

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
16 July 2023

The Sower by John Richardson

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

16 JULY 2023

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Prelude in C Major, BWV 545
Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Come, You Thankful People Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR



1. Come, you thank - ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of
2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to his
3. For the Lord our God shall come And shall take his
4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To your fi - nal



har - vest home. All is safe - ly gath - ered in
praise to yield; Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown,
har - vest home; From his field shall in that day
har - vest home. Gath - er all your peo - ple in,



Ere the win - ter storms be - gin. God, our Mak - er,
Un - to joy or sor - row grown. First the blade, and
All of - fens - es purge a - way, Giv - ing an - gels
Free from sor - row, free from sin, There, for ev - er



does pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.
then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.
charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
pu - ri - fied, In your pres - ence to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we
But the fruit - ful ears to store
Come with all your an - gels, come!



Raise the song of har - vest home.
Whole - some grain and pure may be.
In God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a -
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you
thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly
King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.
Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you take a -
way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are seat - ed
at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer -
cy, have mer - cy on us. For you a - lone are the



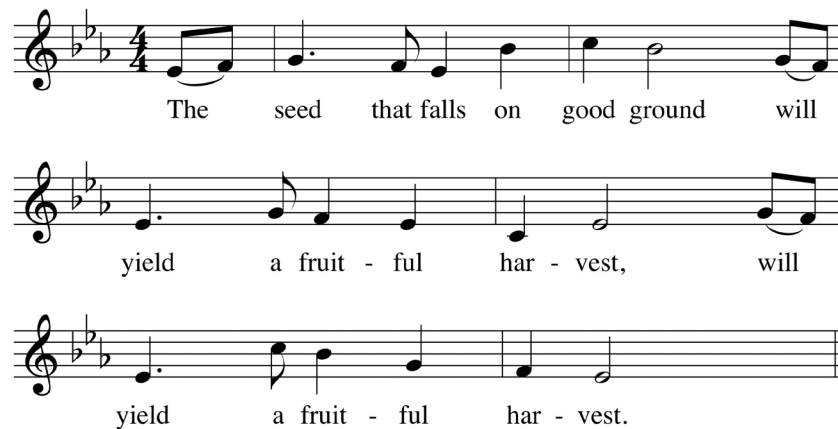
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 55:10-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 65: The Seed that Falls on Good Ground

Tony Alonso



1. You visit the earth, give it water; you fill, it with riches. God's ever-flowing river brims over to prepare the grain.
2. And thus, you provide for the earth: you drench its furrows; you level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth.
3. You crown the year with your bounty. Abundance flows in your pathways; in pastures of the desert, it flows. The hills are girded with joy.
4. The meadows clothed with flocks. The valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy; yes, they sing!

SECOND READING | Romans 8:18-23

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Remembrance

Marty Haugen



GOSPEL | Matthew 13:1-23

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

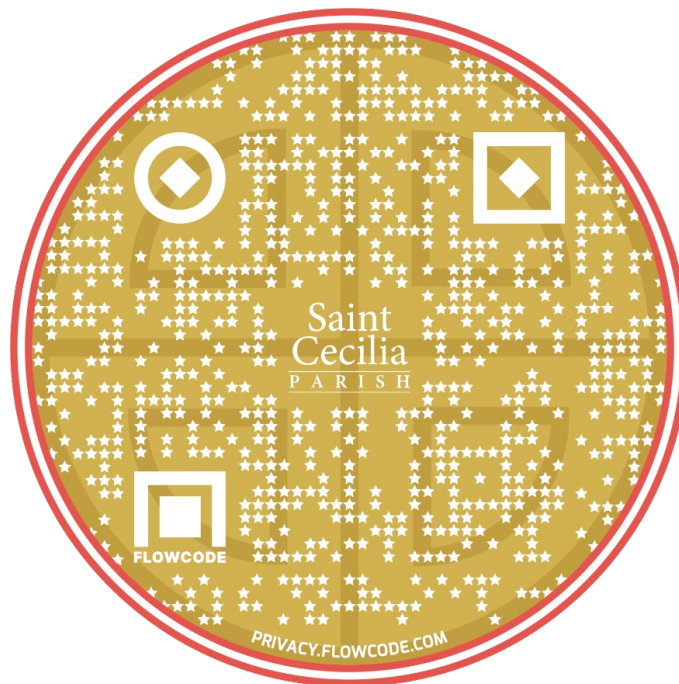
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 | Lead, Kindly Light

