

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Detail of Ulysses Deriding Polyphemus

by J. M. W. Turner (c. 1829)

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 October 2025

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

26 OCTOBER 2025

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | *Dies sind die heiligen zehn Gebot*, BWV 678

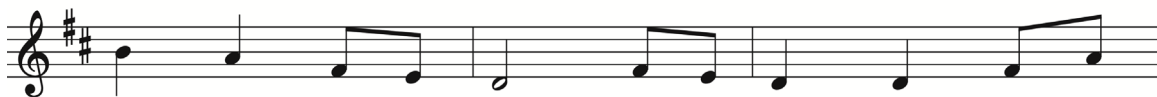
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | *As We Gather at Your Table*

NETTLETON



1. As we gath - er at your Ta - ble, As we
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness In the
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon Oth - er



lis - ten to your word, Help us know, O God, your
sac - ra - ment of life; Send us forth to love and
guests to share that feast Where tri - um - phant Love will



pres - ence; Let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish
serve you, Bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us,
wel - come Those who had been last and least. There no



us with sa - cred sto - ry Till we
Christ, your great com - pas - sion To for -
more will en - vy blind us Nor will

claim it as our own; Teach us through this ho - ly
give as you for - gave; May we still be - hold your
pride our peace de - stroy, As we join with saints and
ban - quet How to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
im - age In the world you died to save.
an - gels To re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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*

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.

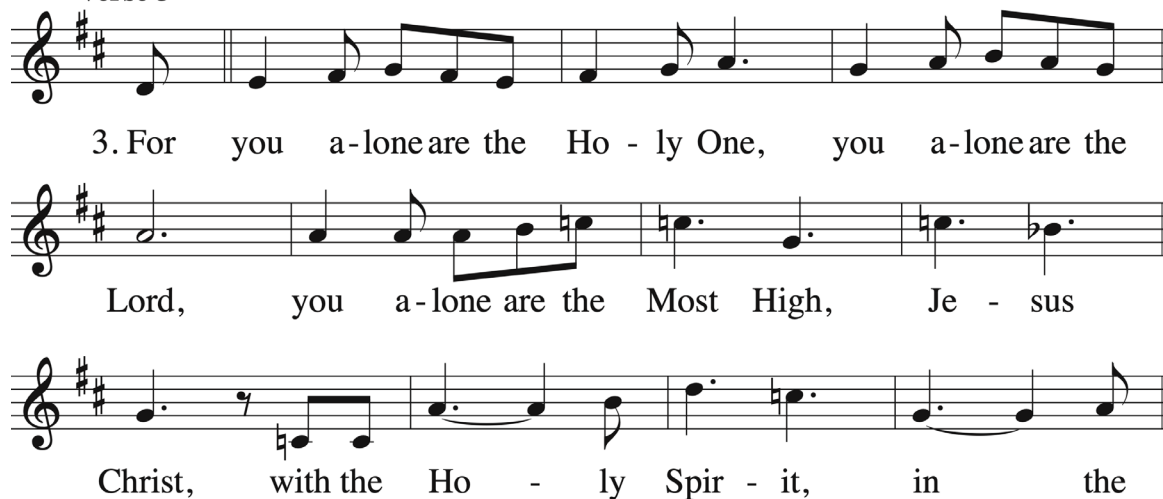
Verse 2



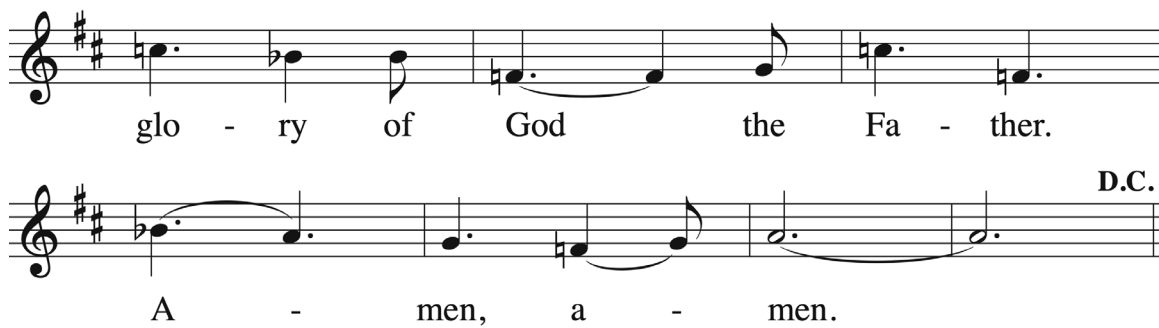
2. Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you
take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our
prayer; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us.

