The Fifth Sunday of Easter

7 May 2023

Jesus Christ Pantocrator (Detail from the deesis mosaic in Hagia Sophia, Istanbul)
7 MAY 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | I Know that My Redeemer Lives

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

* The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
God indeed is my Savior, I am confident and fearless. My courage is the Lord, for God has been my Savior!

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

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

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

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 6:1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 33: Lord, Let Your Mercy Be on Us

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for the upright. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful, and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.

3. Yes, the Lord’s eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.
SECOND READING | 1 Peter 2: 4-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

GOSPEL | John 14: 1-12

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

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

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior

Bernadette Farrell

Praise to you, O Christ, our Savior, Word of the Father,
calling us to life; Son of God who
leads us to freedom: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Verses

1. You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;
2. You are the one whom prophets hoped and longed for;
3. You are the Word who calls us to be servants;
4. You are the Word who binds us and unites us;

you are the Word who leads us into light;
you are the one who speaks to us today;
you are the Word whose only law is love;
you are the Word who calls us to be one;

you are the Word who brings us through the desert;
you are the one who leads us to our future;
you are the Word made-flesh who lives among us;
you are the Word who teaches us forgiveness:

glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
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 | Mass of the Angels and Saints

[Music notation image]
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

GREAT AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

LAMB OF GOD | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an “Act of Spiritual Communion.” When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of grace. We can be assured that when we express our desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, God will be with us spiritually in a special way. Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion that we encourage you to pray as you participate in our live-streamed liturgies:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

Communion | Eye Has Not Seen

Marty Haugen

Refrain

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has ready for

those who love him; Spirit of love, come, give us the

mind of Jesus, teach us the wisdom of God.

Verses 1–3

1. When pain and sorrow weigh us down, be near to us, O
2. Our lives are but a single breath, we flow-er and we
3. To those who see with eyes of faith, the Lord is ever

Lord, forgive the weakness of our faith, and
fade, yet all our days are in your hands, so
near, reflected in the faces of

bear us up within your peaceful word.
we re-turn in love what love has made.
all the poor and low-ly of the world.
COMMUNION MEDITATION | Come My Way, My Truth, My Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move:
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

**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.
1. Sing with all the saints in glory, Sing the res-
2. O, what glory, far exceeding All that eye has
3. Life eternal! heaven rejoicing: Jesus lives who

1. Can - ten con glo - rio sos fie - les Him - nos de re -
2. ¡Oh! qué glo - ría tan ex - cel - sa, Im - po - si - ble
3. Vi - da e - ter - na, ex - clama el cie - lo; Vi - ve Cris - to

rec - tion song! Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,
yet per - ceived! Ho - liest hearts, for ages pleading,

To the former days be - long. All a - round the
Never that full joy con - ceived. God has prom - ised,

Pe - nas del pa - sa do son. Nu - bes ne - gras
Noes pe - ra - ron re - ci - bir. Dios pro - me - te,

clouds are break - ing. Soon the storms of time shall cease; In God’s
Christ prepares it, There on high our wel - come waits. Ev’ry

se di - si - pan, La tor - men - ta ce - sa ya. Des - per
Cris - to, fre - ce El ban - que - te ce - les - tial. Pa - ra
del pa - sa do, Los que, es - pe - ran ce - le - brar, To - dos

like - ness we a - wak - en, Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
hum - ble spir - it shares it; Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.

4. Life eternal! What wonders
Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amid earth’s closing thunders,
Saints shall stand before the throne!
Oh, to enter that bright portal,
See that glowing firmament,
Know, with you, O God immortal,
Jesus Christ whom you have sent!

4. ¡Vida eterna! ¡Gozó eterno!
Fieles cantan a una voz.
Cesar truenos y nos vemos
Frente al trono tuyo, Dios.
Y al pasar por tus portales,
Brilla el cielo con fulgor.
Celebramos tu venida
En tu Hijo, el Salvador.
For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia, please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDUff@stceciliaboston.org.
WELCOME!

