

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete!

11 December 2022

Saint John the Baptist in Prison, 12th Century

Saint Cecilia

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11 December 2022

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE | Romance for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 20

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

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.

SPENITENTIAL ACT

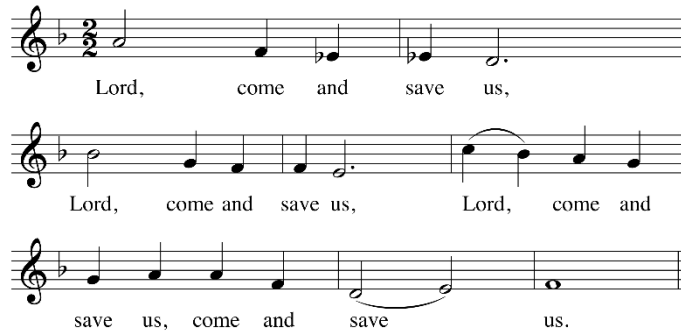
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 146: Lord, Come and Save Us

Marty Haugen



1. It is the Lord who preserves fidelity forever, who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free.
2. The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger.
3. The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever, the God of Sion from age to age.

SECOND READING | James 5: 7-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Alleluia from *Missa de Lumine*

arranged by Kathleen Demny



GOSPEL | Matthew 11: 2-11

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!

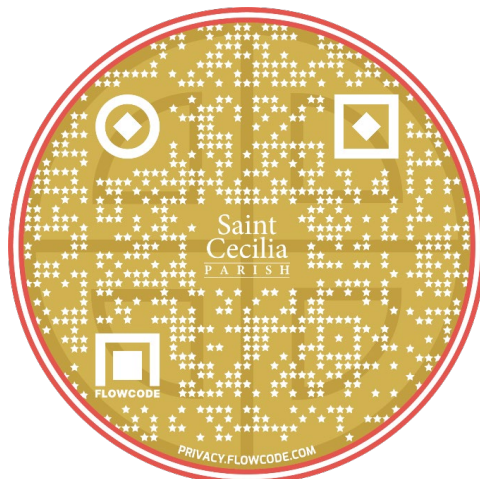
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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



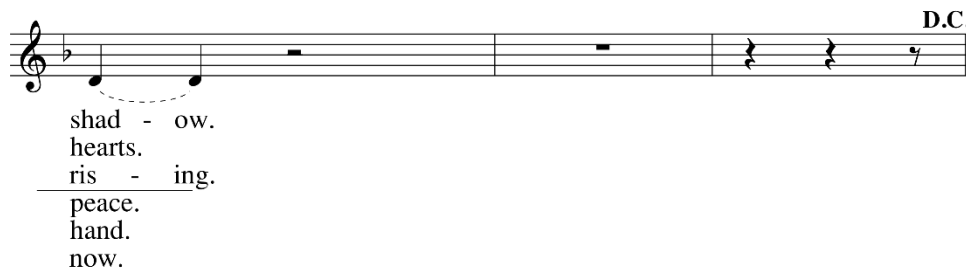
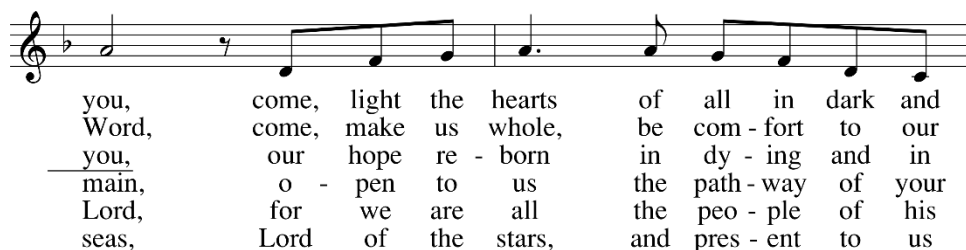
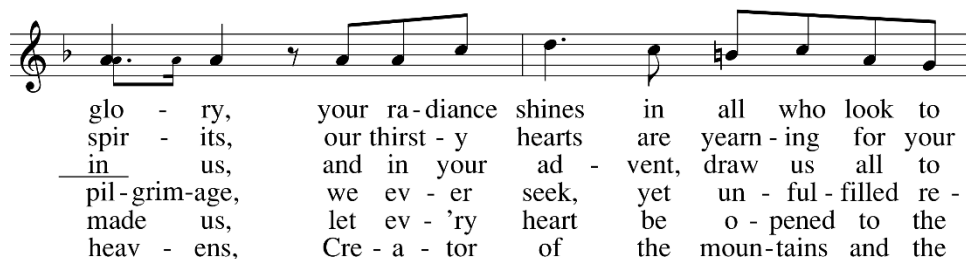
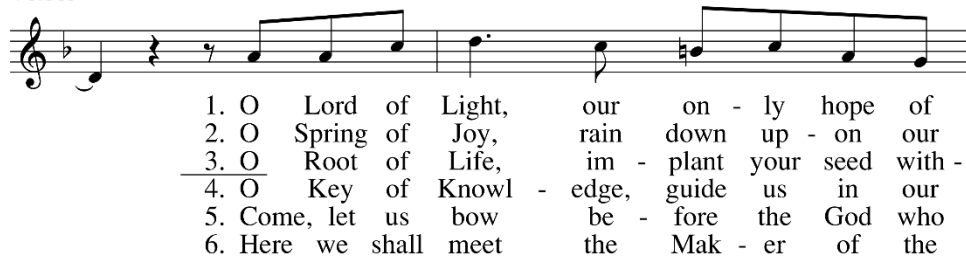
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | My Soul in Stillness Waits