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



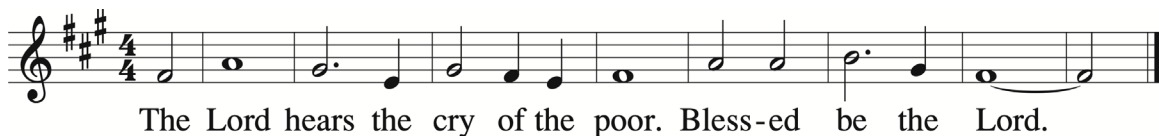
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Sirach 35: 12-14, 16-18

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 34: The Cry of the Poor

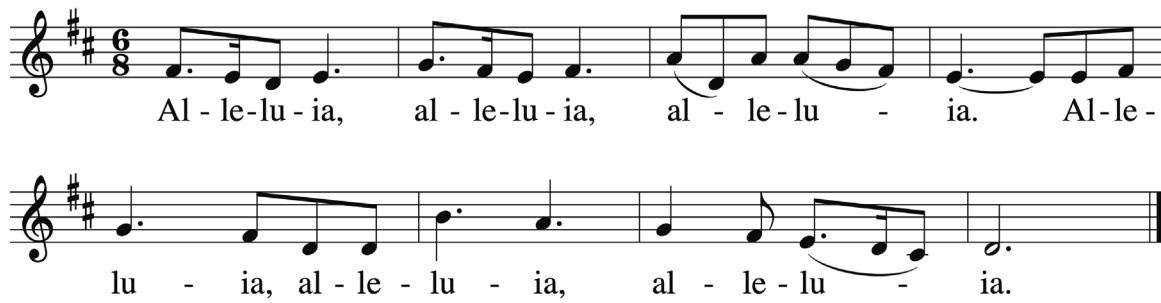
John B. Foley, SJ



Verses

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor.
2. Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas;
and to hearts broken, God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor.
3. Every spirit crushed, God will save; will be ransom for their lives;
will be safe shelter for their fears, and will hear the cry of the poor.
4. We proclaim your greatness, O God, your praise ever in our mouth;
every face brightened in your light, for you hear the cry of the poor.

SECOND READING | 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18



GOSPEL | Luke 18: 9-14

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!

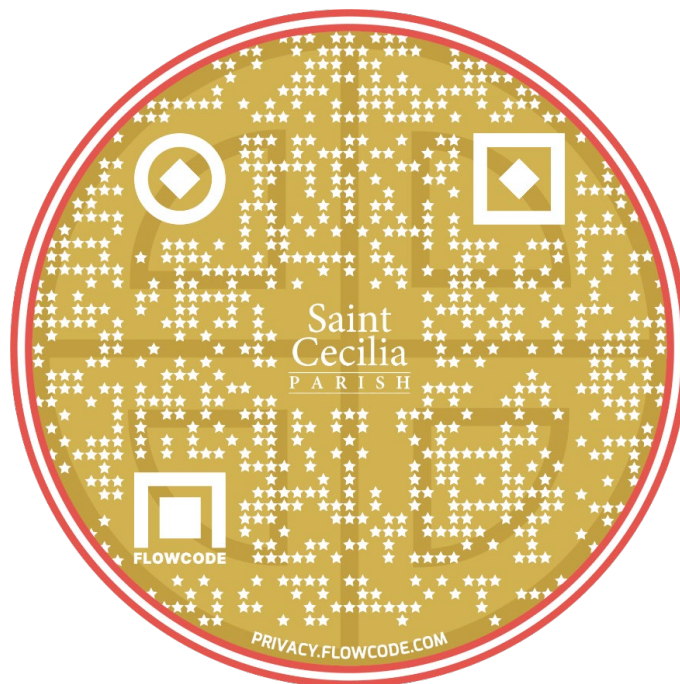
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 | I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

KINGSFOLD



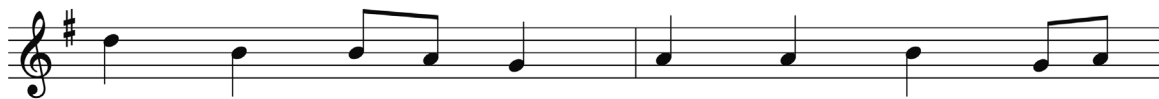
1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I



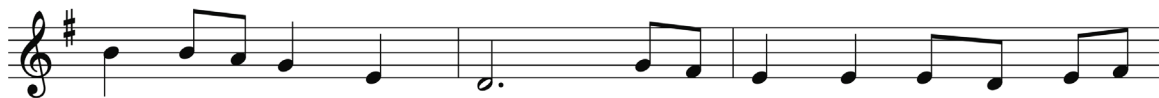
un - to me and rest; Lay down, O wea - ry
hold, I free - ly give The liv - ing wa - ter;
am this dark world's light; Look un - to me, your



one, lay down Your head up - on my breast." I
thirst - y one, Stoop down and drink and live." I
morn shall rise, And all your day be bright." I



came to Je - sus as I was, So
came to Je - sus, and I drank Of
looked to Je - sus, and I found In



wea - ry, worn, and sad; I found in him a
that life - giv - ing stream; My thirst was quenched, my
him my star, my sun; And in that light of



rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.
soul re - vived, And now I live in him.
life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✕ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✕ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

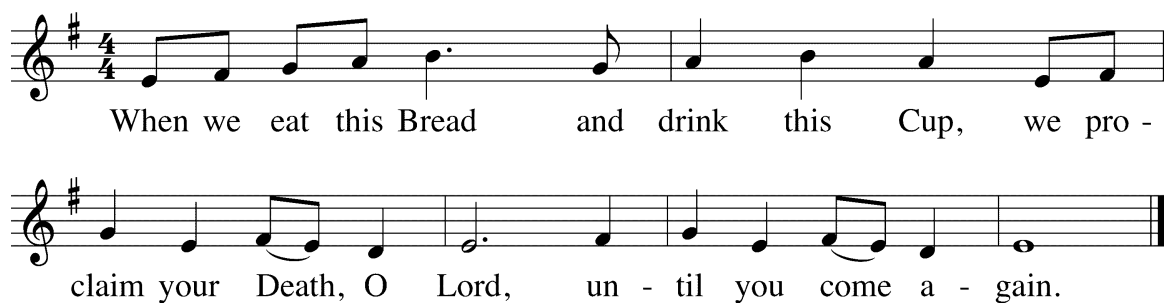
✕ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

SANCTUS | *Missa Pacem*

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.

