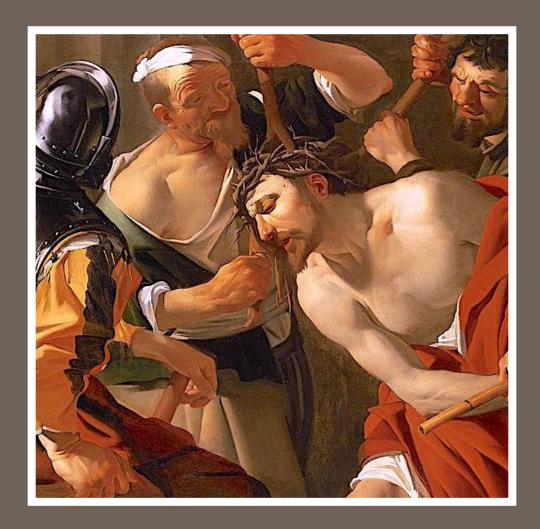
# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



# The Solemnity of Christ the King The Last Sunday of the Liturgical Year 24 November 2024

Crowning with Thorns, Detail Dirck van Baburen, c. 1622

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

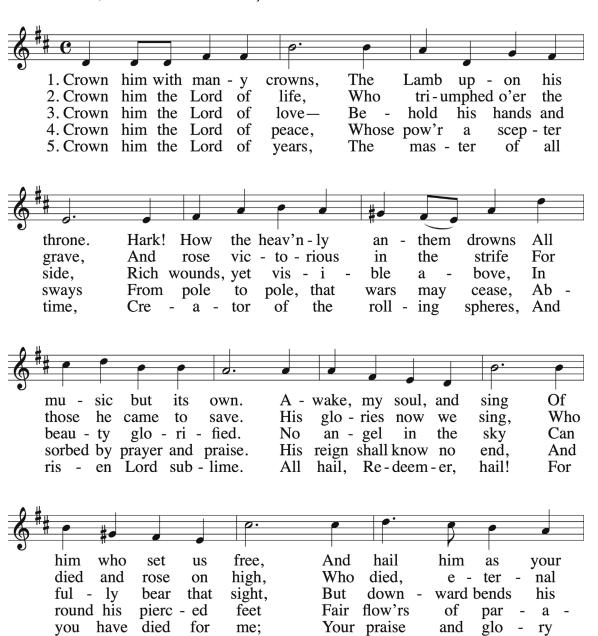
### **24 NOVEMBER 2024**

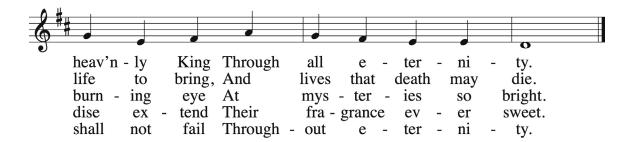
### THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

PRELUDE | Prière à Notre-Dame from Suite Gothique, Op. 25 Brett Maguire, organist Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Crown Him With Many Crowns

DIADEMATA





### 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



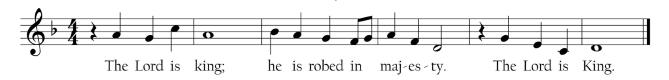


### LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Daniel 7: 13-14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 93: The Lord is King

Tony Alonso



- 1. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed. The Lord has robed himself with might; he has girded himself with power.
- 2. The world you made firm, not to be moved; your throne has stood firm from of old. From all eternity, O Lord, you are.
- 3. Truly your decrees are to be trusted. Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time.

SECOND READING | Revelation 1: 5-8

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Unity Mass

Norah Duncan IV





GOSPEL | John 18: 33b-37

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!