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

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

Saturday, May 6 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, lector

Sunday, May 7 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Nicholas Hayes-Mota, lector

Sunday, May 7 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Hannah Ostwald, Cole Young, and Jen Kowieski, lectors

Sunday, May 7 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Emily St. Germain and Moira Macdonald, lectors

Sunday, May 7 | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Jim Dougherty and Julie Bogdanski, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 7 | 8:00 a.m.
John & Angela Machado, Memorial

Sunday, May 7 | 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Richard Segreve, Memorial
Michael Chiavalle, Memorial
Edward G. Toomey, Memorial
Aunt Solya, Memorial
Joseph R. Koslowsky, Memorial

Sunday, May 7 | 11:30 a.m.
Donna Ryan, Memorial

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

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3:15-17
John 14:15-21

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!
Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Anastaja Lee, Sue Ryan, Necee Regis, Tim Finn, Glenn Gallo, Carol Tebo, John Hosang, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rick Gaillardetz, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: Ashton Volkmann of Webster, Minnesota, Meghan and David Paresky of Brookline, Katherine Barrett of Boston, Todd Neuharth of Farmville, Virginia, Fallyn Boich and Christian Healy of Boston, Clare and Bernard Gillis of Waltham, Julia Henninger of Boston, the Ix Family of Boston, Catherine and Dale Irby of Garland, Texas, David Wentrup of Lodi, California and Kelly Connolly of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Catholic Appeal
Thank you to those who have given to the Catholic Appeal! We’ve exceeded our donor goal, but we are only at 52% of our financial goal. We are stronger together and your generosity is greatly appreciated! Donate here: www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate.

Attention, Graduates!
We want to acknowledge and celebrate all our graduates this spring. Please email the names of the parishioners who are graduating from high school or college to Christine Burns at cburns@stceciliaboston.org and use the word "graduate" in the subject line. Feel free to include the school's name and the degree awarded.

First Communion Class
We look forward to welcoming the twenty-nine children in our First Communion Class to the table of the Lord on Saturday, May 13 at 11:00 a.m. We pray in a special way that this new level of relationship with Jesus brings them joy, wisdom, and new insights to their growing faith. Thank you in advance to all who have supported them along the way, especially their teachers, Mr. Mark Lippolt and Ms. Anna Demare.

Last Six O’Clock Mass for the Season
Today is the last six o’clock Mass until September.

Looking for Teachers
Are you interested in volunteering for our Faith Formation program during the 2023-2024 school year? We are looking for a group of adults who are interested in helping grow our faith formation program in a variety of roles. No teaching experience is required. If you have any interest, please email our Children’s Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at ohaustie@stceciliaboston.org.

The Month of May
The Church in the West has long dedicated the month of May in a special way to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consider some ways you might honor Mary this month.

Flower Donations
If you would like to contribute sanctuary flowers on a particular Sunday in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving to God, please contact Mark Donohoe (mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org) a few days in advance of the weekend.

ARE YOU CPR TRAINED?
Last month, we had a very successful CPR training and we’re pleased to announce that we have several open slots available for our second CPR training being held on May 21 from 2:00—5:00 p.m. Registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so please contact Lisa Pickering (lpickering@stceciliaboston.org) to sign up. If you cannot attend this class, we will offer another training in the fall. Please note that there are two parts to this training—an online and an in-person component. The online component must be completed prior to the in-person training at Saint Cecilia.
SUPPORT WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE THIS MOTHER’S DAY

Mother's Day is approaching, and Women’s Lunch Place (WLP) has the perfect opportunity for you to honor the special women in your life while supporting women in need. For each $25 donation to WLP, you will receive a card designed by one of the shelter's guests as a thank you. At check out please indicate that Mark Lippolt referred you to this campaign.

At Saint Cecilia, Mother's Day cards will be sold in the narthex following each of weekend liturgies this week and next. By purchasing Mother's Day cards through their fundraiser, you help WLP provide a wide array of services for the most vulnerable women in our community, including healthy meals and individualized services that empower these women to make positive changes in their lives. The cards are blank on the inside so they can also serve as a personal or "thank you" note. In addition to Mother's Day 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.

