

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Fourth Sunday of Advent

22 December 2024

Visitation

Domenico Ghirlandaio, 1491



Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

22 December 2024

THE FOURTH 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 | *Vater unser in Himmelreich*

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)

THE ORDER OF THE MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | *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.

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 | Mark 5: 1-4a

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 80: Lord, Make Us Turn to You

Marty Haugen

Refrain



Verses

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us.
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore; look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.
3. May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

SECOND READING | Hebrews 10: 5-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Alleluia from *Missa de Lumine*

arranged by Kathleen Demny



GOSPEL | Luke 1: 39-45

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.

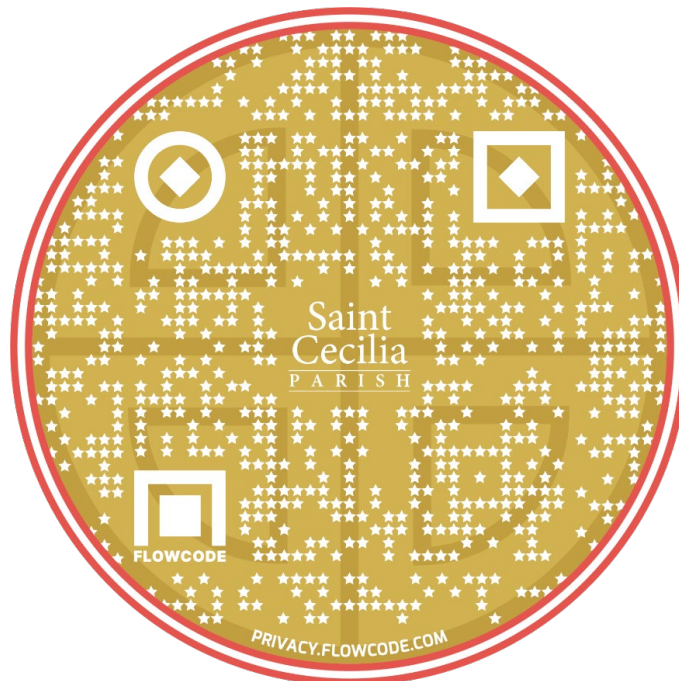
If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish

18 Belvidere Street

Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | My Soul in Stillness Waits

