

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



First Sunday of Advent

1 December 2024

The Shipwreck, Detail

JMW Turner, 1805

*On earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by
the roaring of the sea and the waves.
People will die of fright.*

This Sunday's Gospel



Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

1 December 2024

THE FIRST 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 | *Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland* (setting 1)

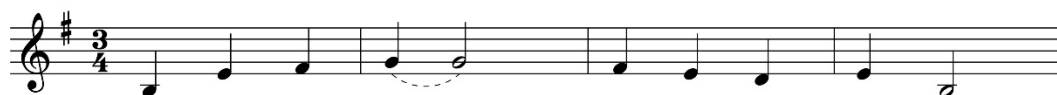
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

THE ORDER OF THE MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | *Christ, Be Our Light*

Gather #652



1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.
2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.
3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.
4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.
5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple,



Long - ing for truth, we turn to you.
Long - ing for hope, man - y de - spair.
Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst.
Long - ing for warmth, man - y are cold.
man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long.

Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,
 Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
 Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,
 Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
 Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,
 light for the world to see.
 Make us your liv - ing voice.
 shared un - til all are fed.
 walls made of liv - ing stone.
 mak - ing your king - dom come.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
 Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

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 | Jeremiah 33: 14-16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 25: To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul

Marty Haugen



Verses

1. Lord, make me know your ways, teach me your paths
and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my Savior.
2. For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing the way to those who wander,
gently leading the poor and the humble.
3. To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to God's word, who live God's love,
God will always be near, and will show them mercy.

SECOND READING | 1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4: 2

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Alleluia from *Missa de Lumine*

arranged by Kathleen Demny



GOSPEL | Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

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!

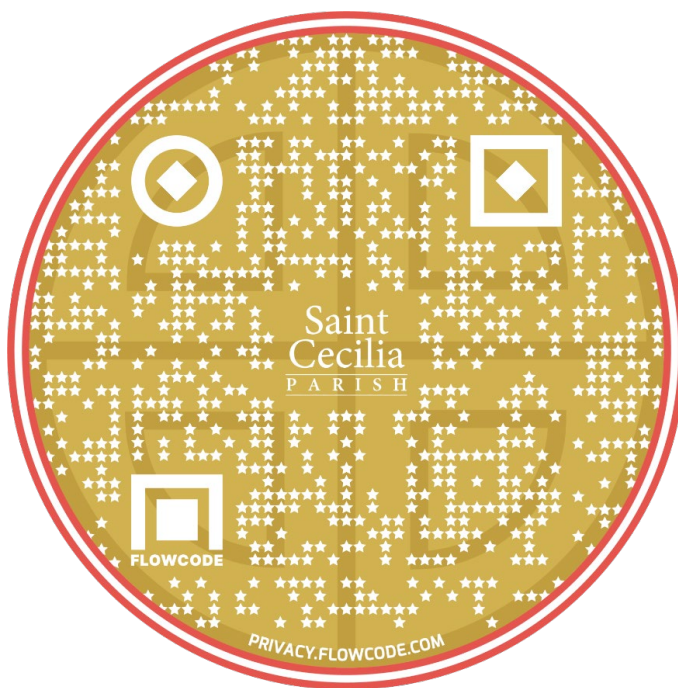
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

