Saint Cecilia Parish

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4 September 2022

Christ on the Route to Calvary by Andrea di Bartolo, ca. 1415 - 1420
4 September 2022

THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Offertoire en dialogue
Guillaume Nivers
(c. 1632-1714)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | God is Here! And We His People
ABBOT’S LEIGH
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

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.
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Wisdom 9: 13-18b
RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 90: In Every Age, O Lord

Marty Haugen

In ev’ry age, O Lord, you have been our ref-uge, our ref-uge.

You turn man back to dust, 
and say, “Return, O children of Adam.”
To your eyes a thousand years 
are like yesterday, come and gone, 
or like a watch in the night. R.

You sweep them away like a dream, 
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh; 
by evening it withers and fades. R.

Then teach us to number our days, 
that we may gain wisdom of heart. 
Turn back, O LORD! How long?
Show pity to your servants. R.

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love; 
we shall exult and rejoice all our days. 
Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us; 
give success to the work of our hands. 
O give success to the work of our hands. R.

SECOND READING | Philemon 9-10, 12-17

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Franciscan Alleluia

Peter M. Kolar

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL | Luke 14: 25-33

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 | Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

* The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.

* Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.
HOLY, HOLY | Mass of Christ the Savior  
Dan Schutte

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ the Savior  
Dan Schutte

GREAT AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior  
Dan Schutte

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.
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.

COMMUNION | Take and Eat

Take and eat; take and eat: this is my bod - y
giv-en up for you. Take and drink; take and drink:
this is my blood giv - en up for you.
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 | O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
2. Under the shadow of your throne Your shelter from the saints have dwelt secure;
3. Before the hills in order stood, Or sufficient is your earth received its frame,
4. A thousand ages in your sight Are like an evening gone,
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all our years away;
6. O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Still be our guard while stormy blast, And our eternal home.

arms alone, And our defense is sure.
you are God, To endless years the same.
ends the night Before the rising sun.
as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.
troubles last, And our eternal home.

POSTLUDE | Toccata in G minor, BWV 915

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)
arranged by Max Reger

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,

Many times, we come across people who say they are a product of Catholic education. Some are very proud to tell you they’ve had 12 years, or even 16 years, of Catholic education (including college). Until recently, we could pretty much know what that meant, and we could assume that the person speaking was probably a faithful churchgoer. Practically speaking, those Catholic schools we are talking about were fully staffed by brothers (Catholic Memorial), priests (Boston College High), or nuns (Bishop Fenwick). Colleges were also staffed by the above, e.g., Emmanuel, Regis, and Boston College.

After the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), many of those in the priesthood or religious orders decided they could serve the Church meaningfully in other ways and pursued other vocations (including marriage). Many of us then attended Catholic schools, but the number of religious men and women on the faculty decreased, and “lay people” got the opportunities to teach in the Catholic School system. These schools, on every level (elementary, high school, and college), continued to pursue a strong Catholic identity, even as the atmosphere changed. In more recent years, the number of religious present among faculty and staff at our Catholic schools has diminished, so many of these institutions have no religious (nuns, priests, brothers) present in the schools. We now have Catholic schools that are “sponsored” by the Sisters of St. Joseph or the Christian Brothers of Ireland while their presence on campus is negligible. Years ago, parish elementary schools and parish high schools were subsidized greatly by the parishes themselves, but as time passed and salary benefits increased, the parish could no longer offer financial support to the schools. That lead to increased tuition and school closings in rapid numbers.

You have to wonder how those years of Catholic education affect the Catholic population over the long term. Are Catholic school alumni who are now parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents more apt to go to church today? Are Catholic school graduates more confident and competent when they are speaking about God, the Church, and their faith? Are former Catholic school students more Christian when it comes to making moral decisions and judging others who may challenge what they learn in Catholic schools? Do you think all Catholic school products vote the same way?

