Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
21 August 2022

Knocking at the Door
He Qi
21 August 2022
THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Prelude | Hymn pour grand orgue: Verbum Superbum
Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703)

Entrance Procession | Gather Us In
Marty Haugen

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
2. We are the young—our lives are a mystery,
3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
4. Not in the dark of buildings continuing,

Now is the darkness vanished away,
We are the old—who yearn for your face,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Not in some heaven, light-years away, But

See in this space our fears and our dreaming,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Here in this place the new light is shining,

Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Gather us in and hold us for ever,

Gather us in the blind and the lame;
Gather us in the proud and the strong;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Gather us in and make us your own;
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.

GLORIA | Mass of Renewal

Curtis Stephan
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 66: 18-21

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 117: Go Out to All the World

Marty Haugen

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations; acclaim him all you peoples!
2. For his merciful love has prevailed over us; and the Lord's faithfulness endures forever.

SECOND READING | Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13

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 | How Can I Keep from Singing?

Robert Lowry

1. My life flows on in endless song, A-
2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I
3. What, though my joys and comfort die, The
4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A

above earth’s lamentation, I hear the real though
hear that music ringing; It sounds and echoes
Lord, my savior liveth. What though the darkness
fountain ever springing. All things are mine since

far-off hymn That hails a new creation.
in my soul; How can I keep from singing?
gather ’round? Songs in the night it giveth.
I am his; How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm, While to that rock I’m
cling ing. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,

How can I keep from singing?

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.
 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.
SPRITUAL 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. Come to me, all you weary, with your burdens and pain. Take my yoke on your shoulders and learn from me: I am gentle and humble, easy and my burden is light.

2. Though we walk through the darkness, evil we do not fear. You are walking beside us with your rod and your staff. Only goodness and kindness promise Jesus made: If we die with Christ Jesus, faith, we shall reign with him! And if we are good, we shall live on as one!

3. We depend on God’s mercy, mercy which never fades. We remember our covenant and the grave. See the brightness of Jesus shining and the joy of new life. We shall join in the Jesus the Son, All God’s people to - gathering, reunited in God’s love!

4. Do not fear death’s dominion, look beyond earth and one freed from their chains. We shall feel their acceptance, and your soul will find rest, For my yoke is easy and my burden is light, Lord’s house for so many years to come!

5. At the door there to greet us, martyrs, angels, and We shall rise again on the last day with the faithful, rich and poor. Coming to the house of Lord Jesus, we will find an open door there, we will find an open door.
CONCLUDING RITES

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

All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL | In Christ There is No East or West

In Christ There is No East or West

1. In Christ there is no east or west, In him no south or north, bound by love Through-out the whole wide earth.
2. In him shall true hearts every where Their high communion find; gold-en cord Close bind-ing hu-man kind.
3. Join hands, disci-ples in the faith, But one great fam-ly in Christ’s love Are sure-ly kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In him meet south and north, one in him, Through-out the whole wide earth.

MC KEE

POSTLUDE | Etude in C Major, Op. 10, no. 7

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)
Arranged by Thomas Mellan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friends,

I walk 4 miles every morning, from 6-7. I go in many different directions but can only travel 2 miles one way because I then have to return. Recently, while walking by the Mandela Homes apartment building on Washington Street in Boston, I was reminded of this quote that Nelson Mandela made when he left prison in South Africa after spending 27 years there because of his resistance to racism (apartheid): “As I walked out of prison towards a gate that would lead me to freedom, I knew if I didn’t leave my bitterness and anger behind, I’d still be in prison.”

I was thinking about all those in our world who suffer in one way or another because of their birthplace, skin color, sexual orientation, disabilities, gender, or religion. There is a lot of anger, hostility, prejudice, and hatred in our world today, including in our own country. Unfortunately, many of those who tend to wreak havoc in our world claim to be strong believers in God. And, so, now I quote Blaise Pascal who said: “Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction.”

We are all products of our backgrounds, same as our victims. Our country is home to so many who have sought the freedom necessary for anyone to be fully human. I am so grateful to those who have contributed since our beginnings to assure that all feel welcome within our borders. I am not a great historian, but I honor the men and women who attempted to capture our commitment to independence in the Constitution; those who were determined to overcome the Civil War through Reconstruction; those who championed the civil rights movement to combat racism; those determined to uncover the truth about the history of Indigenous Peoples in our country; how we handled Japanese internment during World War II; the women’s suffrage movement; the threat of communism; the Great Depression; how antisemitism has been confronted; the war on terror; the rights of the LGBTQ+ community; the question of immigration; the list goes on.