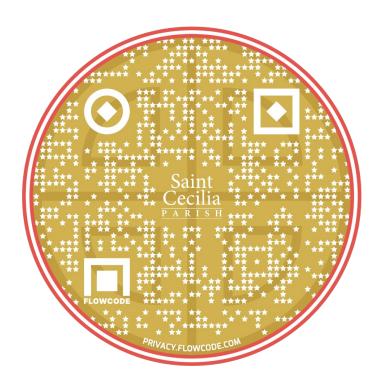
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 | Lift High the Cross CRUCIFER Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till Alem - ble - ma de \_ cen la cruz, su a - mor; que el all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. fin mun-do al co - noz. ca al Sal - va - dor. Verses / Estrofas Chris - tians, fol - low where Say - ior Our 1. Come, our trod, 2. Led tri - um - phant sign, The their this on way bv 3. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied Bears 4. O Lord, once lift - ed the glo - rious Your on tree, 1. Va cris - tia - nos, nues - tro Se - ñor: Elmos, tras sig - no 2. *Ba* joes - te desugran po - der El3. Ca da cre - yen - te delmu - rió Enque en cruz 4. Cuan dote al - za - ron glo- rio - so en $\boldsymbol{A}$ lacruz., D.C. Son King vic - to rious, Christ, the of God. con - quering ranks hosts of God in com - bine. brow the seal him who died. on the of ter - nal - ly. death has bought us life e vic - to - rio Cris - to, Hi - jo rey so, deDios.pue - blo de Dios avan sin te - mer. z,a lleva el ven - ció. fren - te sig - no en suque

5. So shall our song of triumph ever be: 5. Himnos de gloria alcemos sin cesar; Praise to the Crucified for victory! 5. Himnos de gloria alcemos sin cesar; Al rey vencedor que en cruz supo triunfar.

nos

la

a

luz.

te lle - var

llí

pro-me - tis

### EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

▼ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

★ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

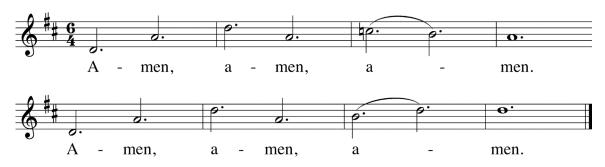


L. Randolph Babin



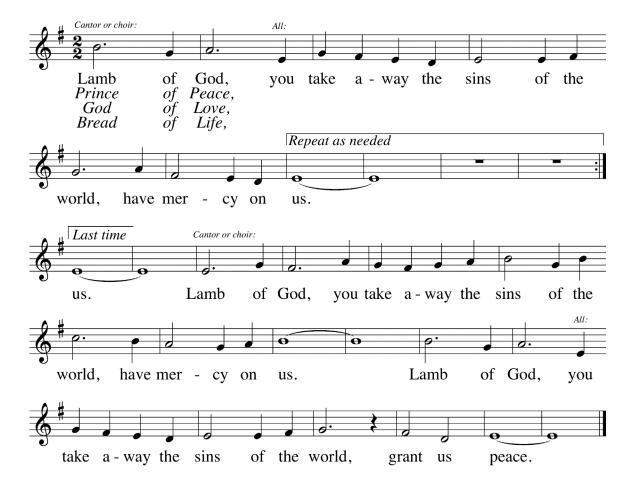
GREAT AMEN | Missa Pacem

L. Randolph Babin



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



### 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.



### **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.

RECESSIONAL | A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

LASST UNS ERFREUEN





POSTLUDE | Fuga from Clavierübung III Brett Maguire, organist Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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

For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia, please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: <a href="mailto:RDuff@stceciliaboston.org">RDuff@stceciliaboston.org</a>.

# THE ADVENT GIVING TREES

Our beautiful Advent Giving Trees have arrived! Each year before Christmas, requests for assistance from agencies serving those in need are consolidated into one program—the Saint Cecilia Advent Giving Trees. The tags on the trees contain requests from ten agencies who have reached out to us this year. Parishioners may take one or more tags from one of the trees and return the gift(s) to the parish for delivery. Your generosity will help bring tidings of comfort and joy to many people in our neighborhood.