Since the Second Vatican Council, courses in world religions became very popular as our minds broadened, and our hearts were opened to those who thought and believed differently. This caused many educated people to look at “the truth” from various perspectives. The word “conscience” began to have a major role in determining what impact a Catholic education was going to have in my life. Full disclosure: I attended public school grades K-5, Catholic elementary grades 6-8, Catholic high school grades 9-12, and then seminary for 4 years of college and 4 years of graduate school. I believe it is safe to say that Catholic education will continue to be affected as more and more Catholic schools are unable to survive or thrive financially. Now my point: I recently read a wonderful book written by Thomas Groome, a theology professor at Boston College. Next week, I will write about my opinion of his thoughts. It will be a follow-up to this column. The book’s title is What Makes Education Catholic.

Enjoy life!

Fr. Coyne

P.S. One of the other problems with Catholic education is that we identify it with a classroom (elementary, high school, or college). The truth about Catholic education is that it is a lifelong process. The teachers are the Church, the gospel, and my life experiences. You could call it “team teaching.”
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, September 3 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Ron Coyne, celebrant
Catherine Horsley, lector

Sunday, September 4 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Emily St. Germain, lector

Sunday, September 4 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Ron Coyne, celebrant
Eileen Maguire, Tanya Rybarczyk,
and Greg Rybarczyk, lectors

Sunday, September 4 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ, celebrant
Mark Richburg and Zachary Boutin, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 4 | 9:30 a.m.
Joseph Garcia, Memorial
George Zammit, Memorial
Theresa Zammit, Special Intention
John & Patricia Coderre, Special Intention

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS
Wisdom 9:13-18b
Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Luke 14:25-33

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-32

FAITH & FILM SERIES 2022-2023

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SEASON’S FIRST FILM IN OUR FAITH & FILM SERIES

LADY BIRD

NEXT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 6:00 P.M.

In this funny and intimate coming-of-age film, a teenager (Saoirse Ronan) navigates a loving but turbulent relationship with her strong-willed mother (Laurie Metcalf) over the course of an eventful and poignant senior year at Immaculate Heart of Mary High School in Sacramento, California. Lady Bird is the directorial debut of Greta Gerwig and was considered by many critics as one of the best films of 2017. At the 90th Academy Awards, it earned five nominations, including Best Picture.

The film will be shown in Fellowship Hall following the 5:00 Mass on Saturday (approximately 6:00 p.m.).

This film is 94 minutes long.
Pizza will be served during the movie.
Following the film there will be a short discussion for those who are interested.
PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Jeanne 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: Megan Reynolds of Brookline, Joseph Kern of Boston, Mary and Bill Supple of Needham, Kathryn Peaquin of Brookline, Ngozi Udeh of Boston, the Murphy Family of Acton, Michael Rychlik of Mansfield, Andrea and Kyle Mischke of Boston, Caitlin Vedovatto of Boston, Cara O'Connor of Boston, Jeremy Shields of Boston, and Morgan Michaels of Somerville. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Happy Anniversary!
This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of Bridget Tooher who was baptized on September 3, and Tessa Tooher who was baptized on September 6. May the Lord continue to bless them with the grace to live out their baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Bridget and Tessa!

Office Closed for Labor Day
The parish offices will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day.

Happy Labor Day!
We pray this weekend for men, women, and children who must work in jobs that ignore the dignity of their personhood. And we pray for the men and women who own companies, who lead companies, and who make decisions regarding safe work conditions and adequate wages. Pray that these leaders will act in the best interests of their laborers and be guided by the grace and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to promote dignity and respect for all in the workplace.

Beginning of Children's Faith Formation
Children's Faith Formation will begin on Sunday, September 25 for grades K through 8. Grades 9 and 10 will begin on October 2. Our youngest class this year will be for children who are in kindergarten and who will be entering first grade in the fall of 2023. To register your children for faith formation, please go to: https://bit.ly/3cCul7d Please note that we need baptismal certificates for all children enrolled in the program and all families must be registered parishioners. If you are not presently registered, there are registration forms in the narthex or you can register on-line by visiting: www.stceciliaboston.org/contact.html. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail Olivia Hastie at ohastie@stceciliaboston.org.

Pope Francis Creates Twenty New Cardinals
Auguri to the twenty new Cardinals created by Pope Francis on August 27. Sixteen of the twenty are under the age of eighty and would be eligible to vote in a papal conclave. His Eminence Cardinal Robert McElroy, Bishop of San Diego, is the only North American to be appointed. Pray for Cardinal McElroy and for the other Cardinals in their new ministry.

