Seventh Sunday of Easter

29 May 2022

The Stoning of Saint Stephen, 1625
Rembrandt
29 May 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Prelude | Fantasia in G-Major, BWV 572
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Pièce in E-minor
Nestor Nizhankowsky
(1893-1940)

Entrance Procession | For the Healing of the Nations
ST. THOMAS

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.
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.
GLORIA | Mass from Age to Age

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

Verse 2
2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

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 7: 55-60

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 97: The Lord Is King

The Lord is king; he is robed in maj-es-ty. The Lord is king.

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed. your throne has stood firm from of old.
The Lord has robed himself with might; From all eternity, O Lord, you are.
he has girded himself with power. R. Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
The world you made firm, not to be moved; Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time. R.

SECOND READING | Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Franciscan Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL | John 17: 20-26

HOMILY
NICENE CREED

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

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

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

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115
PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | These Alone are Enough

Dan Schutte

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.
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 | Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

HYFRYDOL

POSTLUDE | Fugue in D-Major, BWV 5323

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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

For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia, please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDuff@stceciliaboston.org.
Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children’s faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus’ teachings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This award-winning 2009 documentary chronicles four years (2003–2007) in the life of Saint Patrick Parish in Lawrence, Massachusetts. When Fr. Paul O’Brien arrives as the new pastor, he soon discovers that trying to foster an inclusive community amidst the ethnic tensions in a working-class, multicultural parish would be no mean feat. Scenes from a Parish explores the personal stories of a Catholic parish struggling to reconcile the gospel call to community with the cultural realities of a globalized United States. Scenes from a Parish looks at issues of community, tolerance, and immigration from the perspective of a Catholic priest who is trying to bring his disparate congregation together.

Producer/Director James Rutenbeck will be with us for this showing.

James Rutenbeck’s nonfiction films have screened at various forums including Cinema du Reel, Museum of Modern Art, National Gallery, and the Flaherty Film Seminar. Rutenbeck is a two-time recipient of the Alfred I. du Pont—Columbia University Award for his work as producer of the PBS series Unnatural Causes, about health disparities in the U.S., and Class of ’27, which he executive produced, directed and edited. Class of ’27, about the lives of young children in rural America, is streaming as an Editor’s Pick at The Atlantic. His film Scenes from a Parish aired on the PBS series Independent Lens in 2009. Rutenbeck has been awarded grants from Sundance Documentary Fund, LEF Moving Image Fund, Southern Humanities Media Fund, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. His broadcast editing credits include Zoot Suit Riots, Jimmy Carter, and Roberto Clemente for the PBS series American Experience.

“Steer the faithful, and everyone else, to Scenes from a Parish, a surpassingly lucid documentary. It raises more questions about the church’s place in a changing world—and touches more emotions doing so—than any big-budget studio folderol” (Ty Burr, Boston Globe).

PIZZA AND POPCORN WILL BE SERVED DURING THE MOVIE. FOLLOWING THE FILM, THERE WILL BE A SHORT Q&A SESSION WITH JAMES RUTENBECK.
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, May 28 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Terry Devino, SJ, celebrant
Catherine Horsley, lector

Sunday, May 29 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Jordan Barnes, lector

Sunday, May 29 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Kelly McClintock, Karen McManamy, and
Thomas O’Brien, lector

Sunday, May 29 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Kevin Dumas and Chika Offurum, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 29 | 8:00 a.m.
Nora Madden, 1st Anniversary

Sunday, May 29 | 9:30 a.m.
Frank J. Unni, 44th Anniversary
Claire Donnelly, Memorial
Daniel Kelly, Memorial
Sewuese Mngerem, Special Intention
Robert Wait, Special Intention
Kenneth Baker, Memorial
Maureen Cristello McDermott, Memorial

Sunday, May 29 | 11:30 a.m.
Sheldon Rich, 7th Anniversary

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Acts 7:55-60
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20
John 17:20-26

