

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

5 November 2023

Christ Teacheth Humility by Robert Scott Lauder

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

5 NOVEMBER 2023

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | *Chant de Paix*

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | All People That on Earth Do Dwell

OLD ONE HUNDRETH



1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing
2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With -
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise; Ap -
4. For why? The Lord our God is good: His
5. To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The
*Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise



to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; Him serve with mirth, his
out our aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
proach with joy his courts un - to; Praise, laud, and bless his
mer - cy is for ev - er sure; His truth at all times
God whom heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the
him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, you



praise forth tell; Come we be - fore him and re - joice.
does us feed, And for his sheep he does us take.
Name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, And shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

CALL TO WORSHIP



Verses

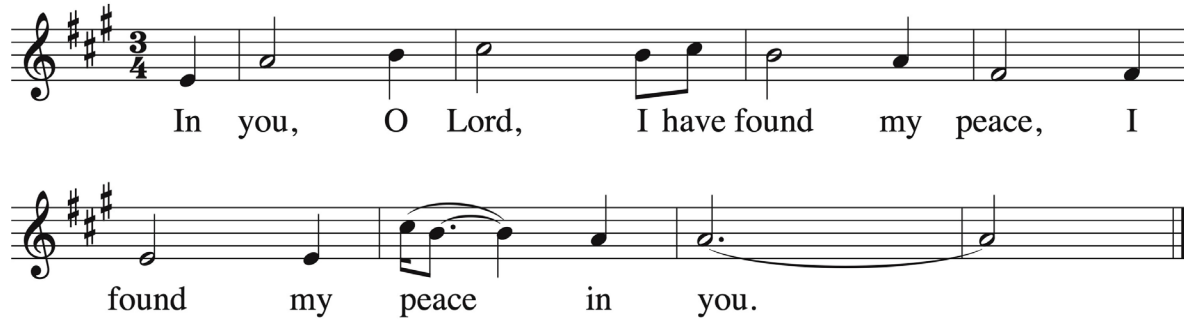
1. We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
3. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10

Refrain



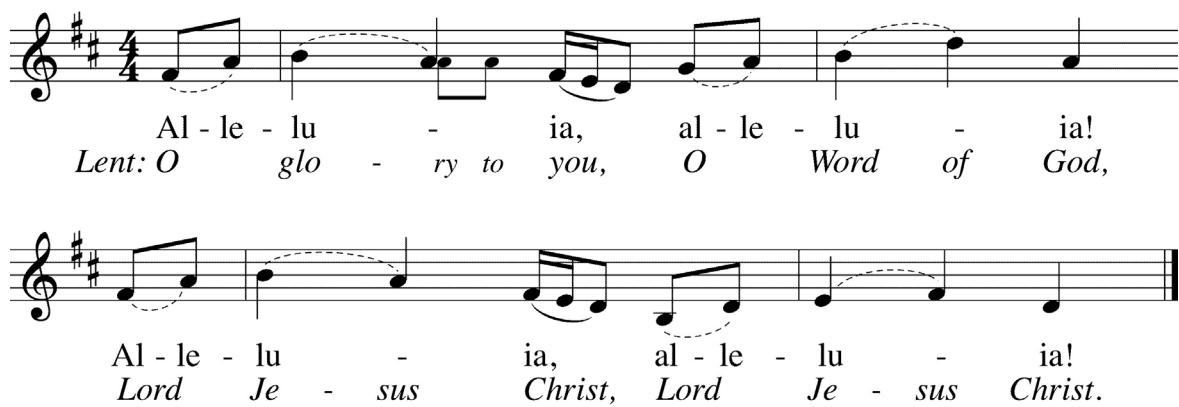
Verses

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes, my eyes, O Lord.
I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me.
2. Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace, silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast, even so is my soul.
3. O Israel, hope in the Lord,
hope in the Lord both now and for ever.

