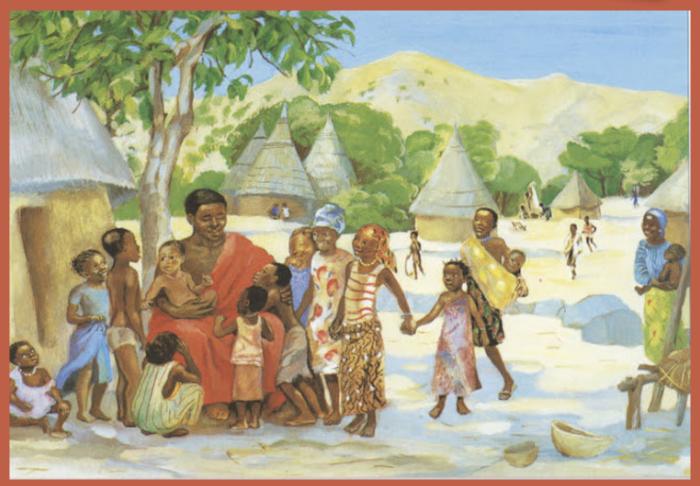
Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H





Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 October 2024

Jesus Welcomes the Children by JESUS MAFA

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

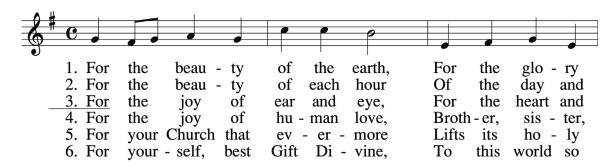
6 October 2024

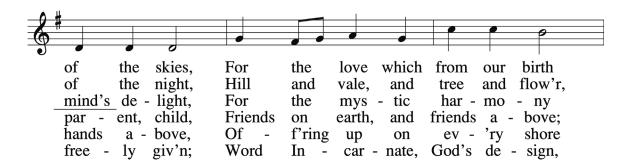
THE TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

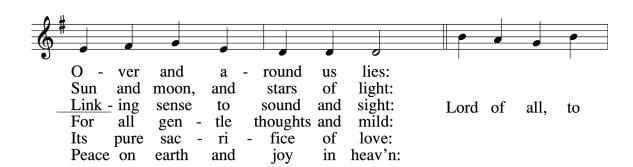
PRELUDE | Adagio Justin Bruegggeman, guest organist Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

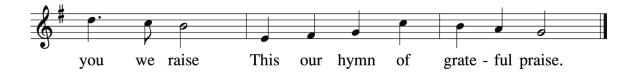
ENTRANCE PROCESSION | For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX









CALL TO WORSHIP

- ▼ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
 All: Amen.
- ♣ The Lord be with you.All: And with your spirit.

GLORIA | Missa Pacem L. Randolph Babin

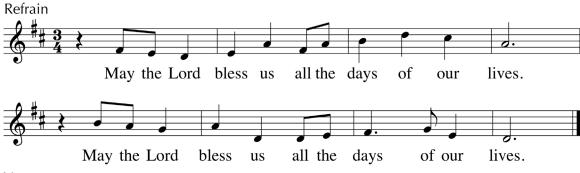




COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Genesis 2: 18-24



Verses

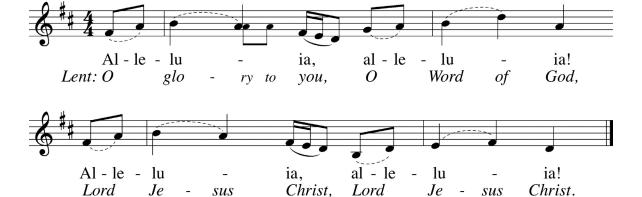
- 1. Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways! By the labor of your hands you shall eat. You will be blessed and prosper.
- 2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive around your table.
- 3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the LORD. May the LORD bless you from Sion.

 May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life!

