

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Third Sunday of Advent

*Gaudete!*

St. John the Baptist

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

Matthias Grunewald, c. 1480-1528



# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

15 December 2024

## THE THIRD 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 | *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

## THE ORDER OF THE MASS

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | *Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*

Marty Haugen



1. A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, For  
2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, When  
4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing; His hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, As morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall



soon\* he is born, Be - hold the Child of our long - ing!  
qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.  
qui - et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light; Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -  
Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul And hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer And love our end - less



geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door And  
kind - ness, The thun - der of his an - thems roll To  
won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And  
sto - ry. May God fill ev - 'ry day we share And



lives now in - side us for ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

#### 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 | Zephaniah 3: 14-18a

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Isaiah 12: Cry Out with Joy and Gladness

Joseph Vasinda



1. God is indeed my savior; I am confident and unafraid.  
My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior.  
With joy you shall draw water from the fount of salvation.
2. Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name, among the nations make known his deeds,  
proclaim how exalted is his name.
3. Give praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout the earth.  
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING | Philippians 4: 4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Alleluia from *Missa de Lumine*

arranged by Kathleen Demny



GOSPEL | Luke 3: 10-18

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

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

Using the Flowcode with the camera on your smartphone is as easy as Aim & Tap. Aim your camera at the Flowcode image and tap the notification banner when it appears on your phone's screen. You may need to zoom in a bit to focus on the code.

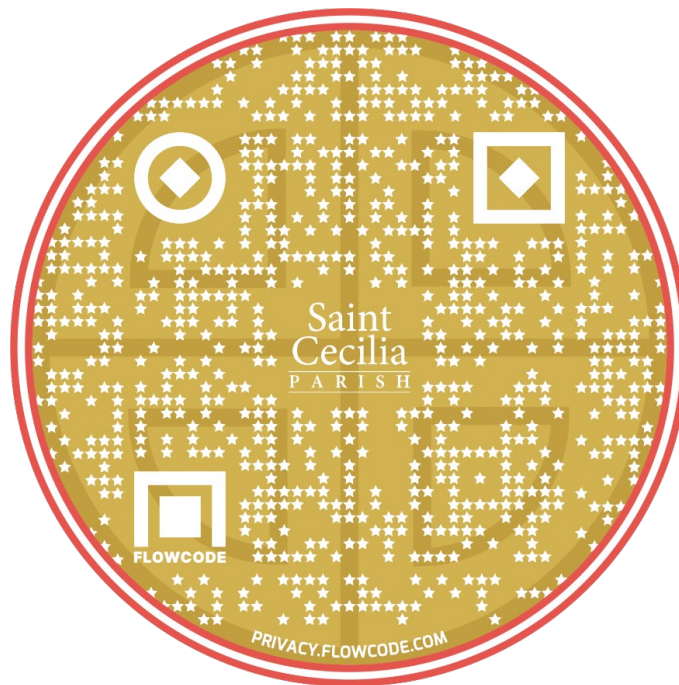
If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit [www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston](http://www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston).

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish

18 Belvidere Street

Boston, MA 02115





# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | Creator of the Stars of Night

CREATOR ALME SIDERUM

Verses



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your  
2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse Should  
3. When this old world drew on toward night, You  
4. At your great Name, O Je - sus, now All  
5. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, Re -  
6. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And



peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light, O  
doom to death a u - ni - verse, You  
came; but not in splen - dor bright, Not  
knees must bend, all hearts must bow: All  
deem us for e - ter - nal day; De -  
God the Spir - it, Three in One, Praise,



Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, We  
came, O Sav - ior, to set free Your  
as a mon - arch, but the child Of  
things on earth with one ac - cord, Like  
fend us while we dwell be - low From  
hon - or, might, and glo - ry be From



pray you hear us when we call.  
own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.  
Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.  
those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
all as - saults of our dread foe.  
age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

## 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*

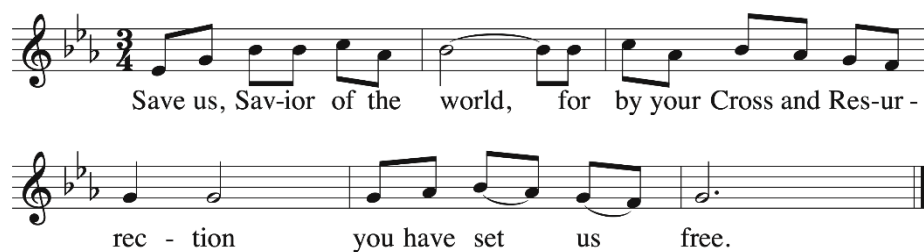
arranged by Kathleen Demny



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.