Marty Haugen



Verses



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

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." 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.



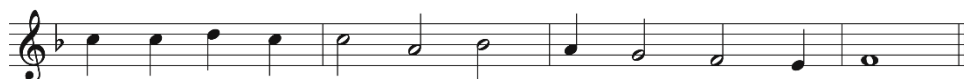
1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten - der stem hath
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in
 3. This Flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, As seers of old have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry -

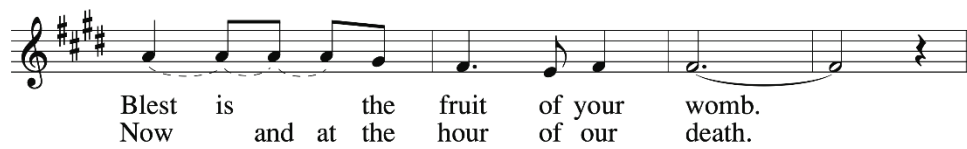
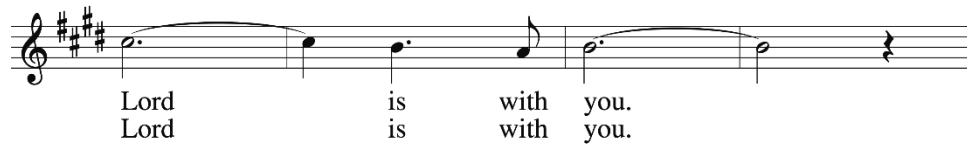
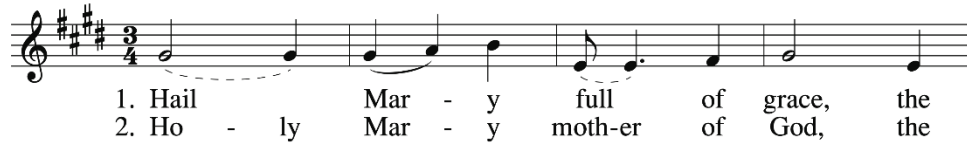


sung. It came, a blos - som bright, A -
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From



mid the cold of win - ter, When half spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us, And light - ens ev - 'ry load.

Verses



Refrain



COMMUNION MEDITATION | Veni, Jesu

Luigi Cherubini

(1760-1842)

arranged by Michael Burkhardt

Veni, Jesu amor mi.

Come, Jesus, my love.

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.

RECESSIONAL | Soon and Very Soon

Andraé Crouch

Soon and ve - ry soon we are goin' to see the King,
No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
No more dy - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and ve - ry soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and ve - ry soon we are goin' to see the King,
No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
No more dy - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and ve - ry soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le - u - jah, we're goin' to see the King,
Hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le - u - jah, we're goin' to see the King,
Hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le - u - jah, we're goin' to see the King,
Hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le - u - jah, we're goin' to see the King,

POSTLUDE | *Noel sur les grands jeux et en duo*

Louis-Claude Daquin
(1694-1792)

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.




Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Masses that are also livestreamed are marked with an asterisk (*) and can be viewed at
www.stceciliaboston.org



Christmas Eve | Saturday, December 24

Mass | 4:00* and 6:30 p.m.



Christmas Day | Sunday, December 25

Mass | 9:30 a.m.*

*Please note that this is the **ONLY** Mass on Christmas Day*

Monday, December 26–Friday, December 30

Parish offices closed



Wednesday, December 28 | Thursday, December 29 | Friday, December 30

Weekday Mass | 8:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God | Sunday, January 1

Mass | Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

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

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

The Epiphany of the Lord | Sunday, January 8

Mass | Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

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

Please note that there will be no 6:00 p.m. liturgy on December 18, 25, or January 1.





Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

JOIN US ON THE FOURTH
SUNDAY OF ADVENT FOR

A Festival of
Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 18 • 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. Following the service there will be a festive reception in the Parish Hall.

This service will also be livestreamed.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, December 10 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Pat Scofield, lector

Sunday, December 11 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Bob Mann, lector

Sunday, December 11 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Tommy Egan, Karen Vachon, and
Nikko Mendoza, lectors

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

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
James Paradis, Emily St. Germain,
and Thomas O'Brien, lectors

Sunday, December 11 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Kevin Dumas and Jen Kowieski, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 11 | 8:00 a.m.

John & Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

Sunday, December 11 | 9:30 a.m.

Bernadette "Geannie" Griffin, *First Anniversary*
Patrick J. Corrigan, *Fifth Anniversary*
Joseph F. Ford, *Memorial*
Kevin Case, *Memorial*

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

Nicole Bairos Heck, *Eighth Anniversary*
Richard Howland, *Memorial*

Wednesday, December 14 | 8:00 a.m.

Helen Hanigan Kosuda, *Memorial*



Jesus said, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

Matthew 11:4-5

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS



Our Deceased

Bob Haas died last Friday, December 2. If you are reading this online, there will be a viewing at Saint Cecilia on Saturday morning, December 10, at 9:00. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:00, followed by the Rite of Committal at Cedar Grove Cemetery, 920 Adams Street, Dorchester. Pray for the repose of Bob's soul as well as for the consolation of his family and friends. May Bob's soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Charlie Naughton, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rick Gaillardetz, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly registered members of our parish: **Natalie and John Rutkowski** of Boston, **Kate Christison-Lagay** of Guilford, Connecticut, **Audrey Fritzinger and Cedric Jacobson** of Jamaica Plain, **Katherine and Brian Rogers** of Boston, **Carly Audet and William Schoeninger** of Boston, and the **Hautaniemi-Riccitelli Family** of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Gaudete Sunday

This 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!

Happy Anniversary!

This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of **Mimi Love** who was baptized on December 12. May the Lord continue to bless Mimi with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Mimi!

Last 6:00 p.m. Mass of 2022

This Sunday, December 11, is the last six o'clock Sunday liturgy before Christmas. The six o'clock liturgy will resume on the Solemnity of the Epiphany (January 8).

For Our Students

Pray that all of our students may successfully complete the semester and have safe travels as they head home to celebrate Christmas with family and friends.

Happy Birthday, Papa Francesco!

Pope Francis will celebrate his 86th birthday on Saturday, December 17. Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father and ask God to continue to bless him with good health and length of days.

Coffee Hospitality Pause

Please note that there will be no coffee hospitality on Christmas Day and New Year's Day so that we can give our hardworking coffee hospitality team a well-deserved break!

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 and a basket that you can use for this purpose. You can also bring your envelope to the reception desk. Names received by Wednesday, December 14 will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Any names received following this date will be published in the Epiphany bulletin. Please be sure to PRINT clearly. If you'd like to participate online, please visit the following link to donate: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/christmas-flowers-2022> and this link to record the name(s) of your loved one(s): <https://forms.gle/Tc5hqYtGr1TUd2J9A>





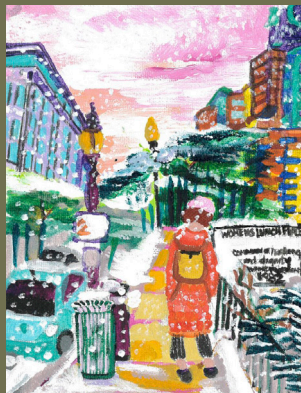
WELCOME!

