Second Sunday of Easter

27 April 2014

The Doubt of St. Thomas
He Qi (2001)
April 27, 2014
The Canonization of

SAINTS

John Paul II
Karol Józef Wójtyła
Born: May 18, 1920
Wadowice, Poland
Elected Supreme Pontiff
October 16, 1978
Died: April 2, 2005
Apostolic Palace, Vatican City

&

Pray for Us

John XXIII
Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli
Born: November 25, 1881
Sotto il Monte, Italy
Elected Supreme Pontiff
October 28, 1958
Died: June 3, 1963
Apostolic Palace, Vatican City
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY
Saturday | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Laura Orrell, lector

Sunday | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. George Winchester, SJ, celebrant
Dave Curry, lector

Sunday | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Pearse Martin, Moira Macdonald, &
Thomas Brennan, lectors

Sunday | 11:15 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Erin Young, Cole Young, & Zachary Boutin, lectors

Sunday | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Conor Kelly & Kate Kelly, lectors

TODAY’S READINGS
Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Acts 2:14, 22-33
1 Peter 1:17-21

SPECIAL INTENTIONS
Saturday, April 26 | 5:00 p.m.
Sue Quaranta, Memorial

Sunday, April 27 | 9:30 a.m.
William Mitchell, Memorial

Sunday, April 27 | 11:15 a.m.
Joseph G. Maciora, Memorial

Sunday, April 27 | 6:00 p.m.
María Cristina Campo de Paez, Memorial

Wednesday, April 30 | 8:00 a.m.
Michael Joseph Sprouse, Memorial

FOOD DONATIONS
FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES
This week’s featured donation item is:
CEREAL!

Next week’s featured donation item is:
PEANUT BUTTER!

Donations of pasta, sauce, cereal, tuna, & other canned food are always also accepted. Please leave food donations in the narthex baskets.
Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are
in need of our prayer, especially Jennifer Serpico,
Rudy Kikel, Annette Kulas, Steven Whitkens, Patricia
Macdonald, Anthony Simboli, Jeanne Tibbs, Lisa
Caputo, Anne Frenette Handly, Jan Igras, Ruth Frost,
Roséa Aubrey, Brenna Smith, Mildred McLaughlin,
Susanne Coyne, Ken Bennett, Domenic Iannaccone,
Cameron Robinson, Jaheel Robinson, John Karcher,
Robert Lupis, Paul Claveau, Michael Claveau, Max
Tubman, David Worster, Derek Schall, Susan Noll,
Jennifer Murdock, Julie Downey, Mary Broussard,
Bill MacNeill, Ivy Fray, Daniel Souza, Donna Thagard,
Penny Maynard, Robert Kimball, Owen Kyes, Mark
Schatzli, Hugo Collamati, Chris Novosielski, Michalina
Maniscalco, Niall O'Shaughnessy, Gayle Haley, Javier
Sattler, Annie Flaherty, Darren McCullough, Pattie
Geier, Bob Wuendsch, Bronis Morton, Patrick Trani,
Colin Landry, and Jake Mercier.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!
We are pleased to welcome the following newly
registered members of our parish: Pakorn Jarupanich
of Cambridge. If you have not previously registered
with the parish, there are forms in the narthex for
this purpose or you can register on-line at

Baptism
At this morning's eleven-fifteen liturgy we celebrate
baptism for Daniel Leo Ostberg, son of Nate and Diana
Ostberg and little brother of Claire. The Christian
community welcomes you with great joy, Daniel!

Our First Communicants
Easter is the season of Initiation, and therefore the
very best time to celebrate first Holy Communion.
We have twenty-nine youngsters this year who will
receive communion for the first time on May 11. If you
come to the nine-thirty Mass, you may have noticed
these children sitting in the front pews with their
parents. Pray for these children as they continue to
prepare to be welcomed to the table of the Lord's
body and blood next month.

