Fourth Sunday of Easter
8 May 2022

Our kindergartners & first graders in the St. Francis Garden enjoying last Sunday’s beautiful weather.

Catechists: Rita Bohling & Greg Drake
Photograph courtesy of Megan Castro
8 May 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Prelude | Violin Sonata: Grave
Maxim Berezovzky
(1745-1777)
Arranged by Marek Toporowski

Entrance Procession | All People that on Earth Do Dwell
OLD ONE HUNDREDTH

Call to Worship

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

※ The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
Refrain

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. Blessed 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

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 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 13: 14, 43-52

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 100: We are His People  
Tony Alonso

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. R.

Know that he, the LORD, is God.
He made us; we belong to him.

Indeed, how good is the LORD,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. R.

SECOND READING | Revelation 7: 9, 14b-17

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Franciscan Alleluia  
Peter M. Kolar

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL | John 10: 27-30

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
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBA

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

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. 
Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. 
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. 
Blessed is he who comes in the name, who 
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Missa Pacem  
L. Randolph Babin

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

GREAT AMEN | Missa Pacem  
L. Randolph Babin

Amen, amen, amen. 
Amen, amen, amen.
THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

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

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.
1. You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way. You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand. You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain

Be not afraid. I go before you always.

Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

2. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown. If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed. If you stand before the
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. Go to the world! Go into all the earth. Go preach the cross where Christ renews life’s worth, bap-
2. Go to the world! Go into every place. Go live the Word of God’s redeeming grace. nights of tears give way to joyful day. As
3. Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray; the I am with you ’til the age shall end, When tizing as the sign of our rebirth.
4. Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for Go seek God’s presence in each time and space. all the hosts of glory cry “Amen!”

POSTLUDE| Prelude in D Major, BWV 532 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Thomas, Mellan, parish organist

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

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

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

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

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oaken 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.
God Bless
Our First Communicants

MAY 7, 2022

Lucas
Anjuli
Michael
Anabella
Jack
Danny
Simon
Abraham
Katherine
Olivia
Everly
Maya
Luke
Maddie
Milania
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, May 7 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Emily Bogert, lector

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

Sunday, May 8 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Julie DesAutels, Natasha Bolton-Pierre, and Letitia Howland, lectors

Sunday, May 8 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Kevin Dumas and Karen McMenamy, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 7 | 8:00 a.m.
John and Angelina Machado, Memorial
Gerard Franchi, Memorial

Sunday, May 8 | 9:30 a.m.
John Hawley, Memorial
Roger Pickrell, Memorial
David Leo Shay, Special Intention
Paul DeSabato, Memorial
Helen Carter, Memorial
Kristin Earner, Special Intention
Donald Logan, Memorial

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT:

This joyful Eastertide, join us for Evening Prayer.

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.

TAIZE PRAYER

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 Deceased**
Anna DeMare’s mother died on Monday, May 2. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joanne DeMare, and for the consolation of Anna and her family. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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

**Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish**
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: Amy Eppich of Milton, the Lyons Family of Chestnut Hill, Rosemary and Ronald Brown of Selbyville, Delaware, and Kathleen Nozzolillo of Springfield. 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 Celeste DiJohnson, baptized on May 13. May the Lord continue to bless her with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Celeste!

**Good Shepherd Sunday**
Let us pray in a special way for the members of our parish who are catechists in our children’s faith formation program. May the Lord continue to guide them as they partner with parents to help nurture the spiritual formation of the children they shepherd.

**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 Leah Bennett at lbennett@stceciliaboston.org. Please use the word ‘graduate’ in the subject line. Feel free to include the name of the school and the degree awarded. We are also happy to announce recitals.

**Six O’Clock Mass Note**
There is no six o’clock Mass today. The 6:00 Mass will resume in September.

**Happy Mother’s Day!**
What a beautiful day we have to honor our mothers, those who are with us, those who have gone before us, those who have given us life, and those who have shown us the nurturing and supportive love of a mother along the way. We remember in prayer those for whom this day is particularly sad—all mothers who live in desperate circumstances, especially those who are victims of warfare, poverty, and disease. We remember our mothers and we bring God’s presence into these relationships on this Mother’s Day. Happy Mother’s Day!

