

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
18 December 2022

The Dream of Saint Joseph by Philippe de Champaigne

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

18 December 2022

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDES | Canonic Variations on *Von Himmel Hoch*, Nos. 1-4

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

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 | Isaiah 7: 10-14

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 24: Let the Lord Enter

Tony Alonso



The LORD's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world, and those who dwell in it.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the rivers he made it firm. *R.*

Who shall climb the mountain of the  
LORD?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The clean of hands and pure of heart,

whose soul is not set on vain  
things. *R.*

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,  
and right reward from the God who  
saves him.

Such are the people who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of  
Jacob. *R.*

## SECOND READING | Romans 1: 1-7

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Alleluia from Missa de Lumine

arranged by Kathleen Demny



## GOSPEL | Matthew 1: 18-24

Breaking Bread, p. 43

## 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!

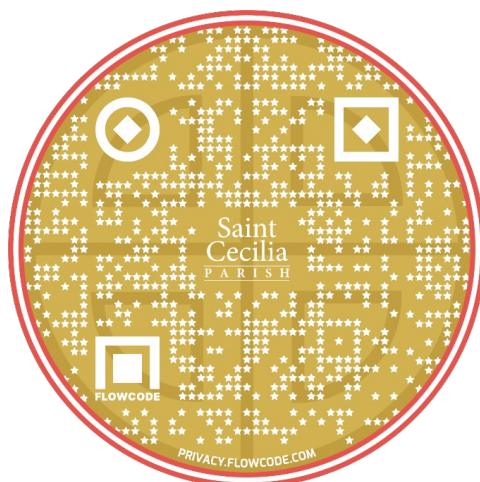
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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](http://www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston).

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



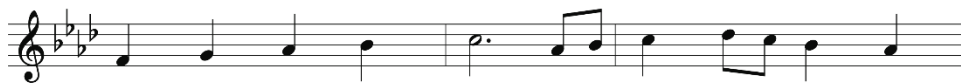
# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

MORNING SONG



1. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And  
2. Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, To  
3. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And  
4. And let the end - less bliss be - gin, By  
5. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And



light tri - um - phant breaks, When beau - ty gilds the  
suf - fer and to die, But crowned with glo - ry  
earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing  
wea - ry saints fore - told, When right shall tri - umph  
light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ, the Lord! Your



east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes.  
like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.  
of that morn Whose day shall ev - er last.  
o - ver wrong, And truth shall be ex - tolled.  
peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly, King of kings.

## 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.



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

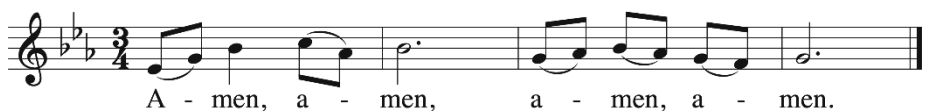


Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your Cross and Res-ur -

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:* *All:*

\*Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,

*To repeat* *Last time*

have mer-cy on us. grant us peace.