Beginning of the 2022–23 Faith & Film Series—Lady Bird
Be sure to join us next Saturday evening, September 10, for our first film of this season's Faith & Film Series, Lady Bird. The film will be show in Fellowship Hall and will begin after the 5:00 Mass (approximately 6:00). For more details, please see page 4.

Our Six O'Clock Mass Returns!
Join us for our six o'clock liturgy, which resumes next week on Sunday, September 11.

VIRTUS TRAINING
Sunday, September 18 | 11:00 a.m. | Community Room

Virtus is the umbrella term for a two-part training designed to keep children safe in the parish setting. The Archdiocese requires this two-part training of all volunteers and staff who have the potential for direct contact with children or the vulnerable due to their involvements in the parish. The first part, Protecting God's Children (or PGC) is a training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms that a child is being abused, and how to talk with children about these issues, and the second part is a mandated reporter training. All parish staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to attend this one-time training, so please plan to attend if you’ve not in the past and intend to volunteer in the future. Please note that both parts will be covered in Sunday's session.
WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The annual Spaghetti Dinner gala to benefit the day shelter on Newbury Street will be held on Friday, October 21 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza with a cocktail reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner.

If you would like to join the Saint Cecilia table at the event, please email Mark Lippolt at mark.lippolt@gmail.com. Tickets are $250 each. The WLP is also looking for folks who would like to purchase full tables or serve as a table captain.

PIE SELLERS NEEDED!

As part of our on-going relationship with Community Servings, we are looking for parishioners willing to assist with their annual Pie in the Sky fundraiser, which is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year! Every Thanksgiving pie sold for $30 feeds a Community Servings client in Massachusetts suffering with a life-threatening illness for one week. The delicious pies—apple, pecan, and pumpkin — are the perfect dessert for your Thanksgiving table. If you are willing to help sell pies at Saint Cecilia liturgies as well as to your friends and colleagues via email, please email Mark Lippolt at mark.lippolt@gmail.com.

RAINBOW MINISTRY TABLE AT THE LGBT ASYLUM TASKFORCE GALA

On Saturday, September 24, the LGBT Asylum Taskforce will host their annual fundraising gala, and our Rainbow Ministry has reserved a table for this magnificent event. The LGBT Asylum Taskforce is an organization that provides housing, legal, medical, and mental resources for LGBTQ asylum seekers in Worcester, Massachusetts.

We would love you to join our table at this event. While each ticket is $125, we want to ensure that everyone who wants to attend can attend, regardless of the cost. Thank you to some generous Rainbow Ministry members, there is a limited number of subsidized tickets available. This is going to be a fun night and we’d love you to join us. Please RSVP to Melon Regis-Civetta at nanniemelon@aol.com to reserve a seat.

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY ONLINE COURSES

- **Christian Faith and Moral Character**
  - September 21 – October 25, 2022
  - 5-Week Online Course | Registration Required | $60.00

- **Liturgy Essentials**
  - September 21 – October 25, 2022
  - 5-Week Online Course | Registration Required | $60.00

- **Spirituality Matters**
  - September 21 – October 25, 2022
  - 5-Week Online Course | Registration Required | $60.00

- **Paul’s Letter to the Romans**
  - September 21 – November 1, 2022
  - 6-Week Online Course | Registration Required | $60.00

For further details or to register for this event, please check the STM Online: Crossroads website: https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads.html

BOSTON COLLEGE THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT CONFERENCES

- **Loving and Reforming a Holy yet Broken Church**
  - Lecture by Richard Gaillardetz, Joseph Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology
  - September 23, 2022 | 7:30 – 9:00 pm | Boston College, Gasson 100 | Free of charge | Registration Required

- **New Directions in Ecclesiology: The Contributions of Richard Gaillardetz**
  - September 24, 2022 | 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
  - Lunch and refreshments provided | Boston College, Gasson 100 | Free of charge | Registration Required

