

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



## Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 October 2024

St. Francis Of Assisi by Catherine Nolin

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

20 OCTOBER 2024

## THE TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Introduction to Chorale No. 1  
Brett Maguire, *organist*

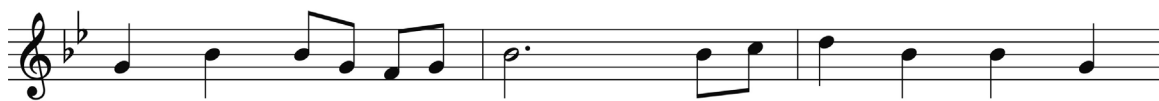
César Franck  
(1822-1890)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | The Reign of God

MCKEE



1. The reign of God, like farm - er's field, Bears  
2. The reign of God can - not be found In  
3. The reign of God is like a pearl On  
4. Though hid - den now, the reign of God May,  
5. Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God From  
6. The reign of God is come in Christ; The



weeds a - long with wheat; The good and bad are  
far - off, for - eign land Till in fa - mil - iar  
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that  
yet un - no - ticed, grow; From deep with - in it  
ti - ny seed will spread, Till birds of ev - 'ry  
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined Till har - vest is com - plete.  
face and place We find it close at hand.  
pre - cious pearl, Go out and buy that field.  
ris - es up, Like yeast in swell - ing dough.  
feath - er come To nest, and there be fed.  
kin - dling hearts, The reign of God is here!

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



Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! Glo - ry to God in the high - est,  
and on earth peace to peo - ple of good will.

Verse 1



1. We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we  
glo - ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry,  
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther. D.C.

Verse 2



2. Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a-way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you

take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our

prayer; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us. D.C.

**Verse 3**

3. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the

Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

A - men, a - men. D.C.

COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 53: 10-11



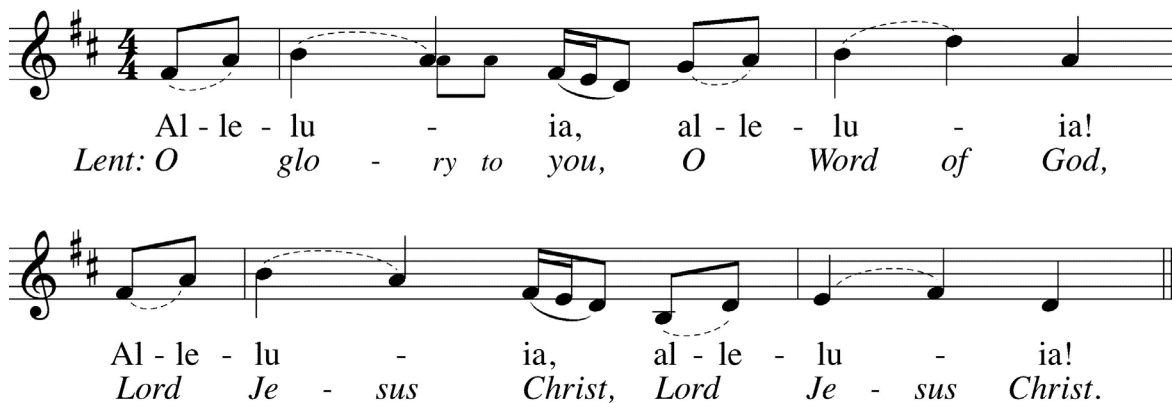


1. The word of the Lord is faithful, and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.
2. Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. He is our help and our shield.  
May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope to you, O Lord.

