvarec adds a suggestion for doubters who hope to remain in pursuit of faith, taken from Pascal’s Pensées: Basically, it’s “fake it til you make it.”

“Go through the motions, go to Mass; try and pray and see what comes along,” he says. “I think there’s a certain wisdom in trying to overcome doubt by not just sitting and pondering and intellectualizing but actually doing something active.”

Father Haight also recommends examining your actions to find out what it is that you truly believe in. Is it God or is it just getting ahead?

“You have to look at your biography. You have to look at the narrative of your actions and see where your fundamental commitments, your fundamental trust is,” he says. “People may say they believe in God and espouse love of God and neighbor, but watch how they actually live their lives.”

Now that may prove an examination of facts and moral figuring that will require all my journalistic integrity to conclude. In the meantime, I may be ready to share my doubting faith with the children I hope to raise in this church, that it may be a light to them. And I’m prepared to soldier on at Mass in prayer and trembling, but perhaps also in consolation among the other faithful, joining with me each week in doubt and hope.

~ Kevin Clarke is America’s chief correspondent and the author of Oscar Romero: Love Must Win Out (Liturgical Press).

THE WORK SUPPORTED BY CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES’ RICE BOWLS

While the world rightly focuses on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, we cannot ignore the impacts this is having on other countries, including many in Africa. Rwanda, Africa’s most densely populated country – and one of the youngest with an average age of 19 – faces particular challenges to its agriculture industry, in which 80% of its labor force works. Approximately 65% of the wheat consumed in the country is imported from Ukraine and Russia and famine looms as a real possibility as the war between those two countries rages on. Rwanda also imports significant amounts of fertilizers and sunflower oil products from Russia and Ukraine.

About half of Rwanda’s population is Catholic – over 5 million people. While progress has been made since the 1994 genocide involving the country’s Hutu and Tutsi peoples, 44% of the population still lives below the poverty line and in 1998, more than one in five children dies before their fifth birthday.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) works to strengthen vulnerable households with programming that includes agriculture and food security, health and nutrition, economic strengthening and peacebuilding. CRS’ annual Rice Bowl fundraiser is a critical way of insuring that its work in Rwanda can continue uninterrupted.

The money saved in your Rice Bowl (literally or figuratively) supports the worldwide efforts of CRS and 25% of the funds collected funds the work of our friends at Catholic Charities of Boston. On a designated Sunday during the Easter season, you will be invited to bring your filled bank back to church and we will send all of the money we collect to CRS. For more information, please visit www.crs.org.
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
reception@stceciliaboston.org
Christine Burns, Leah Bennett, Mike Currier, Rudy Flores, Lauren Healy, Parker Olson, Corey Ortiz, Reception
reception@stceciliaboston.org
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Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org
Thomas Mellan, Organist tmellan@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

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 Lois Flaherty (loisflaherty@gmail.com), Maria Roche (maria.roche15@gmail.com), Letitia Howland (L.Howland@hotmail.com), or Erin Young (erin.t.young@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

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

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

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

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

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

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