

ST LEONARD PARISH

320 Hanover Street, Boston, MA 02113. P: 617-523-2110 | F: 617-367-0456

WEEKLY BULLETIN AUGUST 14, 2022

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

*“My sheep hear my voice,
says the Lord;
I know them, and they
follow me.”*

LK 12:32-48



SAINT LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE PARISH

admin@saintleonardchurchboston.org

P: 617-523-2110

Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:00 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM
	10:30 AM (Italian)
	12:00 Noon
Mon-Fri	12:05 PM

Confessions

Saturdays 4:15 - 4:45 PM
and upon request

SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH

401 Hanover St, Boston, MA 02109

P: 617-523-2110 | F: 617-367-0456

Mass Schedule

Saturday	4:00 PM
Sunday	11:00 AM
Thurs-Fri	7:30 AM

Pastoral Staff

Pastor: Rev. Michael Della Penna, OFM
Deacon: Brother Charles Gingerich, OFM
Italian Ministry: Rev. Federico Cinocca
Rev. Robert Caprio, OFM
Sacristan: Charles Falla, OFS
St Stephen Rector: Rev. David Costello

Parish Office

Mon - Thu 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Friday Closed

Saint John School

Tel: 617-227-3143

Mon - Fri 8AM - 3PM

<https://sjsne.com/>

Saint Francis Gift and Book Store

Mon - Thurs 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Fri - Sat 1:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

SAINT LEONARD CHURCH SCHEDULE OF DEVOTIONS

8:15 AM mass will be suspended Until September

Mon - Fri 11:30 AM Rosary
12:05 Mass
Monday 12:30 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet
Tuesday 12:30 PM St Anthony Novena
Wednesday 12:30 PM Litany of St Joseph
1st Wed of every month
Queen of Peace Prayer Group
6:30 PM Rosary, 7PM Mass

Thursday Pure in Heart Young Adults
6:30 PM Rosary, 7PM Mass
Friday 12:30-3:30 PM Adoration
3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet



SAINT LEONARD CHURCH

Mass Intentions August 06 - August 13

August 14 - Sunday

9:00am – Deceased members of the DePasquale Family and Varano Family; Deceased members of the Cataldo & Merola families; Frances DeVico, Harrie and Margriet Meertens

10:30am – Maria Gesualdi, Madonna Dell' Assunta & St. Rocco, San Rocco di Anzano

12:00pm – Bob Agrippino, Mary & Dante Fiore, Marilyn Loungo, Emil Bevilaqua

August 15 - Monday

12:05pm – Father Jacob Lindle

August 16 - Tuesday

12:05pm – For the healing of Carol Fabiano

August 17 - Wednesday

12:05pm – Hazel Wright

August 18 - Thursday

12:05pm – For the Healing of Gwendolyn Berry

August 19 - Friday

12:05pm – Nancy Whitten Martignetti

August 20 - Saturday

5:00pm – Josephine Buscemi, Maria DeStefano, Cindy Colafella, Robert Cappucci; Anne, Anthony & Fred Tenuto



REFLECTION

“SALVIFIC DIVISIONS”

Today’s readings present three examples of deep divisions caused by the presence of God’s representative in society, but far from being destructive, these divisions ultimately served a salvific purpose.

The events described in the first reading took place in the tragic and chaotic days of the last king of Judah – Zedekiah. Judah was under the authority of the Babylonian empire with Zedekiah entrusted with ruling the country on behalf of his masters in Babylon. This situation displeased many Israelites. Various political groups emerged putting pressure on the king to rebel against Babylon and seek independence. These people believed that God did not want his beloved city, and the Temple, to be ruled by the hated foreigners, and would always protect it from destruction.

Jeremiah opposed such views. He was keenly aware that Zedekiah, the Israelite leadership and the majority of the people were not holding on to God’s covenant by obeying its laws. The prophet was also keenly aware that Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king, would mercilessly and cruelly punish all who opposed his authority. These factors combined would inevitably lead to the destruction of Jerusalem. Sadly, the prophet was right.

The pro-war and pro-independence party prevailed upon the weak king, persuading him to begin the rebellion. In response, the Babylonian army quickly surrounded Jerusalem, starved the city and, after a two-year siege, utterly destroyed it.



