

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Second Sunday of Advent

10 December 2023

Saint John the Baptist Preaching to the Masses
in the Wilderness by Pieter Bruegel the Younger



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Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

10 December 2023

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ADVENT

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We welcome especially all our guests or visitors who are joining us this weekend. Please know you are always welcome.

PRELUDE | *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

THE ORDER OF THE MASS INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | On Jordan's Bank

WINCHESTER NEW



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make
3. For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our
4. To heal the sick stretch out your hand, And
5. All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose



noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
straight the way for God with - in, And let each heart pre -
ref - uge and our great re - ward; With - out your grace we
bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; Shine forth and let your
ad - vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
pare a home Where such a might - y guest may come.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
light re - store Earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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.

PENITENTIAL ACT

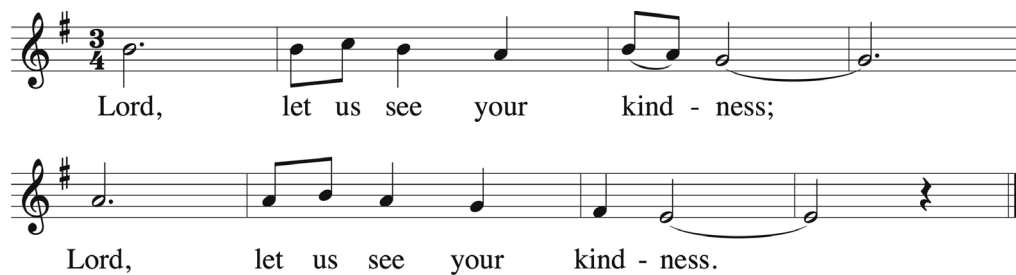
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 85: Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness

Marty Haugen



1. I will hear what the Lord God speaks: he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful. His salvation is near for those who fear him, and his glory will dwell in our land.
2. Merciful love and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have kissed. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth, and justice look down from the heaven.
3. Also the Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase. Just will march before him, and guide his steps on the way.

SECOND READING | 2 Peter 3: 8-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Alleluia from *Missa de Lumine*

arranged by Kathleen Demny



GOSPEL | Mark 1: 1-8

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!

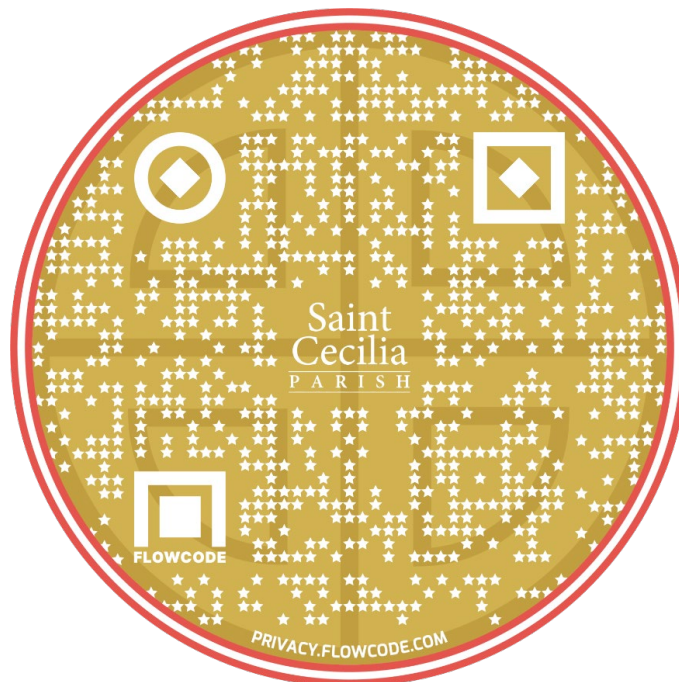
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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/stceciliaboston.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | Comfort, Comfort O My People

GENEVA



1. Com - fort, com - fort, O my peo - ple, Speak of peace, now
2. Hark, the voice of one who's cry - ing In the des - ert
3. O make straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er



says our God. Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,
far and near, Bid - ding all to full re - pent - ance
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Mourn - ing un - der sor - rows' load. Speak un - to Je -
Since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
As be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them.
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad.