During last Sunday's Rite of Acceptance, **Brynna Finley, Glenn Gallo, Ruby Rollins, and Helen Sherrah-Davies** were received into the Order of Catechumens. In this rite, these four individuals stated their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ. "The catechumens are now part of the household of Christ, since the Church nourishes them with the word of God and sustains them by means of liturgical celebrations" (RCIA, 47).

WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE HOLIDAY CARDS SALE

Looking for holiday cards that support a cause that is dear to our hearts? Look no further! This weekend, you can purchase holiday cards that support the work of Women's Lunch Place (WLP), one of our non-profit partner agencies, from Hunger & Homelessness Ministry members in the narthex.

When you order Holiday Cards through Women's Lunch Place, you are spreading joy and peace to your friends, family, clients, and associates while giving the gift of food, warmth, and community to women experiencing homelessness and poverty. 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 Women's Lunch Place. For more information, please visit www.womenslunchplace.org.



ADVENT GIVING TREES REMINDER

Just a few tags remain on our Advent Giving Trees, so if you have yet to take a tag, please do so! Thank you so much to everyone who has dropped off gifts so far! We are grateful for your generosity and kindness and are certain these gifts will warm the hearts of those who receive them.

This is a gentle reminder that gifts for the Giving Trees are due by Sunday, December 18, no later than 2:00 p.m. For folks sending gifts by mail, please have your gifts arrive by this date and time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to members of the Giving Tree team, who will be in the conference room next to the reception area following Mass. You can also contact Giving Tree Coordinator, Ann Faldetta, at sc.adventtree@gmail.com.





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 to
give via Venmo,
Google/Apple
Pay, or PayPal



THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOR
YOUR ADVENT WREATH

THIRD WEEK

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



Jesus, we gather here as a family to dedicate our lives to you, as John the Baptist did. Help us to know, love, and serve you. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of joy into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts. Amen.



*Gaudete in Domino semper:
iterum dico, gaudete.
Dominus enim prope est.*

*Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice!
The Lord is near.*



We are now midway through Advent and today is a day of rejoicing, traditionally called “Gaudete Sunday” (gow–DAY–tay). “Gaudete” is Latin for “rejoice” and this title is taken from the first word of the Introit (entrance antiphon) for the Third Sunday of Advent. Before we started singing hymns in English, the Introit was normally chanted in Latin as the priest approached the altar. It helped to set the mood and theme of the Mass of the day. The Introit for the Third Sunday of Advent comes from Philippians 4, Paul’s warm and loving letter to the community at Philippi. The optional use of rose-colored vestments underscores the joyful character of today’s liturgy.

Gaudete Sunday dates back to the Middle Ages, when the season of Advent bore a penitential character similar to that of Lent. At that time, Advent was a forty-day period of fasting and penance in preparation for Christmas. It commenced on the day after Saint Martin’s Day (12 November) and was thus often referred to as “St. Martin’s Lent.” In the midst of a dark and serious Advent, Gaudete Sunday helped to brighten the mood. In the ninth century, Advent was reduced to four weeks and its austere character gave way to a new understanding of Advent as a time of longing, hoping, and waiting for the Lord.

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.**



See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient.

James 5:7-8



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.**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY ONLINE COURSES

History of the Church I:

Beginnings Through the Medieval Period

January 4 - February 7, 2023 | 5-Week Online
Course | Registration Required | \$60.00

For further details or to register for this event, please
check the STM Online: Crossroads website: [https://
www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads.html](https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads.html)

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

A Conversation from Prison: From Both Sides of the Bars and a Call for Transformation

Presenters: William Allen and Peg Newman

Monday, December 19, 2022 | 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Zoom Presentation

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

TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES

Please keep in mind that two of our nonprofit partner agencies have an ongoing need for donations of travel-size toiletries. Individual-size shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, and soap are always needed. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant (none of which can typically be found in a hotel room!) are also always in demand. Donated toiletries need to be unused, of course, and there are plastic bins in the narthex for donations. The two agencies are: Women's Lunch Place on Newbury Street (www.womenslunchplace.org) and Y2Y Youth Shelter in Harvard Square (www.Y2YNetwork.org).



Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

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.