SECOND READING | 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Unity Mass

Norah Duncan IV



GOSPEL | Matthew 23: 1-12

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 PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

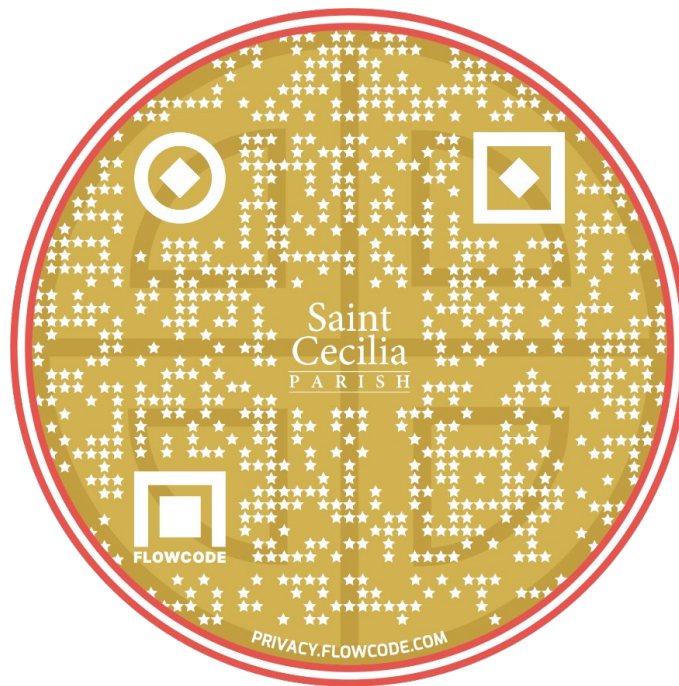
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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:

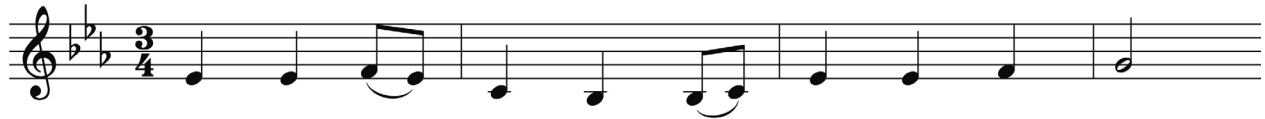
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Lord of All Hopefulness

SLANE



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 | Missa Pacem

J. Randolph Babin

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of
hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name, who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



GREAT AMEN | Missa Pacem

J. Randolph Babin



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.

Cantor or choir: *All:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
 Prince of Peace,
 God of Love,
 Bread of Life,

Repeat as needed

world, have mer - cy on us.

Last time *Cantor or choir:*

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

All:

world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

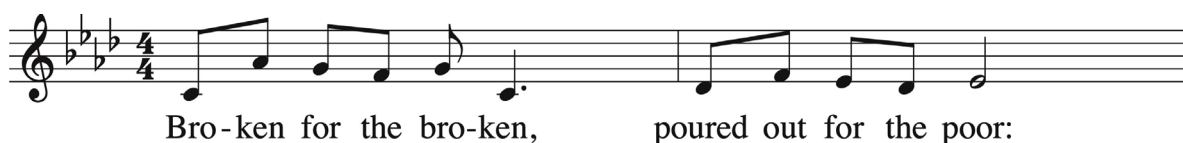
take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, 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.



Verses



1. For the hun - gry ones,	for the thirst - y ones,
2. For the ones a - bused,	for the ones con-fused,
3. For the voice-less ones,	for the help-less ones,
4. For the wound-ed ones,	for the shat-tered ones,
5. For the ones in chains,	for the ones in fear,
6. For the ail - ing ones,	for the hurt - ing ones,
7. As we break this bread,	as we take this cup,
8. As we trust your word,	as we live your way,
9. Change our hearts, O Lord,	give us will - ing hearts,



for the lone - ly ones, you call	us to serve, to be
for the ones re - fused, you call	us to love, to be
for the home-less ones, you call	us to speak, to be
for the ti - red ones, you call	us to help, to be
for the ones in debt, you call	us to give, to be
for the dy - ing ones, you call	us to care, to be
as we share this meal, you call	us to change, to be
as we walk by faith, you call	us to share, to be
hearts that rec - og - nize the cour - age	to serve and share

D.C.



1.-8. Christ for each oth - er, bro - ken for the world.
 9. Christ with each oth - er, bro - ken for the world.

CONCLUDING RITES

RECESSIONAL | Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN



1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And
 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found; Was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

POSTLUDE | Fugue in G Major, BWV 541

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

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!

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 Massachusetts 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.