### **HERE'S WHAT TO DO**

- Select one of more gift tags and purchase the item(s).
- Please do not take a tag unless you know that you will be able to purchase the gift.
- The tag will indicate if the gift should be wrapped.
- Attach the tag securely to the outside of the gift(s).
- You are welcome to add to your purchase; e.g., if someone requested a winter hat, you may add gloves or a scarf, holiday candy, etc.
  Remember—for some people, this is the only gift they will receive this Christmas.
- The recommended amount for gift cards is \$30, however, any amount will be appreciated.
- If the gift you are trying to find is out of stock, a gift card may be substituted.
- If the gift is too expensive or if you change your mind, simply return the tag to a Giving Tree coordinator.
- If you misplace the tag, just let us know.
- Return your gift(s) to the church NO LATER than Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.

### TO THE FAR-FLUNG FLOCK

While we welcome all to participate in the Saint Cecilia Advent Giving Trees initiative, we encourage you to support local agencies that are serving those in need in your area.



A Saint Cecilia Day Concert in honor of Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians

Friday, November 22 7:30 p.m. Saint Cecilia Church

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music and inspiration.



This choral-orchestral concert will feature the Saint Cecilia Choir, soloists, and orchestra performing:

J.S. Bach's Catata 140

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme – Awake, a voice is calling us

Felix Mendelssohn's Psalm 42 Cantata

and Organ works performed by our parish organists

We hope you'll join us for this powerful exploration of faith, hope, and joy—an opportunity to reflect on the passing year as we look forward to the year to come.

> This concert will also be livestreamed at steeciliaboston.org Admission is free.



# CHOOSE GRATITUDE

God, there are days we do not *feel* grateful.

When we are anxious or angry. When we feel alone.

When we do not understand what is happening in the world or with our neighbors.

When the news is bleak, confusing. God, we struggle to *feel* grateful.

But this Thanksgiving, we choose gratitude.

We choose to accept life as a gift from you, and as a gift from the unfolding work of all creation.

We choose to be grateful for the earth from which our food comes; for the water that gives life; and for the air we all breathe.

We choose to thank our ancestors, those who came before us, grateful for their stories and struggles, and we receive their wisdom as a continuing gift for today.

We choose to see our families and friends with new eyes, appreciating and accepting them for who they are. We are thankful for our homes, whether humble or grand.

We will be grateful for our neighbors, no matter how they voted, whatever our differences, or how much we feel hurt or misunderstood by them.

We choose to see the whole planet as our shared commons, the stage of the future of humankind and creation.

God, this Thanksgiving, we do not give thanks. We choose it.
We will make this choice of thanks with courageous hearts, knowing that it is humbling to say "thank you."

We choose to see your sacred generosity, aware that we live in an infinite circle of gratitude. That we all are guests at a hospitable table around which gifts are passed and received.

We will not let anything opposed to love take over this table. Instead, we choose grace, free and unmerited love, the giftedness of life everywhere. In this choosing, and in the making, we will pass gratitude onto the world.

Thus, with you, and with all those gathered at this table, we pledge to make thanks. We ask you to strengthen us in this resolve.

Here, now, and into the future. Around our family table. Around the table of our nation. Around the table of the earth.

We choose thanks.

Amen.

By Diana Butler Bass



# **OUR COMMUNITY NEWS**



### MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

### Saturday, November 23 | 5:00 p.m.

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

### Sunday, November 24 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Maggie Giles, lector

### Sunday, November 24 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Zachary Boutin, Kelly McClintock, and Thomas O'Brien, lectors

### Sunday, November 24 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Linda Frayling, Gina Filloramo, and Laura Melle, lectors

### Sunday, November 24 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant Karen McMenamy, lector

### TODAY'S READINGS

Daniel 7:13-14 Revelation 1:5-8 John 18:33b-37

# NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

### SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Saturday, November 23 | 5:00 p.m.** Chuck Botosh Sr., *Memorial* 

