

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

24 December 2023

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 24 DECEMBER 2023

---

PRELUDES | *Nun komm, dereiden Heiland*, BWV 659  
*Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn*, BWV 601  
*Puer natus in Bethlehem*, BWV 603  
*Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich*, BWV 605  
*Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ*, BWV 91

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Noël IX

Louis-Claude Daquin  
(1694-1772)

Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

CALL TO WORSHIP | *Puer Natus Est Nobis*

Plainchant

*Puer natus est nobis et filius datus est nobis: cuius imperium super humerum eius:  
et vocabitur nomen eius magni consilii Angelus.  
Cantate Domino canticum novum quia mirabilia fecit.*

A child is born to us and a Song is given to us:  
Whose government is upon His shoulder:  
and His Name shall be called, the Angel of Great Counsel  
Sing ye to the Lord a new song for he has done wonderful things.

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri -  
*1. Ad - e - ste fi - de - les, lae - ti, tri - um -*

2. † God of God, Light of  
 3. † Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul -  
 4. † Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py

um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to  
*phan - tes, ve - ni - te, ve - ni - te in*  
 Light, † Lo! He comes forth from the  
 ta - tion, † sing, all ye cit - i - zens of  
 morn - ing, † Je - sus, to thee be all

Beth - le - hem; come and be -  
*Beth - le - hem. Na - tum vi -*  
 Vir - gin's womb. Our ver - y  
 heav'n a - bove! Glo - ry to  
 glo - ry giv'n; Word of the

hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
*de - te, Re - gem an - ge - lo - rum.*  
 God, be - got - ten not cre - at - ed,  
 God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O  
*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve -*

come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
*ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do -*

dore him, Christ, the Lord!  
*re - mus Do - mi - num.*

## 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.

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple  
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a -  
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you  
thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly  
King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.  
Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a -  
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you take a -  
way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are seat - ed  
at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer -  
cy, have mer - cy on us. For you a - lone are the



COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 62: 1-5

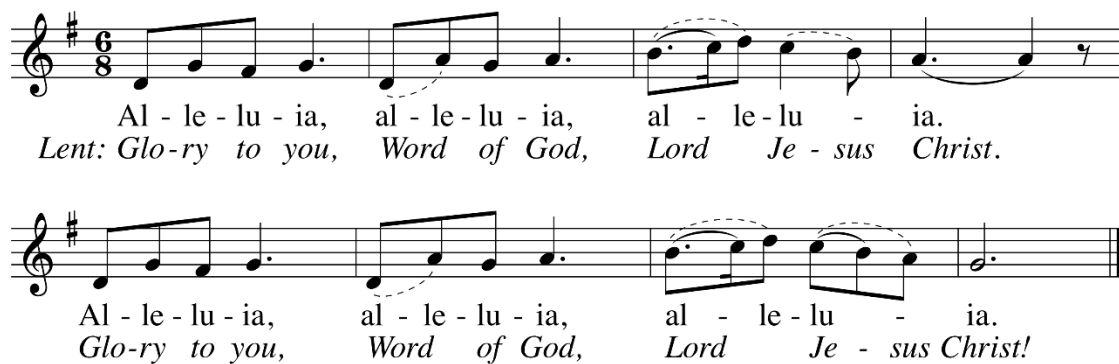
RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Isaiah 89: Forever I Will Sing

Tony Alonso



1. "With my chosen one I have made a covenant; I have said to David my servant:  
I will establish your descendants forever and set up your throne through all ages."
2. How blessed the people who know your praise, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice their joyful acclaim.
3. "He will call out to me, 'You are my father, my God, my God, the rock of my salvation.'  
I will keep my faithful love for him always; with him my covenant shall last."