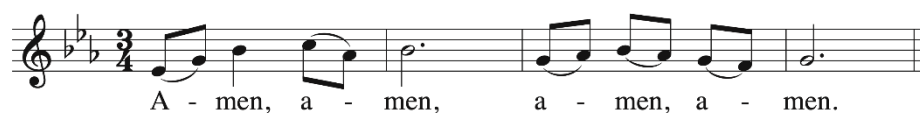
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | *Missa de Lumine*

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.





## 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.

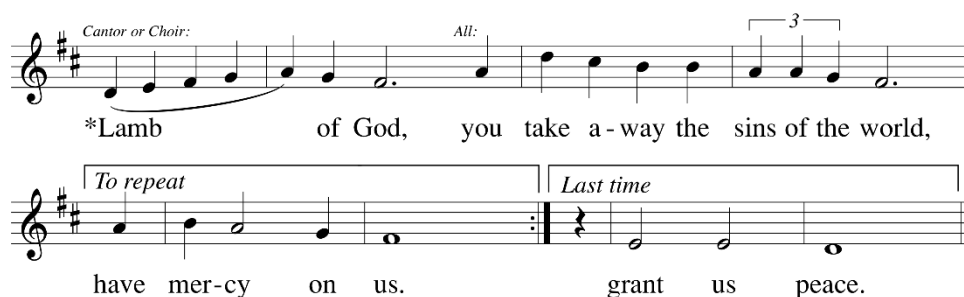
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.  
Amen.

### DOXOLOGY

### SIGN OF PEACE

### LAMB OF GOD | Holy Cross Mass

David Clark Isele



### 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:

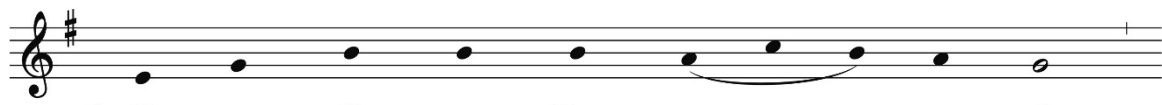
### ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.

COMMUNION | O Come, O Come Emmanuel


VENI, EMMANUEL




1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,  
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,  
3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
4. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem,  
5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come,



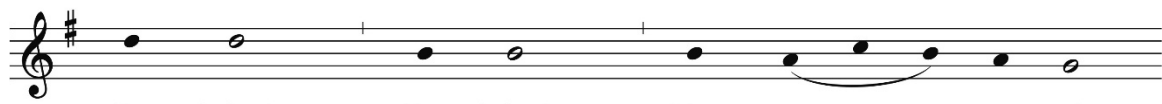
And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
Who or - der all things might - i - ly;  
Who to your tribes on Si - nai's height  
From ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them  
And o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;




That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
To us the path of knowl - edge show,  
In an - cient times once gave the Law  
That trust your might - y power to save,  
Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
And close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

6. O come, O Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by your drawing night;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of humankind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be for us our King of Peace.