AMEN | *Missa Pacem*

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.

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: And with your spirit.

Cantor or choir: *All:*

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

world, have mer - cy on us. *Repeat as needed*

Last time *Cantor or choir:* us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

world, have mer - cy on us. *All:* 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.

Refrain



Come to me, come to me, come when you are wea - ry;



come to me, come to me, and I will give you rest.

Verses 1, 2



1. All who la - bor and are bur - dened,
2. Take my yoke up - on your shoul - ders,



all who la - bor and are bur - dened, let them come to me,
take my yoke up - on your shoul - ders, come and learn from me,



come to me, and I will give them rest.
learn from me, for I am gen - tle of heart.

D.C.

Verse 3



3. For the heart I hold is hum - ble, yes, the



heart I hold is hum - ble, and my yoke is eas - y, my



bur - den light, and you will find rest for your souls.

D.C.

Verse 4

4. All the Fa - ther gives will come to me;
all the Fa - ther gives will come to me; and who -
ev - er comes to me, who - ev - er comes to me,
I will nev - er cast out. **D.C.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION | Speak, Lord

Thomas Trenney
(b. 1977)

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.

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r To
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness. Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
blind with - out thy Light to see. Lord, just al - ways

D.C.
dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Music in this worship aid is printed with permission under Onelicense.net #A700-137.

For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia,
please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDuff@stceciliaboston.org.

WELCOME!

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children's faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus' teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids ("Irish working out girls") and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings. Our church building resides on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket and Massachusetts tribal nations.

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci's The Last Supper, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius' life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

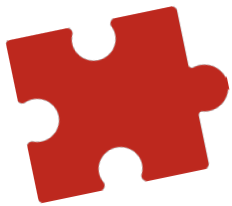
Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

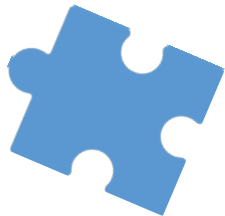
Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We've been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God's love makes all things new.

BUILDING A **STRONGER** COMMUNITY, **PIECE BY PIECE**



SIGN UP FOR *iGive*
our recurring giving program:



1

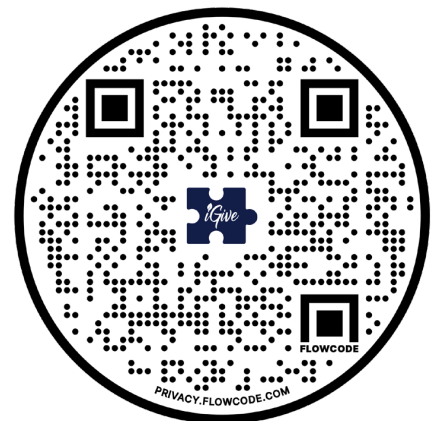
Sign up online

2

Create a profile

3

Select your giving
amount & frequency



or visit: www.stceciliaboston.org/igive

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, October 25 | 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Linda Frayling, lector

Sunday, October 26 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Ben DeWinter, Tom Skorupa, Chika Offurum, lectors

Sunday, October 26 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Cynthia Wanner, Kelly McClintock, Nikko Mendoza, lectors

Sunday, October 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Jerry McElroy, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, October 26 | 9:30 a.m.

Dennis Murphy, *4th Anniversary*
Antonio Molina, *Memorial*
Richard "Dick" Bangs, *Memorial*
Janet Louise Filip, *Memorial*

Sunday, October 26 | 11:30 a.m.

Elaine Conley, *1st Anniversary*

Sunday, October 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Elena Paez L., *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

ALL SOULS DAY READINGS

Wisdom 3:1-9
Romans 5:5-11
John 6:37-40



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Fred Tufts, Baby Eloise Josephine Mason, Kevin J. Owens, So Kwai Sim, Daria, Maureen McLaughlin, and Anne Kenney.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Philippine and Axel Burdeau-Levy, Caitlin Davenport and Matt Brisolari, Susu Eid, Nathaniel Joslin, Maria and Richard Batten, and John Festa and Jacqueline Kilar.** If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

All Saints Day

Because All Saints' Day (November 1) falls on a Saturday this year, the obligation to attend Mass is lifted; however, the faithful are still strongly encouraged to attend Mass. We will celebrate Mass at Saint Cecilia on Saturday, November 1 at 8:00 a.m.