**Welcome to the Lord’s Table!**
Easter is the season of initiation, and therefore the very best time to celebrate First Holy Communion. We are delighted to have had fifteen youngsters receive communion for the first time yesterday. Please keep these children in your prayer. We are also grateful to our second grade catechists, Mr. Mark Lippolt and Ms. Anna DeMare, who have devoted so much time and energy to their teaching.

**OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS**

Some say First Eucharist, but these children have been with us at Eucharist faithfully for a long time. Today they celebrate a new level of relationship with the Body of Christ. We are delighted to welcome the following children to the table of Jesus, our gentle and good shepherd. May they always live in peace in the pastures where the Lord dwells.

Anabella Anselmo  
Olivia Kimberly Armstrong  
Lucas Mateo Diaz Brown  
Luke Vernon Campbell  
Simon Brian Castro  
Michael Ragosta Early  
Abraham Fitzgerald Fairchild  
Everly Grace Nichols  
Daniel Leo Ostberg  
Katherine Leigh Skeffington  
Jack Bennett Sollinger  
Madelyn Hazel Sollinger  
Anjuli Claire Szydlo  
Maya Lauren Szydlo  
Milania Alexandria Thibeault
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, or if you'd like to get involved with a ministry, 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/virtus/reg_list.cfm?theme=0, or save the date for the next Saint Cecilia training on September 18. No need to RSVP. Note: if you elect to wait until September, you cannot serve until then.

NOTES ON VOLUNTEER POLICY CHANGES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

The diocese has revamped the parish volunteer policy this year. Previously one needed to be CORI’d and receive VIRTUS training only if they had the potential to interact with children or those who are vulnerable, now ALL volunteers need to complete an annual CORI, and receive training (a one-time program) to serve in our community. The exceptions to this are the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, and ministries that meet exclusively online—who must compete a CORI, but do not need to receive training until they plan to return in-person. Our deadline to submit a list of all active volunteers (with completed training and CORI) is June. Please speak to your ministry coordinators or staff liaison if you’ve not yet heard about how to do this. Failure to complete these two steps will mean one must take a hiatus from serving until completed. This process is not insignificant, and we greatly appreciate your time and commitment to keeping children safe in this community.

HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS MINISTRY: DRIVERS NEEDED

Each weekend parishioners have the opportunity to pick up donated meat, dairy products, prepared foods, and produce from four local supermarkets and deliver it to either Catholic Charities’ Haitian Multi-Service Center in Dorchester or the Huntington Y’s "Families in Transition" program. This vital ministry takes place at 8:00 every Saturday and Sunday morning and on Saturdays can be completed in time to watch the livestreamed 9:30 a.m. Mass. We need drivers for all the Saturdays and Sundays in May and June. Please email Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com if you can help out.

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. the first Sunday of the month. Please RSVP for the room and for more info going forward. For the other three weeks of the month, we will continue to meet on Zoom from 8:30–9:30 a.m. All in the second half of life are 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. Please email Deb Garcia at sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com to RSVP.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP
Tuesday, May 17 | 7:00–8:00 p.m. | Church & Zoom

Come spend some time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as we thank God for the wonderful things he has done and continues to do in our lives. On May 17 we will gather in the church to pray before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. In addition to reciting the rosary, there will be periods of quiet prayer and song. We are always looking for musicians to join our music team. Rehearsals occur monthly, two weeks prior to Adoration. If you would like more information about joining the music team or if you have a song request, please email Perpetual Charles (pcharles0615@gmail.com). This will also be shared on Zoom. Please contact Perpetua for the link.

SUPPORT WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE

For each $25 donation to WLP, you will receive a card designed by one of the shelter’s guests as a thank you. The Women’s Lunch Place is a day shelter community for women experiencing poverty and homelessness. 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 Saturday vigil Mass and our Sunday 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies. For more information, please contact Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com or you can order a card directly by clicking on www.MothersDayCards.org
Sometimes life becomes a complex labyrinth, from which we frantically seek an escape. I’m always struck by that metallic voice over the airplane intercom before takeoff: the nearest exit may be behind you!

We often find ourselves in need of an emergency exit from complex or trying situations that inevitably, sooner or later, we must confront. Sometimes however we are so concentrated on our own fears or we are so convinced that we’re going in the right direction towards the exit that we risk getting trapped inside the wreck.