## SECOND READING | Hebrews 4: 14-16

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Unity Mass

Norah Duncan IV



## GOSPEL | Mark 10: 35-45

## 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!

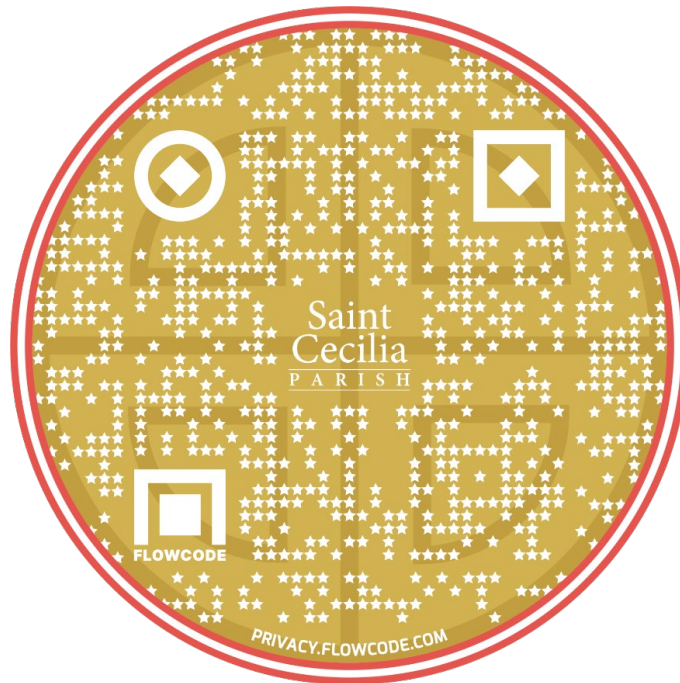
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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](http://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 | Be Thou My Vision

SLANE



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;  
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's sun!



Thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
Thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be,  
Thou and thou on - ly first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
Thou in me dwell - ing and I one with thee.  
High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.  
Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## 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*

L. 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.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | *Missa Pacem*

L. Randolph Babin

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro -  
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

GREAT AMEN | *Missa Pacem*

L. Randolph Babin

A - men, a - men, a - men.  
A - men, a - men, a - men.



## 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

*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.

COMMUNION | We Remember

Marty Haugen



We re - mem - ber how you loved us to your death,  
 and still we cel - e - brate, for you are with us here;  
 and we be - lieve that we will see you when you come  
 in your glo - ry, Lord. We re - mem - ber, we  
 cel - e - brate, we be - lieve.