I know how controversial these issues were and continue to be. Politically, bringing up the issue of reparations can ignite a firestorm. Our country continues to look to the future but needs to have honest conversations about our past. I believe it is true that it is not so easy to see it clearly when we are in the midst of an era. As time goes on, we see events with more clarity, and our perspectives broaden and challenge us to learn from our history. As the saying goes, “Hindsight is always 20/20.” Unfortunately, for some, reaction to calls for change and accountability can lead to extremism, tribalism, and isolation. Those responses are not America at its best.

I am grateful to all those who have gone before us for all they have done to bring us to this moment. I pray that we will continue to face our past honestly and therefore instill in future generations the commitment to equality and equity.

Enjoy life!

Fr. Coyne
THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Isaiah 66:18-21
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24A
Luke 14:1, 7-14

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, August 20 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Ron Coyne, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, lector

Sunday, August 21 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Nicholas Hayes-Mota, lector

Sunday, August 21 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Ron Coyne, celebrant
Letitia Howland, Jordan Barnes,
and Pat Scofield, lectors

Sunday, August 21 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Bob Mann and Nikko Mendoza, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 21 | 9:30 a.m.
Fred Howland, Month’s Mind
Paula Marie Kelley, Memorial
Jean Dapra, Memorial
John & Irene Faldetta, Memorial
Nicole Marie Raposo, Memorial

Sunday, August 21 | 11:30 a.m.
Judith Daigneault, Memorial
Maria Petruziello, Memorial

Wednesday, August 24 | 8:00 a.m.
Elaine Gehris, Special Intention

Join us for August’s
Coffee Hour Pop-Up!
Our Coffee Hospitality Ministry is hosting
a Coffee Hour Pop-Up on Sunday, August 28
after the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses.
Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Jeannie Brassard Tremblay, Flavia Langan, Charlie Naughton, Bob Haas, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rosalind Sica, Rick Gaillardetz, Michael Mulrenan, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: the Mooney Family of River Ridge, Louisiana, Giselle Pilette of Boston, the Vultaggio Family of Arlington, and Daniel Romeu of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Do You Feel Called to Explore Becoming a Catholic?
If you are an adult who would like to discern becoming a baptized Catholic Christian or if you have already been baptized in the Catholic Church or in another Christian tradition and would like to prepare for the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist, perhaps the RCIA program is for you. We will begin the 2022/23 season on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m. Please see page 9 for more information. We'd love to hear from you!

Happy Anniversary, Nicolas Love!
This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of Nicolas Love on August 22. May the Lord continue to bless Nicolas with the grace to live out his baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Nicolas!

For Those Who Suffer Loss
Pray for all who have lost homes, jobs, or ended relationships because of economic strains: that God will heal their pain, renew their hope, and guide them as they rebuild their lives.

JOIN US AT COMMUNITY SERVINGS
We need eight volunteers to help us prepare and pack meals free, nutritious meals for those who are homebound with life-threatening illnesses throughout Eastern Massachusetts. Join us on Friday, September 2 from 4:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. and please feel free to come even if you can't be there until a bit after 4:00 p.m.

No culinary skills needed to make a difference, but volunteers need to be at least thirteen years old and free of COVID and its symptoms. Community Servings is conveniently located next to the Stony Brook T Station in Jamaica Plain. To volunteer or for more information, please email Mark Lippolt at mark.lippolt@gmail.com.

LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE GALA
One of the Rainbow Ministry's nonprofit partner agencies is the LGBT Asylum Task Force, located in Worcester. The LGBT Asylum Task Force welcomes LGBTQ people of all faith traditions from throughout the world. They provide housing, food, and connection to legal, medical, and mental resources at other local agencies. Legal asylum seekers are not allowed to work for up to two years after arriving in the United States. This vital ministry provides comprehensive support for the entire duration of that two-year period in which it is needed.