Evening Prayer This Week
Please join us for evening prayer this Thursday, May 1 at
6:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Our Neophytes and Fully Initiated
At the Easter Vigil we celebrated the initiation of seven
new Christians in the Easter waters. Wendy
Cheng, Hubert Jean De Veau III, Elizabeth Huynh,
Stephanie Liu, Cory P. Merrill, Gregg Ramsey, and
Robert J. Ranley professed their faith in Christ and
were baptized, confirmed, and welcomed to the
Eucharistic table for the first time. They are now known
as “neophytes,” from the Greek word for “newly
planted.” During these fifty days of Easter, it is our task
to nurture their faith and to help them feel welcome
and supported. We are also called to support those who
were received into the full communion of the Catholic
Church: Robert Allen Jr., Meaghan Esther Anderson,
Bradford Bleidt, Joseph Chenevert, Elyse Collier,
Daniel Cooper, Isabelle Maria DeFrance, David
Christopher Hershey, Edward Hostetter, Leslie
Maness, Caitlin Elizabeth McKenna, Derrick Souza,
Jennifer Staysniak, and Heather Young, were
confirmed and welcomed to the table of the Lord. Max
A. Batista and Daniel Nephew were previously baptized
in the Catholic Church and were confirmed and received
Holy Communion for the first time at the Easter Vigil.
Please keep these men and women in your prayer as
they begin the period known as “mystagogia.”
Mystagogia is an ancient Greek word meaning,
“education in the mysteries.” Christian believers in the
first century used the word mystagogia to describe the
period of continuing spiritual instruction following the
celebration of the initiation rites.

Second Collection
This week's second collection supports
three important national Catholic
missions. The Military Archdiocese
collection provides for Catholic
chaplains throughout the world
for American servicemen and service-
woman. The Home Missions collection
subsidizes the evangelization and
formation activities of mission
dioceses. The Black and Native
American collection strengthens
evangelization and outreach programs
which would otherwise be in danger
of disappearing among the Black,
American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut
communities of the United States. For
more information, please visit www.
usccb.org/hm or www.milarch.org.
SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS EASTER

The Easter collection for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust supported the health and well-being of our 638 active and senior diocesan priests. Thanks to your generosity, our parish raised $26,236 in support of Fr. John and all of our priests who faithfully serve our Catholic family in the Archdiocese of Boston. Our parish contribution will have a significant impact on the quality of life programs we are able to provide for our priests. If you were out of town this past weekend, or did not have the opportunity to participate, all are welcome to make a donation online at www.clergyfunds.org. On behalf of all our priests, thank you for your generous support of the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust.

CONFIRMATION AT ST. COLUMBKIILLE

A group of five Saint Cecilia parishioners will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation this Tuesday, April 29 at Saint Columbkille Parish in Brighton. Please pray that these individuals may be guided by their deepening faith and blessed with their spiritual strength.

RICE BOWLS

We will accept the return of Rice Bowls this weekend and next. Please return your Rice Bowl by the Third Sunday of Easter, May 4. Please make your checks payable to Catholic Relief Services. The need is great and the care of the poor is part of our Easter call to service. Thank you!

TAKE HOME A LITTLE WHITE BOOK FOR EASTER

In the back of the church we have little white books of six-minute reflections for the fifty days of Eastertide. Take one home and spend just six minutes a day in reflection. This is a great way to celebrate these fifty days of great rejoicing!

MASS IN HONOR OF POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

You may have noticed a new, unnamed Gloria we sang on Holy Thursday, at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday. I have left it unnamed until today, the date of the canonization of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII by Pope Francis. When my wife and I learned we were expecting our third child, I began composing a new mass setting. (I find composing sacred music to be an excellent spiritual exercise and preparation.) It is also composed in thanksgiving to God for my son Sean Paul. The resemblance to the Pope’s name is purely coincidental (Sean is a Gaelic derivative of John; Paul is my brother’s name. He died in 1963 at the age of two.)

We profess each Sunday that we believe in the Communion of Saints, those saints we know and those we do not know. In fact, even in our human frailty and imperfection, we are all called to be saints and to share the unique gifts God has given us.

I hope this new mass setting will bring us closer to God in prayer and closer in community. Recordings of the entire Mass are available at www.rjcceliamusic.com.