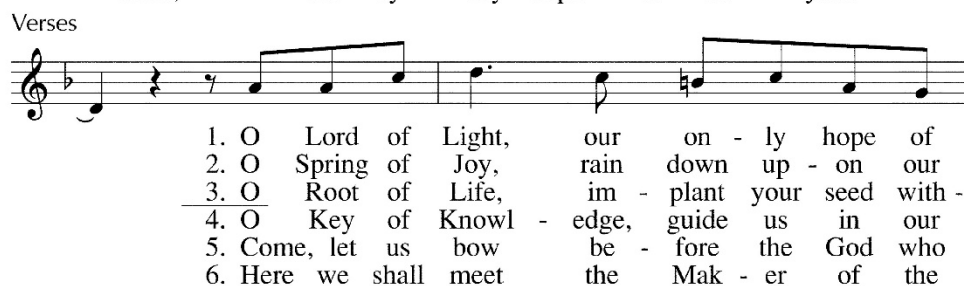
Marty Haugen

Remain

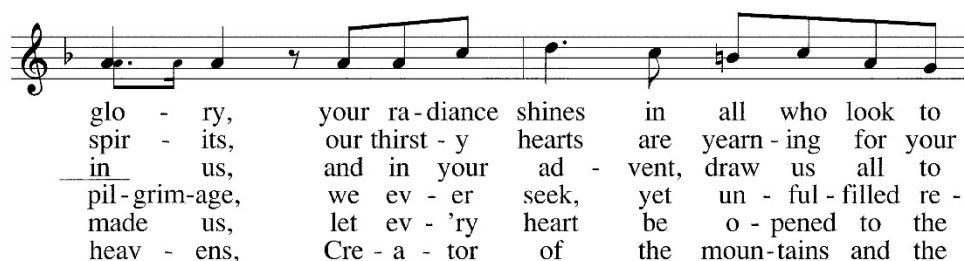


For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

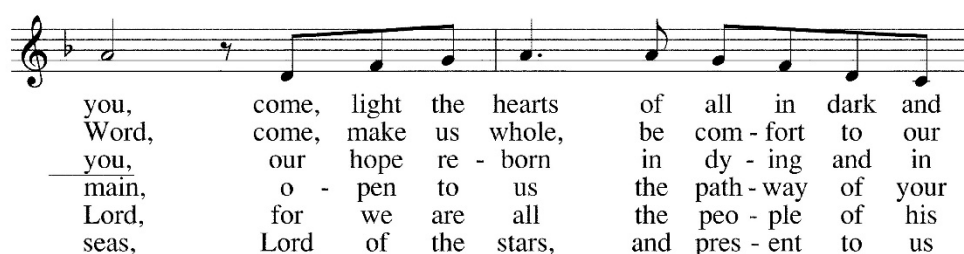
Verses



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

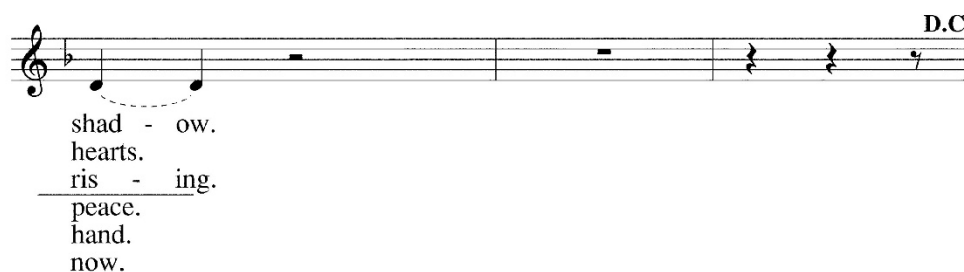


glo - ry, your ra - diance shines in all who look to
spir - its, our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your
in us, and in your ad - vent, draw us all to
pil - grim - age, we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -
made us, let ev - 'ry heart be o - pened to the
heav - ens, Cre - a - tor of the moun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

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*

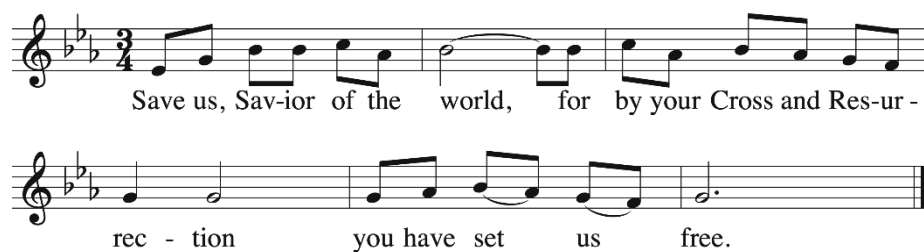
arranged by Kathleen Demny



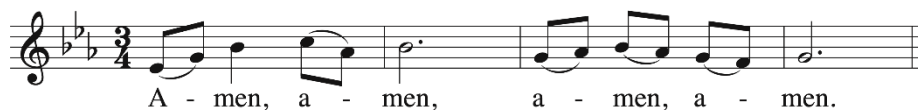
Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.
Heav-en and earth are full, are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high-est.

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.

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.

CONCLUDING RITES

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL | The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2. "How blest a - mong all wom - en you shall be,
3. Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head.
4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame.
Whom ev - 'ry age will praise con - tin - ual - ly.
"To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn.



"All hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Your Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Gló - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Gló - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Gló - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Gló - ri - a!

POSTLUDE | *Dieu Parmi Nous* from *La Nativité du Seigneur*

Oliver Messiaen

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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.

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.

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.



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.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, December 21 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Mary Kane, lector

Sunday, December 22 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Cathy Anderson, lector

Sunday, December 22 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Kate McGillicuddy, Tim McGillicuddy, and
Bobbi Moran, lectors

Sunday, December 22 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Nikko Mendoza, Catherine Horsley, and
Kevin Dumas, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 21 | 5:00 p.m.

Elie and Viella Prevost, *Memorial*
Curtis Peltier, *Memorial*

Sunday, December 22 | 9:30 a.m.