Verses-Set A

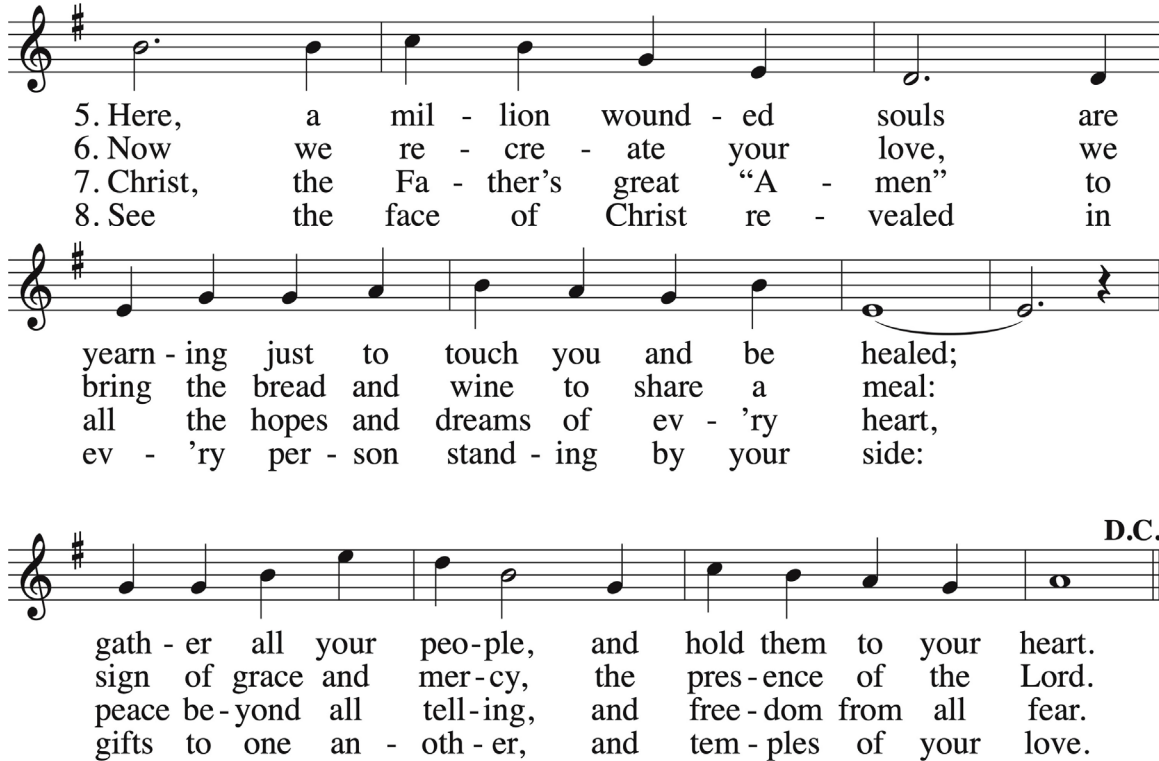


1. When we eat this bread, when we drink this cup,  
 2. Je - sus, bread of life, bro - ken for the world,  
 3. Je - sus, cup of joy, God's own life poured out,  
 4. Come and share this feast, life for all the world,

D.C.

we pro - claim your death un - til you come in glo - ry.  
 praise to you who comes to feed your hun - gry peo - ple.  
 in this meal you give your - self for our re - demp - tion.  
 here we join to cel - e - brate God's new cre - a - tion.

Verses-Set B



5. Here, a mil - lion wound - ed souls are  
 6. Now we re - cre - ate your love, we  
 7. Christ, the Fa - ther's great "A - men" to  
 8. See the face of Christ re - vealed in

yearn - ing just to touch you and be healed;  
 bring the bread and wine to share a meal:  
 all the hopes and dreams of ev - 'ry heart,  
 ev - 'ry per - son stand - ing by your side:

gath - er all your peo - ple, and hold them to your heart.  
 sign of grace and mer - cy, the pres - ence of the Lord.  
 peace be - yond all tell - ing, and free - dom from all fear.  
 gifts to one an - oth - er, and tem - ples of your love.

D.C.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | *Vere Languores Nostros*

Tómas Luis de Victoria  
 (c. 1548-1611)

*Vere languores nostros ipse tulit,  
 et dolore nostros ipse portavit;  
 Cujus livore sanati sumus.  
 Dulce lignum, dulces clavos,  
 dulcia ferens pondera,  
 quae sola fuisti digna  
 sustinere Regem coelorum et Dominum.*

Truly he himself bore our griefs,  
 and he himself carried our sorrows;  
 by his wounds we are healed.  
 Sweet cross, sweet nails,  
 sweetly bearing the weight,  
 you alone were worthy  
 to bear the King of heaven and the Lord.

Isaiah 53: 4-5

## 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.




Lead, kind - ly Light, a - mid the gloom of eve - ning.

Lord, lead me on! Lord, lead me on!

On through the night! On to your ra-diance!

Lead, kind - ly Light! Lead, kind - ly Light!

## Verses



1. The night is dark, and I am far from home,  
 2. Not al - ways thus, I sel - dom looked for you,  
 3. So long your pow'r has blest me on my way,

di - rect my feet; I do not ask to see  
 I loved to choose and seek my path a - lone.  
 and still it leads, past hill and storm and night!

the dis - tant scene; on step e - nough for me.  
 In spite of fear, my pride con-trolled my will,  
 And with the morn, those an - gel fac - es smile,

**D.C.**  
 So lead me on - ward, Lord, and hear my plea.  
 re - mem-ber not my past, but lead me still.  
 which I have loved long since, and lost a - while.

*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](mailto: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.