SECOND READING | Acts 13:16-17, 22-25



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Lent: Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!*

## GOSPEL | Matthew 1:1-25

## HOMILY

## NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,  
 the Father almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all things visible and invisible.  
 I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the Only Begotten Son of God,  
 born of the Father before all ages.  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.  
 For us men and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven,  
 and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
 and became man.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
 he suffered death and was buried,  
 and rose again on the third day  
 in accordance with the Scriptures.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory  
 to judge the living and the dead  
 and his kingdom will have no end.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the prophets.  
 I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
 I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
 and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

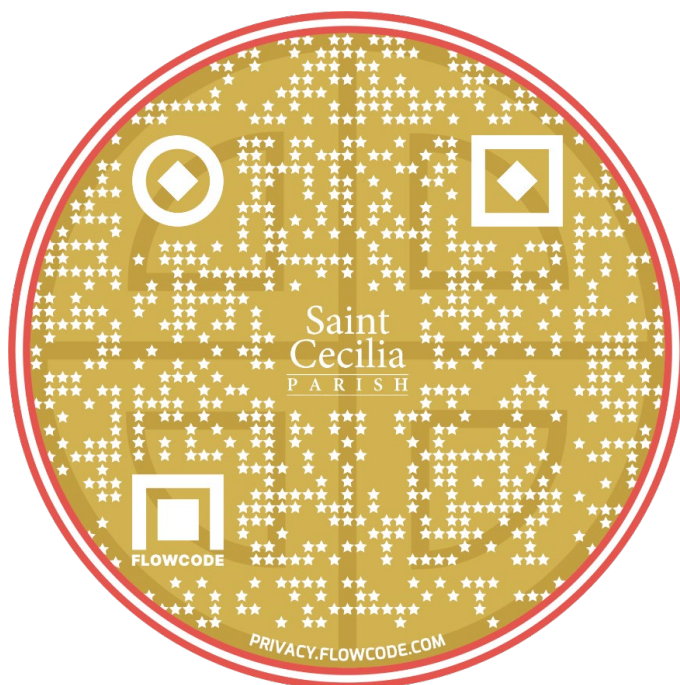
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing,  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored;  
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace!

"Glo - ry to the new - born King! Peace on earth and  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Late in time be -  
Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness! Light and life to

mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
hold him come, off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no

of the skies; with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim,  
De - i - ty, pleased as man with us to dwell,  
more may die, born to raise us from the earth,

"Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!" Hark! The her - ald  
Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el. Hark! The her - ald  
born to give us sec - ond birth. Hark! The her - ald

an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"  
an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"  
an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

## EUCHARISTIC 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 of your glo-ry.  
Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the  
high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Creation

Marty Haugen

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-  
claim your Death, O Lord, un-til you come a-gain.

## AMEN | Mass of Creation

Marty Haugen

A-men, a-men, a-men!

## 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.

## THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

- ✠ The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
All: And with your spirit.

The musical score is written for a Cantor and an Assembly. The Cantor part is in 3/4 time, and the Assembly part is in 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. world, grant us peace." The score includes a "To repeat" section and a "Last time" section.

*Cantor:* Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the

*Assembly:* world, have mer - cy on us.

*Last time* world, 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

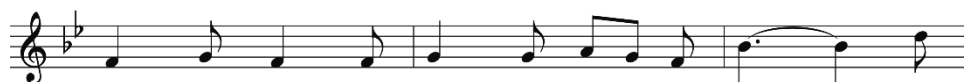
Loving Jesus,  
I believe that you  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there  
and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen.



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That  
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come With  
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife The  
4. For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, By



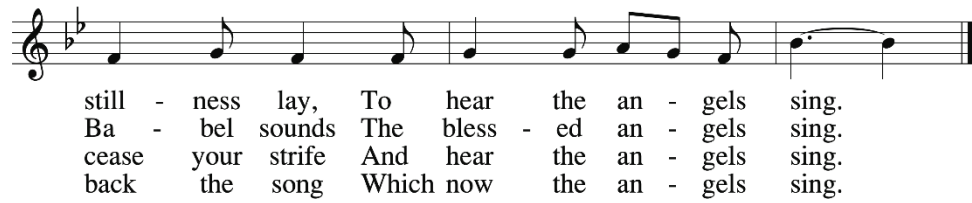
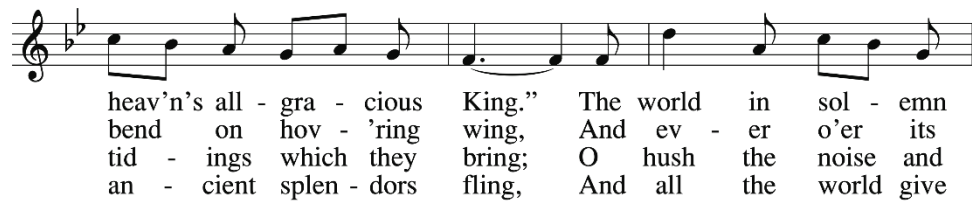
glo - rious song of old, From an - gels bend - ing  
peace - ful wings un - furled, And still their heav'n - ly  
world has suf - fered long; Be - neath the heav'n - ly  
proph - ets seen of old, When with the ev - er -



