

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

25 December 2011

“The Nativity (The Adoration of the Christ Child)”
Zanobi Strozzi (ca. 1460)



This Christmas, give them a gift that shows you truly care.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

At Christmas, we gather to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus, and share in the peace that His presence among us brings.

It is at this holy time of year that we remember in a special way our 250 senior priests who faithfully continue to share that simple gift of presence with us. Many of these men are still active in the parish community, assisting pastors with their daily work and providing the sacraments to the Catholic faithful.

Caring for the health and housing of these priests costs approximately \$9 million each year. The Christmas collection directly supports this need.

I am deeply grateful for your generous support of our senior priests. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones, now and always.

Wishing you a happy and holy Christmas,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Sean, OFM Cap



SAINT CECILIA PARISH

CHRISTMAS

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

The Vigil of Christmas

4:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant

Pearse Martin & Allegra Rollo, lectors

The Vigil of Christmas

6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant

Rev. Arthur Calter, concelebrant

*Christopher Loh, Fred Bachofner, &
Letitia Howland, lectors*

Christmas Day

9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant

Catherine Horsley, lector

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

WELCOME!

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.

Established in 1888, today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are growing, as evidenced by the many strollers in the church each Sunday and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far. Your word of mouth is our best form of evangelization and we're grateful that you tell others about our community and the Spirit's presence here.

We've been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 120 years, but that doesn't mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are called to be heralds of God's promise, "Behold, I make all things new" and 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.

If you are not a regular parishioner here, we hope that you find a warm welcome and a vibrancy in worship. If you are looking for a faith community to call home, we hope that you'll give us a try. Come and be a part of our life as we journey in God and toward God. You are always welcome here.

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Josephine Parker, John Saulenas, K. Champoux, Patricia Hoggard, Jennifer Serpico, Christine St. Pierre, Jessica Coviello, Harold Williamson, Jessica Riviuccio, Earl Chilcote, Ellen Nora Toombs, Colonel Robert C. Tashjian, Roseanne Borgioli, Rosemary Messina, Kim Murray, Heather LoRe, Rudy Kikel, Herbert Simmons, Peggy Furey, Janice Mascia, Winnie Dyer, Jane Cox, Pamela D'Ambra, Sue Lucas, Suki Coughlin, Roberta Keenan, Bridget Spence, Annette Kulas, Sam Gowan, Rhea Richard, Pil-Yun Son, Mary Yanez, Larry Buckley, M. Frances Driscoll, Father Harry Giroux, Ed Langlais, Bob McLaughlin, Steven Whitkens, Diana Slaton, Leo Garcia, Jean Marino, Joe Ford, Danny Cotter, Natalia Chilcote, Amy Sweetland, Jim Keyes, Michael Zawikowski, Cheryl Proctor, Patricia Macdonald, Elvera Dowsky, Frank Ackley, Fred Haslee, Lorraine Haslee, Robert Menson, Paul Flaherty, William Louttit, Lucie Kelly, Bro. Adam Zielonka, O.C.S.O., Amy Duarte, Karen & Rick, Phyllis Porras, Jim Linderman, Mark Amerault, Sr. Nuala Cotter, R.A., Kristen DeFranco Martinez, Michele Crowley Tippens, Sara Lima Santos, Joseph Driscoll, Pete Huttlinger, Anthony Simboli, Lisa Caputo, Edward Gill, Darlene McLendon, Jeanne Tibbs, Debbie Pace, Peter Schwahn, Deidre Sullivan, Roosevelt Brown, Mary O'Donnell, Ginny L'Abbe, Steve Chamberlain, Matt Penchuk, Carrie Penchuk, Christy Cosgrove, Jacques Romberger, John Scaife, Maureen Sullivan, Alyce Haley, Joe Capizzi, David Walsh, Joe Huenke, Kaylin Marcotte, Avito Pacifici, Charlotte Egan, James Noone, Keith Plaster, Frederick Flather, David & Paula Fillion, Fred Maglero, Sarah Sweeney, Jeanne Boger, Susan Shea, Bill Croke, Ettore

Bergamaschi, Ryan Delaney, Anita Cipriani, and Cecile Finnerty.