Tell of all the sins I cov - er,
Let the val - leys rise to meet him
And all flesh shall see the to - ken



And that war - fare now is o - ver.
And the hills bow down to greet him.
That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✦ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✦ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✦ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY | *Missa de Lumine*

arranged by Kathleen Demny

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.
Heav-en and earth are full, are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high-est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | *Missa de Lumine*

arranged by Kathleen Demny

Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your Cross and Res-ur -
rec - tion you have set us free.

GREAT AMEN | *Missa de Lumine*

arranged by Kathleen Demny

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

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.

DOXOLOGY

SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD | Holy Cross Mass

David Clark Isele

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff is for the Cantor or Choir, and the second is for the All. The lyrics are: *Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. grant us peace. The notation includes a triplet of eighth notes for 'a-way' and a repeat sign for the final phrase.

Cantor or Choir: *Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,
All: have mer-cy on us. grant us peace.

To repeat *Last time*

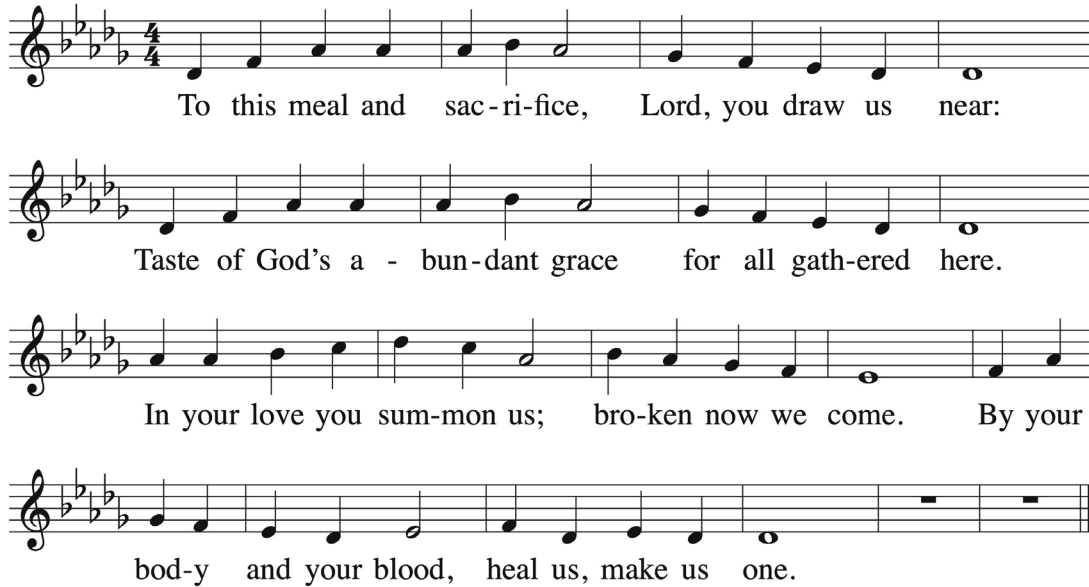
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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. Amen.

Refrain



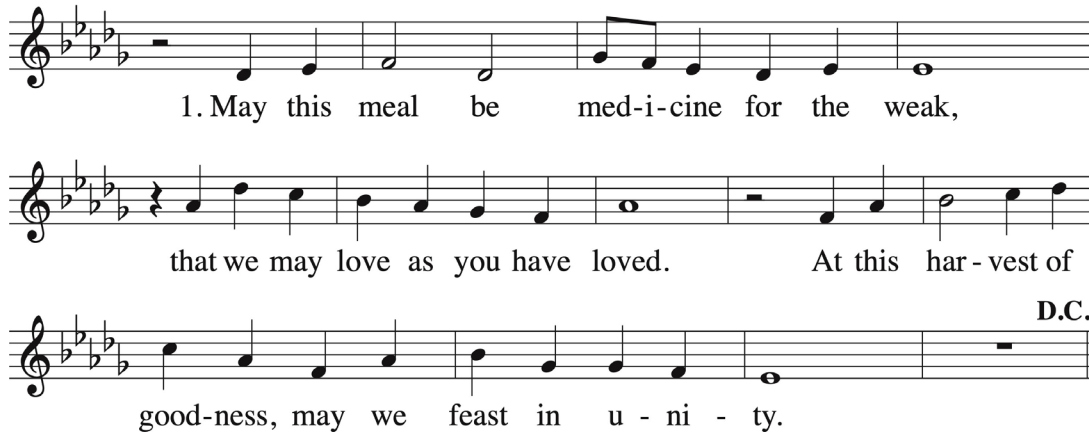
To this meal and sac-ri-fice, Lord, you draw us near:

Taste of God's a - bun-dant grace for all gath-ered here.