SECOND READING | Hebrews 2: 9-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Unity Mass

Norah Duncan IV



GOSPEL | Mark 10: 2-16

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 PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

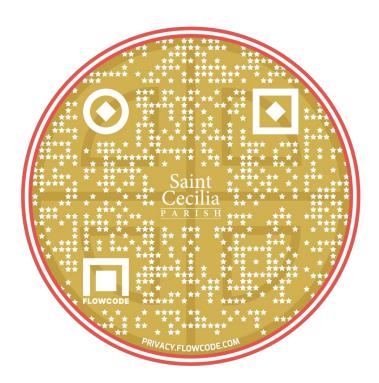
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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:

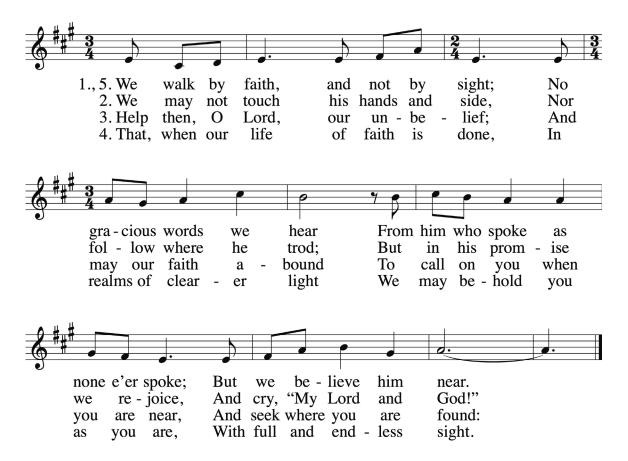
Saint Cecilia Parish 18 Belvidere Street Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts | We Walk By Faith

Marty Haugen



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

➤ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

¥ Lift up your hearts.

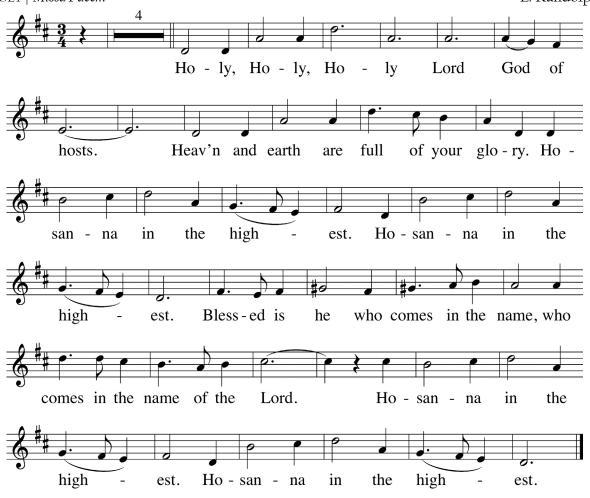
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

▶ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

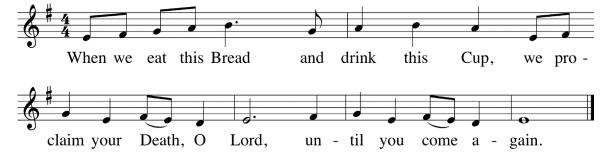
HOLY, HOLY | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin



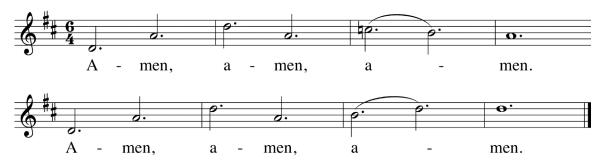
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin



Great Amen | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin

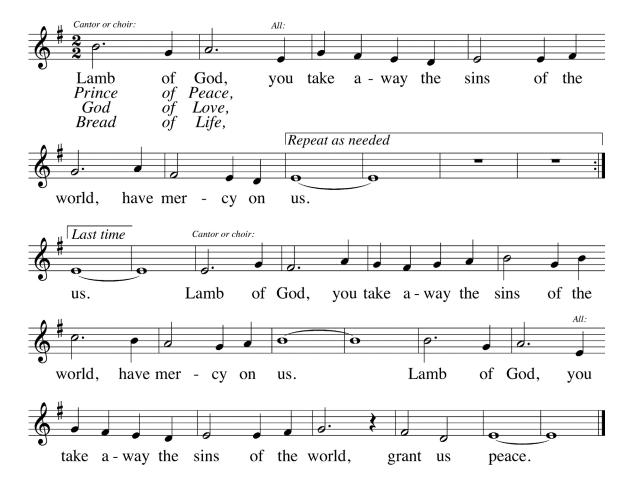


THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LAMB OF GOD | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin



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.

COMMUNION | One Bread, One Body

John B. Foley, SJ



O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thy ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain, That morn shall tearless be.