Christmas Prayers

In your prayer, remember those who are alone and will spend Christmas without family or friends. Consider ways that you can be a welcoming presence to those who are lonely. Pray also for those who will spend Christmas on the street or in a shelter.

For Those in the Military

Many families are separated by war and military service; pray for our soldiers on active duty who will be far from their loved ones this Christmas.

For Our Priests

We pray in a special way this Christmas for the health and well-being of the 715 active and senior priests in the Archdiocese of Boston. May God continue to bless, guide, and renew their efforts to lead the Catholic faithful in the Church of Boston, helping them take good care of themselves so that they in turn may be able to care for others.

Next Sunday's Schedule

Sunday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This solemnity outranks the observance of the Feast of the Holy Family which is usually celebrated on the first Sunday after Christmas Day. This year, the Feast of the Holy Family will be transferred to Friday, December 30. Next weekend, there will be only two Masses celebrated, the Saturday Anticipated Mass at 5:00 and the 11:15 Mass on Sunday.

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

ADVENT GIVING TREE THANKS

As evidenced by the hundreds of gifts that were received, our 2011 Advent Giving Tree program was another great success! Each year, so many of you help behind the scenes with this project. This year we had many volunteers who helped by typing and printing gift labels, cutting ornaments and ribbons, punching holes, collecting, sorting, and delivering gifts.

I want to thank everyone who helped with this project, especially our new volunteers and some of the children from the parish. What a great committee! See you all next year!

Thank you to everyone in the parish who purchased gifts and made donations. Your generosity will help make Christmas special for so many men, women and children in our city.

Merry Christmas,

Ann Faldetta



KOINONIA EVENTS

Koinonia, Saint Cecilia's ministry to parishioners in their twenties and thirties, meets every first and third Wednesday for trivia at Clerys (113 Dartmouth Street). All are welcome. To keep informed about Koinonia events, please join our e-mail list by e-mailing Kevin Daly at stcecilia.koinonia@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The diocese-wide Christmas collection is given entirely for the health and retirement needs of the priests of this Archdiocese. These faith-filled men have dedicated their lives to serving the Catholic faithful here in Boston; now, it is our turn to be present for them. Please give generously to the Christmas collection which will directly benefit the needs of our 715 active and senior priests. Thank you in advance for your support of this important effort.

FIRST NIGHT BOSTON

RICHARD J. CLARK PERFORMING AT ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH ON FIRST NIGHT

Our Director of Music and Organist, Richard J. Clark, will be performing at ten o'clock on New Year's Eve as part of Boston's First Night Festival of the Arts. The performance will be at the historic Arlington Street Church located at 351 Boylston Street, Boston. Arlington Street Church was the first public building in Boston's Back Bay. Designated an historic landmark, Arlington Street Church is well-known for housing what is believed to be the largest collection of Tiffany windows in any one church. Richard will be performing works by François Couperin, Jehan Alain, and his own composition "Ascent to Freedom." He will be performing on the 1957 Aeolian-Skinner Organ of 62 stops and 3,640 pipes. If you're out on the town next Saturday, taking advantage of all that Boston's First Night has to offer, be sure to stop by Arlington Street Church at ten o'clock to support Richard and enjoy some beautiful organ music.

A Thank You to Our Ministers of Music

Saint Cecilia, the titular saint of our parish, is the patroness of sacred music and as such holds a special place in the hearts of musicians. "He who sings prays twice" is a saying often attributed to Saint Augustine. There is reason to believe that Augustine may not have written those exact words, but he did write, "Singing belongs to the one who loves."

Music has a unique way of lifting our spirits and making us happy. It is evocative and stirs up memories and experiences from earlier times and places. Singing has the power to unite and to create harmony out of diversity. And song is a gift from God—an expression of his love for us. How do we acknowledge such a gift? By singing. We sing praise to God as a way of expressing our gratitude and love.

As Director of Music at Saint Cecilia, I am humbled by the passion and commitment of our volunteer musicians. It is an honor and a privilege to work with the dozens of singers and instrumentalists who volunteer each week at three sung liturgies, in addition to regular celebrations of Evening Prayer and various special events. These talented men and women share their gifts with the liturgical assembly and help us "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." This Christmas, we have been blessed with the largest Christmas Eve choir ever and I know that you share my gratitude.