### Sunday, November 24 | 9:30 a.m.

Arthur E. McLaughlin, *Memorial* Robert Cahill, *10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* Richard O'Brien, *Memorial* Nancy Marie Stack Eastman, *10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* 



# PLEASE SCAN THIS CODE FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH.

# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

### **Our Sick**

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Peggie Breslin, Mark Brown, Joan Dunphy, Tom Franzago, 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: Doug and Sandra Domin of Arlington, Paul and Eilen Corbett of Scituate, Tom and Dolly Comparato of North Andover, Kelly Bunting of Boston, Javier Salas and Meghan Zimmer of Boston, Evan Warder and Madeline Malloy of Boston, and Sheelagh Walsh of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

### **Happy Anniversary!**

This Sunday we remember the baptismal anniversary of **Giovanna Franchi**, who was baptized on November 23. May the Lord continue to bless Giovanna with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Giovanna!

### November—the Month of All Souls

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

### **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Every year, this uniquely American holiday provides us the opportunity to reflect on and perhaps even articulate what we cherish most about our journey. Savor the beautiful days ahead—pray for those for whom the holidays are stressful or lonely and offer thanks to God for the blessings in your life. The parish staff wishes you and your loved ones all the blessings of Thanksgiving—a grateful heart, abundance at your table, safety in your journeys, and open hands to share with those in need. In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the parish offices will be closed from Wednesday through Friday this week.

### **Thanksgiving Day Mass**

Mass will be celebrated this Thursday morning at 8:00. This liturgy will not be livestreamed.

### Happy (Liturgical) New Year!

November 24 marks the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Next Sunday we begin the season of Advent and will transition from hearing Mark's Gospel (Year B) at Mass, to listening to the Gospel of Luke (Year C).

### Special Collection for Retired Sisters—This Weekend

Since 1988, the Collection for Retired Sisters has provided needed financial support for religious communities of women who have served the Archdiocese of Boston as educators and healthcare and social service providers. Please take this opportunity to say thank you by giving generously to the Sisters in recognition of their years of dedicated service to the Church in Boston. Your contribution will make a difference! You may donate here: https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/retired-religious-sisters-collection-2024.

### Anniversary of the Death of Dorothy Day



Friday, November 29, marks the forty-fourth anniversary of the death of Servant of God Dorothy Day. Pray for all who dedicate themsedlves to upholding the principles of the Catholic Worker Movement. More than 185 Catholic Worker communities remain committed to nonviolence, volutary poverty, prayer, and

hospitality for those who are homeless, exiled, hungry, and forsaken. Catholic Workers continue to protest injustice, war, racism, and violence in all its forms. Pray also for those who show hospitality to the poor and for all who work to uphold the God-given dignity of every human person.

### **Guest Speaker Event with Sebastian Gomes**

This Monday, November 25 at 6:00 p.m., we look forward to welcoming back Sebastian Gomes, who will be with us to talk about his experience at the second Vatican assembly of the global Synod on Synodality. This nearly month-long assembly brought together clergy and laity for discussions about the future of the Catholic Church. Sebastian is America Media's executive editor of audio and video. For more information, please see page 7 of this bulletin.

# What Happened at the Synod and What Does It Mean for Us?



Monday, November 25, 6:00 p.m.
Saint Cecilia Church

Join us for an informative evening with **Sebastian** 

Gomes

What does it mean to be a truly synodal church? To find out, Sebastian Gomes traveled to Rome in October for an up-close look at the second Vatican assembly of the global Synod on Synodality. This assembly brought together clerics and laypeople for nearly a month of in-depth discussions on the future of the Catholic Church. Sebastian is looking forward to sharing with us

Sebastian Gomes is America Media's executive director of audio and video. He was the producer and executive editor of the 2022 groundbreaking feature documentary, *People of God: How Catholic Parish Life is Changing in the United States.* 

This event will also be livestreamed at stceciliaboston.org





what he learned.