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Proverb 8:22-31
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

TAIZÉ PRAYER
FOR WORLD PEACE

Pentecost Sunday – June 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Saint Francis de Sales Parish
4625 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA

In person and live streamed at https://www.facebook.com/SFDSPhiladelphia/

Join us in praying for peace in Ukraine, and in all areas of conflict
in our communities, in our country, and in our world.
Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!
PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Charlie Naughton, Bob Haas, Bob Roppolo, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rosalind Sica, Rick Gaillardetz, Michael Mulrenan, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: The Baker Family of Dorchester, the Pierce Family of Boston, the Landers Family of Maynard, Kelsey Duggan of Boston, and Rosa Morillo.

Happy Anniversary!
This weekend we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of Judy Castaldi who was baptized on May 28. May the Lord continue to bless her with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Judy!

Congratulations Graduates!
Last Thursday Josué López was awarded a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from MIT. Well done, Josué!

Next Week’s Second Collection
Next week’s second collection supports the formation and training of seminarians in the Archdiocese of Boston for future service as priests. We are blessed that many are responding to the call to serve as priests. Thank you for your generosity and support of these seminarians on their journey toward their ordination to the priesthood. For more information, please visit www.VocationsBoston.org.

PPC Elections
Elections for the Parish Pastoral Council are only ONE week away! Please read pages 7-8 to learn more about who is running. Be sure to vote on June 5th!

Pentecost Sunday — Wear Something Red!
The Easter season draws to a close next Sunday with the Solemnity of Pentecost and the liturgical color is red. Help add to our celebration by wearing something red to Mass.

Evening Prayer
Join us for Evening Prayer Tuesday, May 31 at 7:00 for the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Facebook Live, or email sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY
TOWN HALL MEETING
June 7 | 7:00 p.m. | On Zoom

All parishioners of Saint Cecilia—those in Boston, as well as those from a distance—are invited to participate in something historic: a Synod on Synodality. "Synod" is a word used for a Church gathering, usually of bishops. It comes from two Greek words that literally mean "on the way together." A "synod," then, is the Church journeying together, dialoguing together, and discerning together. In a nutshell, we have been invited to share our thoughts on how Church leadership can better listen to all of its members and invite them into the Church’s decision-making process. This is a discussion about how voices are heard and how they can be better heard.

Saint Cecilia will be hosting a virtual town hall meeting on Zoom on June 7 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the following three questions:

- How could the decision-making process and governance within the Catholic Church be improved? How could this be implemented at the local parish level?
- Do you feel supported and accompanied by the Church? If so, please share some examples. If you do not, why not? [Please note that this is not about the parish, but rather about the wider Church]
- Have you ever thought of leaving the Church? If so, why? And why have you stayed?

We hope you will consider and pray about these questions and then bring your thoughts to our meeting. To join the Zoom, copy and paste: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86200097746?pwd=VTJpMkJyeNFlJ2laEJUaIIVUYZz09

HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS MINISTRY: DRIVERS NEEDED

Each weekend at 8:00 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday parishioners volunteer to pick up donated food from four local supermarkets and deliver to either Catholic Charities’ Haitian Multi-Service Center in Dorchester or the Huntington Y’s "Families in Transition" program. We need drivers for all the Saturdays and Sundays in May and June. Please email Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com if you can help out.
ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

Please join the “Far Flung Flock” June 5, at 4:00 p.m. ET for the Remote Fellowship Community’s monthly online coffee hour. The June topic is “Standing in solidarity with others: A conversation with Fr. Danil Corrêa about serving refugees in the Middle East and North Africa.” Some of you may remember Fr. Dan as a homilist at Saint Cecilia last October.

Fr. Dan has been the regional director of JRS in the Middle East and North Africa (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) since 2020 and worked with JRS in Beirut from 2012 to 2014 as the Syrian refugee crisis began. His insight into the refugee crisis is invaluable and we look forward to this informational and thought-provoking hour of conversation. If you’ve ever wondered, “But what can I do?” this might be the coffee hour for you.