Veterans Day Prayers

If there are veterans you would like us to remember in prayer this Veterans Day, please email Anastassia Kolchanov at her parish email. We need all names by November 4. Please note: if you have submitted a name in the past, we have the name of file—no need to submit it again! If you are submitting a name for the first time, please indicate whether the veteran is alive or deceased. You may also indicate in which branch of the military they served. All names will appear in our November 8/9 bulletin.

Respect Life Month

Each October, the Church in the United States observes Respect Life Month. This is a time to affirm the inherent dignity and worth of every human life, from conception to natural death, and in all its complexities. As we reflect on the sacredness of life, we recognize that respecting life means advocating for the most vulnerable among us, including those struggling with poverty, migration, incarceration, and marginalization. During this month, we're invited to examine our own hearts and actions, and to consider how we can work towards a society where every person is treated with dignity, compassion, and respect.



Gift Card Donations Needed

We are presently in need of having our gift card supply replenished. If you would like to help in this way, simply purchase a gift card (ideally in \$10 increments) and drop it in the collection basket at Mass, give it to one of our receptionists, or mail it to the parish office. We would especially like to receive gift cards from Shaw's, Star Market, Dunkin', or Wendy's. Thank you in advance for helping us care for our sisters and brothers in need.

IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN TABLE OF CONTENTS

This Week's Liturgies.....	4
Prayers and Occasions.....	5
Coming Up At Saint Cecilia.....	7
Pope Leo Delivers Breathtakingly Bold Salvo On Wealth, Elitism and Poverty By NCR Staff	11
Pope Leo Sides With The Poor By Phyllis Zagano.....	14
Parish Resources.....	16

iGIVE CAMPAIGN UPDATE: LAST WEEKEND!

Thanks to our newly enrolled participants, we are now **40%** to our goal! If you haven't yet enrolled in iGive, please consider 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 head to 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. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!



BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

RETURN YOUR BOTTLES THIS WEEKEND

SCYA'S Baby Bottle Drive concludes this weekend! Baskets will be available in the narthex to return your baby bottles. When you return your bottle, you will be helping to provide a hand of friendship to a woman in crisis.

You can also give directly to Your Options Medical through Venmo (@[youroptionsmedical](#)) or by check made out to Your Options Medical P.O. Box 282, Revere, MA 02151. Your Options Medical is a pregnancy help center that provides no-charge, evidence-based medical information and services to women and families facing unexpected or unsupported pregnancies. Your Options offers pregnancy testing, ultrasound confirmation, pregnancy options consultation, pregnancy aid, parenting classes and resources, and more.

Please consider supporting women, babies, and families this October by participating in this drive!

GBIO HOUSE MEETING FACILITATOR TRAINING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 | 6:30PM | PARISH HALL

This training is for anyone interested in learning how to organize and facilitate House Meetings, a critical aspect of our listening process. To sign up, please head to: <https://secure.everyaction.com/H3u3KwI2q0qCOTXwLAtrQQ2>.

FFF COFFEE HOUR: BOB SANCES AND LUCY CONROY FROM SIMEON & ANNA SENIORS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | 4PM EST VIA ZOOM

Please join us for conversation and sharing of a ministry embraced by the elders of our parish. Over a year and a half ago an idea was born to fill a need. Invite older, mostly but not all retired people of Saint Cecilia, to a biweekly morning gathering of fellowship and faith sharing. We will welcome Bob Sances and Lucy Conroy, leaders of the Simeon and Anna group, to share how giving the opportunity for older adults, particularly those that live alone, to come together and interact with others on a spiritual and social level is both nurturing and rewarding. Come and listen to how older adults continue to answer God's call by sharing their faith & friendship with each other.

Please email the ministry if you would like to attend but have never registered for the coffee hour.

SCYA AND RAINBOW MINISTRY HAPPY HOUR AT DANI'S

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | 7:30PM | DANI'S QUEER BAR

Join SCYA and the Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry after pizza Mass on Nov. 2! We will walk over after enjoying pizza with the rest of the parish to enjoy some drinks and fellowship with our Rainbow Ministry siblings in Christ. This event is open to Young Adults and the Rainbow Ministry and Allies. Dani's Queer Bar is off the Hynes Convention Center stop on the B line and a five-minute walk across the street from Saint Cecilia's.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | 7 PM | SANCTUARY

All parishioners, regardless of age, are invited to spend an hour with the Lord at our monthly Nights of Worship. Praise and worship music led by the Young Adult ministry will guide your meditation and enrich your prayer in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please enter from the side door on Saint Cecilia Street and ring the bell to be let in. Can't join us in person? We'll be live-streaming our worship service over Zoom. To receive a Zoom link each month, register at www.tinyurl.com/stc-night-of-worship. Come and join us at the altar!



SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS CONTINUES FOR LOCAL PARISHIONERS

Looking to deepen your faith and connect with fellow parishioners? The Parish Pastoral Council is reinvigorating Small Group Connections—a space for prayer, reflection, and meaningful conversations inspired by Sunday's message. Groups will meet monthly, and we'd love to connect with you!

SCHEDULE

In Person: Second Sunday of the Month | Classroom 3 following the 9:30 Mass | Begins November 9

Zoom: Second Wednesday of the Month | 8—9 p.m. ET Begins November 12

To sign up, please email the Parish Pastoral Council – we can't wait to welcome you and to grow together in faith!