near the earth To touch their harps of gold: "Peace  
mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world. A -  
hymn have rolled Two thou - sand years of wrong; And  
cir - cling years Shall come the time fore - told, When



on the earth, good will to all, From  
bove its sad and low - ly plains They  
war - ring hu - man - kind hears not The  
peace shall o - ver all the earth Its

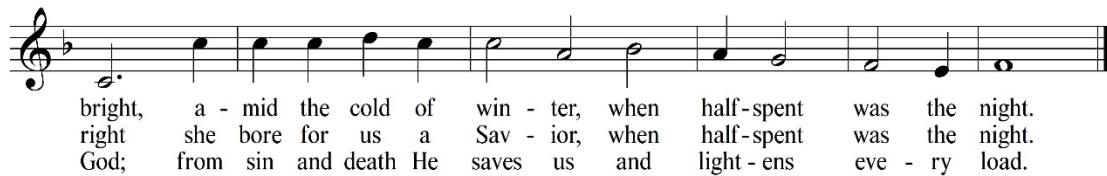
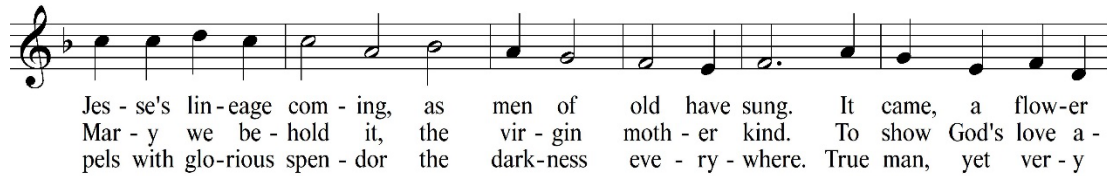
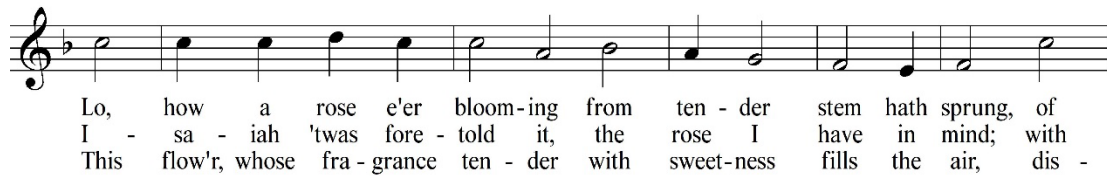


# Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

# ES IST EIN ROSE ENTSPRUNGEN

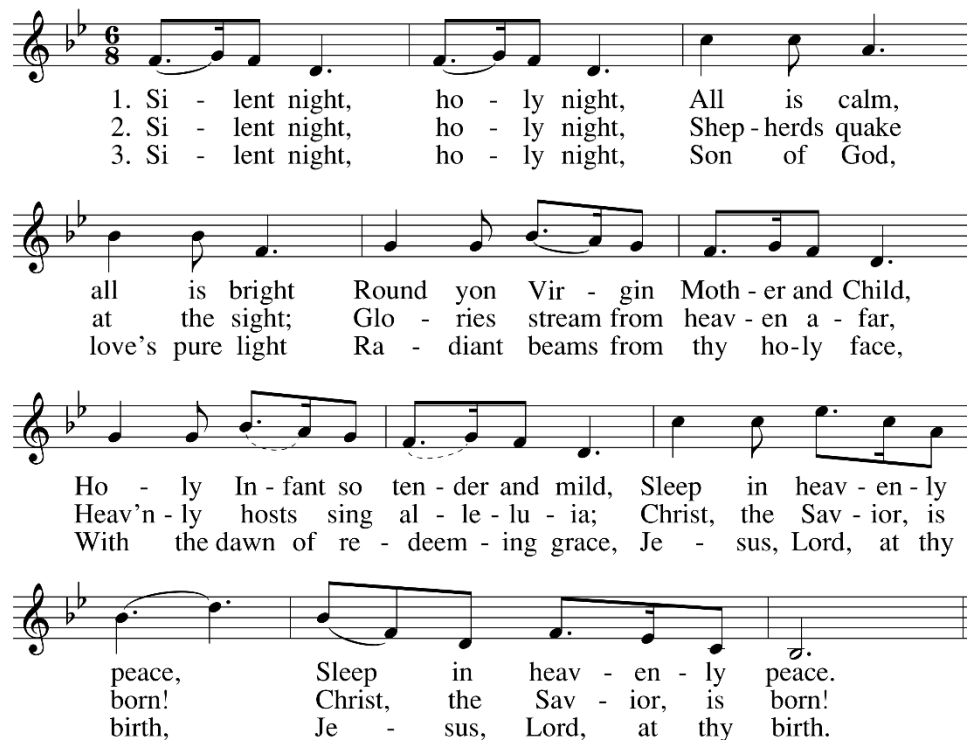
Michael Praetorius

(1571-1621)



# Silent Night

Franz Gruber  
(1787-1863)



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm,  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herds quake  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright Round yon Vir - gin Moth - er and Child,  
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

# In the Bleak Midwinter

Harrison Stenson, *baritone*

Gustav Holst  
arranged by Jen Wagner  
(b. 1986)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
 earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
 snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak midwinter, long ago.  
 Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
 heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
 In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
 the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
 cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
 but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
 worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
 if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.



1. Love has come, a light in the dark - ness! Love shines  
 2. Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is  
 3. Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is

forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has  
 God now a - sleep in the hay. See the glow in the  
 life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with -

come to pro - claim it. Hear how their song of joy a -  
 eyes of his moth - er. What is the name her heart is  
 in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our hearts are

ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a Sav - ior!  
 say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she whis - pers.  
 seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christ - mas.

Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!  
 Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el!  
 Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!

COMMUNION MEDITATION | O Holy Night  
 Tyler Cesario, *tenor*

Adolphe Adam  
 (1803-1856)

## CONCLUDING RITES

- ✠ 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. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re -  
2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns; Let us our  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

1. ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
2. songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and  
3. fest the ground; He comes to make his bless - ings  
4. na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -

1. room, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
2. plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
3. flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
4. ness, And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

1. sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
2. joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
3. found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
4. love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia,  
please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: [RDuff@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:RDuff@stceciliaboston.org).



clergytrust

healthier priests.  
stronger communities.

## SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

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

Learn more  
and give today at  
**clergytrust.org**

SCAN HERE for  
Venmo, Google/  
Apple Pay, PayPal  
via Givebutter.



# LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends,

As I sit to write this year's Christmas letter, I find myself grappling with the uneasy, messy, and (actually awful) mix of current events our world is facing in December 2023. With war and terror unabating, with increasing hatred and intolerance, and with all types of inequity and injustice, it's enough to overwhelm and depress us. In the face of these harsh realities, it's easy to turn away, not take interest, or put our heads in the sand because we don't know how to face things and don't know what to do about them. For whatever reason, maybe we're afraid to say anything about what's happening.

But staying silent and turning away from the suffering in life is the antithetical temptation to what Christmas is all about: hope, joy, and celebration. Finding light amid darkness. Staying filled with hope. Bringing the joy. Sheltering people even when there's no room at the inn. And taking time to celebrate and give thanks. These are important!



When we feel overwhelmed and depressed in these challenging times, we have to remember that these times are also filled with hope, joy, anticipation, possibility, beauty, light, and life. These are the things that Christmas reminds me to hang onto and understand more deeply each year—especially when life gets dark and heavy, when it gets overwhelming, when lingering losses and grief are still at play, and when there are no quick or easy answers to life's challenges. The story of Christmas, the Incarnation (the Word made flesh), is that 2000 years ago, God entered into our broken, dark world, a world much like it is today (except without all the technology and instantaneous ability to spread information so quickly), and God became the light, the life, the way and the truth in a vulnerable, little baby. Jesus was born in an untimely, inconvenient way and out of sequence, with no housing and security. He is "the light that shone in the darkness where the darkness does not overcome." So, THIS reality gives hope to me! This IS hope to me! What about you?