Steven Warner

Refrain



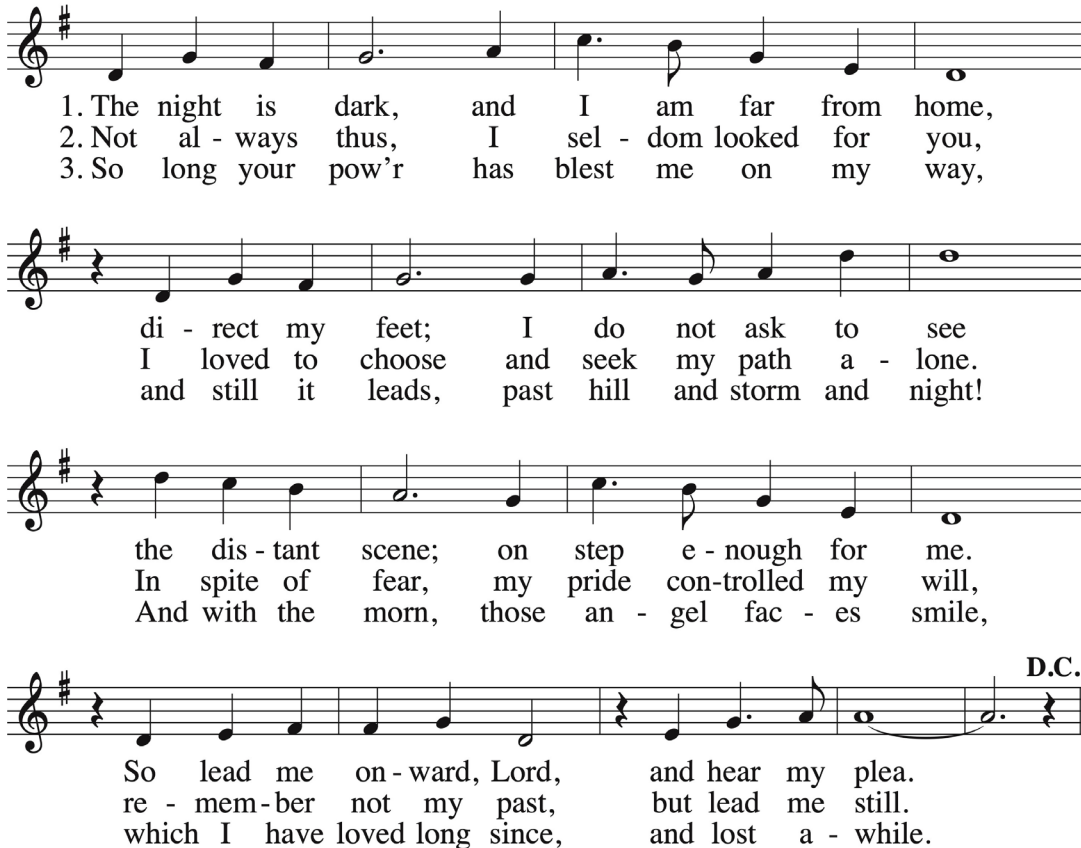
Lead, kind - ly Light, a - mid the gloom of eve - ning.

Lord, lead me on! Lord, lead me on!

On through the night! On to your ra-diance!

Lead, kind - ly Light! Lead, kind - ly Light!

Verses



1. The night is dark, and I am far from home,
2. Not al - ways thus, I sel - dom looked for you,
3. So long your pow'r has blest me on my way,

di - rect my feet; I do not ask to see
I loved to choose and seek my path a - lone.
and still it leads, past hill and storm and night!

the dis - tant scene; on step e - nough for me.
In spite of fear, my pride con-trolled my will,
And with the morn, those an - gel fac - es smile,

D.C.
So lead me on - ward, Lord, and hear my plea.
re - mem-ber not my past, but lead me still.
which I have loved long since, and lost a - while.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✕ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✕ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✕ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and
earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho -
san - na! Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is
he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a group of notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

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

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

GREAT AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

A - men. A - men. A - men.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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 Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

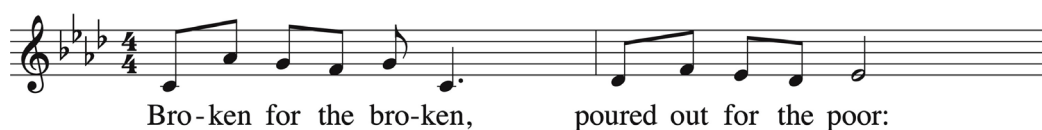


SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.