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 | 6PM VIA ZOOM

Grieving the loss of a loved one can be overwhelming, but you are not alone. Join us for our Monthly Catholic Bereavement Support Group, where we gather in faith, compassion, and community to find healing and hope. In a world marked by division and distraction, healthy and meaningful dialogue can be found in small moments of grace. For more information or to receive the Zoom link, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

JOIN THE YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY

Our Young Families Ministry offers opportunities for fellowship and mutual support to expectant couples and families with infants and children under four years of age.

Looking for a few couples to lead a monthly drop-in.

Young families are invited to meet on the last Sunday of the month, after the 9:30 Family Mass in the Family Flex Center. Playtime activities would be provided as parents connect over conversation. If you're interested, please reach out to Mary Wessel at her parish email.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 1PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

Serving at the altar is a beautiful way to participate more deeply in the Mass and grow in love for the Eucharist. We invite youth (third grade and older), teens, and adults to join our upcoming Altar Server Training session.

Deacon Christopher Brolly SJ will lead the training through a Teaching Mass, where participants will provide a deeper understanding of the liturgy. Whether you're new or currently serve, this training will provide an opportunity to learn the meaning behind the rituals, the responsibilities of altar service, and the joy of assisting at the Lord's Table. To sign up, please email Mary Wessel at her parish email.

TUTTI MUSIC COLLECTIVE: A CELTIC CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 8PM | SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

Saint Cecilia will host *A Celtic Celebration* on November 8th, a festive journey through music and stories of Ireland! The Tutti Music Collective will join with the contemporary Irish folk band, Ishna for an evening featuring new and traditional works exploring the rich tapestry of Celtic music. Expect a blend of choral and instrumental music featuring traditional Irish and orchestral instruments. Tickets are now on sale, visit: https://CelticCelebration_IshnaTMC.eventbrite.com

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

OCTOBER 25 - 30

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Marriage Ministry | 9am - 6pm | Parish Hall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Baby Bottle Drive | Weekend Liturgies | Narthex

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12pm | Community Room

GBIO Training | 6:30pm | Parish Hall

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

CESAR
CHAVEZ

FRED
ROSS

LUIS
VALDEZ

DOLORES
HUERTA



DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE

AMERICAN AGITATORS







NOVEMBER 8, 2025
11:00 AM
BRATTLE THEATER
HARVARD SQUARE | CAMBRIDGE

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
GENERAL ADMISSION: \$10.00
CHILD: \$7.00
SENIOR: \$7.00
STUDENT: \$7.00
[HTTPS://BRATTLEFILM.ORG/MOVIES/AMERICAN-AGITATORS/](https://brattlefilm.org/movies/american-agitators/)

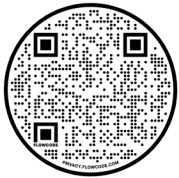
PIE SELLERS NEEDED

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.

BEARING WITNESS AND TAKING ACTION: FROM GAZA TO CONGO – THE CALL TO CONSCIENCE AGAINST GENOCIDE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 | 6:30PM | PARISH HALL

Join us on Wednesday, November 12, for a powerful evening of testimony and action. Hear firsthand from physicians and advocates working in war-torn regions and learn how communities of faith can stand in solidarity with those affected by atrocities. Together, let's stand for humanity and support those rebuilding their lives and health systems.



Can't attend? Consider making a donation to Doctors Against Genocide to support critical medical and humanitarian relief efforts in Gaza and Congo. Your support can make a difference.

BOSTON HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS: 2025 EMERGING LEADERS FALL SOIREE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17 | 6-10PM
GRACE BY NIA, 60 SEAPORT BLVD #325, BOSTON

The BHCHP Emerging Leaders Board is pleased to host its 10th annual Fall Soirée at the soul-inspiring supper club Grace by Nia this year! Join for a fun night out with friends and colleagues, mingle with other young professionals from the Boston area, and help raise critical funds for one of Boston's most essential community organizations.

As BHCHP marks its 40th anniversary this year, we hope you'll consider attending the Soirée and sponsoring the event, if possible.

To learn more or purchase tickets: <https://www.bhchp.org/events/elbsoiree25/>.



WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE BACK BAY HARVEST FESTIVAL & AUCTION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 | 6 - 8:30PM
67 NEWBURY ST, BOSTON

Women's Lunch Place and the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay invite you to an evening that honors the spirit of Thanksgiving and the place we call home. Your participation helps strengthen our neighborhood and improve the quality of life for all who live here.

Enjoy a harvest buffet, connect with neighbors old and new, and make a meaningful impact by supporting two incredible causes. To learn more or purchase tickets, please head to: <https://womenslunchplace.org/nabb>.

SHELTER MUSIC BOSTON'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 3 PM
THE ALLEN CENTER, NEWTON

Shelter Music Boston's 15th Anniversary Concert will have Dr. Eileen Reilly as its honoree. One of the founders of Women's Lunch Place and a physician with Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, Dr. Reilly's lifelong commitment to our unhoused neighbors has been extraordinary.

