The First Sunday of Advent
27 November 2022

“Let Us Beat Our Swords Into Ploughshares”

Sculpture by Evgeny Vuchetich presented to the United Nations in 1959 and on display at its headquarters in New York City.
26 November 2022
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prelude | Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland
Nikolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)

Processional Hymn | Gather Your People
Craig Kingsbury

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.
FIRST READING | Isaiah 2: 1-5

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 122: Let Us Go Rejoicing

1. I rejoiced when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
   And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

2. Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

3. For Israel’s witness it is to praise the name of the Lord. There were set the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

4. For the peace of Jerusalem pray, “May they prosper, those who love you.”
   May peace abide in your walls, and security be in your towers.

5. For the sake of my family and friends, let me say, “Peace unto you.”
   For the sake of the house of the Lord, our God, I will seek good things for you.

SECOND READING | Romans 13: 11-14
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Alleluia from Missa de Lumine arranged by Kathleen Demny

GOSPEL | Matthew 24: 37-44

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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/stcicilia.boston.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

 mê, The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

 mê, Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

 mê, Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.
HOLY, HOLY | Missa de Lumine
arranged by Kathleen Demny

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Missa de Lumine
arranged by Kathleen Demny

GREAT AMEN | Missa de Lumine
arranged by Kathleen Demny

COMMUNION RITE

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.” During this time when we are not able to celebrate the Eucharist together in person, 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. Amen.
Refrain

Close as to-mor-row the sun shall ap-pear.

Free-dom is com-ing and heal-ing is near. And I shall be

with you in laugh-ter and pain to stand in the wind and

walk in the reign, to walk in the reign.

Verses

1. In days to come the des-ert shall
2. Com-fort each oth-er, for pain soon must
3. A cur-tain of fear is be-ing torn
4. A Sow-er is plant-ing in acres un-
5. Oh, one day we’ll know them: the treas-ure, the

bloom. Riv-ers will run there, soon, ver-y
end. A day comes when li-on and lamb shall be
down. Pris-ons are o-pened; the lost have been
seen the seeds of the fu-ture, the field of God’s
pearl, that stir up our spir-its and bright-en our

soon. So what shall we fear, though
friends. The sight-less shall see then, the
found. So go tell the seek-er what
dream. Those mead-ows are hum-ming though
world. We ache to pos-sess them, the
COMMUNION MEDITATION | Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
Der Wächter sehr hoch auf der Zinne,
Wach auf, du Stadt Jerusalem!
Mitternacht heißt diese Stunde,
Sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde:
Wo seid ihr klugen Jungfrauen?
Wohlauf, der Bräut’gam kömmt,
Steht auf, die Lampen nehmt! Halleluja!
Macht euch bereit zu der Hochzeit,
Ihr müßet ihm entgegengehn!

Wake, awake, for night is flying,
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
Awake, Jerusalem, at last!
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
Come forth, ye virgins, night is past!
The Bridegroom comes, awake,
Your lamps with gladness take;
Hallelujah!
And for His marriage feast prepare,
For ye must go to meet Him there.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CONCLUDING RITES

Blessing and Dismissal

※ 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.
1. O Holy City, seen of John, Where
2. O shame to us who rest content While
3. Give us, O God, the strength to build The
4. Al - ready in the mind of God That

Christ, the Lamb, does reign, With - in those four - square
lust and greed for gain In street and shop and
City that has stood Too long a dream, whose
City rises fair: Lo, how its splendor

walls shall come No night, nor need, nor pain. And
ten - c - ment Wring gold from hu - man pain, And
laws are love, Whose ways, the com - mon good, And
chal - lenges The souls that great - ly dare: Yea,

where the tears are wiped from eyes That shall not weep a - gain,
biter lips in blind de - spair Cry, “Christ has died in vain.”
where the shin - ing sun be - comes God’s grace for hu - man good.
bids us seize the whole of life And build its glo - ry there.

POSTLUDE| Leipzig Chorale: Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)
Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children’s faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus’ teachings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We’ve been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God’s love makes all things new.
You’re invited to a
Family Christmas Cookie decorating party
Enjoy Christmas music, hot cocoa & cookies!

