



iGive

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

22 October 2023

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

22 OCTOBER 2023

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Prelude on We Shall Overcome

Adolphus Hailstork
(b. 1941)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Gather #752

CALL TO WORSHIP

GLORIA | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin



Verses

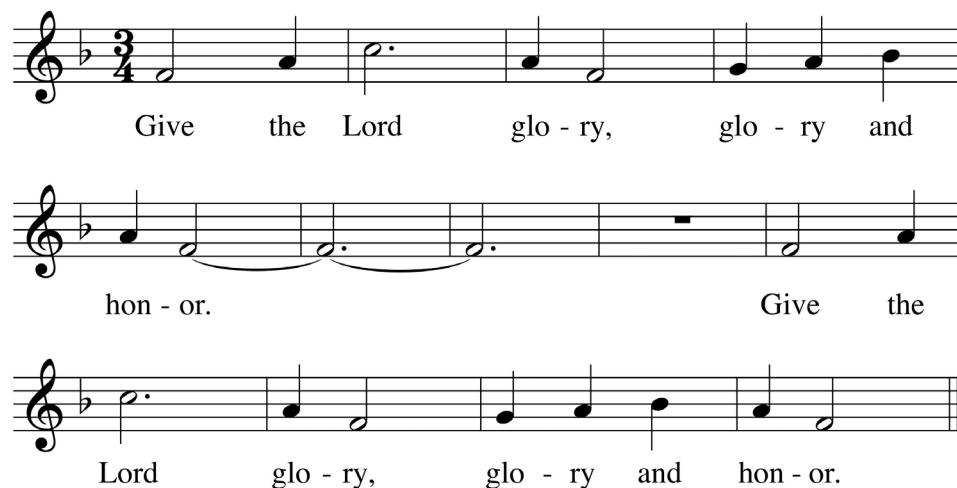
1. We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away 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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 96: Give the Lord Glory and Honor

Marty Haugen

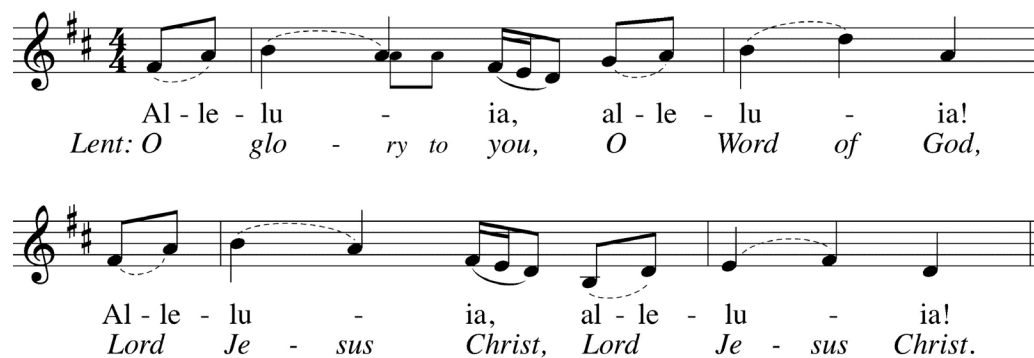


1. O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples.
2. For the Lord is great and highly to be praised, to be feared above all gods.
For the gods of the nations are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens.
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts.
4. Worship the Lord in holy splendor. O tremble before him all the earth.
Say to the nations, "The Lord is king." He will judge the peoples in fairness.

SECOND READING | 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Unity Mass

Norah Duncan IV



GOSPEL | Matthew 22: 15-21

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

Inside Hymnal Cover

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. Our Parish Flow Code has a new home! You'll find the Flow Code on the "Our Community News" page of the bulletin.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | For the Fruits of All Creation

Gather #695

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY | Missa Pacem

J. Randolph Babin

4

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

J. Randolph Babin

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



THE LORD'S PRAYER

LAMB OF GOD | Missa Pacem

J. Randolph Babin

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

All: world, have mer - cy on us.

Repeat as needed

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

Cantor or choir:

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

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

COMMUNION | All Who Hunger

Gather #1010

COMMUNION MEDITATION | Jubilate Deo

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

CONCLUDING RITES

RECESSIONAL | How Great Thou Art

Gather #630

POSTLUDE | Postlude on We Shall Overcome

Adolphus Hailstork

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, October 21 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Catherine Horsley, lector

Sunday, October 22 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Jim Dougherty, lector

Sunday, October 22 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Mike Lake, Rosaria Salerno, and Erin Young, lectors

Sunday, October 22 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Mark Richburg, Jen Kowieski, and Chika Offurum, lectors

Sunday, October 22 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ, celebrant
Megan Altendorf, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, October 22 | 8:00 a.m.