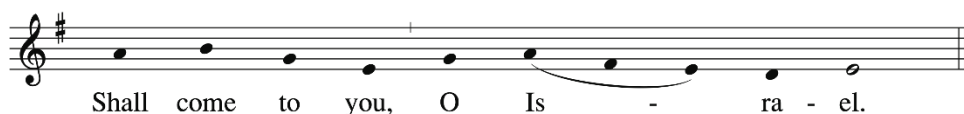
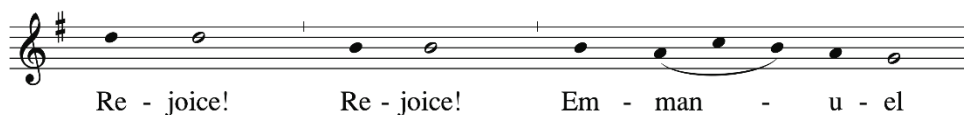
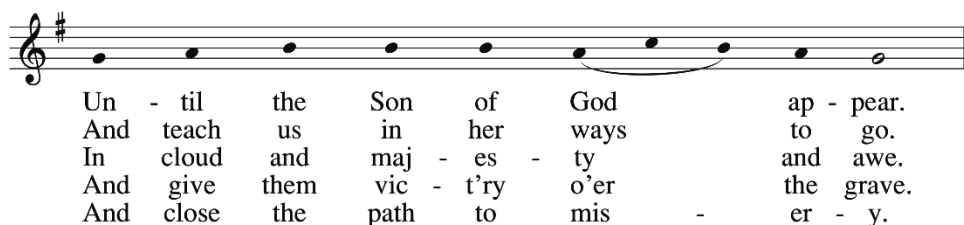
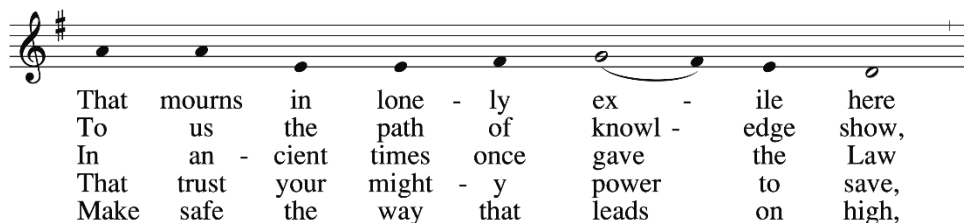
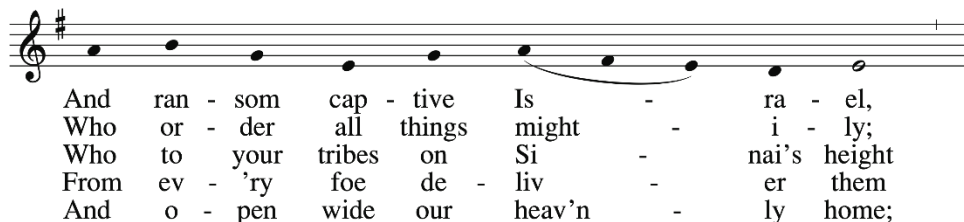
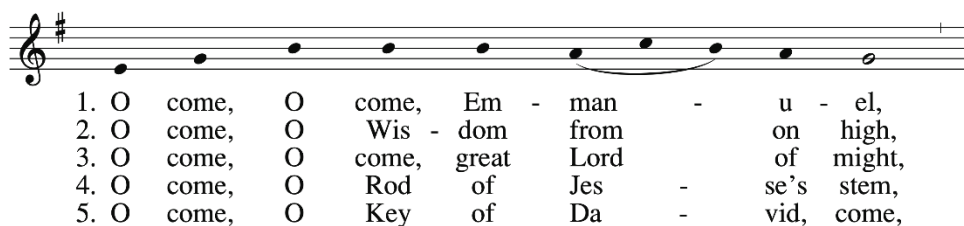
## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.





6. O come, O Dayspring from on high,  
 And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
 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.

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending, He.

*Lo, how a Rose e're blooming from tender stem has sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.*

Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

*It came a flower bright, amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night.*  
This is Whom the godly prophets chanted of in one accord;  
Whom the voices of the ancients promised in their faithful word.

*Isiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind.  
With Mary we beheld it, the virgin mother kind.*

And the Rose, the world's Redeemer.  
Spread the fragrance of God's grace evermore.

*God gave to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.*  
*Lo, how a Rose e're blooming.*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### CONCLUDING RITES

#### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.



1. O come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah! The world in si - lence  
 2. O come, De - sired of na - tions, Whom priest and proph - et  
 3. O come in peace and meek - ness, For low - ly will your



waits the day When hope shall sing its tri - umph, And  
 long fore - told. Come break the cap - tive fet - ters, Re -  
 cra - dle be: Though clothed in hu - man weak - ness We



sad - ness flee a - way.  
 deem the long - lost fold. Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to  
 shall your God - head see.



earth. Dis - pel the night and show your face, And bid us



hail the dawn of grace. O come, Di - vine Mes -



si - ah! The world in si - lence waits the day When



hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

# 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 Massachusett tribal nations.

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

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

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

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

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

We've been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God's love makes all things new.





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 17 | 5:00 p.m.**

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Cynthia Wanner, lector

### **Sunday, December 18 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant  
Elizabeth Fahey, lector

### **Sunday, December 18 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant  
Ben DeWinter, Rosaria Salerno,  
and Cathy Anderson, lectors

### **Sunday, December 18 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant  
Eileen Maguire, Virgen Palermo,  
and Moira Macdonald, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

### **Saturday, December 17 | 5:00 p.m.**

Elie and Viella Prevost, *Memorial*

### **Sunday, December 18 | 9:30 a.m.**

Debbie Salewski, *Memorial*  
John O' Neill, *Memorial*

### **Wednesday, December 21 | 8:00 a.m.**

Maciora Family, *Memorial*

## THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

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

## CHRISTMAS EVE READINGS

Isaiah 9:1-6  
Timothy 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14

## CHRISTMAS DAY READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Hebrews 1:1-16  
John 1:1-18

## ADVENT GIVING TREE GIFTS ARE DUE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 2:00 P.M.

If you have any questions, please feel  
free to reach out to Giving Tree  
Coordinator, Ann Faldetta, at  
[sc.adventtree@gmail.com](mailto:sc.adventtree@gmail.com).