This year’s Mother’s Day card was designed by Deirdre, who is a friendly and welcoming presence in the Women’s Lunch Place community. A traumatic childhood led Deirdre to self-medicate leading to a substance use disorder, but she has since found sobriety and stability at our shelter and advocacy center. She visits us nearly every day for nutritious meals and Advocacy services. In March, Deirdre partnered with local artist Janice Hayes-Cha to create a vibrant collage out of repurposed greeting cards.

For more information about this fundraiser, please contact Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com or you can order a card directly by visiting www.mothersdaycards.org. Thank you for supporting Women’s Lunch Place and for making this Mother's Day a meaningful one for the special women in your life.

JOIN US FOR THE 2023 MOTHER’S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Please join us on May 14 for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's 27th Annual Mother’s Day Walk for Peace. The Institute was formed in 1996 by a Boston mother who turned her grief into action after her teenage son was murdered. The Institute’s goal is to empower survivors, Generation Peace, and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief, and loss to cultivate cycles of peace and healing. Saint Cecilia Parish has supported the Institute’s essential work for many years, and this year, we have set a parish goal of $7,000 to contribute to the program’s mission through its annual Mother’s Day Walk for Peace. Your gift can have a lasting impact on the healing steps that move us toward peace through compassionate justice. We invite you to visit our team page (https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/stcecella) on the Mother’s Day Walk for Peace website to donate. You can also sign up to join our Walking Team for an unforgettable community experience. Following the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies this weekend, we welcome you to visit the Saint Cecilia Walking Team’s information table in the Parish Hall. Here, you’ll be able to chat with Walkers and donate to this deeply meaningful cause.
Please share about our returning citizens ministry

Previously known as our Prison and After Ministry, the Saint Cecilia Returning Citizens group meets from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., every other Monday evening. During each meeting, a group of volunteer parishioners gathers to welcome men local to the Boston area who have experienced any local, state, and federal correctional institutions. Some are recently released, living in supervised settings, and others have already settled in the area. These Monday nights are designed to provide a safe space where men reentering society from prison or jail can feel welcomed and loved. Each evening, these men share their experiences and share a meal with our parishioners. Needless to say, the stories shared are very powerful and a blessing for all to hear.

We need help recruiting and inviting new members. If you know any men who could benefit from this kind of supportive conversation and fellowship, please let them know that they would be more than welcome. Questions? Please email Fr. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, at shaughnessyjames1@gmail.com.

Join the Remote Fellowship Community’s May Coffee Hour!

In their continuing effort to introduce Saint Cecilia’s various ministries to the Far-Flung Flock (FFF), the Remote Fellowship Community is pleased to welcome the Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group to their May 7 online coffee hour. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group has been meeting weekly via Zoom to share their reflections on books and to "rediscover the joy of being Catholic in the second half of life." The group’s meetings have been a wonderful way to deepen the community’s faith through transformative and healing conversation, prayer, and occasional social justice actions. The FFF looks forward to hearing members of the Wisdom Group share their journey. Learn how the second half of life can be full of transitions and change—happy and sad—and how this ministry has been surprised by grace each week.

Anyone is welcome to join this call! If you have registered or attended any online coffee hour in the past, you will automatically get the email with the link for May. The Zoom link will be emailed to the entire list a few days before the call. To join the FFF mailing list and get the link for this call, fill out this form: https://forms.gle/jUx6DqMlyMb2c2526

If you have any questions, please email Mary Ann Gallagher at gallaghercomms@gmail.com.