Monica A. Hart, *1st Anniversary*

Sunday, October 22 | 9:30 a.m.

Jesse Sagun, *Memorial*
Marina Mazon, *Memorial*
Richard & Anne Marie Simon, *Memorial*

Thursday, October 26 | 8:00 a.m.

Gail M. Ruberti, *1st Anniversary*
Elena Paez L., *Memorial*

Friday, October 27 | 8:00 a.m.

Roger Dumont, *Memorial*

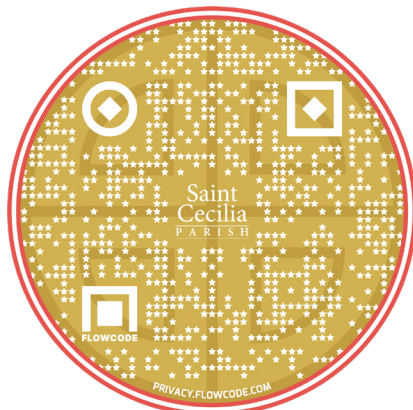
TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Matthew 22:15-21

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Exodus 22:20-26
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
Matthew 22:34-40

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



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

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

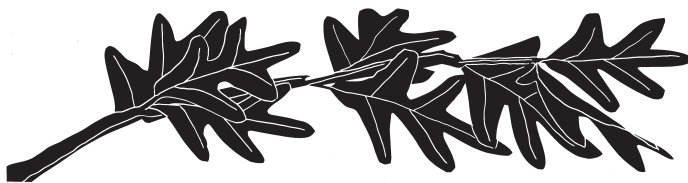
Judy DiGennaro's mother died on Friday, October 13. Pray for the eternal repose of **Shirley Rich**, as well as for the consolation of Judy and her family. The funeral Mass will take place at Saint Cecilia at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 27. The family will receive visitors at the church from 9:00 until the start of the funeral. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Melissa Starzyk, Theodore Mootos, 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.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: **Nancy Sanders** and **Brian Degenhardt** of Kirksville, Missouri, **Cailin Harris** of Boston, the **Higgins-Pipito Family** of Boston, **Emil Wick** and **Steven Mayberry** of Rancho Mirage, California, **Jean and William Horton** of Ipswich, **Rosemary Sullivan** of Lansing, Michigan, **Robert Dolken** of Centennial, Colorado, **Judith and Michael Brahan** of Bel Aire, Kansas, **John and Virginia Sullivan** of Dagsboro, Delaware, and the **Streckenbach Family** of Winchester. If you have not previously registered, please do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.



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.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

All couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries are invited to join Cardinal Seán O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap. on Sunday, October 29th at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. The Mass includes a vow renewal and a special blessing by the Cardinal. Couples can register here: <https://www.evangelizeboston.com/event/annual-wedding-anniversary-mass-2/>. For more information, email emily_elliott@rcab.org.

Special Collection for World Mission Sunday

This week's second collection supports Catholic World Missions. By baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church and share their faith as missionaries. 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. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—a Pontifical Mission Society. To donate, please visit this link: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/world-mission-sunday-2023>

Pumpkin Palooza // Coffee Hospitality

In lieu of our kindergarten through sixth-grade children's faith formation classes, we will be decorating pumpkins in the Parish Hall following the 9:30 liturgy. Classes for Grades 9/10 are as regularly scheduled. Please note: coffee hospitality following the 9:30 Mass will be scaled down and held in the classrooms to accommodate this festive event!

iGive Campaign Update

With just over one week to go in our annual iGive campaign, we are grateful and want to give a big thank you to everyone who enrolled over the past three weeks. Drum-roll please ... we have reached over 90% of our 2023 goal—but still need some more pieces to complete our puzzle. If you haven't yet enrolled, please give some thought to joining this week. When you join, 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 to sign up. Your commitment, regardless of size, will help us remain a beacon of light and hope for so many.

LEARN THE SKILLS TO SAVE A LIFE!