Thank you again for your generosity  
and kindness! We are certain these  
gifts will warm the hearts of those  
who receive them.



# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS



## 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: **Michaelene Franzetta** of Boston, **Victoria Newell** of Boston, **Callie Siegert** of Brookline, **Luiz Rens** of Fitchburg, the **Montenigro-Fairfield Family** of Boston, **Katie Connolly** of Brighton, **Meghan and William Farley** of East Sandwich, **Margaret Hines** of Boston, **Amy and Chris Kotsopoulos** of Shrewsbury, and **Jane and Bill Hogan** of Naples, Florida. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

## Happy Anniversary!

This week, we celebrate the baptismal anniversaries of **Dave Sullivan** who was baptized on December 17 and **Mary Botosh** who was baptized on December 20. May the Lord continue to bless Dave and Mary with the grace to live out their baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Dave and Mary!

## 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. **Please note that all names that are collected from now until Christmas will be published in the Epiphany bulletin as the deadline for names to be published in the Christmas bulletin has passed.** 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>



## Winter Is Coming

Winter officially begins with the winter solstice, which occurs at 4:47 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21.

## Hanukkah—Judaism's Festival of Lights

Hanukkah begins at nightfall on December 18 and ends at nightfall on December 26. We remember our Jewish siblings as they kindle the first candle of the menorah and begin their eight-day celebration of light.

## A Note on Space

As you may have noticed, our numbers have grown quite a bit over the past couple months. We're thrilled that so many have found a home in our community, and we would like to remind you to please be thoughtful of those around you. If you see someone in the need of a seat, in particular an elderly person, a pregnant woman, or a child, please make space for them as you would on the T! Thank you!

## Coffee Hospitality Pause

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!



THANK YOU TO OUR FANTASTIC  
COFFEE HOSPITALITY TEAM FOR  
ALL THEIR HARD WORK!

# Advent

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOR  
YOUR ADVENT WREATH

## FOURTH WEEK

Light all four candles. During the rest of Advent, these candles are relit at the evening meal or whenever you choose to do so.



*Jesus, your mother Mary is "blessed among women." We are happy that she said "Yes!" to being your mother. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of love into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts. Amen.*



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Pay, or PayPal



Saint Cecilia  
PARISH

## Liturgy of the Hours

*Celebrate the Christmas season with Evening Prayer & Morning Prayer!*



Monday, December 26 at 6:00 p.m. – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Day and Saint Stephen



Tuesday, December 27 at 6:00 p.m. – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Day and Saint John the Evangelist



Wednesday, December 28 at 6:00 p.m. – The 4<sup>th</sup> Day and The Holy Innocents



Thursday, December 29 at 6:00 p.m. – The 5<sup>th</sup> Day and Saint Thomas Becket



Friday, December 30 at 6:00 p.m. – The 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas and The Holy Family



Saturday, December 31 at 9:00 a.m. – The 7<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas and Saint Sylvester



Monday, January 2 at 6:00 p.m. – The 9<sup>th</sup> Day and Saints Basil & Gregory



Wednesday, January 4 at 6:00 p.m. – The 11<sup>th</sup> Day and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton



Saturday, January 7 at 9:00 a.m. – Eve of Epiphany and Saint Raymond of Peñafort



Monday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. – Baptism of the Lord and Conclusion of Christmas

Live on the St. Cecilia Facebook Page or via Zoom. Email [sc.hoursandtzi@icloud.com](mailto:sc.hoursandtzi@icloud.com) for details.



# THE ADVENT GIVING TREES

## THE DEADLINE IS HERE!

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

### HERE'S WHAT TO DO

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



### FOR OUR VIRTUAL GIVING TREE

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





Thank you to everyone who made our annual Family Cookie Decorating Party so fun and memorable this year!