### SAINT CECILIA PARISH



### **AWAKEN TO JOY**

# A SAINT CECILIA DAY CONCERT FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | 7:30 P.M.

Join us on our patronal feast day for an unforgettable evening of music and inspiration. On Friday, November 22, we will celebrate the patron saint of music with a magnificent choral-orchestral concert featuring J.S. Bach's beloved Cantata 140, Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Awake, a voice is calling us). This well-known and oft-performed church cantata tells the Parable of the Ten Virgins from Matthew's Gospel. Performed by the Saint Cecilia Choir, soloists, and orchestra, this masterpiece is a joyous, celebratory cantata that will awaken your spirit with its stirring harmonies.

On the threshold of the Solemnity of Christ the King and the beginning of the season of Advent, this concert offers an opportunity to reflect on the passing year, as we look forward to the year to come. The late Bach scholar William G. Whitaker wrote of this work, "It is a cantata without weaknesses, without a dull bar—technically, emotionally, and spiritually of the highest order. Its sheer perfection and its boundless imagination rouse one's wonder time and time again."

This performance will also include Felix Mendelssohn's setting of Psalm 42, written for choir, soloists, and orchestra and organ works performed by our talented parish organists.

We hope you'll join us for this powerful exploration of faith, hope, and joy, perfectly suited to the season.

### PRISON MINISTRY INVITATION

Father Jim Shaughnessy, SJ is wondering if anyone would like to join and assist him when goes to the federal prison at Fort Devens. In order to qualify, you have to be at least 18 years of age, a United States citizen, and anticipate a clear CORI report. For more information or to arrange to have a conversation with Father Shaughnessy, please call the parish office (617-536-4548).

Build longer tables, not higher walls.

- José Andrés



# CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 | 7:00 NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY | BROWN HALL 290 HUNTINGTON AVENUE | BOSTON

The second Boston concert of Music for Food's 15<sup>th</sup> season—"Birthings: Beginnings and Farewells"—will feature works by Mendelssohn, Ades, and a world premiere by Ari Shi. Artists include: the Parker Quartet, Peter Jablokow (viola), Kim Kashkashian (viola), Hye Jin Kim (violin), Ara Gregorian (viola), Ayano Ninomiya (violin), and Marcy Rosen (cello).

Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$40/ adults and \$15/students. No tickets or reservations are necessary. All proceeds will go to support the good work of Women's Lunch Place.



# ADVENT GIVING TREE HELP WANTED!

### WEEKDAYS, DECEMBER 4-18

Help is needed to sort, check, wrap, and deliver gifts. We are looking for volunteers who can commit to a three-hour time slot from December 4–18 with times to be arranged.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please call the parish office and be sure to leave your name, contact information, and availability.



# WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION

Next Sunday, December 1, we will commemorate World AIDS Day at the 11:30 liturgy, and our parish AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display in the rear of the church. In 1995, parishioners at the Jesuit Urban Center (JUC) created the quilt as a memorial to honor the members of that community whose lives were cut short by HIV/AIDS. When the JUC closed in 2007, the quilt was given a new home at Saint Cecilia, where it now resides as a powerful visual reminder of the lives of beloved members of these two communities.



# THANKSGIVING MEAL KIT BAGS DUE BACK THIS SUNDAY

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 this Sunday. Thank you!

# THANKSGIVING AT MORVILLE HOUSE

For more than fifteen years, Saint Cecilia parishioners have been serving Thanksgiving dinner at Morville House, a 147-unit federally subsidized home for low-income elders at 100 Norway Street in the Fenway neighborhood. We are still in need of the following:

- We need just one more 20 to 25 pound roasted and carved turkey delivered to Morville House anytime on Wednesday, November 27 or by 10:00 on Thanksgiving Morning.
- Desserts (cookies, brownies, and cakes) delivered to Morville House anytime on Wednesday, November 27 or by 10:00 on Thanksgiving Morning.

There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex this weekend. Thank you for your help!