CONCLUDING RITES

- ♣ The Lord be with you.All: And with your spirit.
- May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit. All: Amen.
- ♥ Go forth, the Mass is ended.All: Thanks be to God.



- 6. And you, most kind and gentle death,
 Waiting to hush our final breath,
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 You lead to heav'n the child of God,
 Where Christ our Lord the way has trod.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia!
- 7. Let all things their Creator bless,
 And worship God in humbleness,
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Oh praise the Father, praise the Son,
 And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



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 Massachusett 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.



FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY 6PM MASS

JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS IN THE

PARISH HALL FOR FELLOWSHIP

An Evening With Journalist and Scholar

Stephanie Saldaña

Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 p.m. Saint Cecilia Church

This presentation will also be livestreamed on the Saint Cecilia YouTube channel.

What happens when the history of a war and its survivors is told not only through books, but through the objects and memories people carry with them?

Join journalist and scholar **Stephanie Saldaña**, who lived in Syria before the war, as she shares her new book *What We Remember Will Be Saved: A Story of Refugees and the Things They Carry*. She will describe her journey across nine countries to meet refugees and learn what they salvaged from the ruins when they escaped. Here, in the narratives of six extraordinary women and men, from Mt. Sinjar to Aleppo to Lesvos, we discover that little things matter a great deal. Saldaña introduces us to a woman who saved her city in a dress, a musician who saved his stories in songs, and a couple who rebuilt their destroyed pharmacy even as the city around them fell apart. Their stories challenge us to reconsider who gets to narrate history and to recognize the power of memory.

Stephanie Saldaña is a journalist and religion scholar from San Antonio, Texas, who has spent much of the last two decades in the Middle East. She is the author of A Country Between and The Bread of Angels, with her latest book, What We Remember Will Be Saved, earning multiple awards, including the 2024 Religion News Association's Award for Excellence in Nonfiction. Her work has appeared in major outlets like The New York Times, Washington Post, and America Magazine.

A Story of Refugees and the Things They Carry

WHAT WE

REMEMBER

WILL

BE SAVED

Stephanie Saldaña

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, October 5 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant Mary Kane, lector

Sunday, October 6 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant Jim Dougherty, lector

Sunday, October 6 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Ron Coyne, celebrant Bobbi Moran, Police Lieutenant Benjamin Jesse, Berklee College of Music Police Department, and Esteban Vanegas, lectors

Sunday, October 6 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Ron Coyne, celebrant Thomas O'Brien, Eileen Maguire, and Chika Offurum, lectors

Sunday, October 6 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant Nikko Mendoza, lector

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 2:18-24 Hebrews 2:9-11 Mark 10:2-16

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Wisdom 7:7-11 Hebrews 4:12-13 Mark 10:17-30

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, October 6 | 8:00 a.m.

John & Angelina Machado, Memorial

Sunday, October 6 | 9:30 a.m.

Richard F. Mooney, 1st Anniversary
Dr. Louis Alosco, Memorial
Nana Elisa Alosco, Memorial
Maria Jose Quiroz, Memorial
Barbara Salamy, 18th Anniversary
Ned Barrett, 3rd Anniversary



PLEASE 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 Peggie Breslin, Joan Dunphy, Tom Franzago, David Kennedy, Jacqueline Lavelle, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, and Fred Tufts.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Michelle Bravo** and **Claire Smith**, both of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

iGive Campaign Update

We are just one week into this year's iGive campaign, and have already enrolled 28 new participants, bringing us halfway to our goal! A big thank you to everyone who enrolled this past week. If you haven't yet enrolled in iGive, please give some thought to joining this week. When you join iGive, you will know that you are helping sustain and grow our ministries and programming. It's quick and easy—just visit

<u>www.stceciliaboston.org/igive</u> to sign up. Your commitment, regardless of amount, will help us remain a beacon of light and hope for so many.

Blessing of the Animals—Sunday, October 6

In commemoration of the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, we will bless animals this Sunday, October 6, at the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies.

Faith and Blue Weekend—Sunday, October 6

This week, we welcome members of the Boston Police Department and the Berklee College Police Department and their furry friends from the K-9 unit for a meet and greet following Sunday's 9:30 liturgy, as part of National Faith and Blue Weekend. This provides the perfect opportunity for folks to meet with officers in the spirit of building bridges and breaking biases. We will also bless the officers' canines as part of the Blessing of the Animals! We will see you there!