# 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](http://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.

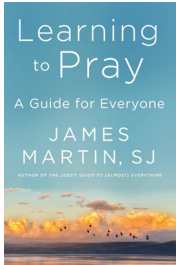
Mass | Sunday, 8:00, 9:30\*, 11:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

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





## WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY

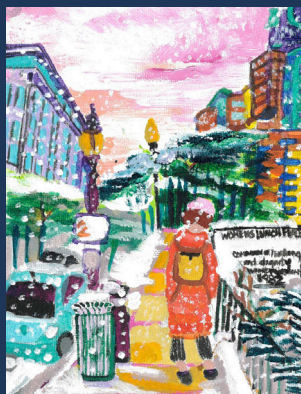


The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group invites you to read the acclaimed book, *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone* by Fr. James Martin, SJ. Regarding the book, Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking*, stated, "Who else but Father Martin can combine the illuminating insights from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

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



## JOIN THE HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS MAILING LIST

Saint Cecilia's Hunger and Homelessness Ministry has remained active throughout the pandemic. From facilitating the collection of food and supply donations for our partners to offering safe, limited, COVID-adapted opportunities for volunteering, there are plenty of ways to pitch in for our neighbors in need.

To get involved, or learn more about the work of this important ministry, please contact Mark Lippolt at [Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com](mailto:Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com) to join the mailing list.



## DONATIONS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES' FOOD PANTRY

We hope that you will consider participating in this important ministry during the holiday and winter months when the budgets of those living in poverty are very stretched. 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 Catholic Charities' food pantry: 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. Because food is delivered only twice a month to the Catholic Charities' food pantry, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex.

If you would like to send food donations directly to Catholic Charities through a service like Amazon, please have them delivered to:

Beth Chambers  
Catholic Charities  
185 Columbia Road  
Boston, MA 02121

## 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](https://saintsusanna.org/adult_faith_formation.html)

## JOIN THE REMOTE FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY'S JANUARY CALL

Sunday, January 8, 2023 | 4:00 p.m. ET | Zoom

The Remote Fellowship Community is pleased to announce that the next online coffee hour will be held on January 8, with guests Mark Donohoe, Scott MacDonald, and Christine Burns. Mark is a pastoral associate; Scott is the director of faith formation and parish visibility; and Christine is the digital media coordinator. Mark, Scott, and Christine will respond to questions and share some of what goes on behind-the-scenes at Saint Cecilia.

All are welcome to join the "Far Flung Flock" for what promises to be an engaging and informative online coffee hour. We will begin at 4:00 p.m. If you have registered or attended any of our online coffee hours in the past, you will automatically receive an email including the Zoom link. If you have not ever attended an online coffee hour or if you are not certain that you are on our list, please email Mary Ann Gallagher at [gallaghercomms@gmail.com](mailto:gallaghercomms@gmail.com). You will be sent the Zoom link a few days in advance of our meeting.



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](mailto:sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com) for details.







## THE POWERFUL, PRAYERFUL EXPERIENCE OF BEING A REMOTE PARISHIONER

By Betty Anne Asaro

*America Editors' note: This fall, America Media released the groundbreaking documentary "People of God: How Catholic parish life is changing in the United States" with the aim of sparking a national conversation about the diverse ways the Catholic faith is lived out across the country. This is one story from that narrative.*

It is 9 a.m. on Sunday. I make my coffee and get ready to attend Mass, but I am not rushing out the door to get to a church. Instead, I make myself comfortable in my home and sit in front of my TV. For about a year and a half I have been attending the liturgy at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Boston, Mass., over livestream on YouTube. But this is not just a casual viewing; I am actively involved with this parish. In fact, I have become a registered remote parishioner. Although I split my time between New York and Florida, St. Cecilia is my parish.

It was not always this way. I was in Florida in January 2020 when news of Covid-19 began to spread. At that time, I was a weekly Massgoer, but the church I attended closed overnight. Participating in the liturgy is an important part of my life, so I was very grateful when I learned from friends that I could attend Mass live on TV or the internet.

In the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, I sat and listened to the Mass and tried to pay attention. I bemoaned the fact I could not receive the Eucharist and did my best to stay focused on prayer. But about a month into the lockdown, my experience of Mass changed again. A friend of mine shared that online there was a particularly engaging, welcoming, energetic and down-to-earth priest at a parish that celebrated the liturgy live each Sunday on YouTube. The church was St. Cecilia in Boston, the priest was the Rev. John Unni.

The first time I attended Mass at St. Cecilia by livestream, my whole world opened up. The warmth, the spirit, the love, the sense of community and the embracing nature of Father John and his homilies ignited a new flame in me. I became an unofficial worshiper at St. Cecilia Church. As the months and the pandemic progressed, I returned to my home in New York, but I continued to spend my Sunday mornings participating in Mass at St. Cecilia through my screen.