In your love you sum-mon us; bro-ken now we come. By your

bod-y and your blood, heal us, make us one.

Verse 1

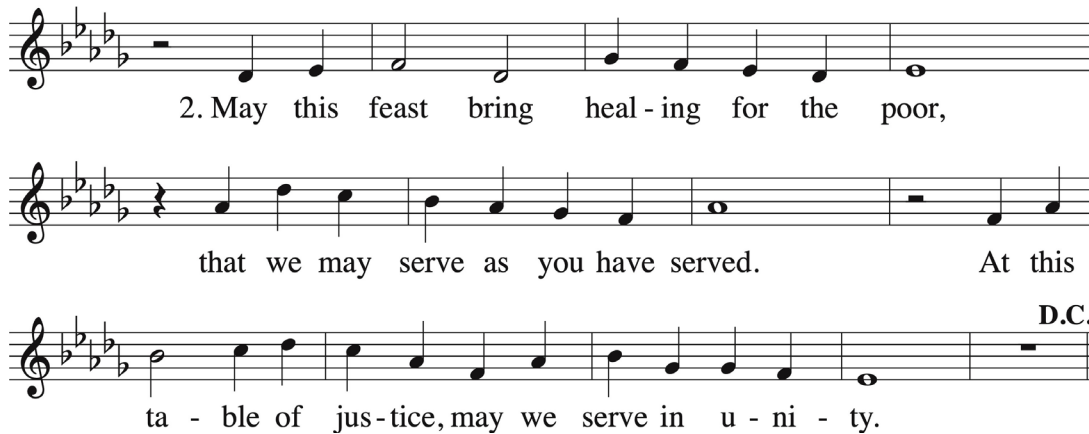


1. May this meal be med-i-cine for the weak,

that we may love as you have loved. At this har-vest of

good-ness, may we feast in u - ni - ty. **D.C.**

Verse 2




2. May this feast bring heal-ing for the poor,


that we may serve as you have served. At this

ta - ble of jus-tice, may we serve in u - ni - ty. **D.C.**

Verses 3–6



3. May our hearts be o - pen to your pres - ence,
 4. May this food be wel - come for the "oth - er,"
 5. May our hands bring com - fort to the sick,
 6. May this bread trans - form our hearts for peace,



that we may share as you have shared. At this
 em - brac - ing all hu - man - i - ty. At this
 em - pow'r - ing all who gath - er here. At this
 re - viv - ing hope for all our days. At this



gath - 'ring of na - tions, may we live in u - ni - ty.
 ban - quet of glad - ness, may we work for u - ni - ty.
 al - tar of heal - ing, may we sing for u - ni - ty.
 tem - ple of mer - cy, may we pray for u - ni - ty.

D.C.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Michael Larkin
 (b. 1951)

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. Peo - ple look East, The time is near. Of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad, though earth is bare. One more
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the
 4. Stars, keep the watch when night is dim. One more
 5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Him who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there; Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim. Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley

a - ble Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may flour - ish.
 fro - zen He for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming With the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Guest is on the way.
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Rose, is on the way.
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Bird is on the way.
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, December 9 | 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, December 10 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Jordan Barnes, lector

Sunday, December 10 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Thomas O'Brien, Kelly McClintock, and Nikko Mendoza, lectors

Sunday, December 10 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Bobbi Moran, Julie Bogdanski, and Eileen Maguire, lectors

Sunday, December 10 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Virgen Palermo, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 10 | 8:00 a.m.

John & Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

Sunday, December 10 | 9:30 a.m.