Each month, Shelter Music Boston performs live chamber music concerts at community partners, including Pine Street Inn and Women's Lunch Place. The transformation in their audiences is immediate and palpable. After a recent concert for women who are unhoused, one listener reported, "Music helps my depression and anxiety. I felt happier and loved the music."

Their 15th Anniversary Concert will be held on Saturday, November 15 at 3:00 pm. The concert, including dessert reception, will be held at the Allen Center in Newton. Tickets are \$100, which you can purchase at the link here: <https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E343965&id=80>.

For more information or to learn about concert sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to Sarah Leaf-Herrmann at sarah@sheltermusicboston.org.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS WITH GRIEF: SUPPORT & PRACTICAL TIPS FOR FACING HOLIDAY CHALLENGES AFTER LOSS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 | 3PM EST VIA ZOOM

While the world tells us that the holidays are “the most wonderful time of the year,” we know that for many, this can be an emotional and difficult season.

Anyone in need of consolation and healing is invited to join this session, a space where individuals who have experienced loss can come together to share their thoughts, feelings, and strategies for coping during this time.

Created by GriefShare, you’ll find encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the season. There is no charge to attend, and a free guidebook is included. To register, contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

SCYA RETREAT: LIGHTS TO THE WORLD – CALLED TO BE SAINTS

NOVEMBER 21 - 23 | GLASTONBURY ABBEY, HINGHAM

Registration is now open for SCYA’s annual weekend retreat at Glastonbury Abbey! Join us for a weekend of reflection, connection, and spiritual growth. This retreat is peer-led by young adults for young adults, and will include talks, small group discussion, prayer, Mass, games, and unstructured time. This year’s theme is, “Lights to the World – Called to be Saints.” Together, we will explore different aspects of living our Catholic faith, drawing inspiration and guidance from the lives of the Saints.



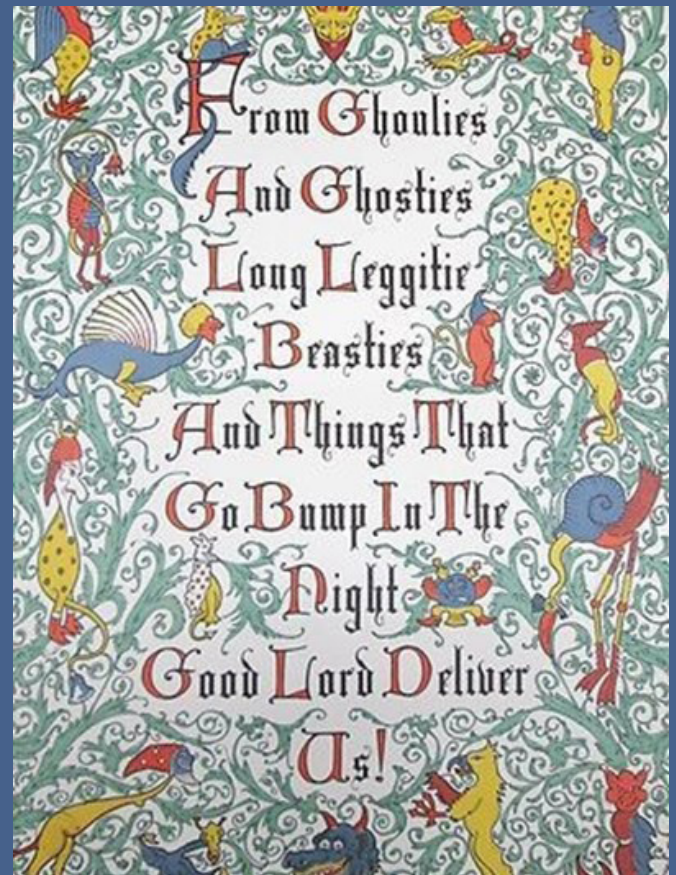
The cost of the weekend will be \$179, which includes lodging and all meals from dinner on Friday to Sunday brunch. Payment for the retreat is due within seven days after signing up to confirm your spot. If the cost of the weekend will be an extreme hardship, please contact the retreat team with any questions or concerns.



Registration will close on 11/4, so scan the QR code on the left or sign up at tinyurl.com/scya-retreat to reserve your spot!

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

**An ancient Scottish prayer
captures the spirit of
Halloween or All Hallows eve!**



From ghoulies and ghosties
And long-leggitie beasties
And things that go bump
in the night,
Good Lord, deliver us!

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 350 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. We have received such positive feedback and many thanks from the housing tenants since this meal kit bag drive began.

Parishioners can pick up their meal kit bag in the church narthex beginning **Sunday, November 2** 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 16**, 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.

Note: Due to rising food insecurity and costs, we're asking for two of each item this year, along with some new additions, to ensure the tenants have extra resources to enjoy a second comforting meal.

Items for the tenant Thanksgiving meal kit bags:

2 Boxes of Stuffing Mix
2 Instant Mashed Potatoes Packets
2 Dried Gravy Mix Packets
2 Cans of Cranberry Sauce
2 Cans Corn and/or Green Beans
2 Brownie Mixes or Cake Mixes

2 Boxes of Macaroni and Cheese
2 Cans of Soup
2 Bags of Hard Candy
1 Salt and Pepper (shakers)
1 Handheld Can Opener
1 Thanksgiving Holiday Item: (e.g., kitchen towel, oven mitt, hand soap)

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). You can also donate white athletic socks for both men & women (there will be a basket by the Pine Street van for the sock drop-off).