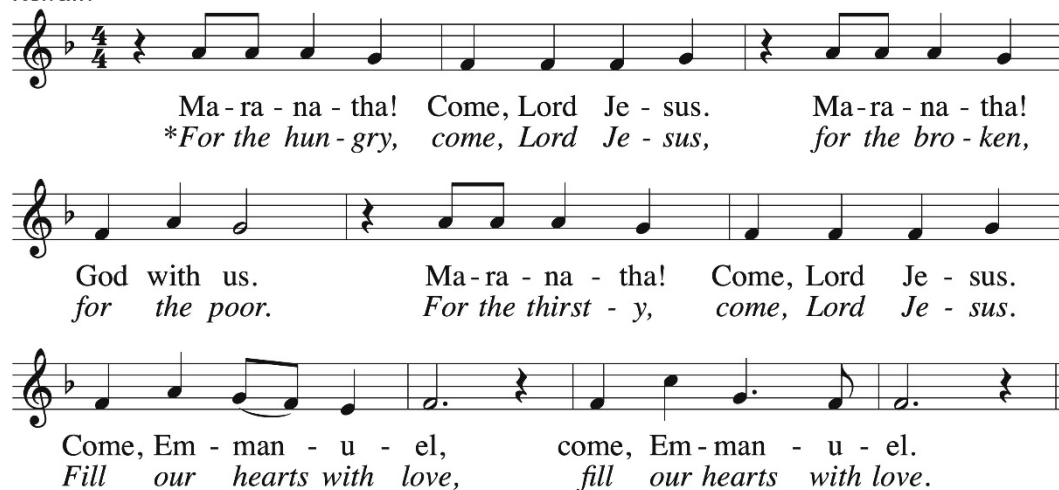


LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | Come, Lord Jesus

Gather #463

Refrain



Ma - ra - na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus. Ma - ra - na - tha!
*For the hun - gry, come, Lord Je - sus, for the bro - ken,
God with us. Ma - ra - na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus.
for the poor. For the thirst - y, come, Lord Je - sus.
Come, Em - man - u - el, come, Em - man - u - el.
Fill our hearts with love, fill our hearts with love.

Verses

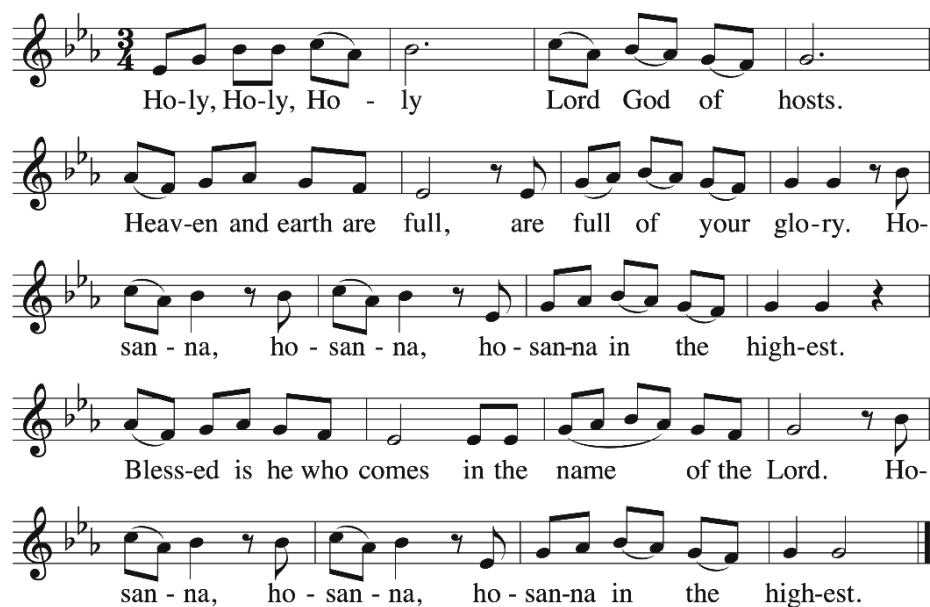


Cantor:
1. You are light with - in our dark - ness:
2. Son of God, show us your mer - cy:
3. Send your Spir - it to those wait - ing:
4. Give your hope to all the na - tions:
5. As we gath - er at your ta - ble:
All: Ma - ra - na - tha! God with us. You are light through -
Come, Lord Je - sus, live in us. Son of Mar - y,
Send your peace to
Give your joy to
Bless the ones who
All: out your king - dom:
hold us close - ly: Come, Em - man - u - el,
all here, gath - ered: Fill our hearts with love,
all who love you:
call up - on you:
D.C.
come, Em - man - u - el.
fill our hearts with love.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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-

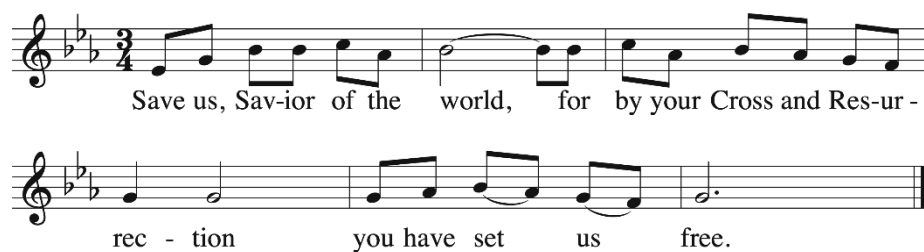
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high-est.