Think of this as your online “coffee hour” with fellow long-distance parishioners! Anyone is welcome to join us. If you have registered or attended any online coffee hour in the past, you will automatically get the link for June. If you have not attended or are unsure if you’re on our list, please email Mary Ann Gallagher at gallaghercomms@gmail.com for the link.

JOIN THE SRJM & PAX CHRISTI

Join the Social and Racial Justice Ministry on Tuesday, June 7, 7:00-8:30 p.m. ET, for Pax Christi USA’s webinar entitled (De)Facing White Supremacy. The webinar will create space for deep reflection and discussion about the identity of Pax Christi USA as a Catholic institution that aspires to be anti-racist. The Saint Cecilia Parish Social and Racial Justice Ministry invites our community to join Pax Christi as we too are on the Road to Racial Equity, to becoming an antiracist parish. To register visit: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcidemhrDgrG9EWwYUkkKAqz9k-oI20Qhd2

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT REFUGEE FAMILIES

Our POWIR Site, a collaboration between Saint Cecilia and the Paulist Center that is supporting Afghan Refugees settling in Boston, has had many successes. We are tremendously grateful for the generosity of our two communities. A small group of volunteers has stepped up in a big way to provide English practice, budgeting support, MBTA training, school enrollment, extracurricular activities, and rides to vital appointments.

Our current family’s need for drivers is currently higher than our volunteers are able to provide. We have been told that there are more Afghan families in need of our support, but we can only provide that support if we know that we have a robust community of active volunteers. If you currently have the energy and availability to volunteer regularly with our POWIR site, especially if you are able to drive family members to appointments during weekday business hours, please fill out our volunteer form at bit.ly/POWIRvolunteer and a member of our team will be in touch.

A CATHOLIC CHARITIES REQUEST

For nearly 100 years, Sunset Point Camp, operated by our friends at Catholic Charities, has provided a dream vacation at the seashore to over 40,000 children from low-income, aged 6-13 from Greater Boston. Nearly 450 city-based boys and girls travel to Hull, Massachusetts each summer for a one or two-week overnight camp experience letting them enjoy the fresh air, learn new talents, receive academic summer support and simply have fun.

Sunset Point Camp always needs donations of sunscreen. So the next time you’re out, please consider picking up an extra tube of sunscreen and dropping it in the plastic bin identified for this purpose in the narthex. We have been told the higher the SPF number, the better. They also need kids’ flip flops for boys and girls ages 6 to 12.
1. Elliot Barnhill

I have been a parishioner since February 2019, and Saint Cecilia Parish has been a cornerstone of my spiritual life for the three years I’ve been part of it. This parish has helped me evolve my spirituality so much that I’ve even been inspired to pursue a graduate degree in theology! So far I’ve been involved with the Young Adult Ministry and the Rainbow Ministry, and I want to be a member of the Parish Council to serve Saint Cecilia’s on a more structural level. In the Parish Council, I can maintain and improve the community that means so much to me. As a young, LGBTQ person in the Church, I believe that I have a valuable perspective I can offer to Saint Cecilia’s, and I can’t wait to be of more service to my community, however that manifests.

2. Dorene Calmus

I’m Dorene Calmus and I have been a member of St Cecilia’s Parish for the past two years. From my first visit to St. Cecilia’s I felt so welcomed. During the Easter Vigil I sensed “I am home”. I am currently a member of the Hospitality Committee and a Eucharist Minister. I would like to expand my involvement in the Parish. The Parish Pastoral Council will provide me an additional opportunity to contribute to the vitality and life at St. Cecilia’s. I have been in the field of Social Work for over 45 years currently in private practice. I was an active member of the Executive Board at the Passionist Community Retreat Center in Shrewsbury for a number of years. I bring extensive experience to St. Cecilia’s. I ask for your consideration and vote. Thank you.