Margaret Cunnane, *Memorial*
Tony Silvaggio, *Memorial*
Paul DeSabato, *Memorial*
Steve Anthony Kupina, *Memorial*
Richard J. Sorrentino, *Memorial*

WINTER

TODAY'S READINGS

Micah 5:1-4a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52



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.

A Festival of Lessons & Carols—Sunday, December 22

This 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.

No 6:00 P.M. Mass

The 6:00 Mass is on a two-week hiatus and will resume on the Solemnity of the Epiphany—January 5. We will serve pizza following the 6:00 Mass on Epiphany.

Coffee Hospitality Pause

In order to give our coffee hospitality team a well-deserved break, we will not be serving coffee on Christmas Day, on Sunday, December 29, or on January 1. Coffee hospitality will resume on Sunday, January 5 following the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies.

Hanukkah—Judaism's Festival of Lights

Hanukkah begins at sundown on December 25 and ends at nightfall on January 2. We remember our Jewish family and friends as they kindle the first candle of the menorah and begin their eight-day celebration of light.

For Our Students

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

Happy Winter!

Winter officially begins with the winter solstice, which occurs at 4:21 a.m. (EST) this Saturday, December 21.



SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

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

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and give today at
clergytrust.org

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Apple Pay, PayPal
via Givebutter.



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.

TRAVEL-SIZE TOILETRIES

If you travel frequently, you may have extra toiletries left over from hotel stays. We can help! Three of our nonprofit partner agencies have an ongoing need for donations of travel-size toiletries. The following miniature products are always needed: shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, soap, and hand sanitizer. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant (none of which are typically found in hotel rooms) are also always in demand. Donated toiletries must be unused and there are plastic bins in the narthex where you can leave your donations. All contributed items will be donated to Women's Lunch Place, Catholic Charities, and Capuchin Mobile Ministries. Thank you!

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



They say it takes a village, and the Knitting and Crocheting Ministry is finding that to be true. Last week we collaborated with the parish Young Adult Ministry and the Notre Dame Alumni group of Boston to learn finger knitting with the Off the Hook Yarn donated by Ocean State Job Lot. It is fun to learn, and in addition to enjoying a good evening doing good, we finished 24 colorful cowls which will be donated to Women's Lunch Place.

For more information, or if you would like to join the Knitting and Crocheting Ministry, please contact Ann Marie Turo by calling the parish office.

WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY

Are you in the second half of life? If so, the Wisdom and Mature Spirituality group holds two Zoom gatherings each week: Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30. While not specifically a book club, participants have conversations informed by shared spiritual reading and discuss ways in which our faith informs and enriches the second half of life. The group is presently concluding an exploration of *Awareness* by Anthony de Mello, SJ. Looking ahead, for two weeks beginning on January 9 they will be taking a look at the classic little book, *The Story of the Other Wise Man* by Henry Van Dyke, and on January 23 they will begin Jesuit priest Gregory Boyle's newest book, *Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times*. For more information or to be added to the Wisdom and Mature Spirituality mailing list, please call or email the parish office.

UPCOMING FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 | 4:00 P.M. (EST)

The Saint Cecilia FFF Ministry is pleased to welcome back Sebastian Gomes, executive editor of audio and video at America Media, as January's special guest. Sebastian has produced a number of podcasts for America and most recently was part of a group from America Media that traveled to Rome to cover the second Vatican assembly of the global Synod on Synodality—a nearly month-long meeting of clerics and laypeople brought together to discuss the future of the Catholic Church. On Sunday, January 12, Sebastian will speak about key elements of the final document from the Synod, *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission*. This is a good opportunity to hear about where the synod delegates see the Church moving. Participants will have an opportunity to ask Sebastian questions during this coffee hour.

Even if you have already registered as a parishioner, to receive the link to the monthly online coffee hours, you must register for the FFF email list with this link: bit.ly/45pDVRa.

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THE INTENTIONAL VISITATION: BEING BOTH MARY AND ELIZABETH

BY LAURA ROLAND

Years ago, before the world shut down and people began working from home, I had an office that sported a comfy orange chair (mid-century modern colors are my thing), an electric tea kettle, several mugs with pithy and/or comforting sayings on them, lots of tea, and a soft lighting scheme to pull it all together.