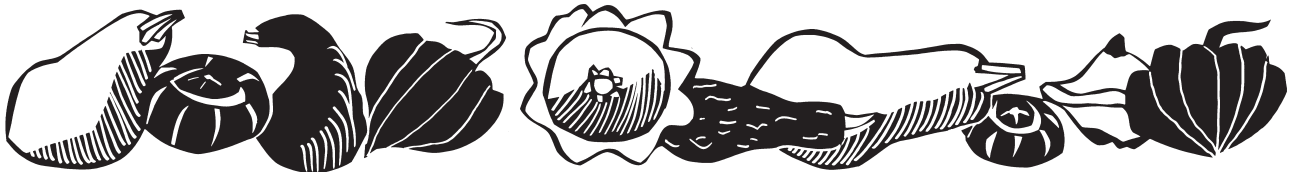
Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two 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.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, November 4 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, lector

Sunday, November 5 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Nicholas Hayes-Mota, lector

Sunday, November 5 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Karen Vachon, Megan Altendorf, and Maggie Giles, lectors

Sunday, November 5 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Karen McMenamy and Esteban Vanegas, lectors

Sunday, November 5 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Julie Bogdanski, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 5 | 9:30 a.m.

Eileen M. Foley, *Memorial*
Robert R. Popeo, *Memorial*
J. Bradshaw Griffith, *Memorial*

Sunday, November 5 | 11:30 a.m.

Danny Bausemer, *Memorial*
Roger Dumont, *Memorial*

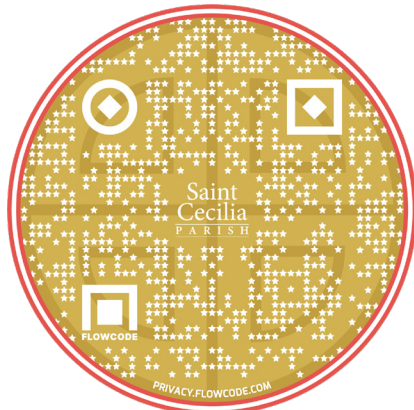
TODAY'S READINGS

Wisdom 6:12-16
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Malachi 1:14b—2.2.b, 8-10
1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13
Matthew 23:1-12

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Jacqueline Lavelle, Melissa Starzyk, Elizabeth Kennedy, Jeff Hommes, Sue Ryan, Tim Finn, Glenn Gallo, John Hosang, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rick Gaillardetz, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.

November—the Month of All Souls

November is a traditional time to remember and pray for our dead. During this month, you are invited to inscribe the names of your deceased loved ones in The Book of the Names of the Dead. The Book of the Names of the Dead is located near the baptismal font as a reminder that the deceased have shared in the waters of baptism, dying with Christ and rising to new life.



Election Week

Pray that the Holy Spirit will give us the hearts to elect leaders who will bring safety to the whole world. May we have the insight to elect leaders who can distinguish strength from power, growth from greed, and leadership from dominance. May our hearts and minds be open to learning from those who are different from us and may we have the vision as a people to always and everywhere stand up for the protection of human rights. Let us cast our votes with prayerful discernment, humility, compassion, and in witness to God's love for all creation. And let us not forget that Jesus always cast his lot with the weak and the oppressed.

The End of Daylight Saving Time

Remember that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. this Sunday, November 5. Please be sure to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night or you'll be very early for Mass!

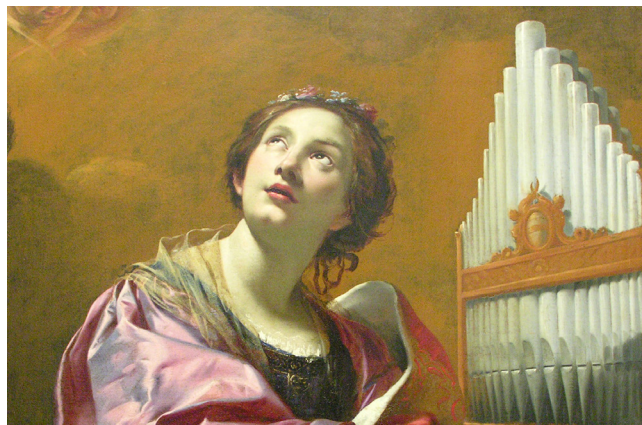
Eastern Point Parish Retreat (November 10–12)

We are looking forward to our upcoming parish retreat being held at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester. If

you are planning to come but have not received a detailed email from Scott MacDonald, please contact him via his parish email as soon as possible.

Second Collection

This week's second collection will support the Holy Father's "Peter's Pence" collection that provides funds for emergency and disaster relief. This collection provides also support to The Catholic University of America that educates priests and lay people for ministry and supports the Inner-City Parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston. Your generosity and prayers will assist the Holy Father and the various missionary efforts at home and abroad. To donate, please visit: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/holy-father-missionary-efforts-2023>



SAINT CECILIA CONCERT

Saturday, November 4, 8:00 p.m.