3. Ryan Egan

My name is Ryan Egan and I have been a member of Saint Cecilia’s for close to five years now. My Catholic faith has always been a central part of life. I joined Saint C’s in order to celebrate and grow that faith in an inclusive and welcoming environment. Before joining Saint C’s I was a member of St. Mary’s Parish in my hometown of Randolph, where I served in various roles as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, CCD Teacher, Altar Server Trainer, and as a member of the Parish Council, amongst much else.

I am a Eucharistic Minister here at Saint C’s and am running for Parish Council to continue to give back to our vibrant faith community. As a member of the Parish Council, I look forward to taking a more active role in the parish to help keep it a warm, welcoming experience for all who come to worship. Currently I am serving my third term as a Town Councilor in Randolph and work in municipal government full time. I kindly ask for your vote for this important position. Thank you!

4. Peter Lin-Marcus

I have participated as an active member of St Cecilia’s Parish for over 15 years, including serving as a participant in the Journey to Racial Justice efforts and the Racial and Social Justice Ministry. For me St Cecilia’s Parish and our faith is not about 2-3 hours on Sunday but how we live the remaining 6 ½ days per week. St Cecilia’s Parish has inspired me to serve as a community organizer and racial justice activist empowering youth, disabled and excluded, and ending violence and homelessness. Father John Unni’s sermons and leadership, and the St Cecilia’s community made this possible by meeting people where they are at and acknowledging the systems present. I will help St Cecilia’s keep building the Kingdom of God by helping its systems have maximum feasible inclusion of all, including BIPOC, youth, LGBT, neurodiverse, and disabled communities.
5. Raymond Marsh

My name is Raymond Marsh. I have been an active parishioner since 2016. After moving to Boston in 2003, I struggled to find a welcoming parish similar to my own in Rochester, NY. My parish there was instrumental in the late 90s to speak out in favor of women in the church and the LGBTQIA community.

St Cecilia parish is a place where the liturgy comes alive and the spirit of Christ lives. I would like the opportunity to continue to move the parish forward in diversity, inclusion and equity. I truly believe this parish is one of a kind and a parish that doesn’t exist everywhere. Together we can build a place where everyone continues to be welcomed and is able to find God in their heart. I am committed to serving God and this community as a potential member of the PPC.

6. Melon Regis-Civetta

I LOVE this Parish Community! I came here with the Jesuit Urban contingent and was made to feel welcome immediately. I have also been a volunteer since I arrived, serving as a Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, a previous member of the PPC, and as Co-Chair of the Rainbow Ministry. In that capacity we brought a lot of hospitality to St. C's, with speakers, receptions, working with Asylum Seekers, and our wonderful Cabaret Night to name a few.

As our Parish adapts to a new post-COVID way of being Church, I feel the call to serve again on the Council. I feel that it is important to have a representative from our Senior population. As parents and grandparents we have a lot to give and share. Our faith is continuing to grow here in this Church and the mix of young and old and in-between gives us that chance to continue to grow and learn as a community. I am young at heart and in spirit and very hopeful for our Church in the future.

7. Ellen Ryder

Thank you for considering me to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council. After relocating to Boston from San Francisco last year, I have been inspired by the beauty of the parish community and the willingness of parishioners to engage in service and work for justice. I was impressed with the process, rigor, and thoughtfulness that went into the racial equity assessment, and believe it is a solid start to exploring how Saint Cecilia can advance representation, inclusion, and participation.

I grew up in Worcester, attended Wellesley College, then graduate school at Northwestern. A career shift led me to higher education marketing and communications: first at Holy Cross and now (remotely) at the University of San Francisco. Working in Jesuit higher education has been an extraordinary experience, particularly the work that advances education among first-generation students and others without traditional straightforward access to college. I recognize the challenging work ahead during these difficult economic, political and cultural times. I am committed to working with the Saint Cecilia community to support and advance the parish’s priorities and needs.