Have a blessed Easter Season!
— Richard J. Clark, Director of Music, Organist

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

Liturgical Publications Inc (LPi), our Bulletin publisher, will have Sue O’Hagan, our Bulletin representative, visiting our Church this week to service our Bulletin for next year. We thank our present advertisers for renewing their ads and thereby continuing their support of our Church. For those interested in placing a new ad, this is your opportunity. Our Bulletin is a primary way we use to communicate with you. Our Bulletin is supported through the generosity of the advertisers — many of whom are our own Church parishioners or members of our local community. LPi has recently formed an advertisers buying group of 100,000+ businesses called LPi Family. Advertisers now can save more than the cost of an ad in buying group savings. Membership in the LPi Family buying group is free to all of our advertisers. To learn more please visit www.4LPi.com/family. To obtain information about advertising for the new publication year, please call Sue O’Hagan directly at 617-413-0543.
BEFORE & AFTER – OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS

“You have put on Christ, Alleluia! In Christ you have been baptized. Alleluia!”

Thank you to the Easter Vigil Reception Volunteers

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who made the Easter Vigil Reception such a success! From shopping to food donation to decorating, serving and cleanup, you were vital to creating a welcoming atmosphere. We are so grateful for your generous hearts and hands!

Movie Series Resumes

Members of the Adult Faith Formation Committee invite all to the continued viewing of the movie series Catholicism, hosted by Fr. Robert Barron. This series will be watched in one-hour increments with thirty minutes at the end for discussion, in the Parish Hall after the 11:15 a.m. Mass every Sunday with a possible encore during the week. We resume today and will be watching part 4 of 10. Please e-mail Natasha Pierre at natasha.m.pierre@gmail.com for more information or just come on down after Mass. We hope to see you there!

Get to Know Refresh

REFRESH is a monthly prayer group for young adults (ages 22-40) who wish to learn and grow from one another through reflecting on the Word and studying the bible. Additionally, we break bread together by going out for snacks or drinks after our meeting, enjoy communing with each other both inside and outside of church and have weekly reflection emails to stay connected throughout the week. For more information, please contact Natasha Pierre at natasha.m.pierre@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Happy Hour

Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Mass Ave Tavern

Last month’s Saint Cecilia Young Adults Happy Hour was a big success! Since about 30 people attended, we are hoping the next one has an even bigger turnout. All are welcome and there is no need to worry about not knowing anyone — we will have classy sticky-note name tags and our greeters will make sure you’re introduced to everyone in our nice group. For planning purposes, please RSVP to scyoungadults@gmail.com.

Whole Body Prayer

An Invitation to Pray with Heart, Mind, and Body through Breath and Movement

You are invited to join us for a gentle yoga practice inspired by the readings of the week and share an embodied experience of the Word. Over the course of one hour, we will practice a sequence of standing yoga poses in a slow, rhythmic flow, moving with attention to breath; and finish with seated, restorative postures that offer a meditative space for prayer and reflection. No previous yoga experience is necessary. Please wear comfortable clothing, & bring your own mat & water bottle. The next cycle of weekly Saturday classes will run May 3, 10, & 17 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in classroom CL5. Please email fellow parishioner and yoga teacher, Lara Gómez, at wbprayer.sc@gmail.com to sign up and reserve your spot, as space is limited. Drop-ins will be welcome on a first-come, first-served basis. A donation of $5 per class will be collected, and it is requested that participants sign up for the 4-week session, where possible.
JOIN A NEW MINISTRY!

We are searching for parishioners interested in becoming Help Desk Ambassadors. This is a new ministry that will be forming here at Saint Cecilia. The vision is for a Help Desk Ambassador to be always present in the narthex on Sundays to help answer general and specific questions about the parish. This valuable and exciting role may be shared among a few committed parishioners. To become involved, please contact Caroline Gélinas at cgelinas@stceciliaboston.org.

"PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN" TRAINING — SUNDAY, MAY 4

All catechists, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, greeters, and members of the Saint Cecilia Cares Team who have not yet attended a VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” training session are urged to attend next Sunday’s session in Classroom CL1 in the Parish Pastoral Center beginning at eleven o’clock. This session will last for two hours and will include viewing two thirty-minute videos, questions and answers, an overview on mandated reporting, and instructions on how to file a 51A Report. Refreshments will be served but please feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. Please let the leader of your ministry know if you are able to attend this session.

LAST DAY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next Sunday, May 4, will be the last day of religious education classes for this year. We hope that all of the students can join us for this exciting end of the season. Thank you for making this year a fun one full of spiritual growth!

HELP THE WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE

One of the two major fundraisers for our friends at the shelter is their Mother’s Day card sale. The Women’s Lunch Place currently provides services to more than 180 women and their children each day. Some guests use the shelter’s services on a daily basis, while there are others who we see less frequently. They are an ethnically diverse community, serving both American-born and immigrant women of all ages. More than half the guests are women of color, which reflects a growing trend in U.S poverty rates overall. Some of the women that WLP serves only know life on the streets, while others are victims of episodic poverty due to changes in their social and/or employment status. Mother’s Day cards will be sold after weekend liturgies. Elizabeth Keeley, the Executive Director of the Women’s Lunch Place, will be helping to sell cards after our 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. liturgies this weekend. Please stop by to say hello. For more information, please contact mlippolt@hammondre.com.

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

We are blessed at Saint Cecilia Parish to have so many wonderful individuals and families who consider this to be their spiritual home. The Parish Pastoral Council is preparing a survey to get feedback from parishioners about parish life here at Saint Cecilia. If you have recently moved, changed your email address, or are not certain that you are registered, please speak to one of the volunteers seated in the Narthex and/or in the Parish Hall after Mass. The best way to confirm that you are listed is to check your email inbox for recent messages from Fr. John. Thanks for your cooperation.

MEN’S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The next Men’s Spirituality meeting will take place this Friday, May 2 at 7:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. This is an opportunity for men to get together to discuss real life issues in the context of prayer and scripture. Refreshments will be served. The meeting will end prior to 8:00 a.m. Mass. All men are welcome.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

We want to acknowledge and celebrate all our graduates this spring. Please e-mail the names of parishioners who are graduating from high school or college to Caroline Gélinas at cgelinas@stceciliaboston.org. Please place the word “graduate” in the subject line. Feel free to include the name of the school and the degree awarded. We are also happy to announce student recitals.

IN NEED OF MOTHERS’ DAY PRESENTS?

Come buy beautiful pieces from homeless and low-income artists at City Heart! The art show is on Saturday, May 3 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Huntington Arcade of the Prudential Center Mall.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