Sunday, December 11th
after the 9:30 Mass

Please RSVP to Lisa Pickering by December 7
lpickering@stceciliaboston.com
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, November 26 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Catherine Horsley, lector

Sunday, November 27 | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Emily Germain, lector

Sunday, November 27 | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Virgen Palermo, Harry Minehart,
and Zachary Boutin, lectors

Sunday, November 27 | 11:30 a.m.
Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Kelly McClintock, Chika Offurum,
and Thomas O’Brien, lectors

Sunday, November 27 | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Spencer Dunne and Julie Bogdanski, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 26 | 5:00 p.m.
Charles Botosh Sr., Memorial

Sunday, November 27 | 9:30 a.m.
Gerardo Eusse Hoyos, First Anniversary
Jennifer Cabral, Memorial
Jacob Schlein, Memorial

Sunday, November 27 | 11:30 a.m.
Brian Beaton, Sixth Anniversary
Joseph and Joan Bennett, Memorial

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

ADVENT
Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Charlie Naughton, Bob Haas, 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 new members of our parish who have recently registered: Sister Diane Trotta of Cornwall, New York; Anthony Wood of Boston; Valerie and John Sheehy of Braintree; Allison Kurthy of Boston; Arnold Friedman of Boston; Richard Melde of Boston; and Margaret Ohrlich and Mike Martinez of Cambridge. To register as a parishioner, please visit www.stceciliaboston.org.

Happy Anniversary!
This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of Frank LaPiana who was baptized on November 26, and Carly Caminiti who was baptized on December 1. May the Lord continue to bless them with the grace to live our their baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Frank and Carly!

Anniversary of the Death of Dorothy Day
This Tuesday, November 29, marks the forty-second anniversary of the death of Servant of God Dorothy Day. Pray for all who dedicate themselves to upholding the principles of the Catholic Worker Movement. More than 185 Catholic Worker communities remain committed to nonviolence, voluntary 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.

Anniversary of Four U.S. Churchwomen Martyred in El Salvador—December 2, 1980
The word “martyr” is derived from the same Greek word as “witness” and for Maura Clarke, Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel, and Jean Donovan, their witness to serving the poor indeed led to their deaths. Forty-two years ago this Friday, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and lay missioner Jean Donovan drove their van to the El Salvador airport and picked up Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford. Members of El Salvador’s National Guard stopped their van and they were taken to an isolated location where they were sexually and physically abused before being brutally murdered. Pray for all victims of violence and for all who put themselves in harm's way at the service of the Gospel.

Be Sure to Take Home a Little Blue Book for Advent
Six minutes a day. That's what you might consider giving to prayer during the seasons of Advent and Christmastide. The Little Blue Book includes daily thoughts on Advent and Christmas, the feast of the day, and various traditions and customs. There are also reflections on the first reading assigned for the Mass each day. These books are in baskets in the rear of the church, and can also be ordered directly from littlebooks.org and are available in paper ($5) and eBook ($4) formats.

Pray for Our RCIA Inquirers Preparing for the Catechumenate
Bryonna Finley, Glenn Gallo, Ruby Rollins, Helen Sherrah-Davies, Jin-Yeong So, and Eugenia Uche-Any are in their final week of the RCIA "period of inquiry" and next Sunday, through the Rite of Acceptance, will seek to be admitted into the Order of Catechumens. In this ritual the Church symbolically claims these men and women for Christ by signing them with the cross. During the rite, the inquirers will stand amidst the parish community and state their desire to become a baptized members of the Catholic Church. The parish assembly affirms this desire and the inquirers become catechumens—a term that comes from the Greek word κατηχούμενος (katecoumenos), referring to someone who, by word of mouth, is being taught the Gospel and the teachings of the Church. Please keep these new members of our community in your prayer.

Christmas Flowers
You are invited to remember your loved ones by donating towards the Christmas flowers that will grace our sanctuary. In the rear of the church you will find envelopes that you can use for this purpose. Please drop the envelope in the collection basket or bring it to the reception desk. The names of those remembered will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Please be sure to PRINT clearly.

Thank You! Special Collection for Retired Religious Sisters
Thank you to everyone who contributed to last weekend's special collection to support our nearly 1,500 retired Sisters who served in the Archdiocese of Boston. If you did not have a chance to make your donation, you can send a check made payable to the Archdiocese of Boston to Sister Germana Santos, FSP, Delegate for Religious, 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA 02184. Every gift makes a difference and goes directly to the support of our retired Sisters.
THE ADVENT GIVING TREES

Have you taken a gift tag from one of our Advent Giving Trees? Your gift will bring tidings of comfort and joy this Christmas to many people in our neighborhood.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

• Select one or more tags and purchase the item. Please do not take a tag unless you know that you will be able to purchase the gift.
• Wrap your gift(s)—unless the tag indicates not to—and attach the tag securely to the outside of your gift(s).
• You are welcome to add to your purchase. For example, if someone requested a winter hat, you could also include gloves or a scarf or include some holiday candy, etc. Remember—for some people, this will be the only gift they receive this Christmas.
• If the gift is unavailable or 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 as soon as possible.
• If you lose your tag, please inform a Giving Tree Coordinator.
• Return your gift(s) to the church NO LATER than Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m.