Verses



- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. For the hun - gry ones, | for the thirst - y ones, |
| 2. For the ones a - bused, | for the ones con-fused, |
| 3. For the voice-less ones, | for the help-less ones, |
| 4. For the wound-ed ones, | for the shat-tered ones, |
| 5. For the ones in chains, | for the ones in fear, |
| 6. For the ail - ing ones, | for the hurt - ing ones, |
| 7. As we break this bread, | as we take this cup, |
| 8. As we trust your word, | as we live your way, |
| 9. Change our hearts, O Lord, | give us will - ing hearts, |



for the lone - ly ones, you call us to serve, to be
 for the ones re-fused, you call us to love, to be
 for the home-less ones, you call us to speak, to be
 for the ti - red ones, you call us to help, to be
 for the ones in debt, you call us to give, to be
 for the dy - ing ones, you call us to care, to be
 as we share this meal, you call us to change, to be
 as we walk by faith, you call us to share, to be
 hearts that rec - og - nize the cour - age to serve and share



D.C.

- 1.-8. Christ for each oth - er, bro - ken for the world.
 9. Christ with each oth - er, bro - ken for the world.

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145)

CONCLUDING RITES

RECESSIONAL | For the Healing of the Nations

ST. THOMAS



1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
2. Lead your peo - ple in - to free - dom, From de - spair your
3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, Let it from the
4. You, cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten Your great name on



one ac - cord; For a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease That, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be banned: Pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; For our grow - ing in your like - ness



Of the things that earth af - fords. To a life of
All may come and go in peace. Show us how, through
Dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
Bring the life of Christ to mind, That by our re -



love in ac - tion Help us rise and pledge our word.
care and good - ness, Fear will die and hope in - crease.
quest for jus - tice May we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and serv - ice Earth its des - ti - ny may find.

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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, July 15 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Emily Bogert, lector

Sunday, July 16 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Jim Dougherty, lector

Sunday, July 16 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Kelly McClintock, Rosaria Salerno, and Ben DeWinter, lectors

Sunday, July 16 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Emily St. Germain, Kevin Dumas, and Eileen Maguire, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 16 | 9:30 a.m.

Katherine Mylod Mainzer, *1st Anniversary*
Claude Lupis, *4th Anniversary*
Martine Messara, *Memorial*
Pauline Pelletier, David Pelletier,
and Charlene LaBrecque, *Memorial*

Wednesday, July 19 | 8:00 a.m.

Joseph G. Maciora, *25th Anniversary*
Victoria & Felix Maciora, *Memorial*
Mary A. Maciora, *Memorial*

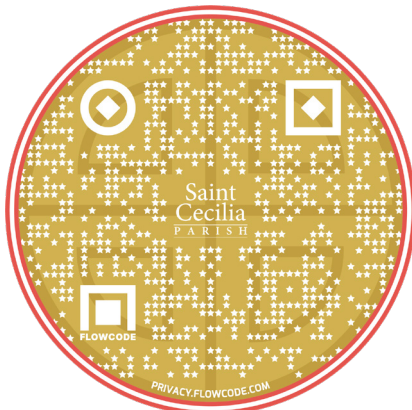
TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



THIS WEEKEND'S FLOWERS

The flowers in front of the altar are given to
the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Katherine Mylod Mainzer by her daughter,
Kathie Mainzer.