Gift cards can be dropped off on the 16th or mailed to the attention of:

Thanksgiving Meal Bag Drive, Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!



Pine Street Inn
Ending Homelessness

POPE LEO DELIVERS BREATHTAKINGLY BOLD SALVO ON WEALTH, ELITISM AND POVERTY

BY NCR EDITORIAL STAFF



Image: CNS/Pablo Esparza

Copies of the Italian translation of "Dilexi Te" ("I Have Loved You"), Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation, are seen in front of Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, at a Vatican news conference on October 9th.

In the first major document of his pontificate, Leo XIV minced no words. He punctured "the bubble of comfort and luxury" that distorts the Christian Gospel and isolates believers from a "fundamental way of encountering the Lord" through the world's most vulnerable.

Dilexi Te ("I Have Loved You") is a profound and yet deeply disturbing document. Prophetic in the truest sense, it is an uncompromising assessment of how wealth and faith in contemporary economic ideologies and markets have misshapen Christianity. They have, Leo asserts, turned it away from the mission to the poor that has been at its core since Jesus walked the earth.

It was courageous and risky in equal measure, given current conditions in the church and society.

One of the most pressing tasks facing the Catholic Church in the 21st century, given the self-inflicted wounds that have seriously diminished its stature, is finding a way to reestablish its credibility and authority within its own borders and in the wider world.

Leo certainly understands how debilitating these wounds are and how important it is to repair and rebuild. All the more remarkable, then, that he chose as the topic for his first major

pronouncement the plight of the poor and their place as the fundamental focus of Christianity.

One might reasonably expect the head of an institution that has been humiliated by decades of sexual abuse and financial scandals to seek restored influence with help from the very powerful. It would almost be understandable that a pope might turn the richest and most influential, leveraging their clout to right the Barque of Peter.

But no. His gaze, instead, fell on the poor. In language that turns certain expectations upside down, he distanced the church in significant ways from such sources of power and influence.

In fact, as NCR Vatican correspondent Justin McLellan summed it up, the pope "condemned a view of the church which caters to the elite by arguing that the church is most effective by building relationships with those in society who carry the greatest influence."

That is a breathtakingly bold position to take and one which, while aimed at those associations that exist anywhere, has a particular resonance in the United States. And it comes from someone very familiar with church dynamics here. Leo knows the stakes. He is, no doubt, well aware of the influence money has on the Catholic Church in the United States — where it too often serves as a veneer, a kind of sanctifying cover for rapacious versions of libertarian economics. God rewards the good with piles of cash.

Leo elaborated on the point: "It is easy to perceive the worldliness behind these positions, which would lead us to view reality through superficial lenses, lacking any light from above, and to cultivate relationships that bring us security and a position of privilege."

But such security, says Leo, is deceptive.

"[T]he illusion of happiness derived from a comfortable life pushes many people towards a vision of life centered on the accumulation of wealth and social success at all costs, even at the expense of others and by taking advantage of unjust social ideals and political-economic systems that favor the strongest," he wrote. "Thus, in a world where the poor are increasingly numerous, we paradoxically see the growth of an elite, living in a bubble of comfort and luxury, almost in another world compared to ordinary people."

An unintended symmetry exists within the document,

which is a product of two popes. Pope Francis started the exhortation, but died before its completion, and Leo finished it, making it his own — but also making it clear that it was both in solidarity with and a continuation of Francis' approach.

Neither came to the papacy via any normal or previously taken route. Francis, the first to ascend to the papacy from the Global South, perceived his ministry and the rest of the world through the lens of the crushing poverty that was, in part, the result of exploitation by the rich and powerful in the Global North.

Leo spent his formative years in the Global North, as a middle-class child of Chicago and a student at the Villanova University, in the tony suburbs outside Philadelphia. But his American views of what made for "the good life" were influenced and altered by his decades as a missionary and bishop in Peru.

The document is continuous with Francis in more ways than points of interest and topic. It has, as did many of Francis' works, more a tone of contemporary urgency than a treatise carefully calculated to balance out effects on differing quarters of the church. Perhaps, writing about poverty and the Catholic position on it left less room for subtlety.

The sweep of the relatively short (for a Vatican pronouncement) document captures millennia of Catholic thought and action grounded in service to the poor and most vulnerable. It could easily serve as a teaching document for anyone interested in the insistence with which attending to the poor has broken through as a central concern for the church throughout the ages. The teaching, unvarnished and uncompromised, has not only survived but has also been enhanced and revitalized time and again, through eras of corruption and scandal, war and disruption.

The certainty of Leo's words don't hide the complexity of the matter, nor is it a naïve assurance. Quite the opposite. The questions raised by the history and the understanding of how wealth can pervert the Gospel are monumental. That is especially the case for Catholics living in the wealthiest culture on earth, where the business schools at some Catholic universities unabashedly herald the goodness of extreme capitalism unfettered by any government regulation.

Leo's words are especially challenging when Catholics and some of their leaders either openly support or look askance at the dehumanizing treatment of the poorest and most vulnerable among us.