Sunday, October 29 at 2:00 p.m. | Community Room

Saint Cecilia will offer CPR/AED/First Aid/Naloxone [Narcan] training on Sunday, October 29 at 2:00 p.m. The training will include instruction on how to provide CPR, how and when to use an automated external defibrillator (AED), how to deal with choking and rescue breathing for infants, children, and adults, and how to administer Narcan. The training has two parts: an online component (which must be done in advance of the in-person training) and an in-person training at the parish. This training will be conducted by a Red Cross and American Heart Association Certified Instructor. Space is limited for this training, so please contact Lisa Pickering at her parish email as soon as possible to register. Life is too precious to not know these things—you can be the difference between life and death.



CELEBRATE HEALTH EQUITY INTERNATIONAL

Thursday, November 2 at 5:30—7:30 p.m. | Parish Hall

Health Equity International/St. Boniface Hospital will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on Thursday, November 2 in the Saint Cecilia Parish Hall. The program will explore the impact HEI's world-class health services have had in southern Haiti over the past four decades. You will also hear directly from CEO Conor Shapiro (a parishioner), patients, and staff about what HEI/SBH has meant to them, and learn about how supporters like you have helped make all this life-giving work possible. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased online at: <https://healthequityintl.org/2023celebration>.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA

OCTOBER 22 – OCTOBER 29

Sunday, October 22

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom
Family Pumpkin Palooza!

Tuesday, October 24

Wonderfully Made - LGBTQ+R(eligion) Premiere
in the Saint Cecilia Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.,
with a light reception to follow.
RCIA: 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30 a.m. via Zoom
Mass at Saint Cecilia House, 11:00 a.m.
Communion Circle at Mount Pleasant, 3:00 p.m.
LGBTQ+ Affinity Group, 6:30 p.m.
SCYA Women's Group, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, October 26

Young Adults Trivia Night at Saint Cecilia, 6:30 p.m.
Wisdom Group, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Saturday, October 28

Marriage Ministry & Reception, 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 29

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom
Young Families Meeting after the 9:30 Mass,
Family Flex Center



SAINT CECILIA YOUNG ADULTS TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursday, October 26 | 6:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Location: Saint Cecilia Parish Hall

Open to: Young Adults (Aged 18 - 40)

Come join us for dinner and trivia with *Games with James*, as we compete for prizes and bragging rights! We'll form teams on the night, so don't be concerned if you don't know anyone yet! Trivia will start at 6:45 p.m. Please RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/3Q0C8eO>



The Greater Boston LGBTQIA Catholic Collective
invite you to the Boston Premiere
of the film

Wonderfully Made LGBTQ+R(eligion)

Directed by Yuval David
Produced by Mark McDermott

Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30 PM
St. Cecilia Church
18 Belvidere St.
Boston, MA 02115

Q&A with the creatives and advocates following the screening

Light reception immediately follows.

For more information email lgbtqministry@stanthonyshrine.org

Wonderfully Made - LGBTQ+R(eligion) is a feature-length documentary striking at the root of anti-LGBTQ attitudes by exploring the challenges and aspirations of LGBTQ+ Catholics. The film focuses on the Catholic Church because it is one of the largest religious organizations and its anti-LGBTQ+ stance is known and growing more hardline. It features interviews with leading advocates rarely seen all together, including clergy, organizational leaders and activists. The narrative of the film is shaped by the process of a fine art project creating unprecedented, photographic iconography depicting Jesus as a member/ally of the LGBTQ+ community, represented by multiple LGBTQ+ models.

[#WonderfullyMadeMovie](#) [#LGBTQreligion](#) [#LGBTQplusReligion](#)

www.wonderfullymadefilm.com



Scan me for tickets!



@WonderfullyMadeLGBTQreligion



@Wonderful_Made_



@WonderfullyMadeFilm

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

BE THE **PIECE** THAT BRINGS US **TOGETHER**



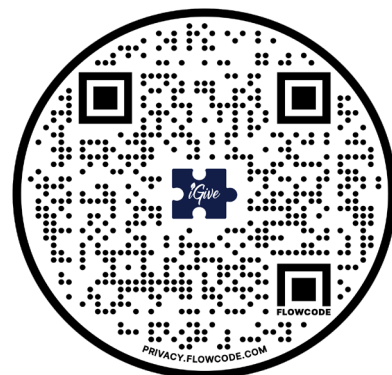
PLEASE SIGN UP FOR *iGive*
OUR RECURRING GIVING
PROGRAM

it's simple

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



SCAN THIS QR
CODE WITH YOUR
SMARTPHONE TO
LEARN MORE!