Wednesday, November 30 at 6:00 p.m.
Feast of Saint Andrew

Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m.
Memorial of Saint Lucy

Monday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m.
"O Radix Jesse"

LAUDS

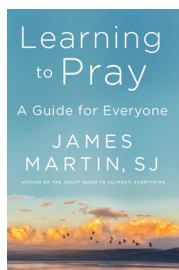
The church gathers for **Morning Prayer** to offer praise and to sanctify the day. This hour, celebrated as it is as the light of a new day is dawning, also recalls the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, the true light enlightening all humankind, and the "Sun of justice" (Malachi 4:2), "rising from on high" (Luke 1:78).

Saturday, December 24 at 9:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Morning Prayer

Live on the St. Cecilia Facebook Page or via Zoom.
Email sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com for details.



WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY



The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group invites you to read the acclaimed book, *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone* by Fr. James Martin, SJ. Regarding the book, Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking*, stated, "Who else but Father Martin can combine the illuminating insights from spiritual giants like St. John Damascene with

the likes of Monty Python? A humble, humorous step-by-step guide on the lofty subject of talking to and listening for the Living God." The Wisdom Group is always happy to welcome new members in the second half of life. We meet in person on the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. (please RSVP), and via Zoom 8:30-9:30 a.m. on the other Sundays for fellowship and conversation. For more information, please email Deb Garcia (sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com).

PARISH OPERATING STATEMENT

We are pleased to present the Parish Operating Statement for the first quarter of our fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. As you can see, we ended the quarter year on a positive note, with a surplus of \$53,681. Both our income and our expenses are under budget for the first quarter. The summer months are generally a time of decreased activity for the parish and, as expected, our first quarter financial report reflects this. Since the summer, the activity of the parish has already returned to normal, and so we expect future financial reports to be more in line with our budget.

As always, we continue to be appreciative and thankful for your very generous support. We urge you to continue your stewardship as we all strive to make Saint Cecilia a vibrant and positive force in our community.

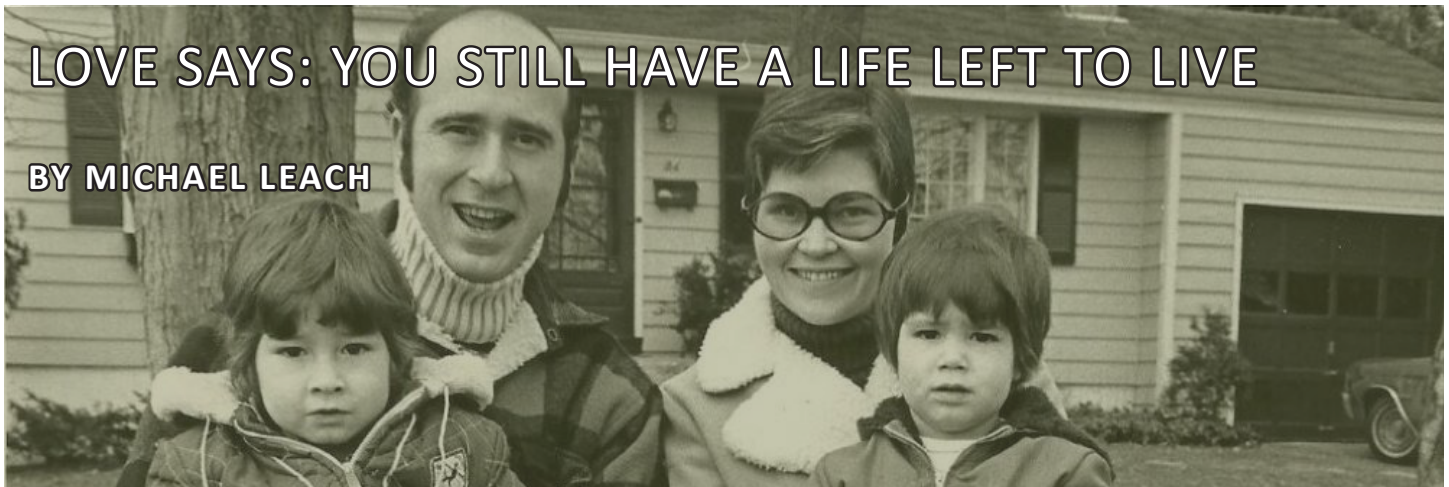
Saint Cecilia Finance Council

Father John Unni, Pastor Matt Maguire, Chair
 Bonnie Blanchfield David Castaldi
 Alicia Cooney Mark Duggan
 Jason Grapski Mark Lippolt
 Cole Young Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance

OPERATING STATEMENT

	Quarter Ending Sept 30, 2022	Quarter Ending Sept 30, 2022
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Sunday Offertory Income	\$ 398,827	\$ 462,500
Special Donations Income	\$ 78,937	\$ 189,750
Operating Income	\$ 91,623	\$ 82,500
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 7,708	\$ 13,114
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 577,095	\$ 747,864
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Personnel Expenses	\$ 268,233	\$ 320,363
Office Expenses	\$ 32,911	\$ 58,388
Liturgy Expenses	\$ 5,202	\$ 24,738
Building Expenses	\$ 113,802	\$ 181,000
Other Expenses	\$ 65,766	\$ 125,364
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 485,914	\$ 709,853
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$ 91,181	\$ 38,011
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL REPAIRS ACCT	\$ (37,500)	\$ (37,500)
FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS	\$ 53,681	\$ 511





LOVE SAYS: YOU STILL HAVE A LIFE LEFT TO LIVE

BY MICHAEL LEACH

Vickie was as beautiful in death as she was in life.

My soulmate since first we met at Your Father's Mustache tavern 54 years ago, Vickie died just the way she wanted to. At home. With loved ones at her side.

It happened on Oct. 27 at 8:45 p.m. She was lying in the hospital bed in the living room. The rest of us were eating a late dinner in the alcove by the window. Doctors say hearing is the last thing to go. So, we talked and laughed, believing she would hear the familiar sounds she loved. Vickie's laughter had always been the most robust in the room, but now her mouth was slack and the only sound coming from it was a rasp. Cencia, her caregiver and BFF, got up and went over to check. "Jeff," she said to our younger son who had flown up from his home in Atlanta two weeks ago, "come over."

Jeff put his ear to Vickie's mouth. He heard his mother's last breath.

We all gathered around the bed and cried: Jeff, his brother Chris, Chris' wife Jessica, Cencia, and me. We took turns holding Vickie's hand, touching her arm, kissing her cheek. We hugged each other and cried some more.

I sat by her side for an hour and gazed at her face. Her eyes were open. Jessica tried to close them. "No," I said, "she's fine." I pressed my face to her cooling cheek. "Don't go," I sobbed. "Stay with me, sweetheart. Don't go. I don't want you to go."

Of course, I didn't, and I did. It was time.

Vickie had been living with grace through Alzheimer's for 20 years, her faculties, all of them, eroding faster than the faces on Mt. Rushmore. The past two years she could not walk or talk or scratch her nose without scraping her eye

or let us know if she was in pain. Four weeks ago, she was choking on her own saliva. I rushed her to the emergency room. Doctors ran tests all day. That evening they told me and Chris that her lungs were infected, and "it could be this weekend."

We stayed with her in the hospital for five days while her lungs cleared, then brought her home into hospice care. Three years earlier, I had sold our house with too many stairs and bought this one-floor apartment. I remodeled the kitchen and bathrooms and doorways for wheelchair living. I had promised Vickie that I would never put her in a nursing home. If I died first, the boys would hire a live-in caregiver, and their mom would be cared for and live in comfort for the rest of her life.

We put the hospice bed beneath four large movie posters that decorated the long wall facing the television. One of them was my version of "It's a Wonderful Life." Instead of Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed and their kids, I had substituted our favorite black and white photo of Vickie and me sitting on the rock wall in front of our first house, our toddlers Chris and Jeff on our laps. It was a wonderful life.

We accompanied Vickie for 10 days at home, dabbing the inside of her mouth with a small sponge, giving her small doses of morphine when she had trouble breathing to open her passages and give her relief. If she ate, she would choke to death. If she didn't, she would die of starvation. We told her, over and over, in many ways, that we loved her. I thanked her, over and over, for marrying me.

A compassionate hospice nurse visited twice a day. He told us what doctors had told us. Let her know that it is OK to let go. She needs to know that you will be OK. It was difficult to do. I whispered in her ear: "Mama, is waiting for you, sweetheart. Daddy too. You can relax now. You don't have to struggle any more. I'm going to be OK. I'll always be with

you. I'll always be right here."