Their annual gala takes place on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at the DCU Center (Worcester, MA). Tickets are $125 each and there will be tables of eight. Purchase tickets at: https://one.bidpal.net/taskforcegala2022/ticketing/details:ticketing-summary. If you plan to attend and would like to sit at the Saint Cecilia table, please email Mark Lippolt at mark.lippolt@gmail.com.
Dear Parishioners,

We are pleased to present the Parish Operating Statement for our last fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and our Operating Budget for the upcoming fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. As you can see, we ended the fiscal year on a very positive note, with a surplus of $1,043,833, largely due to the outstanding generosity of our parishioners and those who join us on the livestream. Also, our year-to-date expenses have been far under budget because of the extended period of time the parish was not able to operate at full capacity. This surplus has allowed us to transfer $918,500 to our Capital Repairs Reserve Account, the account we created to help fund repairs and upkeep of the church building and facilities. A major focus of the Finance Council during the past year has been to ensure that this account is adequately funded so that we will be able to make any repairs and replacements as needed without having to seek alternative courses of payment.

As you review our budget for the new fiscal year, you will notice that it reflects the complete opening of the parish with the lifting of the COVID restrictions. Although this is exciting news, we anticipate that this will entail a significant increase in our expenses. You will also notice that, for the first time, we have budgeted an amount to transfer to our Capital Repairs Reserve Account referenced above. During the past year, we have undertaken an analysis of what we believe it will cost to maintain the building in good repair over the next several decades. Our estimates indicated, given the amount we currently have in the reserve account, we should add $150,000 each year to this account. This figure, of course, is just an estimate and will be reviewed each year during our budgeting process.

As always, we continue to be appreciative and thank you for your very generous support and urge you to continue your support as we all strive to make Saint Cecilia a vibrant and positive force in our community.

Sincerely,

Saint Cecilia Finance Council
Father John Unni, Pastor
Father Ron Coyne, Administrator
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance
Matt Maguire, Chair
Bonnie Blanchfield
David Castaldi
Alicia Cooney
Mark Duggan
Jason Grapski
Mark Lippolt
Cole Young
## FY2022 Q4 Budget Report
### Operating Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Actual FYE June 30, 2022</th>
<th>Budget FYE June 30, 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Offertory Income</td>
<td>$1,870,564</td>
<td>$1,700,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Donations Income</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Office Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgy Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Expenses</td>
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<td>Other Expenses</td>
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**Total Income Less Expenses**

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<th>Fund Available for Operations</th>
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<td>$125,333</td>
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## FY June 30, 2023 Budget
### Operating Statement

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<th>Income</th>
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<th>Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Offertory Income</td>
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**Total Income Less Expenses**

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SAINT CECILIA PARISH

DONATIONS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES’ FOOD PANTRY

Many of the families that have been faithful donors to our collection of food items for Catholic Charities will be 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 has committed to providing these items to the Catholic Charities’ food pantry: Cheerios or corn flakes, 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. 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, please have them delivered to: Beth Chambers, Catholic Charities, 185 Columbia Road, Boston, MA 02121

SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX AUGUST 20

Yesterday, we celebrated the memorial of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, whose stained glass window is on the east side of the church. We have no way of knowing why our forebears chose to honor Bernard with a window, but the 12th century Frankish abbot led a very interesting life. Bernard was born into the Burgundian nobility and, in 1112, joined the Cistercians, a new order dedicated to the primitive observance of the Rule of St. Benedict. So many joined this new order (including his father and six brothers!) that three years later, Bernard was sent to found the Abbey of Clairvaux, the first of many. Bernard wrote extensively on the Blessed Virgin Mary and was especially interested in her role as intercessor. He was often called upon by popes to mediate quarrels between kings and to heal schisms. Bernard died in 1153 and was canonized by Pope Alexander III in 1174. In 1830, Pope Pius VII declared him a Doctor of the Church. On May 24, 1953, in commemoration of the 800th anniversary of Bernard’s death, Pope Pius XII issued an encyclical on Bernard titled, Doctor Mellifluous, in which he referred Saint Bernard of Clairvaux as "the Last of the Fathers."

SAINT PIUS X — AUGUST 21

Prior to our 2010 renovation, the last major renovation of the upper church at Saint Cecilia occurred in 1954. It was during that same year that Pope Pius X, born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, was canonized and so our side altar on the east side of the church was rededicated in his honor. Pope Pius X (1835-1914) restored Gregorian Chant to prominence over Classical and Baroque music during the liturgy. He was also known for his devotion to Mary and for his pastoral nature. Above the statue of Pius X on the side altar, there are two paintings that depict important reforms he initiated. One painting shows him instructing children, commemorating the fact that he instituted Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) for children in every parish. The other painting, which prominently features a chalice and the Eucharist, honors Pius X for promoting the frequent reception of Holy Communion and for lowering the age of first Communion for children because, as he said, "Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to Heaven." Saint Pius is the patron saint of first communicants and the U. S. dioceses of Atlanta, Georgia and Great Falls-Billings, Montana.
THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

"Go and make disciples" — Matthew 28:19

Each Easter, Saint Cecilia has the privilege of initiating new adults into the life of the Church. These are men and women who have participated in the parish’s RCIA program—a process designed specifically for non-Catholics and uncatechized Catholics who wish to explore a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ in the context of the Catholic Church.