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!

CALLING ALL HOOPSTERS!

We are exploring if there is interest in participating in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball league this season. Girls and boys in grades 3-8 are eligible to play. This notice is to garner interest and does not represent a commitment. For more information, please contact Dan Hart at dhart@hartdevllc.com or at 671-480-4175. information.

**PARKING IN
SOUTHIE:
HARD.**

**HELPING YOUR
COMMUNITY:
EASY.**



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, please email Mark Lippolt at the Hunger and Homelessness Ministry email. Thank you so much for your help!

HOLY HOUR AT SAINT CECILIA

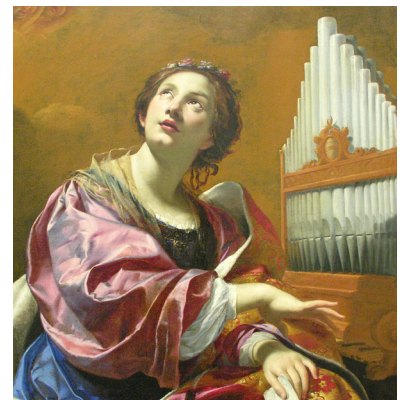
Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

"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.*

SAVE THE DATE: SAINT CECILIA CONCERT

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

Mark your calendars! 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!





ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY & MINISTRY

CAMPUS EVENTS/WEBINARS

Black Theology's Passion: Commensurate with the Wounds of the Oppressed

Presenters: Professor LaReine-Marie Mosely, SND, Associate Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology and the Miller Chair in Human Dignity, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas
Thursday, October 26 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Webinar | Registration Required | Free

PYNE MEMORIAL LECTURE ON MINISTRY WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Disabling Discernment: Baptism and Christian Ministry

Presenters: Professor Sarah Jean Barton, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy and Theological Ethics, Duke University Divinity School, Durham, NC
Thursday, November 2 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Hybrid | Theology and Ministry Library, Auditorium - Room 113, STM Brighton Campus, 117 Lake Street | 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>

BOISI CENTER FOR RELIGION AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

Welcoming the Stranger: Faith-based Migration Work in Boston

Presenter: Debbie Gotbetter, Jewish Family Services of MetroWest, and Ed Marakovitz, Paulist Center's Immigration Advocacy Group, discussion moderated by Owen Fletcher, Boston College (2025)
Tuesday, October 17 | Luncheon, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. | 24 Quincy Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

My Time with 'The Providential Man': Observations on John McElroy, S.J., Founder of Boston College

Wednesday, November 1 | Luncheon, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. | 24 Quincy Road, Chestnut Hill, MA
Registration requested | Free

For further details and to register: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/centers/boisi-center/events.html>

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

The Book of Psalms: Poetic Beauty and Theological Value

Presenters: Nate DesRosiers, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Religious Studies & Theology, Religious Studies & Theology Department Chair, Stonehill College
Monday, October 30 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom Presentation

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





THE OFT-MISSED CATHOLICISM OF JIMMY BUFFETT'S MUSIC

BY NICOLE M. PERONE

Bulletin Editor's Note: This article was published on September 8, 2023.

In the wake of celebrity death, people become inherently curious about the person beyond their most public contributions—and one of the most pressing questions becomes their faith. Were they religious? Did they believe in an afterlife? Essentially, what did they think was going to happen to them when this moment arrived?

Last weekend, that conversation began anew as music fans across genres mourned the death of famed beach-bum bard Jimmy Buffett. It felt almost too providential that Buffett—who made it feel like summer all year round—passed on to eternal life on Labor Day weekend, heralded in the United States as the official end of summer.

It played at something deeper in all of us than just the death of a fun-time-generating musician, which led to the bigger questions. Why do so many resonate with the music of Jimmy Buffett—and is there something deeper at play in his songs?

Many outlets were fascinated to find that Buffett was raised Roman Catholic in the South. (Although astute listeners would have heard him say, "I was supposed to have been a Jesuit priest" in "We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us About," and wouldn't be that surprised!) Is that surprise correlated to a feeling that Buffett's brand—a lifestyle of board shorts, frozen cocktails, and toes in the sand—could not connect with a sense of the divine?