It was my cozy corner in a wing of a building that was constantly in a state of chaos and stress. 2 p.m. became teatime for me—and, as word leaked out about my little oasis, anyone else who needed a getaway. You didn't have to have a cup of tea; you could just stop by to catch your breath. A few weeks after the chair arrived, that space grew into more than a solitary retreat spot; it morphed into a sacred space where intentional Visitation moments happened.

The Model

Each time I read the story of the Visitation, I am reminded that we are not meant to do life alone. We long to belong, and we need community. But sometimes relationships, especially female relationships, can be messy. If you, like me, have had a difficult time navigating them, having a holy model in the Visitation can be an incredible gift. Mary and Elizabeth show us how to do female relationships: Create a sacred space where each can spend intentional time with the other, honor the gifts the Lord has given each woman, and serve one another from a place of love—all with Christ at the center.

In my own life, the Visitation has been my go-to story for inspiration and encouragement. Encounter Grace, a women's ministry I co-founded with my dear friend, Penny Bailey, was based on the Visitation. We wanted to create a place where women of all stages, seasons, and faith journeys could come together, with Christ at the center. This beautiful story of two women serving the other, just as they are, informs my writing and mentoring relationships to this day.

Sharing the Ordinary

I often wonder what those conversations between Mary and Elizabeth were like during the three months they spent together. It was Mary's first trimester and Elizabeth's



third. Of course they spoke of holy things that I will never experience, but as they were women, I can't help but imagine they spoke of how funny life is and all the ordinary things that pregnant women speak of.

I envision Mary asking Elizabeth to share her early pregnancy experiences: "Did you have morning sickness? Is what I'm feeling normal? When did your ankles start to swell? When did you feel your baby move the first time?"

And, because Elizabeth was genuinely interested and loved Mary, I can't help but think that she asked not only of her practical next steps but her hopes and dreams for when she returned home to face all that would come her way. Perhaps they even shared moments where they bonded over the reality that their children would be cousins: "Will they look alike? Will they be best friends?"

Here is where I think the beauty of the Visitation lies: They were two women of different ages sharing the journey through an extraordinary season. Mary, in true humility, brought compassion and care to Elizabeth, honoring her wisdom and courage. She wanted to sit at her feet and learn all she could.

Elizabeth did two things: she *allowed* Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, to serve her, and she provided a safe place for Mary to retreat when she needed to take a breath. They

took care of each other, sharing their unique story and circumstances, holding space for the other, being intentionally present to the other as they processed what was on their hearts.

They created a community within a community. And that larger community, which included a mute Zechariah, was watching it all unfold.

Space Is Sacred and Stories Matter

My orange chair became the place for people to go to talk about what was on their heart. Most of the people I worked with were much younger than I, but they still sought me out and included me in their work world. As a woman who rarely feels like she fits anywhere, being “let in” was an unexpected outcome of having a peaceful office—or, as one friend put it, “It’s kind of become a sacred space here in the building. Not quite the Chapel, but a close second.”

I’d often sit at my desk, sipping my tea, listening and leaning in while they chatted away. Learning their stories helped me to know how better to honor and serve them: Did they want my opinion or need help processing a work or personal matter? Or, did they just need a place where they could safely give voice to all that needed to be said and shared? Often, it was my ear they needed, not my words. It was a privilege to listen to their stories, and much like Mary and Elizabeth did for each other, I vowed to keep it all close to my heart.

As I listened, I learned so much. From the younger women, I was let in on the realities of their day-to-day professional lives, their dating ups and downs, their faith journeys, and how they perceived and were received by the Church. There were women my own age as well—and a few who were a generation ahead of me. I learned their experiences of the work world as a woman in a certain age group—how they, too, were received or dismissed within the walls of their homes, the office, the church, and the Church.

Each generation had its own path. I often felt this sacred space we created together allowed us both to reach back to the next generation and to reach out to the one who came before, bridging a gap.

Stories matter. Sometimes, we cried. Often, we prayed. Laughter spilled out into the hallway—but only if the door was open. Most of the time, they wanted to close it and enjoy the soft lighting, the comfortable orange chair, and the tap, tap, tap of my fingers flying over my

keyboard while they sipped their tea.