8. Uma Staehler

I joined Saint Cecilia about 4 years ago, after moving from Indianapolis (via a detour to Shanghai for 3 years). As an adult convert who recently celebrated my 26th year in the church, parish and community life experiences are an important part of my spiritual journey. My husband, David, and I visited several churches in the area, and fell in love with Saint Cecilia for its community, music, and of course, beautiful sanctuary! I have enjoyed getting to meet parishioners through the Marriage Ministry, and more recently as a greeter and usher. I am interested in serving on the PPC to be a voice in the parish and serve our community in a greater way. Eli Lilly brought me to Boston, on the diabetes global marketing team. I enjoy running and traveling in my spare time, and love all the history, culture, sports and beauty that Boston offers!
It hit me with the force of a 2×4 up the side of the head when I was maybe 15 years old. I was in church, the church of my childhood and youth. I was serving as an acolyte, an altar boy. I was performing the intricate liturgical choreography exactly as it had been so carefully rehearsed the day before. I was bending and bowing, pouring and wiping, ascending and descending the altar steps. And right there in the middle of all that pomp and circumstance, a question popped into my head as if it had been asked of me out loud – “What are you doing?” – or, more accurately – “Why are you doing what you’re doing?”

Paul critiqued those who held to the form of religion in his day while denying its real power (2 Timothy 3:5), and standing there in church that day, I had the sense that he was talking about me… to me. You see, I was terribly concerned about getting the ceremony right, but I was completely oblivious to the real presence that made all of that activity meaningful and all of that effort purposeful. To use Sam Shoemaker’s wonderful metaphor, I was tending to a rather ornate fireplace that didn’t have a fire burning in it! I had the form of religion, in fact, a very fine version of it, but I was missing its power.

This was the realization that pushed me out of my familiar ecclesial nest when I was a teenager and into the spiritual quest that has been the direction and destination of my life ever since. Just like Jacob wrestling the mysterious presence at Jabbok (Genesis 32:22-31), I wanted God, the living, loving God, and I wasn’t going to settle for anything less until I had tasted and seen the goodness of God for myself (Psalm 34:8).

A rather unsettling book that I’ve been reading lately is Ian Stackhouse’s *Primitive Piety* (Paternoster – 2012). This is his invitation away from the safe and pleasant world of suburban piety with its stress on moderation and politeness, and into the extreme and paradoxical world of Biblical faith. He begins it by quoting the Scottish Congregationalist theologian P.T. Forsyth (1848–1921) –

“We tend to a Christianity without force, passion, or effect; a suburban piety, bonily and kind but unfit to cope with the actual moral case of the world, its giant souls and hearty sinners. …We have churches of the nicest, kindest people, who have nothing apostolic or missionary, who never knew the soul’s despair or its breathless gratitude.”

This was the kind of Christianity in which I was a participant and of which I was a steward when I was 15. Later I would sometimes hear it depreciatingly described as “churchianity,” and while there was certainly some truth in that, I wasn’t entirely comfortable with that designation of it then, or now.

I don’t like the implication that Christ and Church are two separate things. I wholeheartedly agree with Irenaeus of Lyons (born c. 120/140 – died c. 200/203) who said that anyone who has God as his Father has the church as his mother, whether they like it or not, and even whether they know it or not. And I’m just not comfortable with the accusation that my personal spiritual emptiness was somehow the fault of some kind of failure on the part of that church of my childhood and youth. I can now see quite clearly how Jesus Christ was named as Savior in word and sign every Sunday morning that I was there growing up. The problem wasn’t that the Gospel of God’s redeeming love for me, and for all in Jesus Christ, wasn’t being proclaimed in that place in those days, it was rather that, for whatever reason, it just wasn’t getting through to me. But one day it did, and it happened while I was in a worship service at that church! That’s where God found me. And while my journey has since led me away from that place, and that way of being a Christian, I now understand that it was where my spiritual journey began, and I can appreciate the way that it set the table for my soul.