Please Share About Our Returning Citizens Ministry

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SUPPORT OUR NONPROFIT PARTNERS

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

Wednesday, May 10
LifeSavor — Community Servings
Location: Davio’s Northern Italian Steakhouse Galleria, Back Bay
Information about the event: https://www.servings.org/lifesavor/

Friday, May 12
Eat Lunch Give — Women’s Lunch Place
Location: Grand Ballroom, Park Plaza Hotel | Information about the event: https://www.womenslunchplace.org/eat-lunch-give

Monday, May 15
Medicine that Matters Gala — Boston Health Care for the Homeless
Location: Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport | Information about the event: https://www.bhchp.org/events/2023-medicine-that-matters-gala/

Wednesday, May 17
Spring Celebration — Catholic Charities
Location: JFK Library | Information about the event: https://www.cccab.org/news-updates/catholic-charities-spring-celebration/

Sunday, May 21
Elderbration — Friendship Works
Location: Jamaica Pond | Information about the event: https://secure.qgiv.com/event/elderbration/

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

CLIMATE JUSTICE GROUP MEETING

The Climate Justice group will be meeting on Sunday, May 7 at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 1. They will be discussing the racial justice issues that come with the climate crisis and what we can do as a parish, including how to begin a climate action plan for the parish. For more information, please email sc.climatejustice@gmail.com.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PELICAN IS AN EARLY CHRISTIAN SYMBOL THAT REPRESENTS JESUS?

The symbolism of the mother pelican feeding her baby chicks is rooted in an ancient legend that predates Christianity. According to the legend, in times of famine the mother pelican pierces her breast with her beak to feed her chicks with her own blood. Another version of the legend was that the mother fed her dying chicks with her own blood to rescue them from death, in turn sacrificing her own life. This legend was adapted by early Christians to symbolize the sacrifice of Jesus—the mother pelican representing Jesus, and the chicks representing us—and was frequently used in early Christian art.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES’ RICE BOWLS

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic Church in the United States. Thanks to your support in the past year, CRS touched the lives of more than 120 million poor and vulnerable people in more than 110 countries around the world. On the weekend of May 6—7, we will ask you to return your Lenten rice bowls. Even if you have not used the actual cardboard rice bowl to collect funds, you can still donate by making a check payable to “Catholic Relief Services.”

Recently, Sudan has been in the news as a conflict between two generals has caused deadly fighting. The combat has engulfed Khartoum (one of the largest cities in Africa) and, according to Sudan’s Health Ministry, the fighting has resulted in 550 deaths and 4,926 injuries. Catholic Relief Services, which has been active in Sudan since 2004, provides life-saving assistance to address the needs of the most vulnerable in conflict-affected and natural disaster-prone areas such as Darfur. CRS also implements longer-term programs designed to respond to climate or conflict-related shocks through skills building, enhancing basic services, and strengthening bonds between local communities and government.

Please keep in mind that 25% of donations to CRS are returned to local non-profits. In the case of Greater Boston, that means that they benefit our friends at Catholic Charities. For more information: www.CRS.org.

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

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

"LOOKING TOWARD HEAVEN"

Join the Chamber Orchestra of Boston at First Church Boston on May 12 at 7:30 p.m. for “Looking Toward Heaven,” featuring our dear friend and Grammy-nominated trumpeter Richard Kelley who will be the featured soloist in the premiere of a newly orchestrated version of Carson Cooman’s Prayer of St. Ambrose, as well as the Prayer of St. Gregory by Alan Hovhaness. Joyous works by Adolphus Hailstork, Florence Price, and others will round out this uplifting program. To learn more about this program and purchase tickets: https://www.chamberorchestraofboston.org/lookingtowardheaven
OUR ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

The Saint Cecilia Adult Faith Formation Commission (AFFC) provides a range of impactful in-person and virtual parish events throughout the year. Past programming has included a monthly "Faith & Film Series" as well as special guest speaker events, such as last October’s, “An Evening with Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ,” an enlightening presentation and discussion on faith and science with the Director of the Vatican Observatory and world-renowned astronomer. Looking ahead, the AFFC would like to hear from the parish community on ways to create new programming that is current, inspirational, and accessible. Whether you have attended an event in the past or would be interested in doing so in the future—either locally or from across the globe—the AFFC would love to hear from you! Please take a moment to fill out a two-minute survey by scanning this QR code—it’s fast and easy. If you have any questions, please email Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility, at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org. Thank you for your consideration!