RCIA is offered each year for the following people:

- Individuals who have never been baptized and who wish to be baptized, confirmed, and receive Eucharist.
- Individuals who have been baptized in another Christian tradition and who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church through the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist.
- Uncatechized Catholics: individuals who were baptized in the Catholic Church but never received first Eucharist.

The upcoming season of RCIA will begin on October 4. The first eight weeks are an "inquiry period" and anyone is welcome to participate without obligation or commitment. On the Second Sunday of Advent (December 4, 2022), those who feel called to be baptized will be received into the Order of Catechumens and counted among those who will receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist at the 2023 Easter Vigil. Others will continue preparing for reception into full communion with the Catholic Church, and, in the case of uncatechized Catholics, to complete their initiation by being confirmed and receiving Eucharist.

RCIA entails participation in 90-minute weekly sessions that take place on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00, as well as participation in the 9:30 Sunday liturgy and RCIA dismissal session.

WISDOM FROM THE ANCIENT CHURCH — St. Basil the Great (AD 329–379)

"Love of God does not spring from study. It is not from others, after all, that we learn to enjoy the light, to yearn for life, and to love our parents and those who nourish us. Much less, then, does love of God arise from external teaching. Rather, as soon as people exist they have the germ of reason, and this contains the power and impulse to love.

In the school of divine instruction, therefore, we but cultivate this power and wisely nourish it; thus, with God's help, it is brought to full development. For our part, we shall endeavor here, as far as the Holy Spirit enables us, to fan into flame this spark of love for God that is hidden within you."

This is a wonderful summary of what is at the heart of Christian formation. The RCIA is not a program or a class in Catholicism, but rather a process of discerning and ritualizing stages of gradual conversion that take place within the parish community. The process is about growing in relationship with Jesus Christ and being accompanied and supported by both the RCIA and the wider parish communities.

If this sounds like something you might like to pursue, all that is needed is an open heart and a sincere desire to grow in relationship with Jesus. To learn more or to sign-up for our 2022/23 season, please email Scott MacDonald (smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org). We would be privileged to walk with you and help "fan into flame this spark of love for God that is hidden within you."
“The secret to living well and longer is: Eat half, walk double, laugh triple, and love without measure.” – Tibetan Proverb (from a friend’s social media post)

The Tibetan proverb, which may be neither Tibetan nor a proverb, stabs my heart a little; at least, the part about walking double does. Due to osteoarthritis in my right hip, my walking has been curtailed recently.

Which makes me sad. I love to walk. As my decades have progressed, I have gone from being a committed dancer to an indifferent runner to a stationary cyclist, but I have always been a walker. I love a good hike, alone or with company. The miles feel good. The world is beautiful. I always thought of walking our dogs as daily therapy to clear out my brain. I took my ability to walk, the smooth cooperation of my feet and legs and knees and hips, oiled cogs in my biological machine, for granted.

I could blame my mother’s brittle Irish bones for my condition, but let’s face it: my age has more to do with the breakdown of my hip. Over the years, we wear away the cartilage that cushions the moving parts of our joints. No one tells us that this precious cartilage does not replenish itself. It cannot be restored or fabricated or grown in a lab (at least, not yet). Once we lose it, we experience pain in the joint. Eventually, we arrive at the need for surgical replacement.

That’s where I’m at. I tried a steroid injection, which seemed miraculous for a time—Look at me, I can bend and walk and dance and kneel again!—but the effects gradually wore off. Subsequent injections will likely be less effective with each dose. Surgery is in my future if I want to keep walking.

For now I try to ignore the pain. I try to carry on with life within my limits. Now, my husband usually walks our one remaining dog, who is old and cranky (like I am) and doesn’t always want to go that far anyway. I go about my daily activities with a thought to which ones are going to hurt and how to ration my energy to get the most done. I creak like an old house in the morning, and I need a few minutes to relearn how to walk after a long car ride. As I navigate the mazes of health insurance costs and surgical options, I set my course for a hip replacement.