Joseph F. Ford, *Memorial*
McGarry & McGovern Families, *Memorial*
Mary Buckley, *Memorial*
Norbert Hootsmans, *Memorial*
Jack Candon, *Memorial*

Sunday, December 10 | 11:30 a.m.

Patrick J. Corrigan, *6th Anniversary*
Richard Howland, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

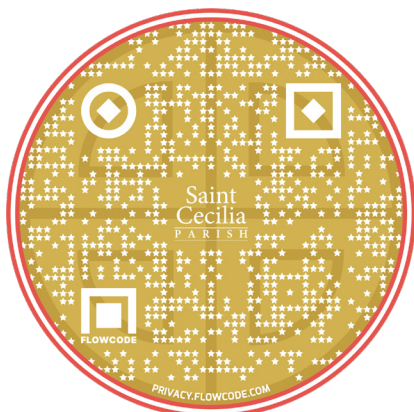
NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!





Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

Join Us on the Third Sunday of Advent for

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 17 • 4:00 P.M.

In this service of Scripture and song, lessons from Sacred Scripture are interspersed with Christmas carols, hymns, and choral music, joyfully proclaiming the story of God's love shown forth in Christ.

*This service will be livestreamed.
Light refreshments to follow.*

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Osla Case died on December 4. Her Funeral Mass will be on Monday, December 18 at 10:00 am. Please pray for the consolation of her husband Bob and their family. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Jacqueline Lavelle, Elizabeth Kennedy, Jeff Hommes, Sue Ryan, Tim Finn, Glenn Gallo, John Hosang, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: **Mary and Brian Carty** of Boston, **Maureen Fitzgerald** of Boston, the **Consilvio Family** of Medfield, **Eileen Young** of Boston, and the **Davis Family** of Dorchester. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

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.

Christmas Flowers

You are invited to remember your loved ones by donating towards the Christmas flowers that will grace our sanctuary. Please fill out this online form by **December 11** to participate: <https://bit.ly/3Rjd2JH>. For those folks without smartphones or computers, you'll find envelopes in the rear of the church 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.

Gaudete Sunday

Next Sunday is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, a day marked by a joyful anticipation of the Christmas celebration. Like Laetare Sunday in Lent, the optional liturgical color is rose. Help add to our celebration by wearing something rose-colored to Mass next Sunday!

Last 6:00 p.m. Mass of 2023

This Sunday, December 10, is the last six o'clock Sunday liturgy before Christmas. The six o'clock liturgy will resume on the Solemnity of the Epiphany (January 7).

Our Advent Giving Tree Deadline Approaches!

As a gentle reminder, if you are participating in this year's Advent Giving Tree, please return your gift(s) to the church **NO LATER than Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m.** If you have any questions, please reach out to our Advent Giving Tree Coordinators as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity!

Pray for our RCIA Members on their Faith Journey!

After ten weeks of study and reflection, our RCIA candidates and inquirers enter a new phase of their journey. With the Rite of Acceptance this Sunday, our inquirers will be initiated into the Order of Catechumens, during which the Church symbolically claims these men and women for Christ by signing them with the cross. During this same rite, the inquirers will stand amidst our community and state their desire to become baptized members of the Church. Additionally, our baptized Candidates who are journeying toward the sacraments of Communion and first Eucharist will be welcomed into the Parish. Both groups will continue on their path of faith, study, prayer, and reflection on the word of God in the weeks and months ahead, leading to reception of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Please keep these new members of our community in your prayers!



Those preparing for Baptism:

(Those preparing to enter the catechumenate)

**Eliana Coy • Karen Fang • Michael Kanare
Motoy Kuno-Lewis • Andy Moore • Mike Sheridan
Matthew Steinschneider**

Those preparing for Confirmation and First Eucharist:

(Those preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist)

**Maria Chandler • Thomas Debele • Mackenzie Dwyer
Stuart Fross • Ryan Maloney • Josh Neuberger
Rebekah Neuberger • Aleksandra Picariello
Aitana Rodriguez • Eleanor Sanderson • Gordon Santry**

ADVENT

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOR YOUR ADVENT WREATH

SECOND WEEK

Light two of the violet candles. During the rest of the week, these candles are relit at the evening meal or whenever you choose to do so.