Perhaps there is more to the story than a pair of sunglasses and sandy toes defining Buffett's mentality. Was the world Buffett's music crafted akin to the kingdom of God?

The truth is, many people find that type of bliss-seeking escapism to be incredibly spiritual. (And certainly, this author finds being by the water to be profoundly sacramental!) Buffett's presentation was of serenity as a spiritual pursuit, through simple avenues: a boat at sea; a lost shaker of salt;

or a ground beef patty layered with lettuce, tomato and Heinz ketchup.

In our capitalist society and experience of adulthood, driven by how much we can produce and the glorification of busyness, Buffett's music challenges us to slow down, to set aside productivity in exchange for rest and renewal, and to see the beauty in the seemingly ordinary. His storytelling crafted a universe in which that slower pace becomes like a retreat, where turning off the noise and intensity of life allows for the voice of peace to be heard.

That certainly resonated with the millions of "Parrotheads," fans of Buffett who congregated for a rollicking concert experience or even just savored the cool taste of Landshark Lager while listening to "Volcano" by the barbecue. Buffett's ease and peace of spirit cultivated a sense of community in anyone seeking the pleasure of eternal summer.

The community is intergenerational: Buffett has been making popular music since the 1970s, and so at least three generations of listeners can connect in the spirit of the "good times" his music evokes. Few things can bring that many generations together with a smile!

Listeners can find Buffett drawing us even deeper beyond relationship with one another, into relationship with something bigger and broader. He invited listeners to be aware of the world around them, respectful of nature and the presence of God alike.

Specifically and acutely, you can hear him sing about the sacramental nature of the ocean and feeling a connection to the divine in "Saltwater Gospel," his collaboration with the Eli Young Band.

"Coastal Confessions" includes a one-sided account of Buffett, a self-proclaimed "altar boy just coverin' his ass," irreverently returning to the confessional after decades, but he uses the adage to paint a relatable picture of a man who journeyed through a life rife with mistakes and is looking for

the wisdom in the mess.

Less intensely identified might be a sense of spirituality and soulful tranquility that ran through other Buffett hits. Arguably his most famous hit, "Margaritaville," challenges the conscience to accountability (through the avenue of a blender rendering a frozen concoction).

"Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes" is practically Ignatian in its detachment to adjust "if it suddenly ended tomorrow" and consistently pointing to laughter in the spiritual life.

"Breathe In, Breathe Out, Move On" reminds the listener to set aside stressors and worries, not allowing grudges to steal our proverbial oxygen. Might there be remnants of "turn the other cheek" from another famous seaside teacher and preacher?

In the end, none of us can speak to Jimmy Buffett's spiritual state at the end of his life. We can only see the spirituality that ran through his music and the world he tried to create: one with less noise and stress, more peace and attentiveness; less hurt and grudges, more celebration and sunsets; and at least the occasional cheeseburger in paradise.

~ Nicole M. Perone is the national coordinator of *ESTEEM* (a leadership formation program for young adults on college and university campuses) as well as the chair of the board of the National Institute for Ministry with Young Adults. She resides in Connecticut with her husband, NCR digital editor John Grosso, their daughter and golden retriever.

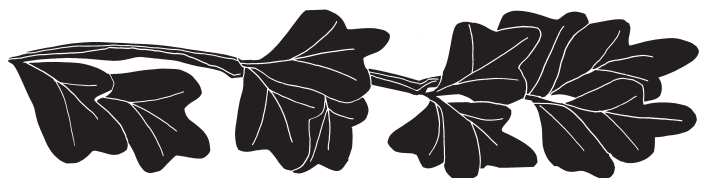
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THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO
JOINED US FOR THE SAINT CECILIA
MINISTRY FAIR!

We want to express our gratitude for your enthusiastic participation in last weekend's Ministry Fair. The feedback we've received from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, and we're so glad that everyone had so much fun (re)connecting. We're looking forward to next year's ministry fair and we're already planning to add more high-top tables to accomodate our growing list of ministries.

Additionally, we hope you had the chance to hear Fr. Coyne's homily last Sunday. It was a beautiful reminder that we are all an essential part of the Church and it was heartwarming to see this truth on display at the Ministry Fair. Thank you all for doing your piece to make Saint Cecilia the wonderful place it is!



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!