That's why commercialization, Santa and Frosty, the Grinch, and Mr. Heat Miser...even all the parties and gift-giving really don't do full justice to what we believe and celebrate as a people of faith this Christmas. We celebrate in these ways, but this feast of Christmas is about God coming to "save us" and bring about a way to be light, hope, courage, and strength even with all the darkness that's going on. As it happened 2000 years ago in Bethlehem...it happens now...this world will continue to be unjust and dark, warring and unfair with pregnant mothers and families on the move, with housing insecurity then and now, but, this Christmas we're reminded, we have a Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord, who enters into these realities which were his realities and now are our realities, and He brings us peace through his way. Belief in this is what we're about tonight and today as we celebrate. This belief grounds us in the reality of eternal life and in Him...the One who gives us what we need to get through and emerge from any dark time or situation of our own...more than any presents or ho-ho-ho's could ever do!

We also live in a world where the news oftentimes can have everything reduced to quick sound bytes of either "this or that," "one side or another side," "them or those." With all that is horrible and happening in Gaza and Israel, and in Ukraine, with all that is going on in the many countries that don't make the news cycle, where human beings (our sisters and brothers) are being slaughtered by each other and living in conditions that are less than dignified and human; where just 10 blocks down from us here at Saint Cecilia, on Atkinson Street near Mass and Cass, human beings are being ravaged by addiction, mental illness, human trafficking and crime, it's at times too much for us to process. But with the eyes of faith, as we try to help and address all that's not right, we still celebrate tonight and today, remembering the words of John's gospel, for "the people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone for. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing!"

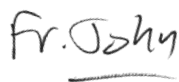
In the face of all the awful things happening around us, how can we begin to ask what our faith, our coming here today, means? How does our faith challenge us, propel us, nudge, push, shove, or make us take notice

and take action...whatever that means? Let us look inward. What's the darkness that's keeping you and me down or depressed? What's the unresolved grief? What's the issue at home that's overwhelming us? What's the reality that might be causing anxiety or causing us to disengage or not care? The Christmas story speaks to all these questions more than Santa and Rudolph, but ultimately, we have to ask ourselves: do we buy it? Buying in means work though. It means getting a little bit more real. It means going beyond Santa and even "the sentimental waiting for the baby Jesus," as Richard Rohr says, to a belief that leads us to action that is propelled by and infused with hope, possibility, and life. In some way, that's the story of the Incarnation; when our light comes into another's darkness, when life comes out of chaos, and when people are inspired to continue being compassionate and having love for others...all of which is the cause of this season's abundant joy and great rejoicing.

As the angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid; for behold I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for ALL people." Like Mary, through her accompaniment and intercession, let us not be afraid to be light in someone's darkness this year. Let us lighten the burden for someone we know or a stranger, offer a reconciling word or gesture, or even engage more deeply with the brokenness of this world, as messy as it is. May our faith be ever evolving, and may we deepen our understanding of the Incarnation...which is God's presence made real in each and every one of us too.

On behalf of the whole staff here at Saint Cecilia (for whom I am tremendously grateful), I wish you and your families a very hope-filled, blessed, and Merry Christmas!

Peace,



Fr. John

## WELCOMING THE STRANGER

For the past seven years, our parish has provided ongoing support to Catholic Charities' Refugee and Immigration Services with supermarket gift cards, heeding Pope Francis' words, "With regard to migrants, displaced persons, and refugees, a common commitment is needed, one focused on offering them a dignified welcome." Like so many other agencies in the Commonwealth, Catholic Charities of Boston has seen a surge in immigrants needing assistance this year. With your help, they can provide a vital lifeline for our new community members. If you would like to purchase gift cards to Target, Market Basket, Stop and Shop or Shaw's/Star Market—and no more than \$25 per card—please feel free to mail them to the parish or drop them in the offertory basket in an enveloped marked "Catholic Charities." To mail them, send them to: *Mark Lippolt, Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115.*

## YOUNG FAMILIES MEETING

**December 31 | Following 9:30 Mass**

Saint Cecilia's Young Families Ministry will meet in the Family Flex Center following the 9:30 a.m. Mass on New Year's Eve! Come celebrate in fellowship with other young families as we look to the New Year!