For further details or to register for this event, please check the Department of Theology website: https://events.bc.edu/event/new_directions_in_ecclesiology_the_contributions_of_richard_gaillardetz?#YwT4kXbMJPa

BOSTON CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT

- **Healthy Planet, Healthy People: Living Laudato Si’ in Your Home, Community, and Parish**
  - "Climate Change, Pollution, and Children’s Health"
  - Keynote by Dr. Philip Landrigan & breakout sessions
  - September 24, 2022 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Learn more and register: https://bit.ly/3Axwebht
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

JOIN THE REMOTE FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY FOR A CHAT WITH FATHER COYNE

Please join the Remote Fellowship Community (a.k.a. the Far Flung Flock) on Sunday, September 11 at 4 p.m. ET for our monthly Zoom online “coffee hour.” If you’ve enjoyed Father Coyne’s succinct homilies, but sometimes wish he’d spend more time and elaborate on his thought-provoking comments, then our September online coffee hour is for you! As our guest speaker, Father Coyne will elaborate on some of the topics he’s mentioned recently, including his “non-negotiables,” his faith journey, and God’s “Ten Commitments.” There also will be time for Q&A. We’ve been blessed to have Father Coyne shepherd us these past few months and look forward to this opportunity to pick his brain!

Anyone is welcome to join this online coffee hour. If you have registered or attended any online coffee hour in the past, you will automatically get the link for September. If you have not attended or are unsure if you’re on our list, please email Mary Ann Gallagher at gallaghercomms@gmail.com for the link.

LOW-GLUTEN ALTAR BREAD AVAILABLE

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. These hosts are prepared by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Missouri.

SAVE THE DATE COFFEE POP-UP!
Sunday, September 25 | after 9:30 & 11:30 Masses

Our final summer Coffee Hospitality Pop-Up is just around the corner! We’ve enjoyed reconnecting and seeing everyone’s smiling faces at the last two events and we’re looking forward to having everyone back into the Parish Hall as summer travels wrap up and folks settle into their fall routines.

SEASON OF CREATION
WEAR GREEN STARTING THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

The Season of Creation begins on September 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. It is an Ecumenical celebration, started in 1989, Pope Francis made the Season official in the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Sign up for the Season of Creation Daily Reflections at seasonofcreationdaily.org. Please free to subscribe for one email a day from September 1 to October 4.

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

— Pope Francis in *Laudato Si’*

The Saint Cecilia Climate Justice Group will meet next Sunday, September 11 after the 11:30 Mass. If you’re interested in learning more, please contact sc.climatejustice@gmail.com.

NOTABLE SAINT OF THE WEEK
September 9 - Saint Peter Claver, Priest
Patron of slaves, Colombia, race relations, ministry to African-Americans, seafarers.

WISDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality group is now reading *God First Loved Us: The Challenge of Accepting Unconditional Love* by Fr. Antony F. Campbell, SJ. The author describes himself as “a New Zealander by birth, an Australian Jesuit by choice, and a lover of the Older Testament by passion.” In this inspiring and comforting book, Fr. Campbell invites us to consider that “love that is truly unconditional can never be withdrawn or withheld. Such love impacts the way we, in turn, are called to forgive others and urges us to take on a new, radical openness to human life.” The Wisdom group is always happy to welcome new members in the second half of life. We meet in person the first Sunday of the month, and via zoom 8:30-9:30am on the other Sundays for fellowship and conversation. For more information, please email Deb Garcia sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com.
New Directions in ECCLESIOLOGY
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RICHARD GAILLARDETZ

featuring
Susan Wood
Dennis Doyle
Edward Hahnenberg
Jaisy Joseph
Elyse Raby

Saturday, Sept. 24, 10am–6pm
Gasson Hall, 100
Boston College
Lunch • Reception
Saturday registration required
bit.ly/newdirectionsinecclesiology

with a Public Lecture
Loving and Reforming a Holy yet Broken Church
Professor Richard Gaillardetz
Friday, Sept. 23, 7:30pm
Gasson Hall, 100
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.”
A white marble tomb stands to the left of the altar in Denver’s Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. It is the only tomb in the whole of the building.