During the siege, Jeremiah was in the city advocating immediate surrender and submission to Nebuchadnezzar as the only way to save Jerusalem and the Temple from destruction. He prophesied that everyone who continued the fight against the Babylonians would ultimately die in the city, and the

city itself would be destroyed (Jer 37:6-10). This message was seen as treachery and betrayal by the officials who wanted to continue the hopeless fight, believing in God’s help. Thus, the leaders of the rebellion moved to get rid of the tiresome prophet by throwing him into an empty underground water tank, a cistern, where he would eventually die of starvation. With the agreement of the king, those Israelite leaders sought to silence the voice of God in their midst and follow their own plans. But God’s voice would not be silenced. Jeremiah was saved by another of the king’s officials who was, ironically, a foreigner. Ebed-Melech, an Ethiopian, recognizing Jeremiah as a true prophet of God persuaded the King to free Isaiah, saving him from certain death.

Jeremiah advocated surrender because he knew that God would not protect the city and the people who had abandoned God and did not live by God’s covenant. He knew that the nation needed a deeply religious and moral restoration before any dream of political independence could be pursued. Jeremiah’s message was deeply divisive because he spoke an unpopular truth which his opponents saw as a betrayal of the nation and of God. Ironically, it was God’s voice showing them the way to survive the Babylonian aggression which their own misguided beliefs and practices had brought upon the nation. The division Jeremiah created had salvific potential. Sadly, nobody in authority listened to him.

The Letter to the Hebrews was written to motivate believers to adhere to Christian ways while resisting the temptation to complacency, and the pressures from the opponents of this new faith. To do so, the author uses motivating examples of uncompromising adherence to faith.

First, in Hebrews 11:1-40, the author recalls a great number of the heroes of faith from the Old Testament who persevered in their faith while facing overwhelming challenges and even death. These ancient heroes are called “a great cloud of witnesses” who, like spectators in an athletic contest, are now watching the Christians who face similar struggles. Like ancient athletes who competed naked, Christians are admonished to strip themselves of every moral depravity and sin which burden them. Thus prepared, they are called to run a race which is like a contest to persevere in the faith. The whole scene presents Christians as contestants engaged in a great competition with the power of sin, which seeks to overtake them.



The second example is Jesus, who was engaged in a contest of his own. By embracing the cross as the means to redeem humankind, and by offering the ultimate sacrifice of his own life, Jesus won a decisive victory over sin and death. However, he first had to endure the “shame” of public execution, enduring the hostility and humiliation inflicted upon him by his opponents. By remaining faithful, and committed to his mission and purpose, Jesus prevailed in this contest. For this reason, the author of Hebrews calls him the pioneer and perfecter of the faith – he is the ultimate model and example of faith. Enthroned on the right hand of God Jesus is like a supreme athlete who had contested in the challenge of faith and had prevailed. Imitating him, Christians are asked to face hostility from sinners, courageously and with determination, even to the point of shedding their blood.

Ultimately, the author calls believers to stand apart from the rest of society which the author sees as sinful and corrupt. As morally impeccable and God-fearing followers of Christ, Christians are to represent the values and behavior that many in their society would reject and oppose. Their distinctiveness would make their presence in society divisive. For some it would be an example to follow, for others, it would be a sign to be opposed. In either case, their firm stand and commitment to Christian ways would be a powerful point of reference

for those who seek to live righteous lives.

The gospel passage cites the troubling words of Jesus who speaks of himself as a bringer of fire and division, not of peace. The fire symbolizes judgment upon those who reject God by rejecting Jesus as the Messiah and God’s Son. The baptism which Jesus is to undergo is his own death on the cross (cf. Mark 10:38–39). Finally, Jesus’ presence divides families depending on whether their members accept or reject Jesus as the Messiah. For the early Christians, the division on account of adherence to Jesus was a daily experience. Becoming a Christian often meant exclusion from the family and expulsion from a particular religious and social group. Yes, Jesus did come to bring peace to earth, however, his message and his presence are intrinsically divisive, a division depending on whether there is acceptance or rejection of Jesus and his message. Those who choose God will experience peace and blessing, those who reject God’s will face judgment. In this sense, Jesus’ presence in the world was truly divisive.

Today’s readings show that adherence to God often brings divisions. Jeremiah’s message was divisive because of his firm opposition to armed rebellion and his advocacy for the return to God through repentance and moral reforms as the way to survival. The author of Hebrews insisted that Christians must be separated from the world by their adherence to the Christian faith and moral norms. Jesus’ presence brought divisions that often ran through the very heart of the family and society. Thus, the divisions caused by God’s messengers and adherents had salvific potential because they called for reflection on, and re-examination of, life, in hope that, in the words of the Psalmist, “many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.”