We're delighted to announce an evening of music on Saturday, November 4 at 8:00 p.m. in honor of the Feast of Saint Cecilia (November 22). Featured works include Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, Zoltan Kodály's *Missa Brevis in D*, plus works for organ. The chamber orchestration of the Bernstein will include organ, harp, percussion, and a boy soprano from St. Paul's Choir School in Cambridge. All three of our parish organists (Brett Maguire, Daniel Lamoureux, and Pendexter Macdonald) will each offer a work for organ. Admission is free, and we invite you to join us in the church for this special event!

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

PINE STREET INN LOW THRESHOLD HOUSING THANKSGIVING DINNER

Once again, Saint Cecilia is partnering with Pine Street Inn to provide 150 bags of shelf-stable foods for tenants in over 40 different housing sites across Boston. Thank you for helping to make this happen. Beginning on October 29, you can pick up a bag at the narthex or at the reception desk. Please fill this bag with the following items:

Boxed Stuffing Mix

(like Stove Top)

Instant Mashed Potatoes

(in boxes or packets)

Jars of Turkey Gravy

(or dried gravy mix packets)

Dried Pasta

Canned Yams

Canned Cranberry Sauce

Canned Vegetables

(green beans, corn, sweet peas)

Cornbread Mix

Canned Pumpkin Pie

Filling (or other canned fruit
pie filling)

Pie Crust Mix

Salt and Pepper (shakers)

Hand Held Can Opener

Please note: Canned goods should come with a pop-top lid or include a can opener.

Turkeys have all been provided. We are unable to receive any turkeys.

IMPORTANT: ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, A PINE STREET INN TRUCK WILL BE IN FRONT OF SAINT CECILIA FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. TO RECEIVE YOUR FILLED MEAL KIT BAG. PLEASE BE SURE TO RETURN YOUR BAG TO THE CHURCH ON THIS DATE.

Another Way to Support Our Neighbors:

As an alternative to providing a meal kit bag, please consider donating a \$25.00 gift card from one of the following merchants:

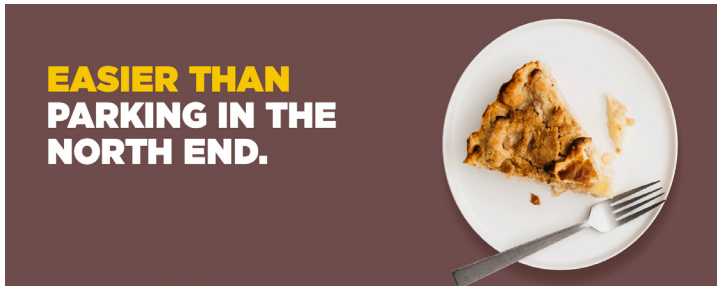
Shaw's • CVS • VISA • Target • Marshalls/TJ Maxx • Star Market • Trader Joe's

Please send gift cards to the attention of Karen Dunnett or Lisa Pickering,
Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!



Pine Street Inn
Ending Homelessness



PIE IN THE SKY

Saint Cecilia volunteer pie sellers will be available after this weekend's Masses to take your orders for Thanksgiving pies to benefit one of our non-profit partner agencies, Community Servings. Pie in the Sky fosters community spirit and engages the public in the mission of Community Servings—Massachusetts' free, home-delivered meals and nutrition program for the critically ill. Each pie, which can be picked up a couple of days before Thanksgiving at over 40 locations in Greater Boston, costs \$35, providing a week's worth of nutritious, home-delivered meals to a Community Servings' client.

Even if you will be out of town for Thanksgiving, you can help by purchasing a pie and donating it to a Community Servings' client or you can buy a pie that will be served at Thanksgiving Day dinners for residents of Morville House, Women's Lunch Place, and the Pine Street Inn. You can also buy pies online at www.pieinthesky.org. Please be sure to specify that your seller is a member of the Saint Cecilia team. For more information, please reach out to Mark Lippolt at the Hunger and Homelessness Ministry email.