What is it that brings us to the nearest exit? The voice of the flight attendant tells us that the lighted path will guide us out. In a certain sense, this Gospel should be the lighted path that guides us to true life.

In the times of fear and uncertainty that we must cross through, we discover two fundamental needs: the need to be recognized, that is, to hear a friendly and familiar voice that lets us know that we are not alone, and the need for safety keeps us from losing heart.

In our lives, if it is true that the Lord marks the lighted path we must follow and he calls us by name to guide us towards the good, it is also true however that there are thieves and robbers that try to keep us from getting away.

These thieves and robbers can be found, first of all, within ourselves… They are our fears, our square-mindedness, our rigid plans; they are the ideas that steal our strength and prevent us from reaching our true home, like the ideas that the disciples of Emmaus were caught up in.

But these thieves and robbers are also around us… They are those that abuse their power, those that prefer destroying to building up, those that frighten us with their threats. They are instruments, sometimes unknowingly, of an evil that has ensnared them and prevents them from choosing wisely.

If we are interested in staying close to the true shepherd we will be able to distinguish his voice even in turbulent times!

The true shepherd reassures us and welcomes us into a place where we can let go of our anxieties. The sheepfold has boundaries. It is a symbol of a relationship, like that of the garden at the beginning of creation. A healthy relationship however is one that has doors to come and go by. Our relationships often have no doors and become possessive and asphyxiating. Their boundaries are like prison walls. But our relationship with Jesus gives life because it is free. In Biblical language, to come in and to go out is an expression that indicates life. Healthy relationships are those whose doors are clearly marked.

Recalcati wrote that the place par excellence where our needs to be recognized and reassured are met is in the eyes of our mother. In the figure of the mother we find all those who are give us life and freedom. The relationship between mother and child becomes the model of every relationship from which we receive life without feeling controlled.

The fable of "Little Red Riding Hood" teaches us the same lesson: though the forest is dangerous and the wolf probably lives there, the mother does not prevent her daughter from leaving her side, but lets her go, encouraging her, assuring her. It is precisely that recognition and that bond of love that permits every "Little Red Riding Hood" to confront the forest and the wolves.

Jesus too sends us out like lambs among wolves. His words are honest; he does not try to hide the difficulty of life from us. If we are lambs, what can we possibly do when confronted by wolves? Perhaps we can cry for help for the shepherd knows us and he will hear our voice. He will come to save us, guiding us by a lighted path. We must pay close attention then because the nearest escape may be behind us.

~ Fr. Gaetano Piccolo, SJ is a Jesuit priest originally from Napoli. He now lives in Rome and teaches philosophy at the Gregorian University.
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS — JUST 4 WEEKS AWAY!

This year, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) election will be held on the weekend of June 4/5. There are three seats to be filled, each for a 3-year term. This is an exciting and critical time for our parish and serving on the Parish Pastoral Council is a significant way of contributing to our vibrancy and growth. Please take the time to vote, and if you feel inspired, consider running for one the open seats.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RUN FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE PARISH COUNCIL?

I. You must be a registered member of our community and at least eighteen years old. You can register by visiting our website at www.stceciliaboston.org/regform.html or by filling out a registration form in the narthex.

II. You should already be an active participant in the life of the parish, whether thats in-person or virtual.

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY?

Meetings are held monthly via Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. In addition to monthly meetings, members are expected to volunteer to lead or assist with occasional parish initiatives or activities. It is also expected that council members will participate in a variety of parish events and programs and be visible representatives of the parish community.

HOW CAN I BECOME A CANDIDATE?

Please prepare a brief statement (no longer than 150 words) about why you are interested, what Saint Cecilia Parish means to you, and any information about yourself that you would like to share. This statement will be included in the bulletins for May 22, 29, and June 5. A headshot is also requested but is not required.

Elections will be held on the weekend of June 4/5. If you cannot be present that weekend, you may submit your vote via e-mail at info@stceciliaboston.org until 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 5.

SCHEDULE

May 16 | Statements and headshots due to info@stceciliaboston.org
May 21/22 & 28/29 & June 4/5 | Biographies, platform statements, and headshots published in the parish bulletin
June 4/5 | Election
June 5 | Absentee ballots due no later than 1:00 p.m. via e-mail

CURRENT PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, we extended the terms of the current members by 2 years in lieu of having elections while we gathered virtually.

MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE MAY 2022
Kathryn Brown
Natasha Hartmann
Chika Offurum

MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE IN MAY 2024
Matt Cannistraro
Anna DeMare
Mark Lippolt

MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE MAY 2023
Carly Caminiti
Nancy Nee Hanifin
Amy Paulin
Mark Horan

Completed materials or any questions can be sent to info@stceciliaboston.org.
WHAT IS THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL?

The purpose of the Saint Cecilia Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is to assist the pastor in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, coordinating, and reviewing the evangelization, worship, religious education, and service activities within the parish. In an effort to support the pastor, the PPC will be called upon to serve in a variety of ways depending on the specific needs of the pastor and our church community.

Such service will include the following components:

- Serve as advisors to the pastor and parish staff. Each PPC member brings a unique perspective to the council meetings. These perspectives are highly valued and input provided during discussion is considered when making pastoral decisions. Such perspectives are not specifically personal in nature, but will require members of the PPC to do the following:
  - **Investigate:** Consult with parishioners and experts, consider options and costs
  - **Reflect:** Consider and organize information gathered
  - **Recommend:** Form a conclusion and offer to the pastor in form of recommendations which may or may not be implemented
- Serve as representatives of the church community, supporting the pastor and staff in their efforts in realizing the mission and vision of the church. Members of the PPC are expected to participate in a variety of events, such as New Parishioner Receptions, to develop and maintain relationships with fellow parishioners.
- Stay up-to-date with parish-wide initiatives (staff updates via email and at PPC meetings)

Depending of the specific needs of Saint Cecilia, the PPC might also be called upon to participate in the following activities:

- Work closely with parish staff to design and lead “working groups” to address parish specific needs. Past initiatives have included the marriage ministry, the ministry fair, and the radical welcome workshop.
- Convene outside of regularly scheduled meetings to follow up with working group activities.
- Write updates for the Parish Bulletin.

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
Catholic Charities
185 Columbia Road
Boston, MA 02121
I’M AFRAID TO RETURN TO MASS IN PERSON. AND IT’S NOT BECAUSE OF COVID.

By Valerie Schultz

For two years now, I have gone to Mass twice every Sunday, although I do so seated at my kitchen table. I can see the local Catholic church from my window, but I haven’t been inside it since the brief window, mid-pandemic, of supposed normality in July 2021. From my small town in Oregon, I go to Mass first in Chicago and then in Los Angeles.

Perhaps I should say that I go to services in Chicago and Los Angeles, as no one has yet figured out how to go to Communion via Zoom. I do miss receiving the Eucharist. I went to daily Mass. Back then, I couldn’t have imagined going without the Body of Christ for months or years, as is the burden of some communities in remote areas of the world. I always felt blessed to have the opportunity to go to Mass whenever I wanted. But I was a different person back then.

My life changed when one of my children came out of the closet. As the parent of a transgender person, I felt called to advocate publicly for civil rights and equal treatment—some American Catholics in the public square—trashing the pope and pretty much ignoring Catholic social justice teaching—I knew that the call of Jesus was not what I was hearing from those sources. But Lord, they were loud.

Then came the pandemic of 2020, when going to Mass in person was not a safe option; in some places it was not an option at all. Catholics looked for Masses in parking lots or on TV. Searching the internet brought me to two Zoom Masses far from my home. One was streamed from a large and vibrant parish in a city. Another was broadcast by a friend, a retired priest who said Mass at his own kitchen table. I felt protected from the virus by using these opportunities, and my little bird of faith felt protected, too, by the love and compassion that informed the homilies given by the priests and deacons at these Masses.

Long story short: I fell from being a pillar of parish programs to sitting alone in a back pew. I think of my Catholicism now as a fragile little bird that I keep sheltered in the nest of my heart. I’m still here. Even as my trans child felt abandoned and reviled by the faith into which they were baptized, even as my husband was no longer at my side during Mass, I stayed. I was a Catholic, by God. I was not going to be driven out. Rather than throwing up my hands and surrendering, I held on by a fingernail. The personal criticism, the institutional blindness, the wear and tear of alienation, even the lurking guilt I had for not leaving the church to support my child would not win.