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**8:15 AM mass will be suspended
Until September**

**Sunday Masses at CassaMaria will
be postponed for the rest of the
summer**

**Weekly adoration on Fridays will
be postponed except during first
Fridays**

All masses are
transmitted on our
Facebook page
"St Leonard's Parish,
North End, Boston"



Each day the friars of St. Christopher Friary pray for the intentions entrusted to them. If you would like your intention included in our prayers, please call the friary prayer request line: 617-742-4190 ext. 100. We are happy to keep you in our prayers.



**St Leonard Church will be closed for
cleaning on Mondays 9:00 AM - 11:00AM
& Thursdays 9:00 AM - 11:00AM
Schedule subject to change**

ST LEONARD PARISH AUGUST OFFERTORY

Week 1: \$ 2,084

August Monthly Budget: \$ 8,567

ONLINE DONATIONS

For the convenience of our parishioners
online donations are encouraged.

Use the following
QR code for our
website donations



venmo

Also Venmo is
available for online
donations

Need a meal, or a place to donate clothes?

St. Leonard will be partnering with Haley House, a soup kitchen and donation center in South Boston.

Currently, they are most in need of men's clothing. Please check the link haleyhouse.org/goods for list of accepted items.

Donations can be brought to our parish office.



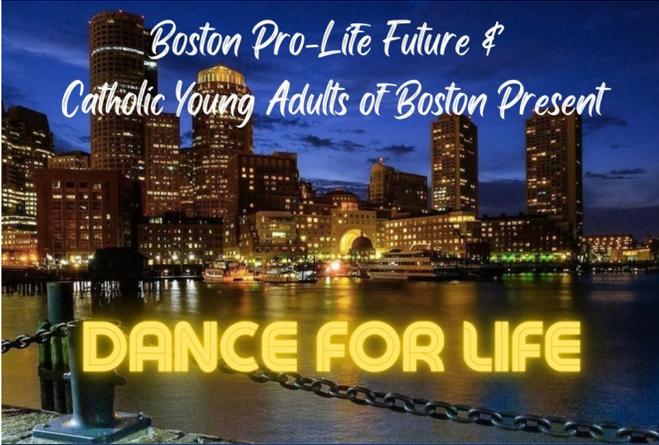
HALEY HOUSE



EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Don't miss the pro-life party of the summer!

Celebrate the end of Roe v. Wade while supporting a local pregnancy resource center. All proceeds go to Your Options Medical. Dress semi-formally, watch the sunset, and enjoy delicious food. Ages 21+.



Boston Pro-Life Future & Catholic Young Adults of Boston Present

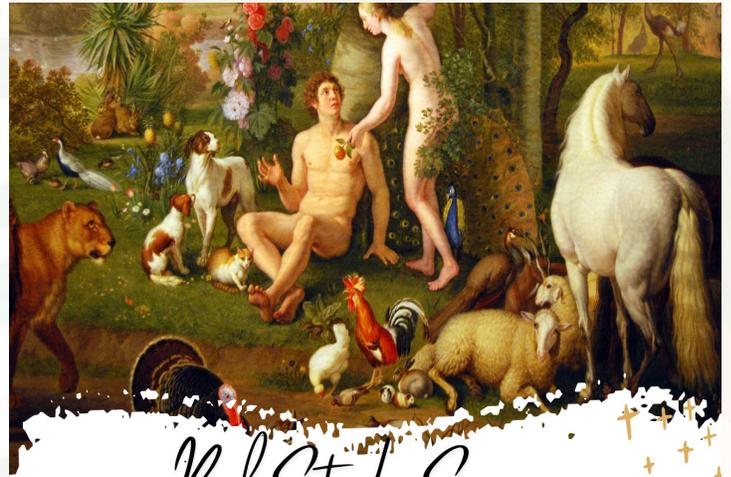
DANCE FOR LIFE

Join us for a Boston Harbor dinner dance cruise Friday 8/19 to benefit a local pregnancy resource center

Boarding 7PM | Boat Leaves at 7:30PM

Tickets \$80
All proceeds support Your Options Medical

Semi formal attire requested
Must be 21+ | Cash bar available

Book Study Series MEN & WOMEN ARE FROM EDEN:

A STUDY GUIDE TO JOHN PAUL II'S
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY
BY MARY HEALY

EVERY THURSDAY AT
8 PM, AFTER MASS

SAINT JOSEPH'S HALL
41 PRINCE STREET,
BOSTON MA 02113

PURE IN HEART



Each Thursday, the pure in heart young adult group meets at Saint Leonard Church beginning with the rosary at 6:30pm followed by Mass at 7:00pm. All young adults 20s & 30s are welcomed.




pure in heart

"Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand has made..."