# PARISH OPERATING STATEMENT - Q1

Dear Parishioners,

We are pleased to present the Parish Operating Statement for the first quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. We ended the quarter with a loss of \$18,279, which is very typical of our first quarters. We expect to be back on budget by the end of the second quarter.

We did not make our usual transfer of \$37,500 to the Capital Repairs Account this quarter but will do that in the second quarter. During the first quarter, Saint Cecilia was able to continue its charitable giving programs. These programs do a great deal of good in our community and would not be possible without your generosity. Please know how very much you are appreciated.

There are no other items of interest to report to you relative to the first quarter. All of the financial indicators the Finance Council follows closely are performing as expected. We fully expect to finish the fiscal year on or above budget.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and support.

### Sincerely,

Saint Cecilia Finance Council
Father John Unni, Pastor
Matt Maguire, Chair
Bonnie Blanchfield
David Castaldi
Alicia Cooney
Mark Duggan
Jason Grapski
Cole Young
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance
Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

# **FYE JUNE 30, 2025 BUDGET OPERATING STATEMENT**

# FYE JUNE 30, 2025 BUDGET OPERATING STATEMENT

	QUARTER ENDING September 30,2024		QUARTER ENDING September 30,2024	
INCOME	ACTUAL		BUDGET	
Sunday Offertory Income	\$	483,081	\$	512,500
Special Donations Income	\$	159,668	\$	233,250
Operating Income	\$	139,733	\$	93,534
Miscellaneous Income	\$	21,915	\$	27,088
TOTAL INCOME	\$	804,397	\$	866,372
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Personnel Expenses	\$	385,949	\$	381,745
Office Expenses	\$	51,970	\$	63,313
Liturgy Expenses	\$	11,840	\$	26,688
Building Expenses	\$	244,229	\$	199,500
Other Expenses	\$	128,688	\$	157,566
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	822,676	\$	828,812
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$	(18,279)	\$	37,560
TRANSFER FOR CAPITAL REPAIRS ACCT	\$	-	\$	(37,500)
FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS	\$	(18,279)	\$	60

### SAINT CECILIA PARISH

# THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

### BY OLIVIA CATHERINE HASTIE

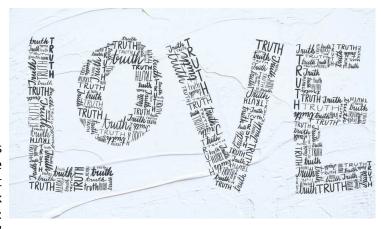
When I first sat down with our readings for today, I was stumped. After a tumultuous election season here in the US, I really did not want to engage Christ as a King, but on my third or fourth time reading through, I was struck by these words that Jesus says to Pilate in the Gospel: "Everyone who *belongs* to the *truth* listens to my voice." If you're reading this homily, you, like me, probably are compelled by Christian truths. Truths about Jesus, God, the Spirit, Justice, but I'm curious. To what other truths do you belong?

November is National Adoption Month and, as an adoptee, belonging is something I think about quite a bit. My birthday is coming up this week, and each year, around this time, I really enjoy revisiting my family's home movies. I love that they are our documentary history, and the one I love most is the video of my family on the day they adopted me.

When the video begins, my dad is filming my brother who is seven years old proclaiming "here we come!" and then a door opens. My mom makes her way across the room and picks me up out of the bassinet and we lock eyes. Not that I really know what I was thinking, but I like to think I knew she was my mother, I knew I was her daughter, I knew we were a family, I knew they loved me, and I knew that I would love them—it was just right, it was our shared truth to which we all belonged.

The video continues with my mom and the woman who took care of me, Maybel, exchanging pleasantries while my brother held me for the first time. I was adopted at three weeks old, so with one week until Christmas my brother tells me in the video: "Olivia, it's almost Christmas, you'll like this song," and then proceeds to sing Jingle Bells to me. For whatever reason, I always watched that exchange as an essential moment of welcome. "You're in this family now, Liv, and we sing Christmas songs." Another shared truth.