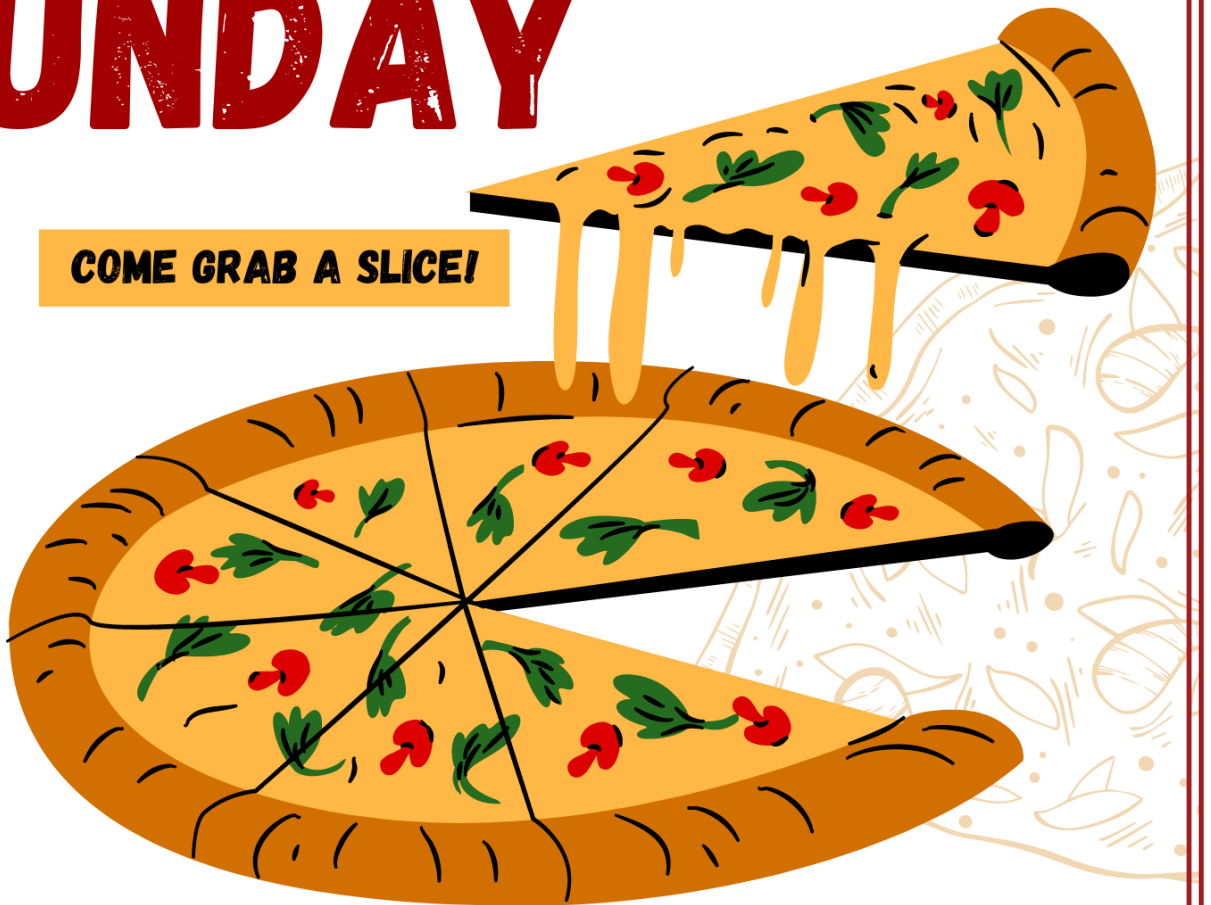
Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

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.

# **PIZZA SUNDAY**

**OCT 20  
2024**

**COME GRAB A SLICE!**



**FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY 6PM MASS**

**JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS IN THE  
PARISH HALL FOR FELLOWSHIP**

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, October 19 | 5:00 p.m.**

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant  
Rosaria Salerno, lector

**Sunday, October 20 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant  
Tom Skorupa, lector

**Sunday, October 20 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Nikko Mendoza, Virgen Palermo, and Karen Vachon, lectors

**Sunday, October 20 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Jen Kowieski, Bobbi Moran, and Laura Melle, lectors

**Sunday, October 20 | 6:00 p.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Gina Filloramo, lector

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Saturday, October 19 | 5:00 p.m.**