Coffee Hospitality—Many Hands Make Light Work!

With the return of children's faith formation classes this past weekend, the addition of new college students in our midst, and the increased rhythm of the fall season, we need some helping hands in the Parish Café on Sunday mornings. Please don't worry about overcommitting yourself—if you can help out once a month

or even just once a year, we'd love you to be a part of our Coffee Hospitality Ministry! There are three shifts: 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and clean-up. Responsibilities include serving food and coffee, cleaning up, and most importantly, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere by smiling and engaging with parishioners. For more information or to sign up, please contact our Director of Facilities and Events, Lisa Pickering, at her parish email.

Help Care For Those in Need

Occasionally we give gift cards to our sisters and brothers in need. We need to replenish our supply of gift cards to Shaw's Supermarket, Star Market, and Market Basket. If you would like to help out in this way, simply purchase a gift card and place it in the collection basket at Mass, give it to a member of the staff, or mail it to the Parish Office. We are very appreciative of your help as we attempt to offer some assistance to our neighbors in need.

Hearing Assistance in Church

The church is equipped with an assitive listening system. Small receivers are available for anyone who may have trouble hearing the sound system. Simply request a receiver from one of our greeters before Mass.

World Day Against the Death Penalty

On Thursday, October 10, we observe the World Day Against the Death Penalty. As Catholics, we believe in the inherent dignity of all people. This is an opportunity to pray and reflect as a global community on our call to work for justice rooted in mercy. Interested in learning more about the impact of the death penalty? Catholic Mobilizing Network offers education and resources about execution and restorative justice:

https://catholicsmobilizing.org/.

Blessings to Our Jewish Sisters and Brothers

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish year. The Day of Atonement begins at sundown on Friday, October 11 and ends at sundown on Saturday, October 12. It is a time for reflection, repentance, and seeking forgiveness. As our Jewish sisters and brothers observe this sacred day, may we join them in prayer for renewal, peace, and reconciliation. *G'mar Chatima Tova* – may they be sealed in the Book of Life!

Saint Cecilia P A R I S H

IN THE BIG PICTURE EVERY PIECE MATTERS



PLEASE SIGN UP FOR Give OUR RECURRING GIVING PROGRAM

itssimple

- SIGN UP ONLINE
- CREATE A PROFILE
- 3 SELECT YOUR GIVING FREQUENCY & AMOUNT

SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO LEARN MORE!



SAINT CECILIA PARISH



The Saint Cecilia Climate Justice group will meet on Sunday, October 6, at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend!

Parish Climate Action Plan

Each month, Saint Cecilia will focus on a different goal from the Laudato Si' Action Platform as part of the effort to create a Parish Climate Action Plan. The goals include: responding to the cry of the Earth and that of the poor; ecological economics; adopting sustainable lifestyles; ecological education; ecological spirituality; and building community resilience and empowerment.

Response to the Cry of the Earth

This goal calls for the protection of our common home for the wellbeing of all, with an equitable approach to addressing the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. Actions include adopting renewable energy, implementing energy efficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and ensuring access to clean water. As with other large buildings in Boston, Saint Cecilia Church is required to reach NetZero emissions by 2050, and the parish acknowledges its responsibility to take action sooner if feasible.

THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

Join the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay's Homelessness Task Force for a public forum, "Increasing Housing Affordability to Reduce Street Homelessness," on October 9 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Rabb Auditorium at the Copley Square Branch of the Boston Public Library. With housing costs continuing to rise nationwide, Massachusetts is facing a particularly severe crisis, with some of the highest real estate and rental prices in the country. This forum will explore how the affordability crisis is affecting street homelessness and discuss potential solutions.

The event will feature a panel discussion moderated by Jenifer McKim of WGBH, providing key insights into how we can come together to tackle this growing issue. The forum is free and open to the public—your presence can make a difference as we work toward a more affordable and compassionate community.



WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Friday, October 18, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.
Fairmont Copley Plaza
138 St. James Avenue, Boston

The annual Spaghetti Dinner gala to benefit the day shelter on Newbury Street will begin with a cocktail reception, followed by dinner.

The keynote speaker will be Kate Walsh, the Commonwealth's Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Over the past four decades, Women's Lunch Place has built a strong suite of programs and services that allow the agency to meet the growing needs of vulnerable women. Just as Women's Lunch Place donors have helped lay the foundation for proactive programming, the day shelter is helping to lay the foundation for their guests to rebuild their lives.