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

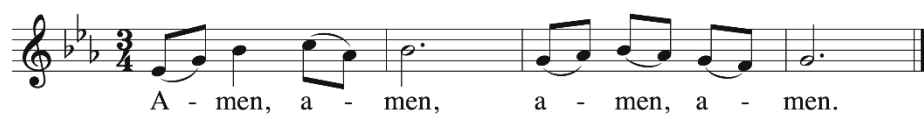


Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your Cross and Res-ur -

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: *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.” 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.

Refrain




For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness

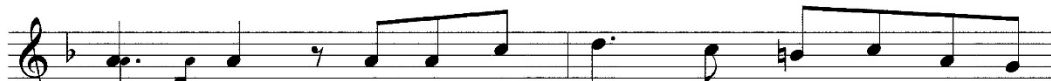


waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.


Verses



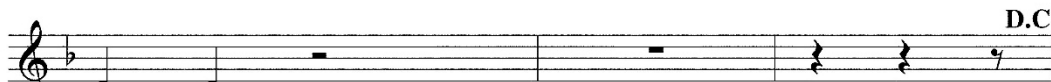
1. O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of
2. O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our
3. O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with -
4. O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our
5. Come, let us bow be - fore the God who
6. Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the



glo - ry, your ra-diance shines in all who look to
 spir - its, our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your
 in us, and in your ad - vent, draw us all to
 pil - grim-age, we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -
 made us, let ev - 'ry heart be o - pened to the
 heav - ens, Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the



you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and
 Word, come, make us whole, be com - fort to our
 you, our hope re - born in dy - ing and in
 main, o - pen to us the path - way of your
 Lord, for we are all the peo - ple of his
 seas, Lord of the stars, and pres - ent to us



D.C.

shad - ow.
 hearts.
 ris - ing.
 peace.
 hand.
 now.

CONCLUDING RITES

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL | On Jordan's Bank

Gather #451



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.

POSTLUDE | *Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland*, setting 3

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.

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.

THE ADVENT GIVING TREES

Our beautiful Advent Giving Trees have arrived! Each year before Christmas, requests for assistance from agencies serving those in need are consolidated into one program—the Saint Cecilia Advent Giving Trees. The tags on the trees contain requests from ten agencies who have reached out to us this year. Parishioners may take one or more tags from one of the trees and return the gift(s) to the parish for delivery. Your generosity will help bring tidings of comfort and joy to many people in our neighborhood.

To learn more about the agencies we are supporting this year, please see pages 4 and 5 in this bulletin.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

- Select one or more gift tags and purchase the item(s).
- Please do not take a tag unless you know that you will be able to purchase the gift.
- The tag will indicate if the gift should be wrapped.
- Attach the tag securely to the outside of the gift(s).
- You are welcome to add to your purchase; e.g., if someone requested a winter hat, you may add gloves or a scarf, holiday candy, etc. Remember—for some people, this is the only gift they will receive this Christmas.
- The recommended amount for gift cards is \$30, however, any amount will be appreciated.
- If the gift you are trying to find is out of stock, a gift card may be substituted.
- If the gift is too expensive or if you change your mind, simply return the tag to a Giving Tree coordinator.
- If you misplace the tag, just let us know.
- Return your gift(s) to the church NO LATER than Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL GIVING TREE INSTRUCTIONS

For those who would like to purchase a gift from our Virtual Giving Tree, please select a link below for the agency you wish to support and follow the instructions for shipping and delivery. Please be sure to order and ship the gift(s) to arrive at the agency or parish by Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. Any online seller can be used, or you may purchase a gift from the store and mail it. You may also bring the gift(s) to the parish—just be sure to let us know it is for the Virtual Giving Tree. For gift cards, choose a physical card vs. an electronic E-card and mail it to the agency. In the "from" field, enter "from [your first name] at Saint Cecilia Parish" or "from a friend at Saint Cecilia Parish."