But there were many times I wanted to get up and make a dramatic exit during a homily that, for example, compared civil marriage equality to letting monkeys marry. I would tell myself that one priest’s unkindness did not represent Jesus. In this age of “traditionalist” rhetoric spouted by some American Catholics in the public square—trashing the pope and pretty much ignoring Catholic social justice teaching—I knew that the call of Jesus was not what I was hearing from those sources. But Lord, they were loud.

It’s not that I felt safe from controversy, or placated in my own bubble of belief, because these homilies were thought-provoking and challenging. I wasn’t only hearing what I wanted to hear. But I felt engaged. I also felt focused. Sitting alone at my table, nothing distracted me from the Scripture readings or the prayers of intercession. Seeing the digital grid of fellow Catholics—living, breathing worshippers who were similarly isolated—somehow gave me a stronger sense of communion than I had felt in a church building in a long time. Several of us sometimes stayed online after Mass ended to discuss the homily. I was finally grasping the meaning of spiritual communion. I didn’t expect it to be enough, but it was.

To be honest, I’d expected to yearn for the Eucharist with a profound physical hunger. After all, I’d thought it was exclusively the Eucharist that had kept me Catholic
out the years of personal doubt and wavering. When that sense of longing didn’t come, it surprised me. The Prayer of Spiritual Communion, however, has moved me deeply. I’ve prayed it intensely: Never permit me to be separated from you. Although I’m alone, I’ve felt more connected to God and to the Church than I have in years.

Now my local parish offers three weekend Masses. Now I am vaccinated. Now the mask mandates are being relaxed as the Covid-19 infection numbers and hospitalizations recede. We can gather. From my window, I can hear the bells tolling the start of each Mass. Every week I plan to go. Every Sunday I do not go. Why? I should be running back to in-person Mass so I can embrace the real presence of the Eucharist.

Here is why: I’m afraid, but not of the virus. Frankly, I’m afraid of what I will see, of what I will hear when I get there and step inside.

I’m afraid of once again confronting a superficial pro-life philosophy, one that is pro-pregnancy but against providing any assistance to those in need, even the bootstraps by which they are supposed to pull themselves up. I’m afraid of once again encountering members of the clergy and laity who parrot cruel political talking points while dismissing Pope Francis’ call to tenderness. Mostly, I’m afraid that some misguided homily is going to be the straw that breaks me, the last straw that finally makes me leave this church that I belong to, that I say I love. Even as I confess this weakness of faith, I recognize my fear that my little bird is not viable outside the nest. I do believe, Lord. Help my unbelief.

I suspect I’m not alone in this reluctance to go back to face the Church as it was before the pandemic. But my Zoom communities are changing, as Mass is now coming from a church building full of actual people, and that is as it should be. The pandemic’s revelation of the ability to Zoom on Sunday has been a godsend for homebound folks, and I hope it continues for their sake.

But ours is an incarnational faith. The real presence of Christ demands our presence. I am going to have to get up from my table and go to Mass, to participate in the liturgy and receive Communion, to volunteer in ministry and give back to my parish community in some way. This is how it will go in a perfect world, one in which I am unafraid. I hope and pray to get there. I’m not there yet.

~ Valerie Schultz is a freelance writer, a columnist for The Bakersfield Californian and the author of Overdue: A Dewey Decimal System of Grace. She and her husband Randy have four children and two grandchildren.

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Lunchbox Love Note
By Kenn Nesbitt

Inside my lunch to my surprise
a perfect heart-shaped love note lies.

The outside says, “Will you be mine?”
and, “Will you be my valentine?”

I take it out and wonder who
would want to tell me “I love you.”

Perhaps a girl who’s much too shy
to hand it to me eye to eye.

Or maybe it was sweetly penned
in private by a secret friend

Who found my lunchbox sitting by
and slid the note in on the sly.

Oh, I’d be thrilled if it were Jo,
the cute one in the second row.

Or could it be from Jennifer?
Has she found out I’m sweet on her?

My mind’s abuzz, my shoulders tense.
I need no more of this suspense.

My stomach lurching in my throat,
I open up my little note.

Then wham! as if it were a bomb,
inside it reads, “I love you—Mom.”
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

PARISH RESOURCES

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Website | www.stceciliaerboston.org

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Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Rev. Mr. David A. Kibbling, SJ, Deacon
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Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
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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.

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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