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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

BLACKSTONE/FRANKLIN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association annually offers scholarships in the amount of $2,000 to high school seniors who are South End residents or attend school in the South End (or, as funds allow, are significantly involved in a South End community organization), and planning to attend college or pursue higher education studies. They also offer a $3,000 Andrew Parthum Scholarship, given in recognition of outstanding community achievement. These scholarships can aid with the cost of books, computers, and other supplies and fees not necessarily covered by financial aid or other scholarships. Applications are due May 15. To learn more about these scholarships, please visit: http://www.blackstonefranklin.org/scholarship

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

PAULIST CENTER – BOSTON

It’s Not Just You, It’s Everybody: Getting Real about Mental Health and Our Faith—a Sacred Symposium

Speakers: Dr. Jessica Coblentz of St. Mary’s University; Dr. Elizabeth Antus, Department of Theology, Boston College; and Paulist Fr. Stuart Wilson-Smith of Old St. Mary’s Parish in Chicago | Moderator: Ms. Patty Simpson, Paulist Center Pastoral Administrator and Harvard Divinity School faculty member.

Friday, May 12, 2023, 6:30—9:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m.—3:45 p.m.
5 Park Street, Boston | In-Person Only
Suggested donation is $50.00 (All are welcome, with/without a donation.) | Register by May 7

To learn more or register, visit: https://www.paulistcenter.org/mental-health-and-our-faith-symposium/

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

Father Steve’s Book Group: Living in the Company of Jesus: A Practical, Scripture-Based Guide to Deepening Our Journey Within His Nonviolent Kingdom

Presenter: Father Steve Josoma, Pastor, Saint Susanna Parish

Monday, May 8, 2023 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

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

CARE-TAKERS SUPPORT GROUP

Calling all parishioners who visit the sick, the elderly, or the homebound! Are you visiting people as part of a hospital or hospice volunteer group or through the CARES ministry and feel that you would benefit from peer support? We are considering starting a parishioner-led group to meet virtually, in person, or on a hybrid basis (likely once a month) to build spiritual connection and share experiences. Anyone who attends Saint Cecilia in person or virtually is welcome. If you are interested, send your thoughts to aerusso2015@gmail.com. Our best, Silvina Ibanez, Bob Sances, and Amy Russo.
OUR SECOND-GRADE First Communion class and their parents recently took part in what has become an annual tradition—a tour of the church. Built in 1894, Saint Cecilia’s physical space had three major renovations in 1954, 2010, and 2019. The church is filled with religious objects and beautiful iconography that enhance the students’ connection to our faith. Of particular interest and curiosity was the sacristy, where the priests and altar servers vest before Mass—a space that most parishioners do not have the occasion to visit. Other highlights of the tour included the many images of the saints—in particular, the stunning mosaics of Saint Cecilia, patron saint of music, and Saint Patrick, patron saint of the Archdiocese of Boston and Ireland (even though he was born in Britain). Our second-grade class recently learned about the Passion of Jesus, and so the students were intrigued by the stained glass window depicting Saint Veronica holding the veil that bears the image of Jesus’ face. They learned that, because of this miracle, Veronica is the patron saint of photography. The tour was conducted by our second-grade catechists, Anna DeMare and Mark Lippolt, with help from our lead altar servers, Ceci Bagnall and Don Carrier. Thank you so much to everyone who participated!
What troubles your heart today?

For me the list is long and it’s not pretty. It’s a crushing and excruciating heart attack. I think about all the litanies and prayers we have offered in the last couple of years for the violence and suffering in the world. I think about the protests around the world and in America. I think about healthcare, immigrants, and refugees. I think about gun violence, racism, and poverty. I think about stories of bullying and suicides. I think about ISIS, Russia, North Korea, and increasing tensions around the globe. I think about the nightmare of our political dysfunction in both parties. I think about those grieving and mourning the death of a loved one. I think about families that are struggling, spouses that are divorcing, children that are hungry, and people that are hanging on by a thread. I think about my own sorrows, losses, and disappointments. I think about the ways today’s gospel gets interpreted and used to exclude, condemn, and bludgeon others.