Yet, surprisingly, the remains inside do not belong to a priest, bishop, cardinal, founder of a religious order or doctor of theology.

Instead, they belong to an uneducated, marginalized woman who spent her life struggling to find stable work. Her name is Julia Greeley, and she just might become America’s first Black saint. Her canonization cause was officially opened in late 2016, giving her the title “Servant of God.”

Born into slavery in the 1830s or ’40s, young Julia lost her right eye to the whip of a cruel overseer who was abusing her mother. Emancipated in 1865, she eventually made her way to Denver, where she took up a position as a domestic servant. Shortly after her arrival, she converted to Catholicism and wholeheartedly embraced her new Catholic faith.

Holding a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Greeley always attended daily Mass at her home parish, Sacred Heart Catholic Church. On June 7, 1918, while heading to Mass for the feast of the Sacred Heart, Greeley fell ill and died later that day.

One would expect everyone to gloss over Greeley’s death as she had no known family. Yet, when it came time for her wake, something unexpected happened. For five straight hours, scores of mourners came to pay their respects. As the crowds began to talk, Greeley’s hidden life surfaced as everyone had a story about this humble woman who became known as “Denver’s Angel of Charity.”

When Greeley was not working, she spent her time visiting friends and neighbors. All the while, she took mental notes on what they were lacking. Then, once she pinpointed a need, she searched, begged and even spent her meager wages to acquire the missing items.

At night, Greeley would set out to deliver her goods under cover of darkness to refrain from embarrassing anyone. Pulling a red wagon through the streets, she acted like a modern-day St. Nicholas as she secretly left acquired items on doorsteps.

“She was a one-woman St. Vincent de Paul Society,” explained Mary Leisring, president and director of the Julia Greeley Guild, “Her whole demeanor was to help others, even though she herself did not have much.”

Leisring, an original advocate for spreading Greeley’s story, felt there was something exceptional about her when she first heard of Greeley.

“Julia was a true disciple,” she explained. “Everything she did was from the Gospels. Taking care of her brothers and sisters, giving others her last.... Julia did not just talk the talk, but she walked the walk.”

“Reveal the Gift: Living the Feminine Genius,” which includes a chapter reviewed by Leisring on Greeley’s generosity, shares further:

“Julia’s generosity truly knew no limits...Accounts tell...
of her finding and delivering baby buggies to pregnant mothers, carrying a mattress on her back in a dark alley at night, and supplying funeral clothes and food whenever a family was in mourning. Once, she even gave up her grave for a deceased elderly Black man to prevent him from being buried in a potter’s field. For her, finding ways to provide for others flowed from her trust in Jesus’ providence, and giving was a privilege and a joy.”

Greeley lived the corporal works of mercy, but her saintly actions did not stop there as she also lived the spiritual works of mercy.

“Despite the racial injustices she experienced, Julia did not waver in her care for the poor and spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart, especially among firefighters,” shared David Uebbing, vice postulator for Greeley’s canonization cause.

As Uebbing explained, Greeley walked to each Denver fire station every month to pass out red rosaries, Sacred Heart badges and leaflets that promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Since firefighters were engaged in dangerous work, she urged them to look after their souls and prepare for death at any moment.

“By learning about Julia we can learn little things we can do that make a difference in people’s lives,” explained Leisring, “You don’t have to be a CEO or hold a prestigious position to help your brothers and sisters in Christ.”

“Her history was present in the streets, homes and alleys of Denver and a pew in the front left of Sacred Heart Parish,” echoed Uebbing. “She wasn’t taking part in events or ceremonies that were front page news, she was humbly serving others with no thought of seeking the limelight.”

The next step in Greeley’s cause would be a declaration she lived a life of heroic virtue, giving her the title of “Venerable.” After that, in general two miracles attributed to her intercession and verified would be needed, one for her beatification and one for her canonization.

Only time will tell if “Servant of God” Julia Greeley will become St. Julia Greeley. Until then, turning to her as an example of true discipleship can undoubtedly inspire Catholics to be a little more faithful and generous.

~ Lisa Cotter — Catholic News Service
Cotter is Catholic speaker and author residing in Denver, CO with her husband and their four children.
The 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. 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.

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.