<https://tinyurl.com/pinestreetinn> -or- <https://tinyurl.com/sunsetpointcamp>

TO THE FAR-FLUNG FLOCK

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



BOSTON HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS

The winter months are an especially difficult time for people experiencing homelessness who face severe weather and conditions including frostbite and hypothermia. BHCHP provides compassionate, comprehensive health care to over 11,000 patients at their main facility, shelters, clinics and on the street. Your donations of warm winter clothing will have a huge impact on patients' health and dignity.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Each year Catholic Charities Boston provides resources to thousands of people in crisis across Eastern Massachusetts. You can choose one of three ways to help this holiday season, with 1) a toy, book or clothing item for a child at the Yawkey Child Care Center 2) clothing or toiletries for a child who will attend Sunset Point Summer Camp next year or 3) gift cards to help support the Market Pantry on the North Shore. All these gifts will help brighten their holiday season and alleviate some financial stress for parents.



FAMILIES IN TRANSITION

The Huntington Avenue YMCA's Families in Transition program provides emergency housing shelter for 22 homeless families. Services include advocacy, skills training, employment support, and assistance to secure and sustain permanent housing. The parents and children are always grateful to receive a gift this holiday season.



HALEY HOUSE

Haley House uses food with purpose and the power of community to break down barriers between people, empower individuals, and strengthen neighborhoods. This year we will help their work by providing warm clothing for their soup kitchen guests, most of whom are experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.



PROJECT HOPE

For 40 years Project HOPE Boston has helped move families up and out of poverty. They provide low-income women with children access to education, jobs, housing, and emergency services. Your gift cards will help many families choose a special gift for their child this holiday season.



LIVING WELL AT HOME

The Living Well at Home program (former Elders Program) at BMC provides high-quality housing and supportive services to people of all ages including older adults, many of whom are socially isolated. Gift cards are very helpful in ensuring that their purchases meet their needs, an experience that offers them a sense of independence and dignity. Through your donations, you can help build a healthier, more stable future for them, one home at a time.



MARY ANN BRETT FOOD PANTRY

The Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry is a ministry of faith and love based at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish. It is staffed by committed volunteers who help families and individuals in the Dorchester neighborhood. Each month more than 500 families receive groceries and clothing. Along with the weekly food donations from St. Cecilia parishioners, we will help again this year by providing toys for the children, offering them and their parents a moment of sheer happiness.



PINE STREET INN

The goal at PSI is to move individuals out of homelessness as quickly as possible, and to ensure their long-term stability and success. Currently, Pine Street owns and/or manages buildings providing permanent housing for nearly 850 formerly homeless individuals. Your donations of new household items will support many people, enabling them to equip their new homes with basic furnishings, often an emotional, transformational experience for them.



THE HOME - WALTHAM HOUSE

Managed by the Home for Little Wanderers, Waltham House provides a supportive living environment for LGBTQ+ youth ages 14-18. Residents are offered a safe and nurturing environment while they prepare for family reunification and future self-sufficiency. The holiday gifts we provide will send a message to these young people that we value them and support them.



women's lunch place

WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

WLP is just a few blocks from St. Cecilia's. Six days a week, staff and volunteers provide a hot delicious meal, warm showers, laundry and free medical care to over 2,200 women each year. Your gifts will remind them that they are not alone this holiday season.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, November 30 | 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, December 1 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Jim Dougherty, lector

Sunday, December 1 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Peter Haley, Karen McMenamy, and
Jen Kowieski, lectors

Sunday, December 1 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Tom Skorupa, Tom Comparato, and
Chika Offurum, lectors

Sunday, December 1 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Nikko Mendoza, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 30 | 5:00 p.m.

Frank D'Ercole, *First Anniversary*

Sunday, December 1 | 9:30 a.m.

Carol Ascrizzi, *Memorial*

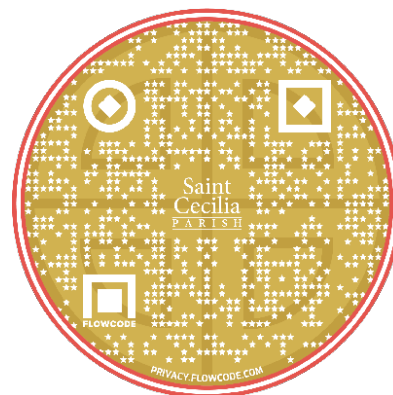
Carol Howland, *Memorial*

Burt Baptiste, *10th Anniversary*

Brian Beaton, *Eighth Anniversary*

ADVENT

PLEASE SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



TODAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH.

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, and Fred Tufts.

Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Four U.S. Churchwomen—December 2, 1980

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

Be Sure to Take Home a Little Blue Book for Advent

Six minutes a day. That's what you might consider giving to prayer during the seasons of Advent and Christmastide—November 30 to January 12. The Little Blue Book provides interesting information about people, traditions, and practices of our faith, followed by a reflection on a portion of the infancy narrative from Matthew's Gospel. These books are in baskets in the rear of the church, and can also be ordered directly from littlebooks.org—available with audio on their app or as a paper book (\$5), or in eBook format via Kindle and Nook.

World AIDS Day Commemoration

At this Sunday's 11:30 liturgy, we will commemorate World AIDS Day, and our parish AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display in the rear of the church. In 1995, parishioners at the Jesuit Urban Center (JUC) created the quilt as a memorial to honor the members of that community whose lives were cut short by HIV/AIDS. When the JUC closed in 2007, the quilt was given a new home at Saint Cecilia, where it now resides as a powerful visual reminder of the lives of beloved members of these two communities.

Christmas Flowers

You are invited to remember your loved ones by donating towards the flowers that will grace the church this Christmas. Please fill out this online form by December 10 to participate: <https://forms.gle/g8MXKSyvPFpRkQoL6>. For those folks without smartphones or computers, you'll find envelopes in the rear of the church for this purpose. Please drop the envelope in the collection basket or bring it to the reception desk. The names of those remembered will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Please be sure to PRINT clearly.

Last 6:00 p.m. Mass of 2024

Sunday, December 15, is the last 6:00 Sunday liturgy before Christmas. The 6:00 liturgy will resume on the Solemnity of the Epiphany (January 5).

Parish Advent Day Retreat — Saturday, December 14

Mark your calendar—we are having an Advent Day Retreat on Saturday, December 14. Our speakers will be Stephen Pope, PhD, a professor of moral theology at Boston College, and Father John. The retreat will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. This is a great way to enter into the season of Advent. To register or for more information, please email Scott MacDonald (smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org).

A Festival of Lessons & Carols—Sunday, December 22

Mark your calendar—On 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, joyfully proclaiming the story of God's love shown forth in Christ. This is a festive occasion to gather as a community and reflect—in prayer, Scripture, and song—on the joyous message of Christmas. Light refreshments will follow. This service will be livestreamed.

Christmas Masses

At Saint Cecilia, Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. and on Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. The full Christmas liturgical and office schedule will be included in next week's bulletin.

THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent wreaths were originally part of the folk traditions of Northern Europe. Wreaths of evergreens were decorated with candles to symbolize life and light during the dark months of winter. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God. Evergreens stay green all year and so signify continuous life. Each of the four candles represents one of the Sundays of Advent. We needn't worry about the colors of the candles; traditionally, three violet candles and one rose candle are used, but you may prefer to use four royal blue candles, four violet candles, or four white candles. The symbol is the flame, not the color. Each Sunday, as the light of the wreath glows brighter, we are reminded that Christ comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. Tonight, light the first candle, sing a verse of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, re-read part of today's Gospel, and say a brief concluding prayer. If you prefer, here is a prayer you can use.

FIRST WEEK

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

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



WELCOME, MARY!



We have a new pastoral associate! This Sunday we warmly welcome Mary Wessel to our parish staff. Mary will run the Saint Cecilia CARES program, will direct RCIA, and will provide ministerial support to our many parish ministries. Born and raised in Arlington, Massachusetts, Mary spent the first 25 years of her professional life in advertising and marketing before feeling called to work in ministry. While that may seem like a bold change of course, she believes Jesus' disciples were the original—and most successful—word-of-mouth marketers and Mary loves to apply those principles to how we encounter others who may not know Christ. In the past five years, she received a master's degree in pastoral ministry from Saint Joseph's College, a certification in grief education, and is currently pursuing a certification in chaplaincy. Embarking on her own transformative spiritual journey has made Mary sensitive to the journeys of others, empathetic to those who are suffering, and passionate to accompany those who seek greater purpose, meaning, faith, and fellowship. She feels blessed to work with ministry leaders at Saint Cecilia as we continue to be the light and love of Jesus in our world. In her leisure time, she loves cheering for and yelling at the Patriots, game nights with her four children, and working to change the stigma of Pitbulls—she loves her pitties. Please be sure to say hello and welcome Mary when you see her!