This past fall, Saint Cecilia has been host to five concerts, including three world class



children's choirs. Our Saint Cecilia Day celebration featured approximately forty singers, instrumentalists, and composers from our parish, all volunteering their talents in the worship of God and in honor of our patroness.

In addition to the ordinary work of church musicians, our music ministers have been guiding the parish through the process of learning new music to accompany the revised

translation of the Roman Missal. That work will continue as we learn some new settings and some revised settings of familiar favorites. As you can see, it has been a busy and fruitful season! Looking ahead, we hope to replace our eighty-two year old organ console with a newer but used console, a goal that will require your help.

The best way to show your gratitude for our ministers of music is to join them in song. In the words of the Psalmist, "Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth; break into song; sing praise." Don't be shy. Even if you think you don't have a good voice, use it to glorify God.

"God has bestowed upon his people the gift of song. God dwells within each human person, in the place where music takes its source. Indeed, God, the giver of song, is present whenever his people sing his praises."

—*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, USCCB (2007)

—Richard J. Clark, Director of Music, Organist

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

42ND ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 16 – 8:00
BOSTON CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTER
415 SUMMER STREET

The 42nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast to commemorate the noble legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held on Monday, January 16 at eight o'clock. We need to reserve tables for this breakfast prior to December 31. Tickets are \$40 each. If you would like to join us and sit at one of the Saint Cecilia tables, please call the parish office or e-mail Scott MacDonald at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org. If you've attended this breakfast in the past, you know what a moving and hope-filled way this is to commemorate the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

FOOD SERVICE AT PINE STREET'S MEN'S INN

Human services non-profits such as Pine Street have been seriously impacted by the economic downturn: their fundraising has become more challenging at the very same time they are experiencing a dramatic increase in demand for their services. Our parish remains committed to helping Pine Street fulfill its mission and so we continue to serve meals at the Women's Inn and Men's Inn on a regular basis. We need up to nine volunteers to serve dinner at the Men's Inn on Friday, December 30 from 4:45 to 6:30 p.m. If you're interested and can be at Pine Street on Harrison Avenue at that time, please contact Mark Lippolt at mlippolt@hammondre.com.

We stood on the hills, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Watching the frosted meadows
That winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady,
The air so still,
Silence more lovely than music
Folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady,
Shone in the night,
Larger than Venus it was
And bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady,
It seemed to us then,
Telling of God being born
In the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Our love, our hopes, ourselves
We give to your son.

THE SHEPHERD'S CAROL

Words, ANON.

Music, BOB CHILCOTT

This carol was written for the Choir of
King's College in 2000.



NEWBORN GOD

A Christmas Meditation on the Birth of Jesus

By JAMES MARTIN, SJ

Not long ago, two young children helped me see the Nativity of Jesus in a new way. Their presence in my life made the Christmas story an entirely new experience.

When I first started meditating on the Nativity passages as a Jesuit novice, more than 20 years ago, my prayer and reading focused largely on the theological import of the event. Happily, I have a pretty vivid imagination, so it was easy to imagine the birth scene "just as if I were there," as St. Ignatius Loyola suggests in his classic manual for prayer, *The Spiritual Exercises*.

In my mind's eye, I could see the inky night, the crude shelter, the sleepy-eyed cows, the exhausted parents and the squalling baby. Of course it probably didn't happen precisely the way that most Christmas cards portray, but overall, it was easy for me to feel amazed by the Incarnation, when God chose to "pitch his tent" among us, as some translations of the Gospel of John have it (1:14).

The notion of God becoming one of us, completely taking on our physical nature, sharing in the common aches and pains of humanity, "pitching his tent" among us, as John's Gospel



says, was wonderfully appealing to me. It reminded me that for Christians, God is not something that is far off or entirely impossible to comprehend; God became human so that we could better understand a transcendent reality. Nor do we have a God who cannot understand what it means to live a human life. Christians do not worship a Platonic God, but a human one. All this made a deep impression on me.

