



20th Sunday of Ordinary Time Sunday, August 16, 2020

Gospel Reflection

Often in the Scriptures, there is the tension or theme concerning who belongs and who does not. Jesus himself stood in the middle of this tension all of his public life. Israel jealously protected its sanctity as God's holy people, by excluding anyone from outside its borders; they were the "foreigners." They were to be avoided, in some cases, not even to be looked at or spoken to. In today's First Reading from the prophet Isaiah we hear something new, quite different. These are the first verses of the third distinct section and author of the book of Isaiah, hence the name, Third Isaiah. The promises of Second Isaiah have been fulfilled. The people of Israel have been freed from their exile and have returned to their holy land and especially their re-consecrated temple. Now there is to be a new way of living faithfully the Covenant of the Lord.

"Let the immigrants in!" "Do not exclude the foreigners!" The prophet is calling the people to embrace those who honor the one God, the Lord of the Covenant. If those newcomers from other religions observe the holy customs, especially the Sabbath, then God's justice will be revealed to all of the people. They are welcomed by God and are to be welcomed by God's people even into the holy Temple.

Within the Temple in Jerusalem was the "holy of holies." Few were allowed to enter there. The belief was beginning through this reading that the holiness of God was being extended into the holiness of the people of Israel and further to those whom God was attracting to be a new kind of Israel.

The Gospel can make Jesus and his disciples look quite guilty of prejudice and selective charity. A non-Jewish woman, that is a foreigner, from an ancient enemy of the Jews, calls to Jesus for help with her sick daughter.

Usually, we see Jesus responding quickly and with great compassion. Here is something unusual: Jesus turns his back on her. His disciples ask him to grant her request and send her away, she is a bother. So there is tension.

Jesus makes his statement according to Matthew's basic theme that Jesus is sent first to recall, recover, rededicate the people of Israel. They are the lost sheep. The woman makes a gesture of faith in him to which he replies, continuing the theme. He has come to feed the Jews and not feed the little pests of other houses.

She turns Jesus' words back on him. Perhaps she could be like a little puppy and just have a scrap. Jesus, seeing her faith, the same faith to which Jesus is inviting his Jewish family, grants her request. The daughter who was possessed by a demon has now been healed through an act of faith. Each of us has our own boundaries and we have constructed our own walls between us. Those we have allowed in, through our own Ellis Islands, and those we exclude, because, hmmm, why? Politically, there are many sides to the story. As followers of Jesus there is the inside where he has welcomed us and he has welcomed "those others" as well. Each of us is invited to be, in our turn, a spiritual Ellis Island who is open for life.

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption
(Psalm 130:7)

~ Larry Gillick, SJ

Church Update

Although our Church Office is closed at this time, we are still available to assist you and answer your questions. We ask that you leave a message at (415) 664-8481 or reach a staff member by visiting our website: <https://www.stcecilia.com/staff>. You may participate in our daily livestream Mass at 9:00 AM by clicking on the link: [livestream](#). Also, you're invited to visit the church for private prayer as it is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM thanks to the Knights of St. Cecilia. Please be advised that a mask is required and social distancing must be observed while visiting the church.

Confession by Appointment

Please call our office if you would like to schedule a confession. You do not need to necessarily leave your name or any other identifying information but we do need a way to contact you in order to schedule a time for the appointment. At a minimum, please leave a phone number, and one of the priests on staff will return your call. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the current health crisis.



We want to give a HUGE thank you to those who have continued to support our Sunday Collection! We are dependent upon our parishioners to support our parish financially. Even more so when our Church is investing in our safety by performing extra duties. We encourage you to contribute what you can by:

- * Donate online by going to <https://www.stcecilia.com/83> and clicking on the DONATE button on the right side. You can set up a one-time donation or choose the frequency that works for you.
- * Send or drop off your donations to St. Cecilia Parish, 2555 17th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116
- * Use the Archdiocesan Lifeline site - <https://www.sfarch.org/lifeline>. You will need to click on the drop-down menu and then scroll down to St. Cecilia Parish (San Francisco).