HOLY HOUR AT SAINT CECILIA

Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

"Come to me... and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28

Join us for Saint Cecilia's monthly Holy Hour from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Give yourself the gift of spending an uninterrupted hour in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, supported by music and prayer led by our young adult parishioners. One parishioner says of a recent Saint Cecilia Holy Hour: "Last night was just filled with healing and grace...it was one of the most powerful experiences I have had at Saint Cecilia and there have been so many..." Bring yourself, and all that you are carrying, and allow yourself to rest in God's love. ***The Saint Cecilia Holy Hour takes place the first Tuesday of every month, from 7:00—8:00 p.m.*** Please enter via the door on Saint Cecilia Street; ring the doorbell and our receptionist will let you in.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA

NOVEMBER 5 – NOVEMBER 12

Sunday, November 5

Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Meeting
1:00 p.m., Community Room

Monday, November 6

Returning Citizens Group Meeting
5:00—7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Tuesday, November 7

SCYA-Hosted Holy Hour | 6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 8

Parish Council Meeting | 6:30 p.m.
LBGTQ+ Affinity Group Meeting | 6:30 p.m.,
Community Room

Friday, November 10

Parish Offices Closed in Observance of Veterans Day
3-Day Parish Retreat at Eastern Point Retreat House

Sunday, November 12

Lorelei Ensemble Concert | 2:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, November 5, 4:00 p.m. ET | Zoom

The next Far-Flung Flock (FFF) online coffee hour is on Sunday, November 5, and will be an interactive call of fellowship—a time to say hello to other members you may have connected with in the past or who you met at the recent retreat. The FFF ministry is hoping that members who attended the October Far-Flung Flock retreat at the parish could come to the call prepared to share some highlights of that weekend with those who could not attend—we'd love to hear from you!

If you have not registered or attended any online coffee hour in the past, you must register for the FFF email list with this link (<https://bit.ly/45pDVRa>). You will get an email with the Zoom link a few days before the call. Be sure to add the FFF ministry email to your contacts to prevent these emails from going into your spam or junk folders. Be sure to fill out the registration form correctly—some people have inadvertently omitted their email address or typed their address incorrectly when registering and, therefore, will not receive any communications.

ADULT FAITH
FORMATION EVENTS

**BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
& MINISTRY**

ANNUAL MINISTRY RENEWAL DAY

Catholic Resources for Trauma Mitigation

Presenter: Heather M. DuBois, Assistant Professor of Peace Studies, Trauma, and Spirituality, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
Friday, November 17 | 10:00 – 11:45 a.m. | Hybrid
Corcoran Commons, Heights Room, Chestnut Hill
Campus Registration Required | Free

For further details or to register for these events, please check the STM Online: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education/featured-events.html>

ONLINE COURSES

Mary, the Mother of Jesus

November 22 – December 12 | 3-Week Online
Course | Registration Required | \$30.00

For further details or to register for these events, please check the STM Online: Crossroads website: https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education.html#tab-stm_online_crossroads

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

Healthcare for the Homeless

Presenter: Dr. Eileen Reilly, psychiatrist, co-founder of the Women's Lunch Place in Boston, and member of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Street Team
Monday, November 13 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: https://www.saintsusannrma.org/adult_faith_formation.html

DID YOU KNOW?

You may have noticed that we've begun individually wrapping each of our pastries at Coffee Hospitalities. Given how many people we serve (over 500 people in an hour!), we want to ensure that the health and safety of all of our parishioners, especially as we get closer to cold and flu season.

CLIMATE JUSTICE ZOOM CALL

Monday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

The Saint Cecilia Climate Justice group will be reading the apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum* and meeting in person to discuss it after the 11:30am Mass this Sunday October 29 at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 4. There will be a second meeting on Zoom on Monday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. for remote parishioners or those unable to attend this Sunday. Contact the Climate Justice ministry email for more information and please contact our reception team (reception@stceciliaboston.org) for the Zoom link!



WELCOMING THE STRANGER

For the past seven years, our parish has provided ongoing support to Catholic Charities' Refugee and Immigration Services with supermarket gift cards, heeding Pope Francis' words, "With regard to migrants, displaced persons, and refugees, a common commitment is needed, one focused on offering them a dignified welcome." Like so many other agencies in the Commonwealth, Catholic Charities of Boston has seen a surge in immigrants needing assistance this year. With your help, they can provide a vital lifeline for our new community members. If you would like to purchase gift cards to Target, Market Basket, Stop and Shop, or Shaw's/Star Market — and no more than \$25 per card — please feel free to mail them to the parish or drop them in the offertory basket in an enveloped marked "Catholic Charities." To mail them, send them to: Mark Lippolt, Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115



**LIKE SMILING? LIKE PEOPLE?
VOLUNTEER AS A GREETER!**

We need help welcoming our neighbors into the church before each liturgy on the weekends. Your small time commitment and warm smile can make someone's day! Please sign up to greet by emailing Lisa Pickering at her parish email. Thank you so much!