If the words are a challenge to those of us in the United States, they are also a challenge to the church itself. What

does it do with its wealth? How is its money used? Will a true and unrelenting focus on the poor and those otherwise on the margins change the nature of church itself? What would such a focus mean for our parochial structures? For our involvement in politics?

What would it mean to take on the structures that create poverty?

The church itself may also have to contend with the unintended consequences of Leo's words. "Let us not forget," he wrote, quoting from Francis' 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, "that 'doubly poor are those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence, since they are frequently less able to defend their rights. Even so, we constantly witness among them impressive examples of daily heroism in defending and protecting their vulnerable families.' "

"While significant changes are under way in some countries," Leo continues, quoting Francis in *Fratelli Tutti*, " 'the organization of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men...we say one thing with our words, but our decisions and reality tell another story,' especially if we consider the numbers of women who are in fact destitute."

To what degree is Leo willing to take up the thought that the church is one of those organizations that "is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men"?

Leo has expressed, in a fresh and compelling way, the challenge that has been at the heart of Christianity since its beginnings. This will not be the last time we'll be dealing in this space with this document and its implications. It is a welcome new step toward not only understanding the issue, but making the essential human connections, opening the door to what the poor and the most vulnerable can teach us.



Originally published in the National Catholic Reporter on October 10, 2025.



FALL FOLIAGE WALK with the Saint Cecilia Climate Ministry



POPE LEO SIDES WITH THE POOR

BY PHYLLIS ZAGANO



Image: Pablo Esparza

Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, speaks at a Vatican news conference Oct. 9, to present Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation Dilexi Te.

Pope Leo XIV is clear in his first formal document: The love of money really is the root of all evils.

At a press conference on Thursday, Oct. 9, the Vatican presented his apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te* ("I have loved you"). More a pastoral presentation than an expansive theological treatise, it criticizes the expansion of wealth to the detriment of the poor of the world.

Now part of the church's official magisterium, *Dilexi Te* is frank in its view of world economics. It singles out the "wealthy elite, living in a bubble of comfort and luxury, almost in another world compared to ordinary people."

That would include Elon Musk, whose potential trillion-dollar pay package Leo criticized previously. The problem, Leo said then, is that priorities are reversed. CEOs earn 600 times what workers do. Worse, wealth is presented

as the goal of every human person.

At the Oct. 9 press conference, Vatican reporters asked whether the document was aimed at the treatment of immigrants in the United States and liberation theology.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the Vatican department concerned with immigration and human rights, fielded most of these questions. Responding in English, he explained that it would be a mistake to read the document in political terms, but rather should be received as it is — an apostolic exhortation aimed at helping the church understand the Gospel in light of world events.

Czerny was especially clear in describing the problem of "structural sin," evils for which everyone in society shares some responsibility. He presented the international drug trade as an example of how it has seeped into every area of personal and political life, weighing "crushing burdens of corruption and crime and evil" in the world.

Overlooked in the press conference was Leo's recognition in his exhortation that women bear the brunt of every blow slammed upon the poor. Largely quoting Pope Francis, the exhortation reads:

Let us not forget that "doubly poor are those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence, since they are frequently less able to defend their rights. Even so, we constantly witness among them impressive examples of daily heroism in defending and protecting their vulnerable families." While significant changes are underway in some countries, "the organization of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men. We say one thing with our words, but our decisions and reality tell another story."

But as Leo strives to bring the Gospel to the world, can he not see that the world questions the way the church regards women?

Czerny affirmed that *Dilexi Te* is "the magisterium of the church," or official church teaching. But where does the church affirm women, except with words and managerial appointments? Does Leo speak about the church when he repeats Francis' affirmation, "We say one thing with our words, but

our decisions and reality tell another story"?

Czerny said, "The world is badly arranged." One might add the way the church is so arranged as well.

As Czerny also said, "Let him (or her) who has ears, hear."



Originally published in the National Catholic Reporter on October 14, 2025.

Dr. Phyllis Zagano is an award-winning author and scholar specializing in Catholic women's ministry past and present, especially the ancient tradition of women deacons. She is the Senior Research Associate-in-Residence and Adjunct Professor of Religion at Hofstra University.



Image: Mark Lipport

Hunger & Homelessness ministry
volunteers served guests
restaurant-style at Pine Street
Inn's Men's Inn on October 12th.



PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Seven days a week, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
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
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, Deacon
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator
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, Operations & Events
Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

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
Ben Worthley, Audio 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., and 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.

Baptism for Infants

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

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$15, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$15 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.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Pastoral Director of Operations, Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien.

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 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.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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. For more information, contact Mary Wessel in the Parish Office.

Marriage

Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

Care of the Sick

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the Parish Office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

Order of Christian Funerals

The parish is prepared to celebrate the Vigil (wake) in the church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our parish offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics from many neighborhoods in and around Boston; we also have friends from around the country and the world. We invite local individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter your present status in the Catholic Church, current family or marital situation, gender or gender expression, sexual orientation, personal history, age, race, or self-image, you are invited and will be welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected here at Saint Cecilia. We are here to accompany and serve you.

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 a ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists will be happy to share the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online.