FOR OUR VIRTUAL GIVING TREE

• Go to: https://tinyurl.com/stc22givingtree
• Select the agency you wish to support.
• Follow instructions for shipping and delivery. Be sure to include the listed “in care of” (c/o) information.
• For gift cards, choose a physical card vs. an electronic 'E-card.' Project Hope is an exception to this rule. E-cards are acceptable for that agency.
• Any online seller can be used, or you may purchase the gift at a store and then ship it.
• If the gift is unavailable or out of stock, a gift card may be substituted.
• If you bring your gift to the church, please be sure to clearly indicate which agency it is for.
• Please order and ship your gift(s) so it will arrive at the agency or the church no later than Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m.

THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent wreaths were originally part of folk traditions of Northern Europe. Wreaths of evergreens were decorated with candles to symbolize life and light during the dark months of winter. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God. Evergreens stay green all year and so signify continuous life. Each of the four candles represents one of the Sundays of Advent. We needn’t worry about the colors of the candles; traditionally, three violet candles and one rose candle are used, but you may prefer to use four royal blue candles, four violet candles, or four white candles. The symbol is the flame, not the color. Each Sunday, as the light of the wreath grows brighter, we are reminded that Christ comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope.

Tonight, light the first candle, sing a verse of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, re-read part of today’s Gospel, and say a brief concluding prayer. If you prefer, here is a prayer you can use.

FIRST WEEK

Light one of the violet candles. During the rest of the week, this candle is relit at the evening meal or whenever you choose to do so.

Jesus, as we wait for your coming, help us to trust in you and not be afraid. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of hope into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

Amen.

WORLD AIDS DAY

As part of our annual observance of World AIDS Day, our AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed in the rear of the church next weekend. When you come to church, be sure to spend a few moments in prayer before this powerful visual reminder of souls from both the Jesuit Urban Center and Saint Cecilia communities.
Welcome Home Gift Basket Drive

Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston is honored to partner with Saint Cecilia Parish ONCE AGAIN in an effort to provide TWO local partner families with a welcome home basket filled with gifts and household goods.

Please view Habitat Greater Boston’s Amazon Wish List of items that will make moving into a new Habitat home even more special for our families:

https://amzn.to/3Tk7F1D

Amazon orders can be shipped directly to Habitat’s office:
434 Massachusetts Ave, Suite 201
Boston MA 02118

For more information, contact Christine Aldrich Burns at cburns@stceciaboston.org.

Thank you St. Cecilia parishioners for your kindness and generosity to our partner families!

New items needed:
- Household Goods
- Art & School Supplies
- Games & Entertainment
- Health & Wellness
- Kitchen Supplies
- Small Appliances & Electronics

October 21 - November 30

Maximum cost per item: $75

Everyone deserves a decent place to live.

Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston improves the lives of hardworking families through access to affordable homeownership.

617-423-2223 | www.habitatboston.org | 434 Massachusetts Ave, Suite 201, Boston MA 02118 | @HabitatBoston
As part of our parish’s commemoration of World AIDS Day, the Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry will be presenting a talk by Jim McDermott, S. J. entitled: “A Place for Us” on Thursday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. “A Place for Us” will be an in-person and live-streamed event. McDermott is an associate editor of America magazine, and his articles have often appeared in our bulletin, including “I’m a Catholic Priest, but Please Don’t Call Me Father.” He holds a Master’s of Fine Arts in screenwriting from UCLA and has been working as a screenwriter and culture critic for 20 years. Earlier this year he received a Catholic Press Award for the reporting he did in 2021 about the disparity on the way the pandemic was affecting different communities in Los Angeles.

This event is free, open to the public, and will be streamed live on YouTube.com/c/SaintCeciliaParish
Are you ready to ring in the new year?

You may think I am getting ahead of myself, but for Christians, the new liturgical year starts not on Jan. 1, but on the first Sunday of Advent, which this year falls on November 27. This is one of those rare occasions when Christians are actually ahead of everyone else.

Advent is the church’s way of preparing for both Christ’s birthday and the Second Coming of Christ, which he promised as he left the company of his disciples after his resurrection and which his followers, the church, still await.

Our earliest records of Advent come from Gaul (modern-day France) and Spain. In 380, when 12 Spanish bishops met at the Synod of Saragossa, they reminded Christians of their obligation to go to church every day from Dec. 17 to Jan. 6, according to Lizette Larson-Miller in "The New Dictionary of Sacramental Worship," upon which this column is heavily dependent.

In Gaul, Christians fasted three days a week from Nov. 11 to Christmas. Advent in Gaul took on many of the penitential characteristics of Lent, such as dropping the Gloria, the hymn of praise for God, from Mass. These practices influenced the universal church after they were adopted by Rome.

In Rome, Advent took place at the same time as the local citizenry’s blowout celebrations of Saturnalia, which the clergy were always denouncing. Fasting was seen as distinguishing Christians from the bacchanalia of the pagans.