POPE FRANCIS SHOWS SUPPORT TO LGBTQ CATHOLIC GROUPS AS SYNOD MEETS

BY RYAN DI CORPO

In a series of significant Vatican meetings throughout and immediately before October, while the Synod on Synodality gathered for its first universal session, Pope Francis demonstrated public support for representatives of several LGBTQ Catholic organizations.

In the span of a few weeks, the pope has met with Outreach editor James Martin, S.J., Sister Jeannine Gramick, S.L., of New Ways Ministry and Marianne Duddy-Burke, the co-chair of the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics and executive director of DignityUSA—all well-known advocates for LGBTQ Catholics whose groups have historically faced criticism and public backlash for their work.

On October 25, Pope Francis met with Duddy-Burke and several representatives of the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics (G.N.R.C.) at the Vatican. Founded in Rome in 2015, the G.N.R.C. brings together LGBTQ Catholic advocates from various countries and opposes discrimination in the church and civil society. “Any law or practice which oppresses, restricts, punishes or harms LGBTI persons is contrary to the Gospel,” reads part of their mission statement.

Also notable is Duddy-Burke’s four-decade association with DignityUSA, which during the height of the H.I.V./AIDS crisis in New York, saw priests banned from celebrating Mass for members and groups expelled from city parishes. Patrick X. Nidorf, O.S.A., the late Catholic priest who founded Dignity in San Diego in 1969, was prohibited from LGBTQ ministry by the then-archbishop of Los Angeles in 1971.

We were able to thank the pope for his groundbreaking statement that the criminalization of people based on our identities must end,” wrote Duddy-Burke in a statement. “We urged him to direct bishops and Catholic political leaders to act on his statement by opposing the criminalization of LGBTQIA+ people rather than actively supporting it, as some have recently done.”

But perhaps most surprising is Pope Francis’s welcome of New Ways Ministry, a long standing LGBTQ Catholic

group that has experienced a complicated and at times acrimonious relationship with church officials. [See pages 10-11 of this bulletin for more on this.]

In 1999, Sister Jeannine Gramick, who met with Pope Francis on October 17, was ordered by the Vatican to cease her ministry to LGBTQ Catholics. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict XVI, issued a public directive stating that Sister Gramick and Rev. Robert Nugent, who co-founded New Ways Ministry in 1977, were “permanently prohibited from any pastoral work involving homosexual persons.”

Eventually, she switched religious orders and resumed her LGBTQ ministry. “I realized I felt like a battered woman,” she told America in 2022.

But in 2021, Pope Francis penned one of several letters to Sister Gramick in which he lauded her decades-long work with LGBTQ people. “Thank you, Sister Jeannine, for all your closeness, compassion and tenderness,” wrote the pope, also referring to her as a “valiant woman.” Speaking with the National Catholic Reporter last week, Sister Gramick called Pope Francis a friend and a “man of God” who continually looks ahead.

“I think Pope Francis is trying to get us to move forward, to open our eyes and look to the future and to changes in the world,” she said. The pope’s in-person meeting with Sister Gramick and New Ways representatives this month marks another stunning turn in Francis’s efforts to rehabilitate the Catholic sister as a model of pastoral ministry.

Father Martin joined several U.S. prelates as a Synod participant this month and met with Pope Francis at the Casa Santa Marta, the pontiff’s residence, one day before the consistory in late September. (Pope Francis, who has written several letters to Outreach, first met with Father Martin at the Vatican in September 2019.) “I was honored to spend time with the Holy Father before the Synod began,” wrote Father Martin in a message to Outreach. “We had a wide-ranging discussion and I once again felt encouraged as

a Jesuit in my ministry with LGBTQ Catholics.”

In addition to these October meetings, Pope Francis sent an encouraging note this month to Stan “J.R.” Zerkowski, the executive director of Fortunate Families, a Kentucky-based group for families with LGBTQ members. (Zerkowski also works with LGBTQ Catholics in the Diocese of Lexington, Ky., with Bishop John Stowe, who spoke at the Outreach conference in 2022.)

These papal meetings come amid widespread speculation and significant interest about discussions between Synod delegates on LGBTQ topics. According to the National Catholic Reporter, several international Synod delegates have spoken about LGBTQ people in the church, with some urging greater inclusion and others expressing concerns about such efforts. Timothy Radcliffe, O.P., who led delegates on a three-day retreat in early October, revealed that participants wept at the story of a bisexual woman who died by suicide after feeling unwelcomed by the church.

David Palmieri, a contributing writer for Outreach, has noted that even the Synod preparatory documents showed a shift towards recognition for gay Catholics by using the term “LGBTQ+” in its pages. “Using this abbreviation is historic because the church has long persisted in an argument against these letters and their variations, at times denying that LGBTQ people, described as such, even exist,” he wrote.