EASTER FLOWERS

Guerino & Olga Abruzzi
Thomas Edward Ackerman
Nina Ananiashvili
Barbara Anderson
Mary Anne “Nonni” Arena
Victoria & Gev Assaf
Catherine Aylward
Cathy Ann & Esther Barker
Edward W. Baur
Ersilia Y. Baur
Wayne Beauchamp
Antonio & Dina Belloni
Benedict & Hanley Families
David Emmanuel Bergson, Sr.
Marion Josephine Bergson
Mary Doris Bergson
Sheila Blanchard Considine
Robert P. Boland, Sr.
Mario & Griselda Bonson
Chuck & Betty Botosh
John Brait
Marion Elizabeth Bransfield
Sharon Brizius
George A. Brown, Jr.
Sergio Bru
Jane Brown Costigan
Warren & Alec Bruno
Robert Burke, M.D.
Ida Capano
Mary & James Carolan
Wilma E. Carpenter
Teresa Caso
John Alan Cates
Gilda Cavallacci
Tom & Rita Cinnamond
John Coghan
Sean A. Collier
Michael & Delia Conlon
Jimmy Corbett
James P. Costigan
Denis Côté
Suzanne Côté Trembley
Gret Cowley
Anne M. Coyne
Thomas F. Coyne
Nona Croke
Tommy Croke
Gene Crutchfield
Charles Eschmann Curran
Mary Francis Curran
Carlos Daponte
Delia Daponte
Irene & Earl DeBlieux
Frank DeMare
DeMers Family
Hannah-Mai & Terry Devery
Kathy Devin
John Dolan
James L. Donathan
BC Dowd
Mary Jane Doty
Barbara Doyle
Arthur F. Dunnett
Bro. Masumbuko Saliboko
Edmond, A.A.
Doris Elders
Stephen Ellis
Noe Escobedo
Reyes Escobedo
Rudy Escobedo
Tony & John Farinelli
Michael Fischer
Michael & Delia Flynn
Tom & Judy Flynn
Lita Foresi
Joe Foti
Franchi & Mancini Families
Henry L. Gabriel
Margret Gabriel
Mark E. Gabriel
Gary Garcia
Judith Ann Garcia
Marlene Garilus
Myrlonde Garilus
Pierre-Willy Garilus
Arthur A. Geen
Paul E. Geen
Gélinas & Phillips Families
Winifred Gens
Roger & Florence
Gentilhomme
Walter Grant
John & Mary Greene
Kathleen Grier Cooper
James J. Griffin
Lucy A. Griffin
Lucy Ann Griffin
Lucy B. Griffin
Mary Griffin
Michell Griffin
Lillian H
Mrs. In Woo Han
Charles Hendrickson
Kazuko Hendrickson
Corina Hernandez
Luis Hernandez
Martin Hernandez
Vicente Herrera
Susanna Hinkel
Tom & Kathleen Hogan
George Holman
Bryce Holton
Leah & Thomas Holton
Edmond & Agnes Horsley
Carol Howland
Theresa Igwebuike
Aurelio Jocol
Luz de María Salazar de Jocol

8
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Ann Johnson
Judy Joy
M. Joseph Kane Family
Brian Joseph Keigher
Donald James Keigher
Lucie Kelly
Kelly Family
Michael Kennedy
John Kiley
Brig. Gen. Leo A. Kiley (ret.)
Nadia & Joseph Kiley
Cecilia Kim
Mr. Chun Eung Kim
Bernice Kissinger
Kimberly Vanessa Kissinger
Hedwig & Theodore Klick
Kline Family
Sergei Kononenko
Dot & René L’Abbé
Lafond, Raboin & Brown Families
Corinne Laidlaw
James Laidlaw
George & Michael Lakschewitz
Peter Lanzetti
LaPiana Family
Corazon Layumas
Dr. Elma Layumas
Guido Layumas
Al & Beatrice LeGendre
John & Annie Lehan
Bob & Vi Leighton
Armand Lemay
Helen Lemay
Raquel Lico
Kenny Liebling
Andris Liepa
Maria Liepa
Joseph A. Lippolt
Mary Eileen Livingstone Bacci
Marilynn Loesch
Loretta Lombardi
Barbara & John MacDonald
Mary MacEvoy
Ilda, Peter & Paul Maguire
Gerald & Bridie Maloney
Martin Manaday
Alexander & Josephine Mathurine
Jennifer McConathy
John McLaughlin
Jim McNamara
Robert Menson
Martine Messara
Joe Michalski
C.J. Mickaleivs
Rita & Bill Miller
Jeff Monroe
Bob & Martha Mormon
Francis & Margaret Morse
Bill Mullin
Dorothy & Frank Mullin
Clair Murphy
Dennis J. Murphy
Elizabeth & Ed Murphy
Frank Murphy
Joan Murphy
Judy Myers
Terry Newlove
Marian & Irma Nicolini
Eugenia Obraztsova
Katie O’Brien
C. Anthony Olivieri
Maria Olivieri Hakansson
Margaret Pacana
Cristobal Paez
Elena Paez
Maria Cristina Campo de Paez
Placido Paez
Xunder Parish
Daniel Pastie
Mary Ann & Joseph Perna
Phil Picard
Elizabeth W. Pino
Javelino & Ligua Pinto
Virginia D. Puig
Louisa Ramos
Norma Richburg
Pearce Richburg
Joseph M. Rodriguez
Marlene Rodriguez
Thomas & Lydia Rodriguez
Mark C. Romney
Nancy Rondenelli
Angelo Ropollo
Margaret Roppolo
Edgar & Josephine Roy
Sunday Sabala
Peter Sacerdote
Sergei Salikov
Patrick Sanders
Robert L. Schmitt
Evelyn Scott
Louis Scrima
George F. Seiferth, Jr.
Benedetto Seo
Elizabeth, John & Peter Shatswell
Susan Shaughnessy
William & Anna Sheehan
Vladimir Shklyarov
Paul & Mary Siebert
Gen. James & Mrs. Marie Sniffen
Nicolas Solovieff
Kyung-Seok Son
Pil-Yun Son
Soon-Ok Bae Son
Aurora Escobedo-Soto
Doris Souza
Dorothy Starzyk
William Starzyk, Jr.
Dick Stressenger
Ed Sullivan
Kathryn Monaco Sullivan
Mary Sullivan
Darlene Jean Swanson
Norberto S. Tecson
John & Nadine Troppy
Elisco Umipeg
Alcide & Juliette Vachon
Lawrence Vachon
Mary Crean Vachon
Manuel J. Valadao
Brian VanNostrand
Gregg VanNostrand
Volk & Walley Families
Ed Walsh
Albertina William
Robert Yobaccio
Got Doubts?