Jesus, John the Baptist told the people, "If you have two coats, give one to someone else who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else." As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of service into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts. Amen.

ADVENT IGNATIAN PRAYER

Mondays in Advent (12/4, 12/11, 12/18) | 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Zoom | Open to: Young Adults (20 - 40)

Join the Saint Cecilia Young Adults community for weekly prayer and faith sharing this Advent season as they explore different forms of Ignatian prayer, including Lectio and Visio Divina, and imaginative prayer. They'll reflect on the nativity story in new ways and learn from each other's experiences to find new meaning in this familiar but powerful Gospel reading. Prepare your hearts for the coming of Jesus this Advent! Please RSVP here (<https://bit.ly/3uytzAK>) to receive the Zoom link. To sign up for and learn about other SCYA events, go to their LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/scyo-ungadultsboston>

THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA DECEMBER 10 – DECEMBER 17

Sunday, December 10

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom
SCYF: Family Faith Conversation on Advent,
8:00 p.m. via Zoom

Monday, December 11

SCYA Social and Christmas Card writing for individuals who are incarcerated, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
SCYA Advent Ignatian Prayer Series,
7:00–8:00 p.m. via Zoom

Tuesday, December 12

RCIA, 6:30–8 p.m.
SCYA, Mass in East Boston celebrating
Our Lady of Guadalupe & dinner outing
Vespers for Our Lady of Guadalupe,
6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Wednesday, December 13

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30 a.m. via Zoom
Communion Circle at Mount Pleasant Home, 3:00 p.m.
SCYA Women's Group, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, December 14

Communion Circle at Hale House, 4:00 p.m.
SCYA Catechism Study, 7:00–8:00 via Zoom
Wisdom Group, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Saturday, December 16

Young Families Advent Gathering, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 17

All Advent Giving Tree Gifts returned
to the parish NO LATER than 3:00 p.m.
Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom
Young Families Planning Committee, 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

We hope you'll consider participating in our food donation ministry during the upcoming months so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The local economy might have improved for some of us, but the working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices. Saint Cecilia has committed to providing these items to the food pantries: Cheerios or cornflakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta and spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, canned tuna fish, canned chicken breast, cooking oil, and tomato sauce. While any canned or shelf-stable items are appreciated, it is particularly helpful when parishioners can help with the staples listed above. Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex.



Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Please note that since Christmas falls on a Monday this year, our Sunday schedule for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24) will change. Masses that are also livestreamed are marked with an asterisk (*) and can be viewed at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Saturday, December 16 | Third Sunday of Advent

Mass | 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 17 | Third Sunday of Advent

Mass | 8:00, 9:30*, & 11:30 a.m.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols | 4:00 p.m.*

Please note that there will be no 6:00 p.m. liturgy.

Saturday, December 23 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass | 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m.* **ONLY**

Please note that this is the only Sunday morning liturgy we will have.

There will NOT be an 8:00 or an 11:30 liturgy. There will be no coffee hospitality today.

Sunday, December 24 | Christmas Eve

Mass | 4:00 p.m.* *with the procession of children bringing the infant Jesus to the crèche*

Mass | 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25 | Christmas Day

Mass | 9:30 a.m.*

Please note that this is the only Mass on Christmas Day. There will be no coffee hospitality today.

Tuesday, December 26–Friday, December 29

Parish offices closed.

Wednesday, December 27 | Thursday, December 28 | Friday, December 29

Weekday Mass | 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 30 | Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Mass | 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31 | Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Mass | 8:00, 9:30*, & 11:30

There will be no coffee hospitality today. Please note that there will be no 6:00 p.m. liturgy.

Monday, January 1 | Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Mass | 10:00 a.m. | *Please note that this is NOT a holy day of obligation this year.*

Saturday, January 6 | The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass | 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 7 | The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass | 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

There will be coffee hospitality following the 9:30 & 11:30 liturgies.