Catherine Aylward, *Memorial*  
Mary Elizabeth Dixon, *1st Anniversary*

**Sunday, October 20 | 9:30 a.m.**

Jack Sansolo, *Memorial*  
Jack Connors Jr., *Memorial*  
John D. Osmond III, *Memorial*  
William E. Murphy Jr., *Memorial*  
Thomas Spellman, *Memorial*

**Sunday, October 20 | 11:30 a.m.**

James Ciampa, *Anniversary*  
Pauline Baron, *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

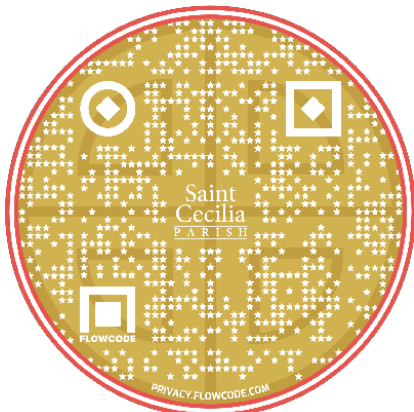
## TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 53:10-11  
Hebrews 4:14-16  
Mark 10:35-45

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Hebrews 5:1-6  
Mark 10:46-52

PLEASE SCAN THIS CODE  
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!

## This Weekend's Flowers

The flowers in front of the altar are  
a gift of Lisa Baron for the Glory of  
God and in loving memory of her  
mother, Pauline Baron.



# 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](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

## iGIVE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

This year's iGive campaign is nearing its end, and we have enrolled 57 new participants! 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 last week of the campaign - it's never too late! 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 [www.stceciliaboston.org/igive](http://www.stceciliaboston.org/igive) to sign up. Your commitment, regardless of amount, will help us remain a beacon of light and hope for so many.



## Second Collection This Week

Nest week's second collection supports Catholic World Missions. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelization programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. You can donate here: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/world-mission-sunday-2024>.

## Respect Life Month

Each October, the Church in the United States observes Respect Life Month—a time to remember that all people are created in the image of God and are worthy of respect. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. This month, the Church invites us to reflect deeply on the dignity of every human life and on the

second half of the Great Commandment of Jesus to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

## Coffee Hospitality—Many Hands Make Light Work!

With the return of children's faith formation classes, 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 over-committing 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.

## Come to the Water! — A Parish Retreat at Gloucester

*"Come away with me to a quiet place and get some rest."* —Mark 6:31

We're delighted to announce an upcoming weekend parish retreat at the beautiful Gonzaga/Eastern Point Retreat House—a place of rare spiritual beauty located on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean in Gloucester, Massachusetts. This retreat will include time for rest, renewal, silent prayer, presentations, and worship.

**WHEN:** Friday, November 15 to Sunday, November 17

**COST:** \$275, which includes all meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch. Each retreatant will have a single, recently renovated room with an ensuite bathroom.

Attendance is limited to 35 people, so reserve your space as soon as possible. If you would like to take part in this retreat but the cost of attendance presents a financial hardship, please send a confidential email to Scott MacDonald and the parish will help cover the cost.

For more information about this parish retreat or to reserve a spot, please contact Scott MacDonald at his parish email address.

Saint Cecilia  
P A R I S H

# IN THE **BIG PICTURE** EVERY **PIECE** MATTERS



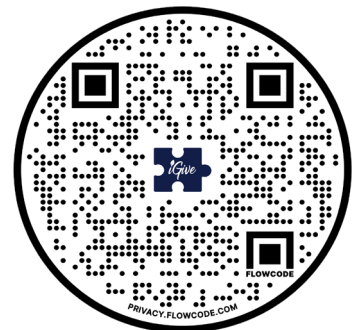
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# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

## PINE STREET INN & SAINT CECILIA PARISH THANKSGIVING MEAL DRIVE

Saint Cecilia Parish and Pine Street Inn are partnering again to provide 200 meal kit bags of shelf-stable foods for the housing tenants to have a nice Thanksgiving meal in their home with family and friends. We invite Saint Cecilia parishioners to complete a meal kit bag with the food items listed below.

Parishioners can pick up their meal kit bag in the church narthex beginning on **Sunday, November 3** after each Mass (8:00, 9:30, 11:30, and 6:00) or can pick up a bag at the reception desk.