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Marc Pelletier's sister died on June 19. Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Charlene A. LaBrecque** and for the consolation of Marc and his family. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Elizabeth Kennedy, Jeff Hommes, 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: **Jeffrey Trace** of Boston, **Jorge Finke** of Dedham, **Ashley DeBlois** and **Nicholas Keohan** of Somerville, **Julia Bottone** of Boston, the **McBride-Conroy Family** of Arlington, **Katie Rowlenon** of Cambridge, **Thomas Farrelly** of Boston, **Vanna Tran** of Cambridge, **Christopher Schaitkin** of Boston, **Maria Boyle** of Boston, **Kathleen Joyce** of Hull, and **Emma Marie Daniels** from the Boston Conservatory. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Happy Anniversary!

Today we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of **Rosaria Salerno** who was baptized on July 18. May the Lord continue to bless Rosaria with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Rosaria!

Missionary Cooperative Plan

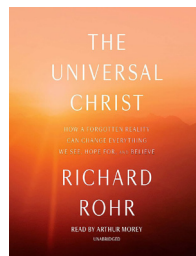
Each year every parish in the Archdiocese is asked to host a visitor from some part of the global Church for a week-end appeal. Next weekend we are pleased to welcome the **Most Reverend Peter Paul Angkyier**, Bishop of Damongo in Ghana. He will be preaching at all of the Masses and will tell us about the status of the Church in Ghana, asking for our prayers and financial support. The second collection next weekend will be for the Church in Damongo, which you can support via this link: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/missionary-cooperative-plan>. Thank you in advance for your warm welcome of the bishop and for your generous support!



Gone Phishing!

A few parishioners and staff have received fraudulent emails seemingly from Father Unni. If you receive an email from any address that doesn't end in @stceciliaboston.org, please do not respond and report it to info@stceciliaboston.org.

WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY



The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group invites you to join us in reading Richard Rohr's 2019 title, *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe*. Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. "God loves things by becoming them," he writes, and Jesus's life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God—except by its own negative choice. When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes less about proving Jesus was God, and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us, and in everyone we meet. We are always happy to welcome new members who are in the second half of life. We meet every Sunday morning at 8:30 via Zoom. On the first Sunday of the month, we also meet in person at 1:00 in the Community Room. Though our time together we deepen our spiritual lives, encounter the God who loves us deeply, create friendships, and, when moved by the Spirit, discuss social justice issues. Feel free to drop in at any time. For more information, please email Deb Garcia at sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com.



Saint Cecilia
P A R I S H

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Please join us for Morning & Evening Prayer

Tuesday, July 11 at 6:00 p.m.
Vespers for the Memorial of Saint Benedict

Tuesday, July 25 at 6:00 p.m.
Vespers for the Feast of Saint James

Saturday, July 29 at 9:00 a.m.
Lauds for the Memorial of
Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

Live on the Saint Cecilia Facebook Page or via Zoom
Email sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com for details.



SHAKESPEARE ON THE COMMON & PARISH PICNIC/POTLUCK

For years, Saint Cecilia parishioners have gathered for a parish picnic/potluck prior to Shakespeare in the Common. This year, we invite you to join us for Macbeth on Tuesday, July 25 on the Boston Common near the Parkman Bandstand. We'll reserve space and have a potluck picnic beforehand, which is a great opportunity to (re)connect with other parishioners! The picnic is at 6:30 p.m. and the play begins at 8 p.m. For more information, please email Jenny Jones, at jennyinjp@gmail.com. The play is free, though donations to the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company are appreciated: <http://www.commshakes.org/>

HELP US SEND A KID TO CAMP

As you may know, Saint Cecilia Parish has a long-standing relationship with the Huntington YMCA and many of the social service programs offered in that facility. What you may not know is that the Huntington Avenue Y is the oldest in the United States and the cornerstone for the building was laid by President William Howard Taft in 1912.

Through our combined donations, we would like to see if we can collect enough (\$2,500) to send one inner-city kid (aged 8 to 16) to Y camp this summer. The YMCA overnight camp in New Hampshire is a life-changing experience for those fortunate enough to attend.

To make a donation by check—in any amount—please make it payable to "YMCA of Greater Boston" and indicate in the memo line: "Summer Camp." Checks should be mailed to:

Mark Lippolt
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

Thank you as always for your accustomed generosity.

DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES



Summer is here and many of the families that have been faithful donors to our collection of food items for the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett pantries are away until September. We hope that you will consider participating in this important ministry during the summer

months so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The local economy might have improved for some of us, but the working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices. Saint Cecilia is committed to providing these items to the food pantries: Cheerios or cornflakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta and 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. Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex.

A REQUEST FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES



For over 100 years, Sunset Point Camp has provided a dream vacation at the seashore to over 40,000 low-income, at-risk children aged 6-13 from Greater Boston without regard for their race, nationality, or religious affiliation. Nearly 450 city-based boys and girls travel to Hull, Massachusetts each summer for a one or two-week overnight camp experience that allows them to enjoy fresh air, learn new talents, receive academic summer support, and simply have fun! Sunset Point Camp is operated by our friends at Catholic Charities and they need donations of the following items for kids at the camp:

- **Sunblock (the higher the SPF the better!)**
- **Bug spray**
- **Flip flops (boys/girls ages 6-15)**
- **Underwear (boys/girls ages 6-15)**

The next time you're shopping or on Amazon.com, please consider picking up some of the above items and dropping them in the labeled plastic bins in the narthex. Thank you!

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT RCIA!

Did you know that most people who become Catholic through the Church's RCIA program were directly invited by co-workers, friends, or family? Do you have someone in your life who has expressed an interest in the Church, or attends Mass with you? Or do you know someone who is struggling, who might be interested in exploring a deeper relationship with God, or who is looking for the peace that comes from faith? If so, perhaps now is the time to extend an invitation! If you attend Mass at Saint Cecilia Parish, you already know we are a vibrant community where all are welcome! Tanya Rybarczyk is happy to share further information about our RCIA program. Please contact her at trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org, or at 617-536-4548 x117.

PINE STREET'S SUMMER INN THE CITY



Join Pine Street Inn's *Innbassadors* for Summer *Inn the City*! You are invited to take part in this evening of food, drink, and fun that connects you with the next generation of leaders in Greater Boston while raising significant funds to benefit Pine Street's mission to end homelessness.

Saint Cecilia is a proud sponsor of this event which will take place on Wednesday, August 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. It will be held at Artists for Humanity, 100 West 2nd Street, Boston. Tickets are \$60/person until August 1. You can register for the event and purchase tickets at: <https://www.pinestreetinn.org/about-us/summer-inn-the-city>



JOIN SAINT CECILIA CARES!

"...I was sick and you visited me..."

Does your heart stir at the idea of visiting the sick or elderly, but you feel nervous about what to say or how to pray? Would you like to bring the compassion and communion of Saint Cecilia Parish to those who can no longer physically attend Mass? Do you feel called to bring Christ's presence to others through the Eucharist?

Saint Cecilia's CARES Ministry serves the sick and homebound of our Parish through friendly visits, prayer, and the Eucharist. To learn more, please contact Tanya Rybarczyk, Pastoral Associate and head of our CARES Ministry. She can be found at: trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org; 617-536-4548 X117.

LEND YOUR TIME & TALENT WITH IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) New England is interviewing applicants now for fall openings. IVC Service Corps Members combine direct service opportunities at local non-profits serving those in need in our communities with monthly spiritual reflection in the Jesuit tradition. Volunteers, 50 years of age and better, serve two full days/week from September through June. For more information and an application, contact IVC New England Director Dave Hinchin at dhinchin@ivcusa.org.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

SUMMER EVENTS AT BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

THE 14th ANNUAL SAINT MARY OF MAGDALA CELEBRATION

This celebration of the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene begins with Mass and lunch, followed by a lecture.

Rereading Biblical Women

Presenter: Dr. Jaime L. Waters, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Thursday, July 20, 2023 | 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

St. Ignatius Church and Heights Room, Corcoran Commons, Chestnut Hill Campus | Hybrid, attend in person (space is limited) or virtually | Registration Required | Free of charge

For further details or to register for this event, please check the STM Online: Continuing Education website: https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education.html#tab-events_webinars

ONLINE COURSES

Liturgy Essentials

**July 19 – August 22, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00**

Teaching Religion to Adolescents

**July 19 – August 22, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00**

Teaching Religion to Children: Creative Strategies and Best Practices

**July 19 – August 22, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00**

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



*The Carmelite
Nuns of Boston
invite you to join
them for weekly
Eucharistic*

Adoration

**Every Saturday
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Carmelite Monastery Chapel

61 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Roxbury, MA 02119 | 617-442-1411