Despite what Jesus says about not letting our hearts be troubled, my heart is troubled and I suspect yours might be too. What would you add to my list? What is troubling your heart today? None of us get through this life without a troubled heart. We all experience it in our own ways but see if this sounds familiar: isolated, paralyzed, overwhelmed, powerless, off balance, out of control, disconnected, afraid, thoughts spinning in your head, no stability, despair, grief, tears, anger. Do you recognize any of those?

In the midst of a troubled heart the unspoken question is this: Will the center hold or is everything collapsing around us. Thomas and Philip are feeling the collapse. Much of the world is. Maybe you are too. Will the center hold? That’s our question.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Jesus recognizes that our hearts are troubled. He is not warning us about a future condition. He knows the troubling has already begun. He can see it in us because he’s experienced it within himself. He also knows that our lives and the world are not defined by or limited to what troubles.

What if not letting our hearts be troubled begins with looking into our hearts and seeing and naming what troubles? That means facing our selves, our lives, our world. That may be the first and most difficult thing Jesus asks of us in today’s gospel. I don’t know about you but sometimes I don’t want to see. I don’t want to name. It’s too difficult and too painful. It’s takes
me too close to the edge of the abyss and a free fall into a collapsing life and a collapsing world. "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Thomas speaks for us all. We’ve lost our center. How do we recenter? Where do we go when it seems everything is collapsing around us?

Here’s the paradox. Sometimes we have to lose our center in order to find it. I want to be clear about this. I’m not suggesting that God purposely de-centers us. De-centering happens. It’s a part of life. It’s a part of the human condition. Sometimes it comes out of circumstances we didn’t create or choose. Other times it is a consequence of our choices or actions. Regardless, Jesus says that is not a place to stay or a way to live. It is not the life he lives or offer us.

If your heart is troubled then it’s time to re-center. Re-centering doesn’t mean our hearts won’t be troubled. It doesn’t necessarily fix the problem, whatever it might be. It means that our lives are tethered to something greater than ourselves. It means that our hearts are held secure by the Divine Life and we are not free falling into the abyss. Jesus is reminding us that there is a center and it is not us. It is not America and her laws and constitution. It is not the church and her creeds and doctrines. It is not our success, accomplishments, position, or power. We do not have to be the center nor do we need to establish it. In fact, we can’t. Instead, we awaken to it. We already know the way to and the place of this center Jesus says.

“Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied,” Philip says to Jesus. He’s bought into the lie that the Father is apart from, outside of, and distant from himself. The center, however, is within. The Father’s house is within. The kingdom is within. Wherever you go, there is the center. Whatever you face, there is the center. Whoever you are, there is the center, Regardless of what troubles, there is the center. Wherever you are, there is the center. Not because you are the center, but because God is within.

In the language of today’s gospel the center is the Father’s house and there are many dwelling place in this house. In the Father’s house there is a dwelling place for every troubled heart. I am not talking about the after life, and I am not thinking of this as some sort of celestial dormitory for those who have enough right belief and right behavior. I am taking about the dwelling places as the ways God’s life intersects our own: mercy and forgiveness, justice, generosity, compassion, healing, love, beauty, wisdom, hope, courage, joy, intimacy. These are the dwelling places for troubled hearts, places of re-centering. Every time we live into and express the divine attributes in our way of being, with our words, or by our actions, we regain our center, restore balance, and take up residence in the Father’s house.

What in you today needs re-centering? “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.”

How might centeredness, balance, and harmony within yourself help you see and respond to your troubles or the troubles of the world differently? “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.”

What if in the midst of troubles your heart could maintain a normal rhythm and beat with God’s life? “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.”

“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.” I hear those words and I imagine a sign blinking like a heartbeat: “Rooms available.” “Rooms available.” “Rooms available.”

~ The Rev. Michael Marsh has served as rector of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church – Uvalde, a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, since 2005.
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
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Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

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Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

Audiovisual Support
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Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer
gedwards@stceciliaboston.org
Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer
vizumchensky@berklee.edu

Schedule for Liturgy
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m., & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

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

Faith Formation for Children
To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at ohastie@stceciliaboston.org.

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

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

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

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team
The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (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 $13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and $13 after 4:00 every day of the week. To take advantage of this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

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