But until the birth of my first nephew, my sister's child, I never appreciated how a newborn child can change everything.

When my nephew was born 12 years ago, I was astonished by the way our entire family immediately shifted its focus. Our hearts were now centered on a little child. What did he do yesterday? What is he doing today? What will he do tomorrow? Who will he become?

How miraculous that God had created a brand-new person, someone we could never have imagined, but who would change our lives nonetheless. The same happened with my sister's second child, born five years ago, who is a gift in equal measure, but so different from the first. God had created—with the help of my

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

sister and brother-in-law, of course—something new.

Nor had I appreciated the accompanying worry, and sometimes fear, that goes along with childrearing. (Still, I don't fully, and will never fully, understand it, since I'm not a parent.) When I think about my nephews, I pray that nothing bad will happen to them, hope that they will be physically well and desire that they will always be happy. But I know that at some point the world will be painful for them.

Most likely it was similar for Mary and Joseph as they pondered the future of their baby. While Luke's Gospel offers a brief sketch of how Mary discovered God's plan for her (2:26-38), we have little idea of her innermost thoughts attending the birth of her son. She sings a song of joy to her cousin Elizabeth, but as the New Testament scholar Joseph Fitzmyer, S.J., says about the Annunciation, the time when she discovered that she was with child: "What really happened? We shall never know."

We have even less insight into Joseph's heart; Mary's husband is completely silent in Scripture, given no words to speak.

But we can assume that Mary and Joseph may have gathered from a variety of sources—the angelic messages, the dreams, the unique birth of their son, the strange utterances of Simeon and Anna (two elderly, pious Jews who commented on the birth of their son)—that their baby's life likely would be a strange one, filled with unusual joys and sorrows. And so they protected him as best they could, first sheltering him from the elements and later, in Egypt, from Herod's murderous wrath.

But did they know, even then, that they would not be able to protect him forever?

All Christians are called to emulate both Mary

and Joseph. We are invited to listen carefully to God, to respond with a trusting yes (often, like Mary, after some questioning) and, finally, to bring Christ into the world—not in his flesh and not in precisely the same way that Mary did, but in our lives and in other ways important today.

And we are called to nurture our faith, which can be as precious and fragile and delicate as a newborn child. This does not mean that we jealously guard our faith from the world, as if the world were antithetical to faith, but that we understand that our faith and our vocations need to be nourished, cared for and revered as gifts from God.

These are calls for every Christian, no matter who we are, or where we come from. In the Christmas Vigil Mass, the main reading is from the beginning of Matthew's Gospel, which details the ancient genealogy of Jesus' family. That seemingly interminable list ("Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse...") shows that the Messiah came from a long line of people who were not perfect.

Within his family, by the way, are quite a few unsavory characters. (You think your family is dysfunctional? Read Matthew.) But out of that holy but entirely human tree grew a fresh green shoot that would change everything.

How overwhelming the first Christmas must have been for Mary and Joseph. Few things can provoke such intense worry as a newborn child. Ask any parent. But few things promise such unreasonable hope, such unexpected change and such unbounded joy.

May your heart be newborn this Christmas season.

James Martin, S.J., is a Jesuit priest, culture editor of America magazine, and the author of "The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything" and "My Life with the Saints."

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

Richard J. Clark, Director of Music and Organist, rclark@stceciliaboston.org
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate for Administration, mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org
Genevieve Fiorente, Office Administrative Assistant
Scott J. MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Leadership Development, smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org
Maureen Sullivan, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, msullivan@stceciliaboston.org
Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor, junni@stceciliaboston.org

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ
Rev. George Winchester, SJ

Schedule for Liturgy

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

Reconciliation

By appointment at any time and Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8:00 during Lent.

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 Scott MacDonald.

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), Ginny DiSanto (gjin250boston@gmail.com) or Peg Quilty (nursepeg@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 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.

Parking

Reduced-rate parking (maximum of three hours) is available Sundays at the Prudential Center parking garage, LAZ Parking (53 Belvidere Street), and at the Hilton Boston Back Bay. Please bring your parking ticket to church for validation before returning to the garage.

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.