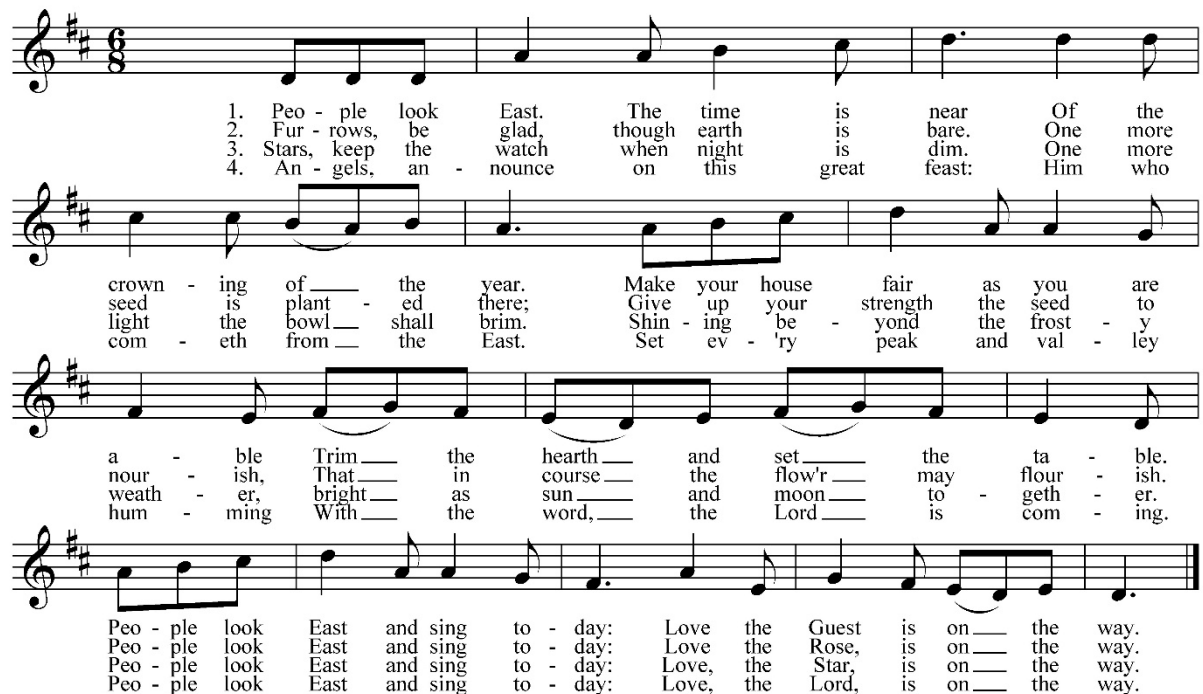
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CONCLUDING RITES

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL | People, Look East

Traditional French Carol



1. Peo - ple look East. The time is near Of the  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad, though earth is bare. One more  
 3. Stars, keep the watch when on night this is great dim. Him who  
 4. An - gels, an - nounce

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there; Give up your strength the seed to  
 light the bowl shall brim. Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 com - eth from the East. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley

a - ble Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, That in course and the flow'r may flour - ish.  
 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 Star, is on the way.  
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

POSTLUDE | Fuge in G Major, BWV 541

Johann Sebastian Bach

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](mailto: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 14 | 5:00 p.m.**

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Rosaria Salerno, lector

**Sunday, December 15 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant  
Linda Frayling, lector

**Sunday, December 15 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Tom Skorupa, Laura Melle, and  
Thomas O'Brien, lectors

**Sunday, December 15 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
James Paradis, Megan Altendorf, and  
Jen Kowieski, lectors

**Sunday, December 15 | 6:00 p.m.**

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant  
Chika Offurum, lector

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 14 | 5:00 p.m.**

Mariajose Quiroz, *First Anniversary*

**Sunday, December 15 | 9:30 a.m.**

Bert Capone, *First Anniversary*

Jaconda and Sam Coluccio, *Memorial*

Carol Ascrizzi, *Memorial*

James Lydon, *Memorial*

Joan Mulcahy, *Memorial*

Richard Larue, *Third Anniversary*

**Sunday, December 15 | 11:30 a.m.**

Richard Howland, *Memorial*

**Wednesday, December 18 | 8:00 a.m.**

Betty Bailey, *First Anniversary*

## TODAY'S READINGS

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Micah 5:1-4a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45



# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

## Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Peggie Breslin, Mark Brown, Joan Dunphy, Tom Franzago, Jacqueline Lavelle, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, Fred Tufts, and Serena Suglia.

## Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin and the liturgy is marked by a joyful anticipation of Christmas. Like Laetare Sunday in Lent, the optional liturgical color is rose. If you are reading this online, help add to our celebration by wearing something rose-colored to Mass.

## Advent Giving Tree Deadline

Just a reminder that all Advent Giving Tree gifts are due back at the church by 6:00 p.m. this Sunday, December 15. If you are running behind, gifts can be dropped off at the parish office on Monday and Tuesday. Come to the pavilion entrance on St. Cecilia Street and press buzzer #1. Gifts received after Wednesday, December 18 will be delivered but may not arrive in time for Christmas.

## Happy Birthday, Papa Francesco!

Pope Francis will celebrate his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on Tuesday, 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.

## Last 6:00 p.m. Mass of 2024

This Sunday, December 15, is the last 6:00 Sunday Mass before Christmas and we will be serving pizza following the liturgy. The 6:00 Mass will resume on the Solemnity of the Epiphany—January 5—and we will serve pizza following that liturgy.

## A Festival of Lessons & Carols—Sunday, December 22

Mark your calendar—next Sunday, December 22, the Saint Cecilia Choir will host A Festival of Lessons & Carols at 4:00 p.m. In this service of Scripture and song, lessons from Sacred Scripture are interspersed with Christmas carols, hymns, and choral music. This is a festive occasion to gather as a community and reflect on the joyous message of Christmas. Light refreshments will follow. This service will be livestreamed.

## For Our Students

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



# ADVENT

## Welcome to Saint Cecilia

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered parishioners: **Ken** and **Linda Treschitta** of Madison, Connecticut, **James Templeton** of Medford, **Aleena Kurumunda** of Somerville, and **Bryan** and **Michelle Hampton**, and **Alexandra** and **Victoria Iannella**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

## Concert This Sunday Afternoon

We are hosting Newton Baroque this Sunday afternoon for a 2:00 concert. Newton Baroque is a period instrument ensemble dedicated to innovative performances of Baroque repertoire. The musicians are known for their enjoyment in taking musical risks together and for imbuing their performances with a spirit of improvisatory spontaneity. This Sunday's concert will be Advent-themed. Learn more on page 7 of this bulletin.



## 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 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.*



## A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION FOR OUR SIMEON & ANNA SENIORS

**NEXT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 10:00 A.M.**

All parish seniors are warmly invited to a holiday celebration for our Simeon & Anna group. We will have coffee and conversation from 10:00 to 10:30, followed by communal prayer.

## GAUDETE SUNDAY

*Gaudete in Domino semper:*

*iterum dico, gaudete.*

*Dominus enim prope est.*

*Rejoice in the Lord always;*

*again I say, rejoice!*

*The Lord is near.*

# REJOICE

We are now midway through Advent and this Sunday 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 (Sunday's second reading), Paul's warm and loving letter to the community at Philippi. The optional use of rose-colored vestments underscores the joyful character of this Sunday'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.





# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

AS WE LOOK TOWARD THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025,  
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US ON THE  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT FOR

## A Festival of Lessons & Carols

DECEMBER 22 – 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 and the joyous message of Christmas.

Light refreshments will follow.

This service will be livestreamed.





## SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT

**"NATIVITY: MEDITATIONS ON THE ANNUNCIATION, VISITATION, AND NATIVITY"**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 | 2:00 P.M.**

**SAINT CECILIA CHURCH**

We are delighted to host Newton Baroque for a 2:00 Advent concert this Sunday afternoon. Come and be transported back in time to the Baroque charm of 1670s Saltzberg. Andrus Madsen, organ and Susanna Ogata, violin, will present late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup>-century works scored for organ and violin. This Advent-themed concert will feature Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber's *The Annunciation*, *The Visitation*, and *The Nativity*, all from *The Mystery Sonatas*, as well as Georg Muffat's exquisite *Violin Sonata in D Major*. Andrus Madsen will play Baroque-style fantasies and toccatas by Pachelbel and Bach, and will also improvise Magnificat versets in a 17th century South German style. What a lovely way to spend some time on Sunday afternoon. Admission is free and open to the public.



## CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Generous parishioners have donated a supply of children's books that can be found in a box in the narthex. Please feel free to borrow these during any of our liturgies.

## DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

We hope you will consider participating in this important ministry during the holidays so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices.

Saint Cecilia has committed to providing the following items to the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett food pantries: Cheerios or corn flakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta/spaghetti, boxed macaroni & 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 donations are made from the staples listed above. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept donations of produce or baked items.

You may wish to follow the example of some parishioners and have some of the above items delivered to the parish via Amazon or a similar service. If you choose to order donations online, please have your items delivered to:

Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



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**SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS**

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# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



## CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Please note: liturgies that will be livestreamed are marked with an asterisk (\*) and can be viewed at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

### Saturday, December 14 | Third Sunday of Advent

Mass | 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 15 | Third Sunday of Advent

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

*This is the last 6:00 p.m. liturgy until January 5.*

### Saturday, December 21 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass | 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 22 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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

*There will be no 6:00 p.m. liturgy.*

### Tuesday, 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.

### Wednesday, December 25 | Christmas Day

Mass | 9:30 a.m.\*

*This is the only Mass on Christmas Day. There will be no coffee hospitality today.*

### Thursday, December 26 | Friday, December 27

*There will be no 8:00 a.m. daily Mass on the Thursday and Friday following Christmas Day.*

### Saturday, December 28 | Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Mass | 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 29 | Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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

*There will be no coffee hospitality today. There will be no 6:00 p.m. liturgy.*

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

Mass | 10:00 a.m. | *Today is a holy day of obligation.*

### Saturday, January 4 | The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass | 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, January 5 | 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.*



**ADVENT:  
THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE  
OF WAITING**

**BY JOAN CHITTISTER, OSB**

When all the feasts have been celebrated and all the prayers are said and done, the strength and power of the liturgical year does not lie in its cataloging of feast days and seasons, as important as these are. Nor does it lie in its rubrics and rituals. The real power of the liturgical year is its spiritual capacity to touch and plumb the depths of the human experience, to stir the human heart. By walking the way of the life of Jesus, by moving into the experience of Jesus, we discover the meaning of our own experiences, the undercurrent of our own emotions, the struggle it takes to go on walking the way.

By taking us into the depth of what it means to be a human on the way to God — to suffer and to wonder, to know abandonment and false support, to believe and to doubt — the liturgical year breaks us open to the divine. It gives us the energy to become the fullness of ourselves. It makes the next step possible. It calms us as we stumble from one to the other. It leads us beyond our present selves to the self that lies in wait for God.

The liturgical year does not begin at the heart of the Christian enterprise. It does not immediately plunge us into the chaos of the Crucifixion or the giddy confusion of the Resurrection. Instead, the year opens with Advent, the season that teaches us to wait for what is beyond the obvious. It trains us to see what is behind the apparent. Advent makes us look for God in all those places we have, until now, ignored.

A friend recently gave me a textile wall-hanging from Peru that makes clear that the process of finding God in the small things of life is as profound as it is simple. A pastoral scene of palm trees and rural lean-tos has been hand-stitched by peasant women, quilt-style, across the top of a felt banner. Under it is a calendar of thirty small pockets, each of them filled with something we can't see. Every day until Christmas, we are invited to find the part of the scene that has been pocketed for that day and attach it to the scene above, one piece of handwoven cloth adhering to the other as we go.

Some of the pieces are of benign and beautiful things;



some are not. There are bumble bees and angels, wild animals and dry straw, a branch-laden peasant man and a weary-looking woman. But there at the end of the days, as common as all the rest of the items in the scene, is the manger; the sign of the One who knows what life is like for us, who has mixed His own with ours. Now, we can see, all our expectations have been worth it.

Advent is about learning to wait. It is about not having to know exactly what is coming tomorrow, only that whatever it is, some hard, some uplifting, is sign of the work of God alive in us. We are becoming as we go. We learn in Advent to stay in the present, knowing that only the present well lived can possibly lead us to the fullness of life.