On **Sunday, November 24**, a Pine Street Inn van 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.

### Items for the tenant Thanksgiving meal kit bags:

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Boxed Stuffing Mix             | 5. Canned Corn or Green Beans (pop-top lid) |
| 2. Instant Mashed Potatoes Packet | 6. Brownie Mix                              |
| 3. Dried Gravy Mix Packets        | 7. Salt and Pepper (shakers)                |
| 4. Canned Cranberry Sauce         | 8. Handheld Can Opener                      |

As an alternative to providing a meal kit bag, please consider donating a \$25.00 gift card to a large grocery store (e.g., Shaw's, Star Market, or Market Basket).

Gift cards can be dropped off on the 24th or mailed 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 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 & Homelessness email address.

## 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! We have already held our first RCIA inquiry session of the season, but 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 e-mail address.



## 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 16TH ANNUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE CONVOCATION

**Hope for our Common Home: Catholics Care for Creation**

**Saturday, October 26 | 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Zoom**

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis urges us to listen to the cries of the poor, and cries of the earth. We are called to protect life and preserve all that sustains life on earth. How do we respond? In this Webinar we engage with Social Justice Leaders to contemplate the moral imperatives of caring for God's creation. Please join us as we discover opportunities to work together in caring for creation. Register at: <https://bit.ly/3NfHPnU>.



## Health Equity International 2024 Celebration

HEI's Annual Celebration will be held on Wednesday, October 30th, at St. Cecilia Parish Hall in Boston, MA.

## 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](http://www.healthequityintl.org/2024celebration). If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the agency at [gala@haitihealth.org](mailto:gala@haitihealth.org).



## POPE FRANCIS ON PATHS TO GOD 'A PROJECT THAT INCLUDES EVERYONE'

BY THOMAS BANCHOFF

During his recent visit to Singapore, Pope Francis went further than any of his predecessors in recognizing the value of non-Christian traditions. "All religions are paths to God," Francis told a group of young people. "There is only one God, and religions are like languages, paths to reach God. Some Sikh, some Muslim, some Hindu, some Christian."

Some prominent conservatives have reacted with scorn. Writing in *First Things*, archbishop emeritus of Philadelphia Charles Chaput reminded the pope that "Christians hold that Jesus alone is the path to God." On X, former bishop Joseph Strickland went a step further: "Please pray for Pope Francis to clearly state that Jesus Christ is the only Way."

It might be tempting for Francis's defenders to dismiss his remarks as off-script and therefore not authoritative. That would be a mistake. The pope's affirmation of non-Christian religions, while generous, is not contrary to official Catholic teaching. And it is not a slip of the tongue. Since the start of his pontificate Francis has approached other traditions with a remarkable spirit of openness and humility, all the while insisting on Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

The foundations for Francis's approach—affirmation of the centrality of Christ *and* of the value of other religious traditions—were laid at the Second Vatican Council. "The Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions," states the December 1965 declaration *Nostra aetate*. "She regards with sincere reverence those ways of conduct and of life, those precepts and teachings which, though differing in many aspects from the ones she holds and sets forth, nonetheless often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men." How the Triune God is present in non-Christian traditions has never been specified in Church teaching. As the culminating document of Vatican II, *Gaudium et spes*, put it, "The Holy Spirit in a manner known only to God offers to every man the possibility of being associated with this paschal mystery."

This historic renunciation of the dominant understanding of the Catholic precept, *extra ecclesiam nulla salus*—

no salvation outside the institutional Church—marked a new beginning for interfaith dialogue. Pope John Paul II carried forth the generous interfaith spirit of Vatican II, most spectacularly with a gathering of religious leaders for the World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi in October 1986. While underscoring his identity as "a believer in Jesus Christ, and, in the Catholic Church, the first witness of faith in him" in Assisi, he saw the gathering as "an anticipation of what God would like the developing history of humanity to be: a fraternal journey in which we accompany one another towards the transcendent goal which he sets for us."