Pure in Heart

Verso l'alto!

Sat. August 27th

Hiking Mt. Washington

7:00am
Mass at base
4:00 pm
return to base

Contact us for more info
boston@pureinheartamerica.org

41st Annual Lawn Party to benefit Seminararians



Wednesday, September 28, 2022 - 6:00 PM

We will gather at full capacity, under the tent!

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston is hosting its 41st Annual Lawn Party on the grounds of the seminary.

This premiere fundraising event is hosted by His Eminence, Seán Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap. The evening will include a reception and dinner with music. Located on Route 30 in Weston, the Seminary prepares second career candidates, men over the age of 30, for priesthood. The proceeds from the Lawn Party help to keep tuition costs affordable. For ticket information, please call the Pope St. John XXIII Development Office at 781-899-5500, or visit their website www.psjns.edu. You can make a difference and encourage the vocations of these men through your support of the Lawn Party.



St. Leonard's will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary beginning in January 2023. The goal of the 150th is to celebrate and unite the entire Church and community to honor the past and build the future. Paramount is evangelization and strengthening our faith and love of God. Following St. Leonard's devotion to the Way of the Cross, we will be using the Stations of the Cross as the centerpiece for the celebrations and monthly events.

We have received many great ideas for celebrating this historical milestone, and have organized some committees to help with planning. We need your help! Please consider joining a committee:

- **Spiritual/Evangelization:** Organizing the events and activities that will be transformative, using the Stations of the Cross as the focus
- **Liturgical:** Overseeing Masses and other liturgical offerings
- **Historical:** Researching and presenting the history of the Church, the Franciscans and the Italian immigrants in the North End
- **Gala:** Organizing the 150th celebration and fundraising event
- **Dinner Dance:** Offering the traditional dinner dance and sponsorship booklet
- **Product Development and Marketing:** Creating ways to promote the 150th events
- **Program/Events:** Organizing and hosting monthly programs and events
- **Fundraising:** Developing ways to raise money to ensure the future of the Church
- **Social:** Creating ways to welcome and celebrate with events such as coffee after Masses

If you are interested in joining with us, please contact
Celebrating150years@sleonard.org.

We are also looking for historical photos and videos, if you have any, we would love to have copies for the living history of the Church we are putting together.

Thank you!



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YCP Boston Invites you to an Executive Speaker Series, featuring **TIMOTHY COONEY**



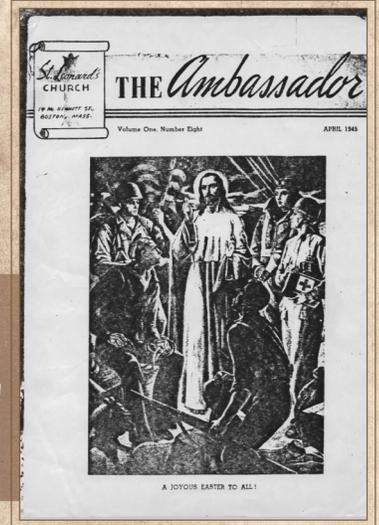
Thursday, August 25th
DiGiovanni Hall, at
St. Paul's Church Cambridge
7pm-9pm EST
RSVP at ycpboston.org

After working in the Executive Office of the President of the United States, and a successful 20+ year career in Investment Banking at top firms, Tim launched his next endeavor, Cape Cod Cellars, featuring their signature drink, Nantucket Red!

Join us in welcoming Tim to our speaker series!

FRIENDS OF THE NORTH END:

In preparation for its 150th anniversary, St Leonard's Parish is seeking all issues of its World War ii newsletter:



"THE AMBASSADOR"

Please search your archives, attics, shoeboxes etc. If you have any of these, please email Fr. Michael Della Penna at mdellapenna@sleonard.org or contact Michael Marciello at mickeyro@aol.com.

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