And all shall be well. My doctor says I am a good candidate and my surgeon cites a 96 percent success rate. (“What’s the deal with that 4 percent?” I silently wonder.) I will have to get a cane and a walker for my weeks of recovery time. My husband will have to cater to my needs (the “for worse” part of our vows, my poor darling). I will heal. I will hike again. I hope.

I’ve long dreamt of walking the width of Spain on the popular pilgrimage known as the Camino de Santiago, or the Way of St. James. I consider this 800-kilometer trek to be the ultimate experience of walking as spiritual journey. The walk is quite physical; the progress of faith symbolic. You take five weeks to walk west through Spain to the Atlantic Ocean, traveling through bad weather and blisters, relying on the kindness of strangers and the camaraderie of fellow hikers, fellow searchers on the trail. It is my kind of walk. It was one of my retirement goals. Then Covid-19 delayed all travel plans. Then the hip.

My doctor told me to keep walking in moderation but to avoid hills. If only he could see the giant hill that is my driveway that I had been power walking up and down every day, thinking it was good for me. He told me to limit
high-impact exercise, probably like the series of jumping jacks recommended on my Jillian Michaels workout DVD. The activities I thought were good for me have turned out to be bad for my impoverished cartilage. My doctor told me to swim. I am so not a swimmer. I hardly recognize this less-active person I’m supposed to become, and that’s before I glimpse the crone in the mirror.

I’m too hard on myself, I know. But also: Perhaps I am too grandiose, another boomer who is somehow the first human ever to age and must document the details, right? My hip is hardly unique in the annals of arthritis. We grow old, and we deal with it.

Still I worry that the left hip will go next, and then each knee, followed by every joint that is put in and shaken all about for the hokey-pokey eventually needing surgery. I worry I will spend too much of my remaining life waiting to walk again.

Walking the walk has always been my metaphor of choice for growing closer to God, for following the path to a sturdier faith, for keeping my feet on holy ground. Who am I if I am unable to walk? Maturity has become a lesson I don’t particularly want to learn. The breakdown of physical and mental ability is surely leading me somewhere, but do I want to follow that map? I think of Jesus’ words toward the end of the Gospel of John: “Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go” (Jn 21:18).

This is traditionally thought to be a reference to the way St. Peter would be martyred. I used to think of my parents when I heard this Gospel read at Mass, how at the end of their lives they needed intimate assistance from their children but complained about it mightily. Now the verse seems more personally pertinent. Yikes, I think. Age is definitely leading me where I do not want to go.

But whether or not I want to go there is beside the point, isn’t it? And I’m not there yet. I can still dress myself and go where I do want to go. Giving in to moaning about my bad hip may be premature surrender. I can still walk. I just have, as the cowboys say, a hitch in my giddy-up. I still have blessings that will take me a long time to count. I have health insurance that will allow me a new hip, even as this old one has given me a fresh appreciation for the miracle of each blooming day.

Maybe the secret to aging gracefully is understanding that we have already made a lifetime of progress on our spiritual walk. We can’t stop time, but we can befriend it, be kind to it, rather than race against it. We can just keep putting one old, trudging foot in front of the other. We may have to slow our pace a bit on our walk to God’s finish line. We’re going to get there all the same.

~ 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 three grandchildren.

LEARN MORE ABOUT RED CLOUD

During July’s Coffee Hospitality Pop-Up, we were delighted to have a group of parishioners talk about their relationship with one of our Beyond Boston Ministry partners, Red Cloud Indian School. Red Cloud is a Catholic institution run by the Jesuits and the Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. You can learn more about the school by visiting https://www.redcloudschool.org/

This info table will return for the next two coffee pop-ups, and we encourage you to stop by and learn more about Red Cloud’s innovative programming like full-immersion Lakota classes, a Truth and Healing initiative, and the integration of Lakota spirituality and Catholicism. If you’d like to learn more about Red Cloud and how you can get involved in Saint Cecilia’s partnership with the school, please email Christine Burns (cburns@stceciliaboston.org).
Saint Cecilia Parish

Parish Resources

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

Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & by Appointment
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781
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Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff
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Rev. Ron Coyne, Parochial Administrator
Rev. James Shaughnessy, S.J., Pastoral Support
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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 of 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.