But some church leaders and Synod observers remain cautious about expecting change or reform from the Synod on LGBTQ topics. In July, now-Cardinal Christopher Pierre, the U.S. papal nuncio, sought to dissuade Catholics from viewing the Synod as an opportunity to overhaul church teaching on a variety of topics. “[The Synod] is not to change the doctrine of the church,” he told OSV News. “A lot of people are afraid about synodality. They say, ‘The pope will change everything.’ No, that’s not true.”

~ *Ryan Di Corpo is the managing editor of Outreach. His work has appeared in The Washington Post, America, Boston College Magazine, The Emancipator and elsewhere. He holds an M.A. in journalism from Northeastern University, in Boston.*

THE WORK SUPPORTED BY CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES' RICE BOWLS

The crisis in the Holy Land has unfolded into humanitarian catastrophe after the October 7 attack on Israel, which is being met with a bombardment of retaliatory strikes on Gaza. More than 4,300 deaths have been reported across the region, not including the impact of a recent deadly hospital blast in Gaza city that is estimated to have claimed hundreds of lives. An estimated 1 million people, almost half the population, are displaced following an order for people to evacuate the northern part of Gaza.

In coordination with partners across the region, Catholic Relief Services is helping to meet urgent needs. They are responding to the rapidly changing context, and are being especially mindful of people’s needs—both physical and emotional—at a time of tremendous uncertainty, fear, loss and despair. As they have done historically, CRS is able to draw on their extensive experience and partnerships in the Holy Land, where they have been active for decades, including responses to the needs brought by the 2014 war and successive conflicts. To learn more: www.CRS.org

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

The Boston College School of Theology and Ministry is a world-class center of theological study, committed to the Jesuit, Catholic ideal of *cura personalis*—care for the whole person. Through curricula, one-on-one interactions with faculty mentors, daily liturgies, and other formation-based experiences, the STM cultivates students’ intellectual, spiritual, professional, and social growth. To learn more please email the STM at stmadm@bc.edu, call us at 617-552-6506 or apply online at www.bc.edu/stmapply. Applications for fall 2024 are now being accepted!





A MEETING WITH POPE FRANCIS

BY SISTER JEANNINE GRAMICK, SL

You have probably read some stories about my recent meeting with Pope Francis, but I'd like to share some more facts and feelings.

As New Ways Ministry's Frank DeBernardo, Bob Shine, Matt Myers, and I arrived at Casa Santa Marta on October 17, we were ushered into a small reception room. When Pope Francis arrived, I hugged him and told him how happy I was to meet my pen pal. I spoke to him about the work that so many U.S. Catholics are doing to advance LGBTQ+ ministry in the church and about the current projects of New Ways Ministry.

I thanked Pope Francis for welcoming the transgender people who live in Rome to come to the Vatican and for corresponding with some of them. When I thanked Pope Francis for publicly condemning LGBTQ+ criminalization laws, he remarked that many LGBTQ+ people around the world are being put to death and that the Church in many countries is not speaking out against this. I also thanked him for his openness to blessing same-gender unions.

Pope Francis asked about "my story." I told him about meeting a gay man when I was a graduate student and the subsequent assignment for more than 20 years by the School Sisters of Notre Dame to pastoral ministry for LGBTQ+ people. I acknowledged that the Vatican's disapproval was a difficult time in my life, and that I had to relocate to another religious community, the Sisters of Loretto, but that I had received much support, particularly from U.S. women religious. Pope Francis said that we must never give up hope, and offered a quotation from St. Paul: "Hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5).

Meeting Pope Francis was one of the clearest signs to me that hope does not disappoint. Since I was a child, I have been waiting, praying, and hoping that God would send our church a leader like him. I have loved Pope Francis since he was elected in 2013. From all that I read about him, I know he is a man of prayer. We are so blessed to have such a pastor—someone who truly walks in the shoes of the

fisherman—to lead our Church.

Our meeting allowed me to see first-hand many of the qualities that I have observed from afar in the past ten years of his papacy. Pope Francis is humble. I sensed his humility on the day he was elected when he asked the crowd in St. Peter's Square to bless him. He knew the power of the church is in its people, not its hierarchy or institutions. I witnessed his humility again when he was asked to describe himself in the first interview he gave as pope; as he answered, his first words were, "I am a sinner." And I saw that humility in our meeting when, instead of giving a lecture or homily or speak a lot, he wanted mainly to listen, to hear about the work of LGBTQ+ ministry, and about the opposition that we all sometimes face.