In those moments, the sacred space moved from an orange chair to a shared heart space. But we had to let the other in, literally and figuratively, for that to happen. Just as Elizabeth welcomed Mary, I had to be open and present to whatever each woman brought through that door. And they did the same for me.

I See Christ in You

Today, if you were to ask any of those women about teatime, I’m sure the younger ones would say it was time well spent and that they learned about life and how to navigate it. The ladies who were my age and older might say it was a time of honest sharing, a rarity in the workplace these days.

It’s a humble brag, mind you, because in reality, they gave much more than they received.

This particular group of women was incredibly inspiring as they navigated relationships and their vocations, their professional interests, and their creativity—all while being faithful to the Church. I was in awe of how they managed difficult conversations, always speaking hard truths in love. I marveled at how they lived out their faith in the world they were in, but not of. They taught me much—both in our discussions and how they behaved—about what it means to be a Beloved Daughter. They were (are!) stellar examples of what it looks like to bring the feminine genius to the workplace.

Those insights helped me grow in my faith and to understand myself in terms of my own giftedness and what I have to offer the world. To this day, they remain my biggest cheerleaders, as I am for them.

When we acknowledge and honor what the woman right in front of us brings to the world, we no longer see age or stage or season; we only see Christ in the other. We are like Mary, who saw the Lord’s handiwork in Elizabeth’s pregnancy. She magnified the Lord with this “yes” that only she could offer. This magnification, this Christ in us that we project into the world, is what compels us to honor and serve.

What Can I Get You?

As I am writing this article, the idea that I might

have been Mary to an Elizabeth at some point in my life is fascinating. I've always seen myself more in Elizabeth than in Mary, as I have most often been the oldest in the places I've worked. And yet, when we take age out of the equation, anyone can be Mary or Elizabeth, depending on the circumstances.

When Elizabeth received Mary, she created a sacred space for her to come and rest. In doing so, she honored who Mary was and what she brought, both figuratively and literally, to the world. But it was Mary who went to Elizabeth with the intention to help, to journey with her during a difficult season, anticipating her needs and honoring what she brought to the world. So, in these two women, who were decades apart in age, we see a give and take. Putting aside their own aches, pains, hurts, sorrows, and joys, they each willingly met the other's needs.

This is what it looks like to serve the other with Christ at the center.

There is another component to serving the other, though: to recognize when you have done what you are called to do and it is time to let them continue without you. Mothers do this with their children, but as women, it can be hard to do in relationships with other women. Perhaps it is out of fear, or confusion, or the feeling that we are being left behind as they go on. Nonetheless, if we are to honor and serve the other, we have to let go when it is time. To hold on is to hold them back.

We are meant to journey with only a very few for the long haul. Those relationships are rare, and they are exquisite. Visitation relationships are for a shorter time and for a specific reason. We show up, we visit, we share our heart, we heal, we serve, we love in the moment.

Then, we head home to do what must be done next with a heart filled to overflowing. When we return—to our own office, to our home, to our life—after a Visitation moment, people notice the change in us. Just as Elizabeth and Zechariah's neighbors marveled at everything they saw (Luke 1:65-66), our Visitation moments have a ripple effect on the people in our life, too.

Creating Your Own Intentional Visitation

You don't need to have an orange chair to have your own version of an intentional Visitation. Or so I've learned. I left that job in that office well over five years ago and I still have many moments of being both Mary and Elizabeth to women all over the world, building a community within a community. Sometimes, we are together for a brief time. Sometimes, we journey together for an extended season. Regardless of the length of time, who is involved, and whether they are professional or personal in nature, these intentional Visitations share the same elements:

- They are intentional in both time given and space held for the other.
- They honor the gifts and belovedness of the other, seeing Christ in each other.
- They serve from a place of humility, seeking to walk alongside the other for as long as she needs, knowing when to let go, move on, and let the overflow happen.

—Laura Roland, a former Catholic educator, co-founded the women's ministry Encounter Grace in 2018 and is a speaker, writer, mentor, and host of the podcast, Short Story Longer. Through her speaking and writing, Laura encourages women to understand their God-given talents and how they can reconnect with their purpose in life—no matter the season or stage they are in—taking a close look at how they use those gifts in the ordinary everyday moments of their lives.



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

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 safely 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.