By SUZANNE, AN ITINERANT PREACHER

Do you remember the card game “I Doubt It?” It goes like this although I know there are probably many variations on a theme.

You have four players and a deck of cards are shuffled and dealt. Someone begins play by facing a card, or up to three cards down and announcing “Aces”. Everyone else has the option to believe or not believe. The next person in the circle has to play the next denomination, announcing “Two or Twos” depending on how many cards he or she puts down. Once again everyone else has the option to believe or not believe their fellow player.

If someone thinks that the player is fibbing he or she can call their bluff and say, “I doubt it!” making the player prove, by turning the card up, that indeed it was true (or not). The goal of the game is to get rid of all your cards so a fair amount of fibbing happens. If the fibber is caught fibbing then, well, you guessed it, he has to pick up all the cards that have already been put down.

Calling their bluff. That’s what Thomas did when he finally made his way over to the upper room join his fellow Jesus followers. “You say you saw Jesus? I doubt it!”, says Thomas. Show me your cards! Unless I see his nail ridden hands I won’t believe."

Many people call him doubting Thomas but really, he just wanted to see for himself his Lord and his God. Jerusalem was already back to the normal hustling, pre-Passover Jerusalem. People were starting to go back home but the leaders were still out and about looking to hassle some people.

Let us now hear about Thomas and Jesus from the Gospel of John:

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the people, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the second of Jesus’ appearances after his resurrection. First he appeared to Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb so early that morning. She had mistaken him for the gardner until he called her by name, “Mary”. Then and only then did she recognize Jesus and she runs to tell the disciples of her miraculous interaction with her risen Lord.

So I’m guessing that the day was one probably infused with uncertainty, fear and anxiousness. That is often the case after someone that we know and loved has died and we are left to pick up the pieces of our own lives. The first few days are a blur; we just go through the motions. How fresh the emptiness and wounds of grief

(Article continues on page 11)
must have been for all of them too. It had been a mere three days since Jesus had died.

But this day was different. Mary had seen Jesus. Now it was their turn.

The disciples were stunned, I’m sure, when Jesus sought them out in their upper room sanctuary. You see Jesus came to them to calm their fears, relieve their anxieties, and to help their unbelief in what they had been told by Mary. He came as living proof that death did not have the last word, life did; he showed them his wounds, no better proof than that.

But Thomas wasn’t there the poor guy. He just wanted to see for himself what the other disciples had seen, and who can blame him? His human nature, his rational, reasoned old self arrived on the scene and so he doubted their word. Don’t we all just need to see for ourselves every now and then? Haven’t we all asked God for a sign that we can hang our belief on? Haven’t we all doubted at one time or another?