UPCOMING FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
4:00–5:00 P.M. (EST) | ZOOM

Mark your calendar for our next online coffee hour, when our guests will be longtime parish leaders, Nancy Hanifin and Karen McMenamy. Nancy and Karen will be sharing reflections from their recent pilgrimages along the Camino de Santiago in Spain. This sacred journey includes rich cultural heritage, beautiful landscapes, and spiritual discovery. This is our chance to experience the journey vicariously and to consider pilgrimages in our own lives. We look forward to a rich conversation.

Those who haven't previously registered for a coffee hour are encouraged to sign up for the Far-Flung Flock email list using this link: <https://bit.ly/45pDVRa>. Those who have participated in an online coffee hour in the past have no need to re-register. If you are not receiving Far-Flung Flock notifications, please contact us using the Far-Flung Flock email address.



CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

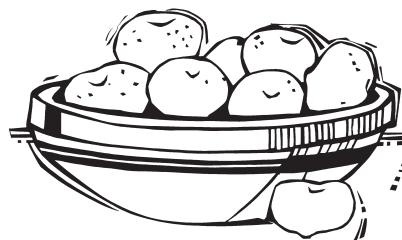
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 | 7:00
NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY | BROWN HALL
290 HUNTINGTON AVENUE | BOSTON

The second Boston concert of Music for Food's 15th season—"Birthings: Beginnings and Farewells"—will feature works by Mendelssohn, Ades, and a world premiere by Ari Shi. Artists include: the Parker Quartet, Peter Jablonski (viola), Kim Kashkashian (viola), Hye Jin Kim (violin), Ara Gregorian (viola), Ayano Ninomiya (violin), and Marcy Rosen (cello).

Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$40/adults and \$15/students. No tickets or reservations are necessary. All proceeds will go to support the good work of Women's Lunch Place.

PRISON MINISTRY INVITATION

Father Jim Shaughnessy, SJ is wondering if anyone would like to join and assist him when he goes to the federal prison at Fort Devens. In order to qualify, you have to be at least 18 years of age, a United States citizen, and anticipate a clear CORI report. For more information or to arrange to have a conversation with Father Shaughnessy, please call the parish office (617-536-4548).



A PIE IN THE SKY THANK YOU!

Once again this year, Saint Cecilia parishioners' incredibly generous support of Community Servings' Pie in the Sky fundraiser is making a difference in the lives of our neighbors experiencing chronic illness who are unable to shop and cook for themselves. This year's parish Pie Team raised over \$14,500—enough to feed eight Community Servings' clients for a year! And as part of the pie sale, we were able to donate over 100 pies to the Thanksgiving meals being served by our nonprofit partner agencies at Morville House, Pine Street Inn, and Women's Lunch Place. To learn more about Community Servings, please visit www.servings.org.

THIS WEEK'S NIGHT OF WORSHIP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3
7:00–8:00 P.M. (EST)

Join us for our monthly Night of Worship with Eucharistic exposition and adoration. Come find rest and healing in God's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, with praise and worship music led by the Young Adult ministry. Please use the pavilion entrance on St. Cecilia Street and ring the bell to enter.

If you can't join us in person, we will be livestreaming this service over Zoom. To register and receive a Zoom link, please email our Young Adult ministry or call the parish reception desk (617-536-4548).

FAITH, COMPASSION, AND DIGNITY

BY DAVE MANZO

His voice carried past more than 100 men sitting on benches. It carried through the haze of the smoke-filled room. It carried through the stifling July heat. It carried past young and old men waiting for a bed, a ride to detox or a visit to the nurse's clinic.

His eyes locked on mine.

His voice was clear and strong when he screamed at me, "I'm going to f___ kill you!"

I clearly understood that the threat, at least in his mind, was serious. It was frightening. It was the summer of 1976 and my first day volunteering at Pine Street Inn.

He was known to the staff as "Gene the Marine." In those days, few truly understood PTSD, but the Inn's staff recognized that mental health and substance abuse issues precipitated Gene's outbursts. Rather than calling the police or physically removing him from the Inn, skilled staff redirected Gene, and he began to calm down. "Gene the Marine" was embraced by the Inn's simple mission – treat each guest with dignity and respect.