Perhaps Fasting during Advent can be the Christian response to the consumerism of the season. It is our way of being countercultural.

But Christians were not only preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ: They were also anticipating his coming in the End Times. The song “Dies Irae” (“Day of Wrath”) was originally composed for the beginning of Advent.

Think we’re living through the Apocalypse? So did first-century Christians.

As I have written elsewhere, global warming makes us conscious that we may be bringing on the End Times by our own efforts. Advent is a time to remind ourselves through fasting that our extravagant consumption of energy needs to be restrained if we want to survive and prosper as a species. Do something green during Advent.

Of course, Advent is celebrated when it is, because we celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25.

Since we do not know the day Jesus was born, there are two theories explaining the choice of December 25 as the day to celebrate his birth. There may be truth in both theories.

The first theory is that it was chosen as a calculated strategy by Christian leaders to replace or counter Dies Natalis Solis Invicti, the pagan feast celebrating the rebirth of the sun at the time of the winter solstice.

Christians were not above co-opting pagan practices and customs. Often Christian churches were former Greek or Roman temples or were built where the temples had stood before they were destroyed by the Christians. Likewise, Gentile Christians began using statues to represent Christ and the saints, something their Jewish forbears would never have done.

The second theory is complicated. It begins with the calculation of early Christians that Jesus died on March 25.

The early Christians, like their Jewish contemporaries, believed that the birth and death of great men were connected. For example, they believed that patriarchs' birth and death dates coincided.
For Jesus, it was his conception and death that were aligned. That put his birth nine months later, on December 25. This put his conception and death near the spring equinox and his birth at the winter solstice.

Some scholars believe this dating originated in North Africa, but when it got to Rome, its celebration was colored by the pagan feast of the sun.

The celebration of the birth of Jesus, if it indeed began by co-opting a pagan feast, has come full circle: Advent and Christmas have been co-opted by pagan capitalism. Advent is now for shopping, not for preparing the way of the Lord.

It appears doubtful that Christians will be able to liberate Christmas from its commercial dross. At best, we might rescue Christmas by moving gift-giving to the Epiphany (Jan. 6), when we currently remember the Magi and their gifts to Jesus. Merchants might like that, since it would give them another week for the shopping season.

Epiphany means "manifestation," and the feast originally remembered Jesus' baptism and the announcement of his mission by the Father. In the East, the Epiphany was the earlier and more important feast. Remember, Mark's Gospel, the earliest of the four New Testament accounts of Jesus' life, begins with his baptism. Joseph and Mary's story, and the narrative of Jesus' birth, was written down only later.

Eventually, the East adopted Christmas from the West, and the West adopted Epiphany from the East, where it was added to the Christmas story as the feast celebrating the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem.

Today, in the United States, Epiphany is celebrated on the first Sunday in January, and the baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the following Sunday (or Monday if the 6th is a Sunday) after the Epiphany.

How Christians have celebrated Christmas over time has changed, and it must continue to change if we are to free Christmas from its capitalistic shackles. But how it should evolve is anyone's guess.

Conservatives think that the greatest threat to Christmas is saying "Happy holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas." In reality, the greatest threat to Christmas has been prostituting Christ and Advent on behalf of consumerism.

—Jesuit Fr. Thomas Reese's column for Religion News Service, "Signs of the Times," appears regularly in NCR.
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
E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff
Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Keith Brinkley, Mike Currier, Rudy Flores, Parker Olson,
Corey Ortiz, Reception
Christine Burns, Digital Media Coordinator
Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music
tcesario@stceciliaboston.org
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org
Robert Duff, Director of Music
rduff@stceciliaboston.org
Giovanna Franchi, Pastoral Minister
gfranchi@stceciliaboston.org
Olivia Hasting, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
ohasting@stceciliaboston.org
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development
cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org
Thomas Mellan, Organist
tmellan@stceciliaboston.org
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
lpickering@stceciliaboston.org

Assisting Clergy
Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

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.

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, Olivia Hasting, at ohasting@stceciliaboston.org.

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

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

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.

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.

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 also provide consultation and support to anyone in the parish who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Lois Flaherty (loisflaherty@gmail.com), Maria Roche (maria.roche15@gmail.com), Letitia Howland (l_howland@hotmail.com), or Erin Young (erin.t.young@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

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 text of the policy is also available in the narthex and Parish Office, as well as on our website.

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.

Hearing Assistance in Church
The church is equipped with an assistive listening system. If you would like to use one of the small receivers, please ask one of our greeters.

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

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 take advantage of this discount, ask one of our greeters 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, first place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

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. If you are local, please introduce yourself to a staff member or drop in for coffee on Sunday. 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.