Our meeting also confirmed for me that Pope Francis is a person of deep prayer. His remarks frequently centered on prayer. Several times he asked for prayers, an admission of his vulnerability and of his need for support and guidance. Prayer for him is not a somber and serious activity, but a time for joy and laughter.

He encouraged us to maintain a sense of humor in everything we do. When I told him that I thought he was the face of a loving God to so many people, he joked back, "God's face is not this ugly!" He asked us if we knew a prayer attributed to St. Thomas More which, he said, he prays every day. It is a plea to God to provide a sense of good humor as a way to get through life's challenges. When we said we didn't know it, he gave us each a copy of his Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, on the "Call to Holiness in Today's World," which contains the prayer. I now pray it daily. The following is the text of the prayer:

"Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest. Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humour to maintain it. Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil, but rather finds the means

to put things back in their place. Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumbling, sighs and laments, nor excess of stress, because of that obstructing thing called 'I'. Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humour. Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke and to discover in life a bit of joy, and to be able to share it with others."

[*Gaudete e Exsultate*, Section 126, footnote 101]

Pope Francis also gave me a rosary with beautiful pearl beads and a gold medallion of the Virgin and Child. Pope Francis has a special devotion to Our Lady and always ends his notes to me by praying that the Holy Virgin will take care of me. When we posed for a photo with him, he wanted it to be in front of a painting of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, a favorite devotion of his.

I gave him a copy of *A Home for All: A Catholic Call for LGBTQ+ Non-Discrimination* by Frank DeBernardo and Bob Shine. I also gave him a copy of Frank's new book, *New Ways and Next Steps: Developing Catholic LGBTQ+ Ministry*. And then we presented him with two ornaments made by Mary DeBernardo, Frank's sister. Each is a plush, round Christmas ball. One has the New Ways Ministry logo embroidered on it; the other, a rainbow cross. I told him to put them on his Christmas tree and he smiled and nodded.

We know that Pope Francis is concerned about LGBTQ+ people. I believe this concern springs from his firm belief that God loves ALL people—everyone, no exceptions. He believes that no one should be turned away from the church. This concern came out when he said that he gets upset by priests who chastise people during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. That time should be a time of welcome and embrace, not punishment, he said. He emphasized that is why the image on his papal cross is of a shepherd carrying a lost sheep on his shoulders.

When Frank, Bob, Matt, and I chatted after the meeting, we all felt that we did not enter the meeting with the pope alone. We were bringing into the room all of the countless LGBTQ+ people we have met over the decades in our ministries. We also brought the thousands of parents, family members, pastoral ministers, friends and supporters who have worked tirelessly for LGBTQ+ equality for so long. In a special way, I know that Fr. Robert Nugent, the deceased co-founder of New Ways Ministry, was also in the room with us.

This was not a culmination of the ministry we have all been involved in because the ministry still continues. Meeting with Pope Francis was an answer to my prayer that there would be a dialogue between LGBTQ+ people

and the highest leaders of the Catholic Church. In this meeting, as well as in the Synod our church is currently undergoing, Pope Francis has inaugurated that dialogue. It's now up to all of us to continue pursuing and engaging in that dialogue in whatever way we can—and especially, as Pope Francis showed us, through hope, humor, and prayer.

~ Sister Jeannine Gramick, SL, is a Sister of Loretto and an advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights. She is also a co-founder of New Ways Ministry, a ministry of advocacy and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Catholics.



PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

**To email parish staff, please use the following formula:
First Initial + Last Name @stceciliaboston.org*

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Christine Burns, Digital and Print Media Coordinator
Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Carly-Anne Gannon, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
Brett Maguire, Organist
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development
Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
Tanya Rybarczyk, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show
Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer
Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer

Reception

Keith Brinkley, Eli Geruschat, Joe O'Brien, & Corey Ortiz

Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m., & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.
* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 after 4:00 every day of the week. To get this discount, ask a greeter 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, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Building Accessibility

Both the church and Parish Hall Center are accessible by elevator.

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.

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.

Baptism for Infants

Infant baptism is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. For more information, please contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Carly-Anne Gannon.

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 (VIR-TUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, or Erin Young if you have any questions. 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 policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

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.

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.

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. 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.

Please note:

According to online safety guidelines released by the Archdiocese of Boston, we have removed email addresses from our online parish bulletin to avoid the danger of potential phishing scams. If you need a staff member's email address or ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists would be happy to pass along the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online!