SAINT CECILIA ADVENT GIVING TREE

Each year, before Christmas, we consolidate requests for assistance from local agencies serving our neighbors in need into one program—the Saint Cecilia Advent Giving Tree. This year, the tags on the trees are from the agencies that reached out to us. Parishioners may take one or more tags from the tree and return the gifts to the parish for delivery. Thank you for your generosity—it helps bring tidings of comfort and joy to many people in our neighborhood.

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HERE'S WHAT TO DO

- Select one or more tags and purchase the item(s).
- Please do not take a tag unless you know you will be able to purchase the gift.
- Wrap the gift UNLESS the tag says, “DO NOT WRAP.” If you do not have time to wrap—that’s OK! We have a gift wrap team!
- 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 add gloves or a scarf, holiday candy, etc. Remember—for some people, this will be the only gift they receive for Christmas.
- The recommended amount for gift cards is \$25.
- If the gift 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 lose the tag, please let us know.
- Return the gift(s) to the church NO LATER than Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL GIVING TREE INSTRUCTIONS

- Please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/stc2023givingtree>
- 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' and mail it to the agency.
- In the “from” field enter “from [your first name] at Saint Cecilia Parish” or “from a friend at Saint Cecilia Parish.”
- Any online seller can be used, or you may purchase the gift from a store and mail.
- If the gift is out of stock or too expensive, a gift card may be substituted.
- Please order and ship the gift(s) to arrive at the agency or parish by Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m.
- You may also bring the gift to the parish—let us know it was from the Virtual Giving Tree and which agency it was for.

TO THE FAR-FLUNG FLOCK

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





PROJECT HOPE BOSTON

PROJECT HOPE Boston works in partnership with women and families in the Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhoods of Boston on their journeys up and out of poverty. They do this by being a catalyst for change in the lives of families, developing and providing programs and family support solutions to alleviate poverty and homelessness.



HALEY HOUSE

Haley House uses food with purpose and the power of community to break down barriers between people, empower individuals, and strengthen neighborhoods. They believe in radical solutions: solving problems at their root by challenging attitudes that perpetuate suffering and building alternative models.



the Y

The FAMILIES IN TRANSITION program at the Huntington Avenue YMCA is an emergency housing shelter for families. They provide services including advocacy, skills training, employment support, health and wellness opportunities, childcare provisions, and housing assistance to help families secure permanent housing.



THE HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS

WALTHAM HOUSE is a group home program run by the Home for Little Wanderers. It is designed to provide a supportive living environment for LGBTQ+ youth ages 14-18. Residents are offered a safe and nurturing environment, while they prepare for family reunification, independent living, and future self-sufficiency.



Pine Street Inn

Ending Homelessness

PINE STREET INN partners with homeless individuals to help them move from the streets and shelter to a home, and assists formerly homeless individuals in retaining housing. They provide street outreach, emergency services, supportive housing, job training, and connections to employment. Pine Street tirelessly advocates for collaborative solutions to end homelessness.



Catholic Charities BOSTON

The Catholic Charities Yawkey Child Care Center, is a diverse center-based community dedicated to providing a nurturing, safe, clean, healthy environment where children can grow and develop socially, emotionally, and cognitively. The center serves children aged 6 weeks to 7 years with full-day, full-year care for families living or working in Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roxbury, Roslindale, and other Boston neighborhoods.



BOSTON HEALTH CARE for the HOMELESS PROGRAM

SINCE 1985

The mission of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program is to ensure unconditionally equitable and dignified access to the highest quality health care for all individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community.



LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE

The LGBT Asylum Task Force provides shared housing for LGBTQ asylum seekers in Worcester, Massachusetts, small monthly stipends to pay for food, transportation, and other basic expenses, along with legal and medical resource lists.

The Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry is a ministry of faith and love staffed by committed volunteers and based at Saint Mother Teresa Parish in Dorchester, MA. Their mission is to provide nutritious groceries with kindness and compassion to individuals and families facing economic hardship and living in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston.

The Elders Living at Home Program at Boston Medical Center provides a range of services to a diverse group of older adults who are homeless, who have been homeless, and who may be at risk of becoming homeless. Their goal is to help these individuals maintain independence in safe, affordable permanent housing for as long as possible. The individuals served by ELAHP are very low-income, and many are socially isolated.



SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Your support helps Clergy Trust care for our priests in good standing so they can continue building stronger communities for all.