We often think that having doubts, particularly about our faith and God’s involvement in our lives, is a mark of weakness. That, somehow we aren’t ‘good Christians’ because we have some serious questions, or that we need some concrete proof that God exists, or that God indeed listens to us. Not true. Having the courage to ask these difficult questions, the courage to question the meaning of our lives, the courage to ask for signs to lessen our doubt, the courage to live in and through the messy trenches is an indication of strength.

Most believers have doubts and have struggled mightily with their faith. Let us not forget Martin Luther who was wracked with self doubt about his own salvation and his ability to fulfill God’s commands upon his life. And Mother Teresa, her diaries, opened after her death, revealed her struggle with uncertainty and faith, so even this icon of servant hood and blessedness struggled and had doubts. That’s because doubt is our companion on our journey of faith, not to be ashamed of or hidden. Doubt serves the purpose of our remarkable ability to stay engaged with God.

We remember Jacob from the Hebrew Bible, Genesis Chapter 32 (22-32). He engaged with God and was blessed. Jacob gets up in the middle of the night with his family and crosses the Jabbok River. He returns and spent the rest of the night alone. A man comes, some say and angel, and begins to tussle with Jacob. They wrestled so hard, all night long, that Jacob’s hip was thrown out of joint.

Then, when daybreak had come, Jacob says to the man, “I will not let you go until you bless me”. The man asked Jacob his name and then said to Jacob, “You no longer will be called Jacob for you have wrestled with God and with Angels, and you have won. Now your name will be Israel meaning, one who wrestles with God.”

Human struggle is never easy and you can be certain that struggle with God is not either. Jacob asked for a blessing and was given one. Like Jacob we may wrestle all night with our questions and they may not be answered but neither are we overwhelmed by them. We are blessed.

In her book, ‘Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith’, Anne Lamott says, “…the opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. Certainty is missing the point entirely” she says, “Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness and discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns.”

Our doubts and the ability to live with them are a mark of an active faith and of a God who can, and will actively engage with us through it all. Got doubts? Don’t give up. You'll see the wounds like Thomas. Light will return like it did for Jacob. A different identity will emerge for you and a path will be set before you. You are blessed.

Amen.

**Suzanne is currently the Interim Sr. Pastor at Orange Congregational Church in Orange, CT. Prior to that she lived in Jerusalem. She currently blogs at www.anitinerantpreacher.blogspot.com.**
HELP US CARE FOR THE POOR

At least a few times each week, homeless men and women come to the parish office or approach a staff member after Mass looking for something to eat or a donation. While we do sometimes give out small amounts of money, we prefer to offer people a gift card to a local supermarket or restaurant. You have always responded generously to our appeal for gift cards, but once again, we are in need of having our supply replenished. If you are interested in helping out in this way, simply purchase a gift card and drop it in the collection basket time, $5 gift cards to Dunkin’ Donuts, Shaw’s, CVS, and Wendy’s cards (or in $10 and $25 denominations) would be most helpful. We are very appreciative of your assistance as we attempt to offer aid to the less fortunate in our midst.

DRIVERS NEEDED

Each month parishioners have the opportunity to pick up donated meat, dairy products, and produce from a Hanover supermarket and deliver it to Catholic Charities’ Haitian Multi-Service Center in Dorchester along with the packaged food items donated at Saint Cecilia. This vital ministry takes place at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays and can be completed in time to attend the 9:30 a.m. parish Mass. We need at least two cars willing to drive to Hanover and then Dorchester twice a month. If you are interested in helping, please email Mark Lippolt at mlippolt@hammondre.com. Our upcoming dates are: April 27, and May 4, 11, 18, and 25.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SIGN-UP

If you’re interested in volunteering for a day with Habitat for Humanity, join the Saint Cecilia Young Adults on a Saturday in June. We are currently organizing a group to do so. Once the date has been determined, we will be sure to update everyone. Please note that a donation of approximately $75 per person is required by the organization, so plans for fundraising will also be discussed. If interested, please email kristinrose-white10@gmail.com.

DONE TIME?