## VISIT OUR FAMILY FLEX CENTER

As we gather to celebrate Mass, we are reminded of the importance of community and the shared experience of worship. However, we understand that attending Mass with young children can sometimes be challenging. That's why we encourage you to visit our Family Center, located to the left of the parish café and underneath the staircase on Saint Cecilia Street. The center is open during liturgies and provides a comfortable environment for parents with young children. Here, parents can watch Mass as their children play, and nursing mothers can enjoy a quieter, more private space. If you have questions about the Family Center, please contact our Director of Facilities and Events, Lisa Pickering at [lpickering@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:lpickering@stceciliaboston.org).

## 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 who are unable to shop and cook for themselves due to chronic illness. This year's parish Pie Team raised over \$14,000—enough to feed 8 Community Servings clients for a year! As part of the pie sale, we donated over 100 pies to the Thanksgiving meals being served by our non-profit partner agencies at Morville House, Pine Street Inn, and Women's Lunch Place! You can learn more about Community Servings here: [www.servings.org](http://www.servings.org).



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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.

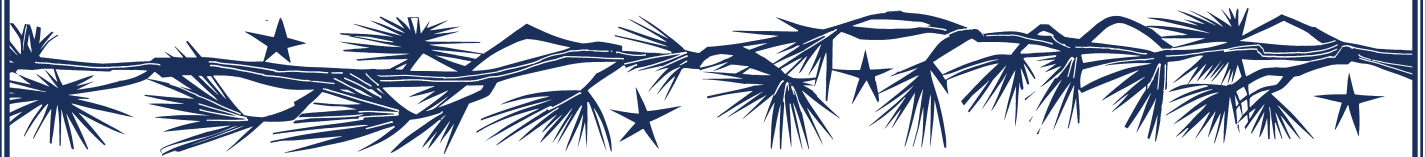
The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci's The Last Supper, and the dome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



# Christmas



## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

### **Sunday, December 24 | 4:00 p.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Louisa Essmann, Kelly McClintock,  
and Emily St. Germain, lectors

### **Sunday, December 24 | 6:30 p.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Julie DesAutels, Karen McMenamy,  
and Letitia Howland, lectors

### **Monday, December 25 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Maggie Giles and Karen McMenamy, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

### **Wednesday, December 27 | 8:00 a.m.**

Jaurina Brighenti, *Memorial*

### **Thursday, December 28 | 8:00 a.m.**

Joan Curran, *1st Anniversary*

## CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Please note that since Christmas falls on a Monday this year, our Sunday schedule for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24) has changed. Masses that are also livestreamed are marked with an asterisk (\*) and can be viewed at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

### **Sunday, December 24 | Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. \* **ONLY**

Please note that this is our **ONLY** Sunday morning liturgy.

### **Sunday, December 24 | Christmas Eve**

Mass | 4:00 p.m.\* & 6:30 p.m.

### **Monday, December 25 | Christmas Day**

Mass | 9:30 a.m.\*

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

### **Tuesday, December 26–Friday, December 29**

Parish offices closed.

### **Wednesday, December 27 | Thursday, December 28 | Friday, December 29**

Weekday Mass | 8:00 a.m.

### **Sunday, December 31 | Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

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

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

Mass | 10:00 a.m.



### **Sunday, January 7 | The Epiphany of the Lord**

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

Please note that there will be no 6:00 p.m. liturgy on December 17, 24, and 31.

## CHRISTMAS EVE READINGS

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

## CHRISTMAS DAY READINGS

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



# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

## **Our Sick**

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Jacqueline Lavelle, Elizabeth Kennedy, Jeff Hommes, Sue Ryan, Tim Finn, Glenn Gallo, John Hosang, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.

## **Welcome to Our Visitors**

If you are not a regular parishioner at Saint Cecilia, we hope that you find a warm welcome and a vibrancy in worship here. If you are looking for a faith community to call home, please give us a try. For more information on programming and ministries at Saint Cecilia, please visit our website at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org). We invite you to come and be a part of our life as we journey in God and toward God. You are always welcome here.