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As the cardinal overseeing doctrine under John Paul and later as Pope Benedict XVI, Joseph Ratzinger took a somewhat more restrictive view of non-Christian traditions. His 2000 declaration *Dominus Iesus* acknowledged that "the followers of other religions can receive divine grace," but insisted that, compared with Christians, "*objectively speaking* they are in a gravely deficient situation." Calling other traditions "gravely deficient" was not generous, but it was also no repudiation of *Nostra aetate*. Ratzinger acknowledged that what he called the "mystery of Christ" was at work through other traditions. He just foregrounded the Catholic belief that that work was most manifest in Christianity and the Catholic Church in particular. Neither John Paul II nor Francis would disagree. In the foundational text of his papacy, the 2013 Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Francis emphasized, citing John Paul, that "there can be no true evangelization without the explicit proclamation of Jesus as Lord."

What is new with Francis is a more humble and generous tone, a willingness to acknowledge more fully the presence of God in other traditions—and even in the wider secular culture. In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Francis recognized the efficacy of other traditions' religious rituals. "God's working in them," he noted, "tends to produce signs and rites, sacred expressions which in turn bring others to a communitarian experience of journeying towards God." In the same document Francis affirmed "those who do not

consider themselves part of any religious tradition, yet sincerely seek the truth, goodness and beauty which we believe have their highest expression and source in God.” The pope included these ideas in his 2020 encyclical *Fratelli tutti*. While emphasizing that for Christians “the wellspring of human dignity and fraternity is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” he acknowledged that “others drink from other sources.”

Perhaps Francis’s single most notable embrace of other religious traditions as paths to God was the Declaration on Human Fraternity that he signed in 2019 with Grand Imam Ahmed El-Tayeb of al-Azhar, the preeminent institution of the Sunni Muslim world. Echoing a famous verse from the Qur’an, the document states that “the pluralism and the diversity of religions, colour, sex, race and language are willed by God in His wisdom.” The idea that religious pluralism is not just a reality but a positive good marked a step forward along the path lit by Vatican II, one denounced by some conservatives at the time. But it, too, was well within the *Nostra aetate* framework. To acknowledge the diversity of faith traditions as an ever-present characteristic of God’s creation and a potential source of growth and positive transformation is not to deny the centrality of Jesus in the Christian tradition. It is only to affirm, in a new way, the depth and mystery of God’s presence in our world.

Francis’s humble and generous approach to interreligious dialogue—most vivid in his recognition of other traditions as paths to God—is not oriented only to Truth. For Francis, dialogue is ultimately a practice, a way to advance God’s kingdom of justice and peace. Since his tenure as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Francis has emphasized the importance of *encounter*, of engaging people across difference in pursuit of common ground. A “culture of encounter”, he writes in *Fratelli tutti*, “means that we, as a people, should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone.” Given the deep divisions within and across our societies, advancing a culture of encounter is a both a Gospel imperative and a practical one. Francis’s humble and generous approach to interreligious dialogue can help us along that path.

~ Thomas Banchoff is director of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University.

## 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 email address.







## BOSTON HEALTH CARE *for* the HOMELESS PROGRAM

### BHCHP'S ANNUAL EMERGING LEADERS FALL SOIRÉE

**Thursday, October 24 | 6:00 - 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/>.

### 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 contact the ministry at their parish email address.

### SISTERS OF CHARITY-HALIFAX 175<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION

**Sunday, October 27, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.**

On Sunday October 27 at 11:00, Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish of Saint Margaret and Saint Christopher Churches will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sisters of Charity-Halifax who are commemorating their 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Their first mission in Boston was at Saint Patrick Church in Roxbury in 1887 and from there they moved throughout the diocese. Since 1909 they have served at both Saint Margaret and Saint Christopher Churches and in the schools. All are invited to celebrate this wonderful milestone at Saint Margaret Church. Refreshments will be served following the liturgy.

### 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 her parish 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](http://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

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

## 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.

## 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.

## Building Accessibility

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

## 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.

## 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, Erin Young, or Kathy Sanders, MD 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 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 one of our receptionists will be happy to share the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online!