If you would like to join one of the Saint Cecilia tables at the event, please email Mark Lippolt at the Hunger and Homelessness Ministry address. Tickets are \$250 each. The WLP is also looking for folks who would like to purchase full tables or serve as a table captain.

SAINT CECILIA PARISH



ENJOY A LOCAL CONCERT THAT BENEFITS WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE!

Sunday, October 6, 2024 | 7:00–9:00 p.m. New England Conservatory, Williams Hall 290 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Join us for the first concert of Music for Food's 15th season, *Roots and Reflections*, featuring sacred, folk, and contemporary works from Germany, Armenia, and the U.S. Performers include Don Weilerstein (violin), Vivian Weilerstein (piano), Kim Kashkashian (viola), and others. Admission is free with a suggested donation (\$40/adult, \$15/student), and no tickets or RSVPs are required. All proceeds will benefit Women's Lunch Place.



PIE SELLERS NEEDED!

As part of our ongoing relationship with Community Servings, we are looking for parishioners willing to assist with their

annual Pie in the Sky fundraiser. Every Thanksgiving pie sold feeds a Community Servings client suffering from a life-threatening illness for one week. The delicious pies—apple, pecan, and pumpkin—are the perfect dessert for your Thanksgiving table. If you are willing to help sell pies at Saint Cecilia liturgies as well as to your friends and colleagues through emails and social media, please email Mark Lippolt at the Hunger and Homelessness Ministry address.

SAINT CECILIA FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, October 6 at 4:00 p.m. ET | Zoom

The next Far-Flung Flock online coffee hour offers a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and connection. Whether participants attended the recent retreat or not, this interactive gathering provides a chance to reconnect with others and hear how the weekend's events and speakers have impacted them. The session will also feature program highlights and an update on the ongoing service project to assemble care kits for Boston's Health Care for the Homeless Program. Everyone is welcome to join the conversation.

Those who haven't previously registered for a coffee hour are encouraged to sign up for the Far-Flung Flock email list using the following link: [https://bit.ly/45pDVRa]. There is no need to re-register if they've participated in the past. If someone is not receiving notifications, they should contact the Far-Flung Flock Ministry email address to confirm their email address.



RESONANCE OF REMEMBRANCE CONCERT

Saturday, October 19 | 8:00 p.m. Saint Cecilia Parish

The Tutti Music Collective will be presenting its 3rd annual fall concert Resonance of Remembrance with a 40-piece orchestra, 30-voice choir, an Irish tenor and a jazz combo - a little something for everyone! The music will feature the award-winning Mt. Auburn Requiem by parishioner and choir member Rachel Burckardt as well as other works by local composer Patricia Van Ness and Mexican composer Artouro Marquez. The concert is free to parishioners and the Far Flung Flock!



Introducing...the 2023-2024 Saint Cecilia Parish Impact Report

For the first year, we're pleased to share our annual impact report, which summarizes the past year by highlighting the work of our ministries within the walls of our church and beyond!

We invite you to read this report by scanning this QR code. Copies of this impact report are available in the narthex if you'd like to take one home.



VISIT OUR FAMILY FLEX CENTER!

As we gather to celebrate Mass, we are reminded of the importance of community and the shared experience of worship. However, we understand that attending Mass with young children can sometimes be challenging. That's why we encourage you to visit our Family Center, located to the left of the parish café and underneath the staircase on Saint Cecilia Street. Here, parents can watch Mass as their children play, and nursing mothers can enjoy a quieter, more private space. If you have any questions about the Family Center, please contact our Director of Facilities and Events, Lisa Pickering at lpickering@stceciliaboston.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY SEPTEMBER ONLINE COURSES

Effective Preaching: Homily Preparation

October 16 - November 12 | 4-Week Online Course | Registration Required | \$30.00

Gospel of Luke

October 16 - November 5 | 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/sites/crossroads/course-schedule.html#tab-september

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY EVENTS AND WEBINARS

From Polarization to Communion

Presenter: Sam Sawyer, S.J., Editor in Chief,

America Media

Thursday, October 10, 2024 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Hybrid | Corcoran Commons, Heights Room, Chestnut Hill Campus, Boston College | Registration Required | Free of charge

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.html



JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRY!