Today's Pine Street Inn is more than the emergency shelter I first experienced. Services now include job training, street outreach and approximately 1000 units of permanent housing, far more robust than I could ever have imagined when I first visited the Inn. In Boston, thanks to Pine Street, other non-profit organizations and strong business and government leaders, fewer than 4% of men and women who are experiencing homelessness are unsheltered. In Oakland and San Jose, the number of unsheltered homeless exceeds 65%.

My path to Pine Street Inn and another important organization, Haley House in the South End, was molded by Brother David Warnke, CSC, my senior year English teacher at Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, Connecticut. I wouldn't say I was particularly close to Brother David. Immaturely, I once stood outside the teacher's lounge shouting at him because he did not choose me for a part in a school play. But there was something that happened



in his class that shaped my journey.

There's a term called, "a random triggering event." It is when something happens that takes you from concerned to committed.

On Mondays, Brother David would tell us about his weekend which began on Fridays with an 80-mile bus trip from Waterbury to New York City, not to see a play or visit a museum or watch a game at Yankee Stadium, but to volunteer at the Catholic Worker.

Every Monday he was back in class. I was intrigued and wanted to hear more. My first impression was, this was crazy. Wait, he teaches all week and then he goes to the Bowery in NYC and feeds street people? Since my childhood mirrored the middle-class images of the 60s TV family sitcom, think *Leave It to Beaver* or *The Wonder Years*, what Brother David was doing challenged me.

Soon Brother David was suggesting books about Dorothy Day, subscribing to *The Catholic Worker* newspaper (still 1 cent per issue) and inspiring us by his actions to help those in need. He was attempting to live out the Gospel passage—Matthew 25 that we have all heard hundreds of times. We all know how it goes. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked—the corporal works of mercy.

For me, it was his active example that impressed me—deeds more than words.

When I moved to Boston for college, I had all good intentions, yet I was clueless about matters of homelessness and intractable poverty. I asked a Jesuit at Boston College, named Jim Halpin, if Boston had a Catholic Worker House. Jim told me about Haley House and then borrowed a car and took me to visit, beginning a 50+ year journey.

As a student in the Boston College PULSE Program, I volunteered at Haley House. Arriving at 6 a.m. to get the coffee and soup started, I met our guests and neighbors and heard their life stories. Kenny and Lefty and Mrs. Foley left an indelible mark on me. In those days it was called “lending an ear.” Today we would call this being “proximate.”

When I graduated from BC in 1977, I went to live as a full-time volunteer in a room above the soup kitchen for three years. Years later, my wife, Noreen, began to help our guests access permanent affordable housing. She served the Haley House mission for 22 years.

It’s all here—the through line—Brother David, my high school teacher plants a seed. Jim Halpin, a Jesuit at Boston College, brings me to Haley House. There I met Kathe and John McKenna, who founded Haley House by opening their home to men who were sleeping on their doorstep. Later, I met Father Frank Kelley, one of the Boston Urban Priests who founded Pine Street Inn and Paul Sullivan, the first executive director of the Inn, who saw those who entered the doors at Pine Street Inn as guests not clients.

My life was surrounded by those who were living their faith by their deeds, including “Clarkie.” Gentle and alone, Clarkie slept in the abandoned fireplace in the lobby of the old Pine Street Inn, steps from where Gene had first screamed at me.

I never asked Clarkie why he slept huddled in a fireplace with an old blanket. I suppose he felt safer having three walls and a roof, albeit a fireplace flue, over his head to protect his slight body.

Clarkie focused on helping others. After sleeping at Pine Street Inn, he walked 15 minutes to the Haley House Soup Kitchen where he volunteered to wash dishes and to serve breakfast.

Haley House and Pine Street Inn schooled me.

There the words of Mathew 25 were brought to life every day. (“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”)

For at Haley House or Pine Street Inn, whether a guest was thoughtful like Clarkie or difficult like Gene the

Marine, I witnessed faith, compassion and dignity.

—Dave Manzo served as Haley House’s board chair from 1981 to 1991 and is currently a board member. Since 1988, he has served on Pine Street Inn’s Board of Directors and for four years, beginning in 2002, served as its board chair. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at Boston College, teaching in the PULSE Program.



PIZZA SUNDAY

We will be serving pizza after this Sunday's 6:00 Mass. Please come down for a slice or two!

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

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

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 (VIRTUS). 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.