What I went looking for when I was 15 was the reality of Christianity, the God who was behind the creeds, beneath the rituals, and before all of the structures and systems. I wanted the fire and not just the fireplace, and where I found it was in the presence that Pentecost promises.

I am always a little troubled by the way that Christmas and Easter pack the church, but Pentecost passes with hardly a ripple. The Gospel event and experience that Pentecost marks is no less central to Biblical Christianity and no less critical to our salvation than are the events and experiences that Christmas and Easter annually commemorate.

When John the Baptist saw Jesus approaching him to be baptized, John said two things about what Jesus had come to do as the Messiah. “Behold that Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29) was the first thing. This is how Jesus Christ saves us from what’s in our pasts. And, “this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit” (John 1:33) was the second thing that John the Baptist announced that Jesus as the Christ had come to do. This is how Jesus Christ saves us to a different kind of future. The forgiveness of our sins and the renewal
of the Holy Spirit is what Jesus Christ came to accomplish, and they are what were in fact offered to people on Pentecost Sunday morning when Peter preached the Gospel in the power of the Spirit for the very first time (Acts 2:38).

Our failure to embrace Pentecost with the same interest and enthusiasm with which we embrace Christmas and Easter is a problem. In fact, I would argue that it is the reason why we have such a truncated Gospel in the church and a spiritual experience as Christians that is so far below what the New Testament describes and offers. And the only remedy to this, as far as I can see, is for us to consciously and consistently embrace the presence that Pentecost promises.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to take the objective work of Jesus Christ as Savior and to subjectively apply it to our lives and to the world. The Holy Spirit comes to kindle the fire in the fireplace of the church, and in the fireplaces of our hearts. But this doesn’t just happen. The Holy Spirit can be quenched, grieved, resisted and even blasphemed by us, and so we’ve got to ask. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13).

If you, like me, are discontent with the “mechanical sacramentalism” and the “dead biblicism” of so much of the church, and if you, like me, ache for “the dynamic reality of God’s presence,” then “it is time that we took Pentecost seriously and eagerly receive a new infusion of the Holy Spirit.”

Pentecost is [next] Sunday. Come to church as if it were Christmas or Easter, and come expectantly.

~ Douglas Skinner has been the senior minister of Northway Christian Church in Dallas, Texas, since 1997. A frequent conference speaker and retreat leader, Skinner did his Doctor of Ministry work in the spirituality of the gospel ordinances in the Stone/Campbell tradition.

WISDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group meets weekly. Starting in May, we will meet in person from 10:00–11:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month. Please RSVP for the location and more info going forward. On the other three weeks of the month, we will continue to meet on Zoom from 8:30–9:30 a.m. Anyone who is in the second half of life is welcome to join. The next book for the Zoom group is The Meaning of Mary Magdalene by Cynthia Bourgeault of The Center for Action and Contemplation. To RSVP please email Deb Garcia at sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com.

DONATIONS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES’ FOOD PANTRY

Saint Cecilia has committed to providing these items to the Catholic Charities’ food pantry: Cheerios or corn flakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, canned tuna fish, canned chicken breast, cooking oil, and tomato sauce. While any canned or shelf-stable items are appreciated, it is particularly helpful when parishioners can help with the staples listed above. Because food is delivered only twice a month to the Catholic Charities’ food pantry, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex. If you would like to send food donations directly to Catholic Charities through a service like Amazon.com, please have them delivered to Beth Chambers at Catholic Charities, 185 Columbia Road, Boston, MA 02121.
**Parish Resources**

Parish Office & Mailing Address
18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781
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Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

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Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Rev. Mr. David A. Kiblinger, SJ, Deacon
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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.
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.

Panning
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 the machine 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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