We used to talk about heaven. Vickie wanted to go to heaven. She knew that it had to be better than this valley of tears we have to wade through first, doing our best to make it a place of springs. Once I asked her what she thought heaven would be like. "It will be wonderful," she said. "It's the beatific vision."

"What's so great about that? You just sit around all day and watch a movie in Cinemascope? That sounds boring."

"No," she said gravely, "it's the Beatific Vision."

When Vickie died her face was a beatific vision. She had no wrinkles. She had some when she was alive. In death she was as pure as the moment God created her.

We had the Mass, a celebration of her life, at Our Lady Star of the Sea, a lovely little church that cuddles Long Island Sound. Vickie had died the way she wanted to, and now she had the Mass the way she wanted it to be. I was at peace. But my heart had a hole in it large enough for a cruise ship to sail through. I had given her permission to go but I wanted her now even more than when she was alive. You never know how much you are going to miss someone until they are gone.

The night after the Mass, we had dinner with some of Vickie's extended family. Two of her nieces from down South, Sarah and Mireille, shared with me stories of experiencing their mother's presence after she had died. I was familiar with true stories of cardinals appearing to loved ones after death. One of my favorite books that I edited back in the day was called *Gift of the Red Bird*.

That night was my first night alone in more than 50 years. I brought home the big poster of Vickie in her favorite red school suit she was an assistant principal) with its white blouse and black and gold broach. I had made the poster for the Mass and had put it among the flower arrangements at the altar. I now placed it on the big open shelf of our bookcase with an overhead light that made it glow. It had the effect of one of those paintings of Jesus whose eyes keep following you around the room. Unlike those staring eyes, Vickie's eyes twinkled and smiled and embraced me with love. "Stay with me," I said. "Don't leave me." Her presence was in the room as if she had never left.

I barely left the house for three days. I began to wonder if my holding on to Vickie was keeping her from living the full joy of eternity that was her due. I didn't want her to be

a ghost in a haunted condo. I wanted her to be free to be everywhere just as much as I wanted her to stay with me.

The next morning, I was on Facebook, and without looking for a sign, the poem "A Little Bird" from Donna Ashworth's book *Loss* appeared. The bird wants me to know that she is "free as a fledgling/emerged from the nest/flying so high above ground." She has found those she had lost and is resting as loved as can be. The bird is Vickie telling me, yes, she is free and that, of course, she will stay with me, she will come down often and lay her hand on my head, reminding me that I still have a life left to live and it's not time to join her yet, "because love wants you *living*, you see."

I weep uncontrollably for an hour. Vickie is in heaven. She is with me. I weep tears of sadness and joy at once. Sadness that she is gone. Joy that she gives me permission to live just as I had given her permission to die. I go from room to room and her sweet eyes follow me, reminding me that everything on earth as in heaven is perfectly alright.

I talk to Vickie for the next few days. I look at her picture and we smile at each other. More messages appear on my computer: "My face is the first thing you will see in heaven." A Christmas ornament of a cardinal with the words, "I am always with you."

I sit on the recliner at night, reach my hand over to hold hers, just like always. The hand isn't there, but the sense of her presence is strong.

On the fifth day it grows fainter.

On the seventh, I am aware.

On the 10th I do what Vickie asks of me: I go on living.

~ *Michael Leach is publisher emeritus of Orbis Books. He has edited and published more than three thousand books. His authors include Nobel Prize winners, National Book Award winners, and hundreds of religion book award winners. In 2007 the Catholic Book Publishers Association honored Michael with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Dubbed "the dean of Catholic book publishing" by U.S. Catholic magazine in 2003, he has also authored or edited several books of his own, including Why Stay Catholic? which was voted the "Best Popular Presentation of the Catholic Faith" in 2012. Michael brings this background to his role as editor of NCR's Soul Seeing columns; Soul Seeing has won the first place award for "best regular spirituality column" from the Catholic Press Association for five years in a row. Michael is a frequent contributor to NCR's Soul Seeing column.*

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

reception@stceciliaboston.org

Christine Burns, Digital Media Coordinator

cburns@stceciliaboston.org

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

tcesario@stceciliaboston.org

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

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Robert Duff, Director of Music

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Giovanna Franchi, Pastoral Minister

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Olivia Hastie, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

ohastie@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 Hastie, at ohastie@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.