Life is not meant to be escaped, we learn, as the liturgical year moves from season to season, from feast to feast. It is meant to be penetrated, to be plumbed to its depths, to be tasted and savored and bring us to realize that the God who created us is with us yet. Life, we come eventually to know, is an exercise in transformation, the mechanics of which take a lifetime of practice, of patience, of slow, slow growth.

Clearly, then, learning to wait is an essential dimension of spiritual development. It has its own values, bringing its own character to the process of becoming spiritually mature.

Waiting hones our insights. It gives us the time and space, the perspective and patience that enable us to discriminate

between the good, the better, and the best. It is so simple to go through life blind to the wealth of its parts, swallowing life whole, oblivious to its punctuation points. Then we fail to call ourselves to the small, daily demands of compassion or choice, trust or effort. If we do not learn to wait, we can allow ourselves to assume that one thing really is as good for us as another. Then we forget that life is about more than this life. We race over the top of it, satiating ourselves with the obvious, unmindful of its depths. We become stale of soul. We fail to grow spiritually.

It is waiting that attunes us to the invisible in a highly material world. In contemporary society, what counts is what we can get and what we have. Instead of listening for the voice of God in the winds of change around us, we can come to hear only our own.

The function of Advent is to remind us what we're waiting for as we go through life too busy with things that do not matter to remember the things that do. When year after year we hear the same scriptures and the same hymns of longing for the life to come, of which this one is only its shadow, it becomes impossible to forget the refrains of the soul.

Advent relieves us of our commitment to the frenetic in a fast-paced world. It slows us down. It makes us think. It makes us look beyond today to the "great tomorrow" of life. Without Advent, moved only by the race to nowhere that exhausts the world around us, we could be so frantic with trying to consume and control this life that we fail to develop within ourselves a taste for the spirit that does not develop within ourselves a taste for the spirit that does not die and will not slip through our fingers like melted snow.

It is while waiting for the coming of the reign of God, Advent after Advent, that we come to realize that its coming depends on us. What we do will either hasten or slow, sharpen or dim our own commitment to do our part to bring it.

Waiting—that cold, dry period of life when nothing seems to be enough and something else beckons within us—is the grace that Advent comes to bring. It stands before us, within us, pointing to the star for which the wise ones from the East are only icons of ourselves.

We all want something more. Advent asks the question, what is it for which you are spending your life? What is the star you are following now? And where is that star in its present radiance in your life leading you? Is it a place that is really comprehensive enough to equal the breadth of the human soul?

*—Joan Chittister, OSB is a Benedictine Sister of Erie, and is a theologian, author, and speaker. For 12 years she served as prioress of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Erie, Pennsylvania. She also served as the president of the Benedictine Federation of Saint Scholastica, president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and co-chair of the Global Peace Initiative of Women.*



It's  
beginning  
to look  
a lot  
like  
Christmas!



# 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](http://www.stceciliaboston.org)

## Parish Staff

**Rev. John J. Unni**, Pastor

**Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ**, Pastoral Support

**Mark Donohoe**, Pastoral Associate

**Robert Duff**, Director of Music

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

**Scott MacDonald**, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

**Colleen Melaugh**, Director of Finance and Development

**Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien**, Pastoral Director of Operations

**Lisa Pickering**, Director of Facilities and Events

**Mary Wessel**, Pastoral Associate

## Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

## Music Ministry

**Tyler Cesario**, Assistant Director of Music

**Daniel Lamoureux**, Vigil Organist

**Brett Maguire**, Parish Organist

**Pendexter Macdonald**, Assistant Organist

## Audiovisual Support

**Maureen Deery**, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

**Geoffrey Edwards**, Livestream Videographer

## Schedule for Liturgy

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

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

**Holy Days** | 8:00 a.m.

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

## Hearing Assistance in Church

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

## For Those with Celiac Disease

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

## Building Accessibility

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

## Parking

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

## Baptism for Infants

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

## Faith Formation for Children

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

## Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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

## Marriage

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

## Care of the Sick

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

## Order of Christian Funerals

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

## Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and 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 a ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists will be happy to share the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online.