We are looking for additional singers and instrumentalists to participate in music ministry at the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies, so we invite you to audition and join! Choir rehearsals take place weekly on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the church. If interested, please see our Director of Music, Rob Duff, after Mass or email him at his parish email address.







SAVE THE DATE: HEALTH EQUITY INTERNATIONAL 2024 CELEBRATION

The 2024 Celebration will take place on Wednesday, October 30, at Saint Cecilia Parish. This year's event will explore how HEI's work helps the people we serve find peace, safety, and health. We will also celebrate co-founder Fr. Gerald Osterman for his lifetime of dedication and service to the organization.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets or sponsorships, please visit: www.healthequityintl.org/2024celebration. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the agency at gala@haitihealth.org.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring becoming a baptized Catholic Christian, or if you are a Catholic who has not received the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist, we have just the group for you! Last Tuesday, we held our first RCIA inquiry session of the season. If you think you might be interested but were unable to be with us, it's not too late. We meet in the parish hall on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 and welcome anyone who is interested. Perhaps this is the right time to begin your journey! *Questions?* Please contact Pastoral Director of Operations, Nicole Pascarelli-O'Brien, at her parish email address.

JOIN OUR WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group holds two online gatherings each week on Zoom. They meet on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. to share ways faith informs and enriches the second half of life. They're not a book club, but their conversations are often informed by shared spiritual reading. Their current book is *When the Trees Say Nothing: Writings on Nature*, a collection of Thomas Merton's nature writings edited by Kathleen Deignan. To request information about meetings or to be added to the Wisdom mailing list, please email the ministry at their parish email address.

SAINT CECILIA PARISH



To hope and act with creation.

That theme for this year's Season of Creation is shining forth in the diversity of activities that continue to take place around the globe: from a youth-led interfaith conference on climate change in Uganda, to activities in Ecuador connected to the International Eucharistic Congress. It is so inspiring.

While knowing how to act with creation can be clear for some, for others knowing the right thing for them to do can be fuzzy.

How many of us get paralyzed by the uncertainty of the best way to act in the midst of the global climate crisis?

As we continue our virtual forest therapy walk this Season of Creation, our invitation this week will be one of listening in the silence of creation, and to see what unexpected message we might hear.

My own pathway to my decadeslong work with the Laudato Si' Movement emerged from such silence.

It was Lent 2015. I worked in campus ministry at Barry University, a small Catholic institution in Miami. I had asked my student faith leaders and those preparing to be received into the Catholic Church that Easter to reflect on how they were going to live out the Lenten season.

I had purchased this clever booklet for my students that asked pointed questions like "What am I doing for Lent this year?" with purple lines to jot their answers. It reminded me of workbooks I used to do in elementary school where I'd print words with big penciled letters.

I decided to join my students in reflecting on what my Lent would look like. One afternoon I sat on my black meditation cushion at the base of the bed, with the white booklet on my lap. I closed my eyes as I reflected on my current state of being and how God might be calling me into renewal now.

Different possibilities floated through my mind: attending

Mass more often, giving up sweets, waking up early to meditate.

As the thoughts continued to settle, one strong call bubbled to the surface, unexpectedly. It said, quite pointedly I might add, "Go back out there into your activism."

Since college, I had been an activist for homeless and environmental issues for almost two decades. But my life then took a shift inward.

Beginning in 2002, I plunged myself into intensive retreats, spiritual formation and discerning religious life, which culminated in three years in a Cistercian monastery. After I left the monastery in 2011, I began working at Barry, supporting the campus ministry and community service departments.

By the time I was doing this Lenten exercise with my students in 2015, I had not returned to activism. I was content with the calmer rhythms of campus ministry.

The clarion call I received from the silence to "get back out there" was not the answer I had anticipated. I had thought God wanted me to pray more. Which apparently God did, but praying with my actions and words.

With the call so clear, later that day I searched online for this recently launched Catholic climate organization that I had read about in *National Catholic Reporter*. After a quick Google search, I found the website of the newly formed Global Catholic Climate Movement. I sent an email responding to their call for volunteers. After a brief interview with the founder Tomás Insua, I found myself a few weeks later coordinating the first Lenten Fast for Climate Justice.

Fast forward almost 10 years and I'm still here, now serving as associate director of this incredible global movement — though now with a new name, Laudato Si' Movement — engaging thousands of Catholic individuals and institutions in upward of 150 countries.