AGING WITH IGNATIUS: APPLYING THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES IN THE LATER STAGES OF LIFE

BY BARBARA A. LEE

When I retired after a career as a lawyer and a judge, I found myself confronting questions of identity and choice. Overnight, I went from feeling respected to feeling practically invisible. Who am I? What should I do? Facing these questions led me back to principles of Ignatian spirituality that I had first encountered in the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius many years earlier. These reflections, in turn, convinced me that St. Ignatius has much to say to older adults as we embark on a new stage of the spiritual journey.

Making the exercises involves a commitment away from self-absorption to a God-centered life. Thus the advice St. Ignatius gives in the course of the exercises does not cease to be useful after four weeks. The sections of the exercises that I have found most helpful entering retirement are those relating to the making of choices, attitudes toward possessions and status, rules for the discernment of spirits and some of the particular graces prayed for in the third and fourth weeks.

First and foremost, the Exercises are about seeing, loving and following Jesus. At any age, we need to continue contemplating the life of Jesus—in Scripture-based prayer, the daily examen and regular journaling. Living this commitment poses new challenges for older adults. There are new kinds of choices, including life changes that may be involuntary, inevitable losses and frustration when favorite activities are no longer possible because of diminished capacity or reduced income. It is important to preserve the freedom to discern what underlies these feelings. Which are drawing us to God, and which are drawing us away?

Turning Points

For many people, the realization that they are entering a new stage of life comes with retirement from full-time work (voluntarily or not) or from finding themselves empty-nest parents. St. Ignatius recommends detachment. Ideally, we should be no more disposed to retire or to keep working; to live with our children or apart from them. How is it possible to consider with detachment what may be a traumatic loss?

Who will I be if I retire? Who am I when my children no longer need me?

One of the first decisions to make is how to spend our new “free” time. Playing golf and shopping? Going back to school? Taking a part-time job? Finding new ways to give back to the church and the community through volunteer service?

When it comes to decision-making, St. Ignatius has a great deal of practical advice. His principles for making what he calls a “changeable election,” i.e., one that is not irrevocable, can be summarized as follows. First, place the question before God in prayer. Second, strive to be as detached as possible without assuming the result you prefer. Third, rationally consider the advantages and disadvantages. Last, ask God to move your will toward what pleases him and makes you a better Christian. God can indeed move the will toward choices we might never have imagined: a new call, timed by the Holy Spirit, for this stage of life. For me, praying over what to do in retirement, the call was unmistakable.

Shortly after I retired, the Holy Spirit pushed me toward the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, an organization that serves the poor in the context of Ignatian spirituality. And I do mean pushed. I had twice set aside the application materials for later attention, and the local coordinator twice followed up with me—the second time with a phone call. I asked myself in astonishment how many people would make that kind of call, with the obvious risk of rejection, unless impelled by the Holy Spirit. I got the message. For the last 16 years I have taught English at an immigrant services center on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, all while sharing the spiritual journey with other volunteers in monthly meetings and periodic retreats.

Downsizing Life

Many retired people have substantial property; some barely have enough to live on. How much is enough? There is no one-size-fits-all answer.

Most of us need to make prudent decisions so that we do not outlive our money. We are not all called to lives of evangelical poverty, even in old age. Yet those of us who have worked hard all our lives feel a sense of entitlement to the fruits of our labor. "I've earned it" is not a Christian attitude; it is a cultural assumption that calls for honest prayer and prudent discernment. St. Ignatius' advice on property is a useful starting point. We should, he writes, "desire to keep it or dispose of it solely according to what God our Lord will move [our] will to choose," and we should not "desire or feel...strongly attached to have wealth rather than poverty, or honor rather than dishonor, or a long life rather than a short one."

We may not all have the grace to feel a genuine preference for poverty, but we may still find greater clarity in distinguishing what we really need for a well-balanced life. For me, it meant the painful decision to give up my car. When I was working, driving was a necessity; in retirement in New York City, a car was a luxury. For others, it might mean moving from a house to an apartment or something as simple as fewer restaurant meals.