Learn more
and give today at
clergytrust.org

SCAN HERE for
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Apple Pay, PayPal
via Givebutter.



WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE
HOLIDAY CARDS SALE

We encourage you to participate in Women's Lunch Place's annual holiday cards fundraiser. Cards can be purchased in person after this weekend's Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass and our Sunday 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. Masses. The cards, which cost \$25 for a pack of 5, feature artwork created by a former guest of the shelter who is presently the part-time Art Coordinator at the agency. All proceeds from the card sale support WLP. For more information and to purchase holiday cards online, visit <https://womenslunchplace.org/holiday-cards>





WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ADVENT IN OUR BROKEN WORLD?

BY DANIEL HORAN, OFM

Bulletin Editor's Note: This article was published on November 30, 2023.

Another liturgical year is ending this week. On Sunday, we will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent and, with it, a new church year. This monthlong liturgical season tends to sneak up on many of us. It appears quickly, almost suddenly, after Thanksgiving and then passes by rapidly as days in the global north grow shorter, academic semesters wrap up, the shopping season accelerates and holiday travel schedules and seasonal stress push even the calmest people to a breaking point.

Given all of this, it can be difficult to acknowledge the presence of Advent, let alone take any time to reflect on its meaning and significance. It is for this reason that I thought it worthwhile to pause and reflect on the meaning of this season just days ahead of its start.

It will come as no surprise to regular readers of my column that one of my go-to wisdom figures is the late Trappist monk, social critic, mystic and author, Fr. Thomas Merton. He wrote two essays in the 1960s that I find myself returning to almost annually to renew my understanding of and appreciation for Advent.

Merton's 1963 article, "Advent: Hope or Delusion," which was later published in the book *Seasons of Celebration*, challenges Christians to think more deeply about what it is we are celebrating when we celebrate Advent and then Christmas. Do we embrace authentic Christian hope or do we reduce this liturgical time to a celebration of some kind of superficial and fleeting feeling of optimism?

The latter, which is what many Christians think the season is about, can too easily be experienced as a form of escapism from the realities of life and history.

On the contrary, as Merton writes: "In Advent we celebrate the coming and indeed the presence of Christ in our world. We witness to His presence even in the midst of all its inscrutable problems and tragedies. Our Advent faith is not an escape from the world to a misty realm of slogans and comforts which declare our problems to be unreal, our

tragedies inexistent."

On occasions when Advent is considered, it's often viewed through the lens of what we might lightheartedly call the "Hallmark Channel Industrial Complex," by which I mean that we think of holiday songs sung by a warm hearth or an evening stroll during a light snow or a couple kissing under the mistletoe or the like. We are conditioned to think happy thoughts and prepare for the cosmic birthday party of the baby Jesus.

But this kind of thinking does a disservice to the radicality of what it is we actually celebrate as a faith community that exists in a broken and troubled world.

Merton explains:

The fact remains that our task is to seek and find Christ in our world as it is, and not as it might be. The fact that the world is other than it might be does not alter the truth that Christ is present in it and that his plan has been neither frustrated nor changed: indeed, all will be done according to his will. Our Advent is the celebration of this hope. What is uncertain is not the "coming" of Christ but our own reception of him, our own response to him, our own readiness and capacity to "go forth and meet Him."

Advent is not meant to draw our focus away from the world and all that disturbs us about it, from the violence of war in places like Ukraine or the Middle East, to the local instances of discrimination, exclusion or harm. Instead, Advent is a time to remember that God entered this world uncoerced and willingly, and that Christ's arrival as a vulnerable child is an act of solidarity with all people, but especially with those who are in the most precarious positions in society.

In his 1965 essay, "The Time of the End Is the Time of No Room," which was published in the volume, *Raids on the Unspeakable*, Merton describes the modern context in striking terms. "We live in the time of no room, which is the time of the end. The time when everyone is obsessed with lack of time, lack of space, with saving time, conquering space, projecting into time and space the anguish produced

within them by the technological furies of size, volume, quantity, speed, number, price, power and acceleration."

He highlights how fast-paced our lives are (and this was written in 1965!) and reminds us that it is precisely into this chaotic and wounded world that God chose to enter.