On that same disc, there's a clip from 10 months later where my parents, brother, and I appear before a judge who signs off on my adoption. The judge sees us all together and does not think twice before confirming I was



my parents' daughter and my brother's sister. With that paper, he says that we are *officially* a family (even though we had been for some time at that point) and encourages us to celebrate that we belong to each other with a special dinner at a favorite restaurant. Celebration around the table—shared truth.

Not on video are the conversations between me and my mom as I got older and had lots of questions: Why am I not like other people? Where are my birth parents? Why did they leave me? Why didn't they want me? I don't feel like I am really a part of this family. We don't look anything alike.

When those emotional thoughts came up, both of my parents were quick to share words of encouragement about belonging, but always held space for the curiosity and frustration that came with being an adopted child. Feeling your feelings and growing from them—shared truth.

And, even in my mid-twenties, I look to these videos and memories as proof of my family's ultimate shared truth. It is not blood or genetics that make us a family, it's authentic and steadfast love.

Shared truths are stories that act as threads, weaving connections that bind us to one another in deep and meaningful ways. We truly belong when we are seen, heard, and accepted without reservation or conditions. Belonging happens when we are free to make mistakes, to ask honest questions, to learn and grow together, and to simply be together in our shared humanity. Our connection is not held together by lofty ideals or rigid rules, but rather by the unique, intimate moments we share—moments of joy, sorrow, laughter, lament, anger, hope, and everything in between that remind us we are not alone.

When Jesus says, "everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice," I think he's asking for more than simple

### SAINT CECILIA PARISH

obedience and piety. He's inviting us to create spaces of true belonging by connecting through shared stories and experiences. I believe he's calling us, not just to spread his message through words, but to embody and live out his teachings in our actions and relationships. To belong to the truth is to form genuine connections, where love, empathy, and understanding bring the Gospel message to life in a way that reaches others deeply and meaningfully.

For me, this is best exemplified through the story of my adoption, but I wonder where this may come up for you.

What are your shared truths of belonging? And whom do you share them with?

—Olivia Catherine Hastie is a doctoral student in theological ethics at Boston College, focusing on how embodied experiences shape Christian thought, particularly through liberationist and feminist perspectives. She serves as a program associate at FutureChurch, applying her research to advocate for a more inclusive and just Catholic Church. Olivia is also a parishioner and member of the Parish Pastoral Council at Saint Cecilia Parish, Boston.



### UPCOMING NIGHT OF WORSHIP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 7:00-8:00 P.M. (EST)

Join us for our monthly Night of Worship with Eucharistic exposition and adoration. Come find rest and healing in God's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, with praise and worship music led by the Young Adult ministry. Please use the pavilion entrance on St. Cecilia Street and ring the bell to enter.

If you can't join us in person, we will be livestreaming this service over Zoom. To register and receive a Zoom link, please email our Young Adult ministry or call the parish reception desk (617-536-4548).

# UPCOMING FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 4:00-5:00 P.M. (EST) | ZOOM

Mark your calendar for our next online coffee hour, when our guests will be longtime parish leaders, Nancy Hanifin and Karen McMenamy. Nancy and Karen will be sharing reflections from their recent pilgrimages along the Camino de Santiago in Spain. This sacred journey includes rich cultural heritage, beautiful landscapes, and spiritual discovery. This is our chance to experience the journey vicariously and to consider pilgrimages in our own lives. We look forward to a rich conversation.

Those who haven't previously registered for a coffee hour are encouraged to sign up for the Far-Flung Flock email list using this link: https://bit.ly/45pDVRa. Those who have participated in an online coffee hour in the past have no need to reregister. If you are not receiving Far-Flung Flock notifications, please contact us using the Far-Flung Flock email address.



# PARISH RESOURCES

### Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

### Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

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

### **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

### 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 arround the world. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.

### Please note:

According to online safely 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.