Each Sunday's liturgy became the leaven for more prayer. It sparked discussion with friends and a greater understanding of my faith and a deeper connection to a God who loves me and everyone. I could hardly contain the enthusiasm and excitement I felt at having found such an incredible church where all are welcome. By the summer of 2021, I decided to officially register as a parishioner at the parish—something I had never done, even at a local parish.

Some people might wonder how I felt so connected to others from afar, but there are many ways that I connected with my parish. First, the experience allowed me to feel like I really belonged, even though I was far away. Finding a parish that is alive, welcoming, committed to the equality of all regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality or creed was, for me, a gift.

I also supported the church in traditional ways: with my time and treasure. I donated to the parish and I volunteered. My role as a volunteer monitor of the chat function on the virtual Mass has helped me to build and maintain connections. The chat feature allows people watching the liturgy to greet one another before and after Mass and offer their love, support and gratitude in one place, though we are apart. I am touched by the tender, loving tone that

permeates the comments from my fellow parishioners. We have formed a true community of virtual attendees within the larger community of the parish. Our virtual attendees include people from all over the globe.

My experience has not been perfect, but no parish experience is. As the pandemic progressed and vaccines became available, Covid-19 precautions were scaled back and churches began to reopen. I faced a number of questions: Should I go back to Mass in person at a local parish? Where would I go? Would Mass at St. Cecilia continue to be livestreamed? What about reception of Communion?

This last question has been the hardest for me. As I watched people receive holy Communion, I felt left out. I felt the loss of the sacrament of the Eucharist. Still, I decided my spiritual nourishment and the deepening and sharing of my faith were best served by remaining a part of the St. Cecilia community. I chose to continue to meet remotely with others and attend the liturgy by livestream. But I also make a point to go to a local church during the week, where I attend Mass and receive the Eucharist.

My virtual parish has in some ways strengthened my local, in-person relationships. I am eager to share my excitement about my virtual parish, and so it has become known to many friends, including those with no religious affiliation. They often ask me, "So how was Father John today?" Two or three friends now even tune in to the Mass or listen to Father John's homilies from time to time. No one could have predicted this impact. It is safe to say that in my experience, remote livestream liturgy has brought many people back to the church and to God!

Now that Masses have largely returned to the way they were before the pandemic, St. Cecilia remains committed to continuing its livestream liturgy each Sunday. As a member of what now has affectionately become known as the "Far-Flung Flock," I have had a chance to interact with my fellow Catholics in new ways. Communicating with other remote churchgoers before the liturgy by the livestream chat has enabled people who have never met each other to greet one another, pray for one another and have a connection that is unique. My faith has been enriched and deepened as remote participants have shared their gratitude for finding such a welcoming, nonjudgmental group of people of God.

We are living during a time of criticism, questioning and reflecting on the role of the Catholic Church in our world and its importance in people's lives. Many parishes are struggling to remain open. But on any given Sunday, well

over 1,000 people are attending the liturgy over livestream at St. Cecilia. I truly believe that remote participation at Mass has the potential to continue to bring more people back into the church.

Being a remote parishioner has filled a void for me. I do not fear judgment because I am not physically in church. I feel blessed. I feel at home. I feel grateful to be part of the far-flung flock, knowing that as we gather around to watch the liturgy, the Good Shepherd watches over us all.

*~ Betty Anne Asaro, a Saint Cecilia "Far-Flung" parishioner and one of our Sunday liturgy livestream moderators, is a retired history teacher. Originally from the Bronx, she currently lives in Cross River, N.Y.*



The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21

# 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](mailto:info@stceciliaboston.org)  
Website | [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://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](mailto:reception@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Christine Burns**, Digital Media Coordinator  
[cburns@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cburns@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Tyler Cesario**, Assistant Director of Music  
[tcesario@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:tcesario@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Mark Donohoe**, Pastoral Associate  
[mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Robert Duff**, Director of Music  
[rduff@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:rduff@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Giovanna Franchi**, Pastoral Minister  
[gfranchi@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:gfranchi@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Olivia Hastie**, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation  
[ohastie@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:ohastie@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Scott MacDonald**, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility  
[smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Colleen Melaugh**, Director of Finance and Development  
[cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Thomas Mellan**, Organist  
[tmellan@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:tmellan@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Lisa Pickering**, Director of Facilities and Events  
[lpickering@stceciliaboston.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:loisflaherty@gmail.com)), Maria Roche ([maria.roche15@gmail.com](mailto:maria.roche15@gmail.com)), Letitia Howland ([L\\_howland@hotmail.com](mailto:L_howland@hotmail.com)), or Erin Young ([erin.t.young@gmail.com](mailto: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.