Furthermore, the Advent we celebrate is a waiting in joyful hope—and not for some helicopter divinity who is going to pop into history and fix everything up in one fell swoop. Instead, God embraced the most precarious of people, entering into solidarity with the marginalized and forgotten, the voiceless and disdained, by becoming one of them in time and space.

This is often forgotten in our instinct to imagine Advent and Christmas as times for cheery, naive and saccharine optimism, as opposed to the challenging yet authentic hope of Christianity. This real hope arises from our recognition that Christ draws near to us in our brokenness, loneliness and suffering. This real hope is tied to the sober awareness that God does not call us to flee from this imperfect and hurting world but to enter more deeply into it as we strive to work for social justice and peace after the example of Jesus Christ.

Merton makes this claim about the true meaning of Advent and Christmas boldly and poetically when he writes:

Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for Him at all, Christ has come uninvited. But because He cannot be at home in it, because He is out of place in it, and yet He must be in it, His place is with those others for whom there is no room. His place is with those who do not belong, who are rejected by power because they are regarded as weak, those who are discredited, who are denied the status of persons, tortured, exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world. He is mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst. For them, there is no escape even in imagination. They cannot identify with the power structure of a crowded humanity which seeks to project itself outward, anywhere, in a centrifugal flight into the void, to get out there where there is no God, no man, no name, no identity, no weight, no self, nothing but the bright, self-directed, perfectly obedient and infinitely expensive machine.

As we begin the season of Advent this weekend, perhaps we might spend some time thinking about a celebration of hope that finds its meaning not in escapism or superficial

optimism, but the powerful sign of divine love contained in God really entering the messiness, the painful, suffering, broken world in which we find ourselves.

This Advent, I will be thinking about what it means for Christ to enter this world in solidarity with the Israelis and Palestinians, Ukrainians and Syrians, Ethiopians and Afghans, and so many others caught in the violence of war and conflict; in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community that continues to be marginalized, abused and killed, especially trans people of color; in solidarity with refugees, migrants and undocumented people seeking safety across the globe; and in solidarity with all others who are powerless or forgotten.

Most importantly, I want to spend time this Advent thinking about what it means to call myself a Christian during this season when Christ entered this world in solidarity with all those who do not belong and who are pushed to the margins of our church and society. How might we be more Christ-like this Advent and beyond?

~ Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, is the director of the Center for Spirituality and professor of philosophy, religious studies and theology at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. His most recent books are *A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege* and *The Way of the Franciscans: A Prayer Journey Through Lent*.

Saint Cecilia
PARISH

**MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS:
ADVENT PRAYER**

VESPERS

*The church gathers for **Evening Prayer** to give thanks for the day that has passed and to lift up to God the needs of the world. We pray for the light of Christ to illumine our hearts and give us his grace and peace. And we join with Mary in her song of praise – the Magnificat – remembering God's promise of mercy. The liturgy lasts about half an hour.*

Wednesday, December 6 at 6 pm
Memorial of Saint Nicholas

Tuesday, December 12 at 6 pm
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Friday, December 22 at 6 pm
"O Rex Gentium"

Please join us on Facebook Live or via Zoom.
Email hoursandtaize@stceciliaboston.org
for details and reminders.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

**To email parish staff, please use the following formula:*

First Initial + Last Name @stceciliaboston.org

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Christine Burns, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

Carly-Anne Gannon, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Brett Maguire, Organist

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

Tanya Rybarczyk, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer

Reception

Keith Brinkley, Joe O'Brien, Juliette Kaoudji,

Paul Keating, and Ellie Sanderson

Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.

Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 after 4:00 every day of the week. To get this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Building Accessibility

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

If you have celiac disease, please let us know. We have a supply of low-gluten altar bread available for those who cannot tolerate gluten.

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Carly-Anne Gannon.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, or Erin Young if you have any questions. The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation.

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and around the world. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.

Please note:

According to online safety guidelines released by the Archdiocese of Boston, we have removed email addresses from our online parish bulletin to avoid the danger of potential phishing scams. If you need a staff member's email address or ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists would be happy to pass along the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online!