If you need assistance with online giving please call the Parish Office at 415-664-8481 or email Jessica Montgomery at jessica_montgomery@stcecilia.com. Thank you for your continued generosity.



Pope Francis: “Let us pray for the victims, for their families; and let us pray for Lebanon so that it might face this extremely tragic and painful moment and, with the help of the international community, overcome the grave crisis they are experiencing.”

WELCOME BACK
STUDENTS

Our students will be going back to school on Wednesday, August 19th. The school year will begin with distance learning. Please keep our students, their families, and the teachers and staff in your prayers.

We welcome **Loy E. Linebarger IV** to St. Cecilia School. He will be the School's Vice-Principal. Mr. Linebarger went to St. Cecilia School and Sacred Heart High School. He is married to Marrisa and they have two boys, Loy V and Landon.

Loy was a Kindergarten teacher for 11 years in Daly City with a goal to be in Administration.

We also welcome **Tim Moriarty**, the new Psychical Education teacher and **Amanda Kyed**, the Technology Coordinator.

Tim is a graduate of St. Cecilia and Sacred Heart. Tim got his BS in Child Development at San Francisco State. He worked for South San Francisco Park and Recreation and spent his last few years at St. Gabriel and Holy Name as their PE teacher. Tim is excited to be back at St. Cecilia.

Amanda has a Masters in Art in Film and Media Art from Emerson College. Amanda was an Animation and Media Arts teacher at Winward School in Los Angeles for the past 7 years.

Good Grief

These are difficult times for everyone and the lack of connectivity, touch, human connection, a funeral for closure, and the presence of a sacramental church are not always accessible during Covid19

shelter in place. The Archdiocese has resources even during Covid19 times to help lighten the load when suffering from grief. There is an upcoming Mandarin offering, virtual support groups, and a range of workshops. See sfarchdiocese.org/grief, misionhospice.org, or contact Sr. Toni Lynn Gallagher RSM, Bereavement Coordinator 415-317-4436 tlgallagher@mercywmw.org.

HOLY DAY HOME PRESCHOOL & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Holy Day Home preschool and family support center is providing childcare for essential workers as they return to jobs outside the home, and they need donations of money and safety supplies. Holy Family Day Home was founded by the Sister of the Holy Family in 1900. The Home has served the children of working families continuously since 1900, rebuilding after the earthquakes of 1906 and 1989, and remaining open to families during the flu pandemic of 1918.

The Day Home serves families in financial need of subsidized childcare, including 65 working homeless or at-risk families with unstable housing situations. Fundraising events have been canceled and enrollment reduced for social distancing, putting the Day Home under extreme financial strain.

You can help them remain open to serve essential workers by donating funds and supplies at <https://www.holyfamilydayhome.org/news/weareopen>.

Links to needed supplies:

- [Children's Face Masks](#)
- [Paper](#)
- [Bed Sheets](#)
- [Towels](#)
- [Disinfectant Spray](#)

These items can be mailed to at 299 Dolores St., SF CA 94103.

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 17

Pedro Aristegui
Kathleen Hurley
Morrison Gardner

Tuesday, August 18

Marian Sweeney
Sr. Helen Clare Howatt, SNJM
Henry Juda Bong

Wednesday, August 19

Gerald Greenfield
Gina Lopez
Gina Lopez

Thursday, August 20

Philip C. & Patricia Kwan
Sr. Mary Herbert, SNJM
Art Curtis

Friday, August 21

Ellen Collin
Philip C. & Patricia Kwan
Cris Kabasares

Saturday, August 22

Marie Stone
Philip C. & Patricia Kwan
Hieu Thi Luu

Sunday, August 23

Marie Hong Tran
Santiago Cuejilo



John 15:12

"This is my commandment, that you
love one another as I have loved you."