Men who have been incarcerated are invited to join the Prison & After group which is designed to provide participants with a sense of welcome and support. The meetings are held on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Pastoral Center. We will begin with a group session followed by a simple meal. For information, please contact Tom Ash at whatevertp@gmail.com, 617-642-9351 or Peg Newman at peg_newman@msn.com, 508-587-4254.

A GIGANTIC THANK YOU

… to our Fourth Grade Religious Education Class who raised $23.17 to provide close to five meals for the men attending the Saint Cecilia Prison & After program’s Monday night dinners, a support group and dinner meeting for men recently released from prison. Under teacher Maureen Deery’s leadership, this dedicated group gathered all their loose change, and giving up the things they would usually spend their money on, to very generously donate it help others. Following Jesus’ teaching, they treated our neighbors the way we would hope to be treated if we were in their shoes. The meals are important to the men who come, but knowing that a small group of dedicated children cared enough to reach out to them, means even more.

WOMEN’S READING GROUP

Calling all women who like to read! We read a book a month, each book being about the spiritual life of a woman, sometimes Catholic, sometimes not. The group meets after the 11:15 a.m. Mass on the second Sunday of every month to discuss what they have read. A year long book list has been developed. The book for the May 11 meeting is Father Mother God by Lucia Greenhouse, the story of woman coming-of-age in the Christian Science faith tradition. For more information please email peg_newman@msn.com.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Our ability to build community is helped by having an up-to-date database of registered parishioners. If this is one of your first times worshipping with us, welcome! If you have been participating in liturgies here for a few months — or even a few years — and have never registered, please consider doing so. It takes just a few moments to fill out a parish registration form. Once you complete your form, simply drop it in the collection basket, hand it to any staff person, or mail it to the parish office. Registration forms can be found on a table in the narthex. You can also register on-line at www.stceciliaboston.org/register.html. Thank you for being an active member of our community!

SAVE THE DATE

On Friday, May 16, Saint Cecilia parishioners, for the third year, will be hosting residents of Pine Street’s scattered-site independent-living projects at a Red Sox game! The Sox will be playing the Detroit Tigers. We will be asking parishioners to pay for their own bleacher seat and to subsidize half the cost of a Pine Street guest’s ticket. The cost will be $48. This event also includes a hot dog and hamburger dinner in the Parish Center before the game. This event will be entirely alcohol-free and we are expecting that parishioner attendees will engage with and provide a nice social event for our Pine Street guests. For more details, please email Mark Lippolt at mlippolt@hammondre.com.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

PARISH RESOURCES

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

Hours | Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Phone | 617 536 4548
Fax | 617 536 1781
E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff
Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate for Administration, mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org
Scott J. MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Leadership Development, smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org
Jeanne Bruno, Coordinator of Pastoral Outreach, jbruno@stceciliaboston.org
Richard J. Clark, Director of Music and Organist, rclark@stceciliaboston.org
Caroline Gélinas, Executive Assistant, cgelinas@stceciliaboston.org
Maureen Sullivan, Special Projects Manager, msullivan@stceciliaboston.org

Assisting Clergy
Rev. Joseph Baggetta
Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ
Rev. George Winchester, SJ

Schedule for Liturgy
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord’s Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Reconciliation
By appointment at any time.

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. For more information, please contact Mark Donohoe.

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

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.

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.

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) or Letitia Howland (L_howland@hotmail.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 FM listening device. Small receivers are available for anyone who may have trouble hearing the sound system. Simply request a receiver from any one of our greeters before Mass.

Access for the Disabled
The church is accessible by elevator.

Sunday Parking
Reduced-rate parking is available on Sundays at the Prudential Center parking garage and at the Hilton Boston Back Bay; Sunday parking is also available at LAZ Parking (53 Belvidere Street—maximum of three hours). Be sure to have one of our greeters validate your parking ticket before returning to your car.

Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry
Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry is a GLBTQ community at Saint Cecilia. For more information, contact stceciliarainbowministry@gmail.com.

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 parishioners from as far afield as Marlborough, Newburyport, and Stow. Please introduce yourself to a staff member, drop in for coffee on Sunday, or fill out a new parishioner form in the gathering space. No matter what your background, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.