This was not the journey I had expected, but one I am grateful that emerged from the silence.

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

The invitation to silence

How is our Creator calling you to act today?

What might our Creator say to you in the silence?

This week's invitation for our nature therapy walk is called "Sit Spot." Often when we try to listen inward, there are louder voices nudging us to review our to-do lists or plan tonight's dinner.

As Pope Francis reminds us in his encyclical Laudato Si', "Nature is filled with words of love, but how can we listen to them amid constant noise, and interminable and nervewracking distractions?"

This is where nature can be a huge support to help us connect to the silence both within and around us by inviting us to connect with the natural rhythms and beauty of creation.

This fourth invitation is simple: Just wander out somewhere outside, let your body find a place to sit and just sit there.

Give yourself permission to do nothing.

Once your mind has settled a little, gently drop the question in your heart, "Creator, how are you calling me to act with creation?"

Perhaps you want to engage in conversation with Brother Tree or Sister Flower. Allow yourself to simply relax. Then notice what emerges. And then do what you can to act.

If you are unable to go outside, you can do this by gazing outside a nearby window. Or you can even watch a YouTube video of nature landscapes, such as this forest therapy video.

The key is to intentionally allow yourself to relax into the sounds and rhythm of nature, without any particular agenda, and once settled gently pose the question of where you are called to act.

If you don't hear anything, that's OK, too. Just notice what it feels like to simply sit, with permission to do nothing. There can be a message in that as well.

From listening to action

If you get a prompt to act, then the invitation is to take some kind of action, however small in that direction.

Many years ago, I heard St. Joseph Sr. Helen Prejean speak at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress. In a crowded hall, she described her unexpected journey of becoming an advocate against the death penalty after someone asked her to write to an inmate at the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

I can still remember sitting there 20 years ago, hanging on her every word, with my notebook on my lap, my pen poised to write.

What I remember most is how she said that if you have the urge to act for justice, you should act immediately. Too often, we aren't sure what is the right thing to do. But instead of getting paralyzed into inaction, we should trust that taking a step toward justice, however small, will be enough.

For Sister Helen, it was to write a letter. For me, it was to look up a website.

So this week, consider praying with creation in the silence. Allow yourself to relax in, and with, creation and then to listen.

Just as the 2015 Lenten season is the season that has changed my trajectory for the past decade, could the 2024 Season of Creation be the season where you heard in the silence of your prayer your own call to act in a new way?

Don't just stand there. Listen, and then act. The world is waiting.

~ Christina Leaño serves as the associate director of the Laudato Si' Movement, a global movement of individuals and organizations inspiring and mobilizing the Catholic community for climate and ecological justice in collaboration with all people of goodwill. She also is a retreat leader, meditation teacher and student of contemplative practice for more than 25 years.





BOSTON HEALTH CARE for the HOMELESS PROGRAM

BHCHP'S ANNUAL EMERGING LEADERS FALL SOIRÉE

Thursday, October 24 | 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Hotel Commonwealth - 500 Commonwealth Ave., Boston Tickets: \$150

Join Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program's Emerging Leaders Board and other young professionals from the Boston area and beyond for a festive evening in recognition of the extraordinary contributions made by corporations, community organizations, and young professionals to improve the lives of our community's most vulnerable and resilient neighbors. We hope you can join us in-person for this event to recognize our community and support our programs! Register at:

https://www.bhchp.org/events/elbsoiree24/.

RETURNING CITIZENS MINISTRY: LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Previously known as our Prison and After Ministry, the Saint Cecilia Returning Citizens group meets every other Monday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. to provide a safe, welcoming space for men transitioning back into society following prison or jail. Each meeting consists of an opportunity to discuss challenges (and wins!) and gain support, followed by a shared meal. In particular, we welcome individuals from Coolidge House (the federal release center on Huntington Avenue) and Brooke House (the state release center in the Fenway). We are looking for more men to join us, so, if you know anyone who could benefit from this group, please personally invite them to join. You can refer any questions to the Returning Citizens Ministry email address.



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

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Joe Ebbert, Director of Emerging Adult Ministries
Carly-Anne Gannon, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

Michael Sennett, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist Brett Maguire, Parish Organist Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

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

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.

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.

Building Accessibility

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

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.

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.

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 Faith Formation, contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Carly-Anne Gannon, at her parish email.

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 provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, Kathy Sanders, MD, 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)

This 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 arround 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!