No matter how modest our circumstances, St. Ignatius reminds us of the need to provide "for the poor and other good works." Retirees on limited incomes may be able to make only small financial contributions, but for many of us the opportunity to give our time and talents in service can be a special grace. Downsizing can thus help to focus on social justice, in both what we give to the poor and what we might be called to do.

Finally, we can return to focusing on Jesus, who took on our humanity so that we might learn how to be fully human. St. Ignatius urges that at mealtimes we reflect on how Jesus ate and try to imitate him. While this should not be reduced to "What would Jesus do?" (often asked as a preface to a predetermined answer), it is a good reminder to reflect on Jesus as our model in all things.

Facing Death

Although St. Ignatius prescribes a meditation on hell for the first week of the Spiritual Exercises and includes among the criteria for decision-making the advice that we imagine ourselves "at the point of death" or "on judgment day," he has little explicit advice on how one should look at death. This is not surprising, since his expectation was that the exercises would most often be made by people making irrevocable decisions about the state of life. But all the graces of the third and fourth weeks of the exercises prepare us for death and the promise of eternal life.

Praying about how much of my spiritual journey might still

lie ahead of me, I had a vivid recollection of an experience I had while making the Spiritual Exercises many years earlier in the form called the exercises in daily life.

I entered the third period of the exercises shortly before Easter. I prayed for the grace to share the Passion. At the beginning of Holy Week, my father entered the hospital for a minor procedure, where it was discovered that he had lung cancer and would require immediate surgery. On the train from New York to Hartford early on the morning of Good Friday, full of sadness and worry, I was reading the Passion narratives and trying to place myself among the sorrowful women at the foot of the cross. Suddenly I realized that they did not know how the story ended. How total their desolation must have been, without knowledge of the resurrection! It was an extraordinary experience of entering into the minds and hearts of the companions of Jesus and sharing their experience. At the same time, it was an experience of hope, because we know how the story ends.

But the Holy Spirit has not finished with me. After a long period of discernment, I am currently enrolled in the Christian Spirituality Program at Creighton University, working toward a certificate in spiritual direction. My journey continues. I hope the graces I have experienced will help me accompany others in my age group.

The Spiritual Exercises are inexhaustible. While anyone, at any stage of life, can experience abundant grace meditating on the passion and resurrection of Our Lord, these mysteries can be particularly consoling to the aging. Instead of looking back on what has been lost or given up, we can ask for the grace to look forward with hope to life eternal, remembering the promise of Jesus, as quoted in the Gospel of John: "I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you."

*~ Barbara A. Lee, a retired U.S. magistrate judge, lives in New York City, where she has been a member of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps for 16 years. She teaches English at Cabrini Immigrant Services in Manhattan. (*Biography as of 2016)*

Bulletin Editor's Note: If this article has piqued your interest about the *Spiritual Exercises*, Boston College's Center for Ignatian Spirituality is facilitating the *19th Annotation*, the most common way of going through the *Exercises* nowadays. A "retreat in daily life," this eight-month program of prayer and meetings with a spiritual director follows a pattern of meditation, contemplation, and scripture reading. Interested? You can apply here: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/offices/mission-ministry/sites/center-for-ignatian-spirituality/prayer/19th-annotation#tab-schedule>.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org /// Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Christine Burns, Digital Media Coordinator

cburns@stceciliaboston.org

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

tcesario@stceciliaboston.org

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org

Robert Duff, Director of Music

rduff@stceciliaboston.org

Olivia Hastie, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

ohastie@stceciliaboston.org

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

music@dlamoureux.com

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org

Brett Maguire, Organist

bmaguire@stceciliaboston.org

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

nobrien@stceciliaboston.org

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

lpickering@stceciliaboston.org

Tanya Rybarczyk, Pastoral Associate

trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

mdeery@gmail.com

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

gedwards@stceciliaboston.org

Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer

vizumchensky@berklee.edu

Reception

Keith Brinkley, Corey Ortiz, reception@stceciliaboston.org

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact 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. 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 policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

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.

Marriage

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

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.

Order of Christian Funerals

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

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. 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.