## **For Our Priests**

At all of our Christmas Masses this week, our entire offertory collections will be to support the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. Please make a donation directly to Clergy Trust, at [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org).

## **Parking**

Discounted parking will be available on a “first come, first served” basis for all the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern). The fee is \$13. Please be sure to get a chaser ticket from a greeter.

## **Coffee Hospitality Pause**

There will be no coffee hospitality on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve so that we can give our coffee hospitality team a well-deserved break!

## **A Note on Space**

As you may have noticed, our numbers have grown quite a bit over the past couple of 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 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!

## **Advent Giving Trees**

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in our annual Advent Giving Trees! We are certain these gifts will

warm the hearts of those who receive them.

## **Christmas Prayers**

In your prayer, please remember those who are alone and will spend Christmas without family or friends. Consider ways that you can be a welcoming presence to those who are lonely. Pray also for those who will spend Christmas on the street or in a shelter.

## **For Ongoing Incarnation**

Pray for the grace to bring God into our world—that we may allow the Word to dwell in our hearts, become enfleshed through our lives, and be revealed in our words and deeds.

## **For Parents Celebrating Christmas With a New Child**

Pray for our parishioners who are celebrating this Christmas with a new child—that they may recognize the gift of God that they hold and faithfully nurture the gifts and talents that God has given their child.

## **For Peace**

Pray for peace and justice in all troubled parts of the world—that God will give insight and new vision to all who are striving to turn swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.

## **Saint Cecilia Monthly Holy Hour**

Please note that there will be no Holy Hour on January 2. The Saint Cecilia Young Adults, who facilitate our Holy Hour, will resume their monthly schedule on Tuesday, February 6. We hope to see you then!

.....

## DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

Please consider participating in our food donation ministry during the upcoming months so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. 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 food pantries: 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. Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex.

# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

*Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;  
to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. (Rev. 1:5-6)*

The Abruzzi Family

Lee Anderson

Elsie & Tony Andrade

Mary Dennehy Anzivino

Cora Arnold

Catherine Aylward

Nicole Bairos Heck

Maria Barbosa

Mr. & Mrs. Vasco Barbosa

Joseph Bernard

Chuck & Betty Botosh

Virginia Boyer

Jack Brent

The Brooks Family

Eileen Browning

Francisco Bucasus

Arthur Burgess

Sheila Butler

Bill Byrne, Jr.

Glenn Calmus

Maria Cristina Campo

Bill & Catherine Carroll

Bill & Marilyn Carroll

Bob Carroll

John Alan Cates

Teddy Chagnon

Mary & John Coen

Tim Coen

John Coghlan

Ann Coleman

Margaret Collins

James Collins

Maria Cone

Gerry & Charlotte Conklin

Fr. Chuck Connolly, S.J.

Mickey & Joe Contilli

Maurice & Marjorie Cormier

Danielle Daccache Farhat

Mr. & Mrs. Saheed W. Dahar Sr.

Sean Dalton

John & Betty Davis

Norma De Robinson

The DeMers Family

John Z. Dennehy

Mr. & Mrs. Philip F. Dennehy Sr.

Marc DeSousa

Mary & Cosmo DeVelis

Mary Devino

Mary & Joe Devlin

Nancy Diaco

Marjorie DiGennaro

Frank DiGennaro

Agnes Dillon

James T. Dillon

Susan M. Dillon

Cecelia Dodson

Alice & Walter Doherty

Mary & Bill Donlan

John Drexelius

Joan Drexelius

Joe Drexelius

Lucille Dumont Andrews

Arthur F. Dunnett

R. Margaret Dunnett

Franchi & Mancini Families

Mary Fazio

Genoveva Figueroa

Walter Fletcher

Nora Frank

Bernard & Doris Gallagher

Tom & Helen Gallagher

Carmina Garcia

Joseph Garcia

Michael Garvey

Jane M. Given

Susan Gordon

James J. Griffin

Lucy B. Griffin

Mary A. Griffin

Lucy Ann Griffin

Michell Griffin

Jack Gripshover

Rev. Msgr. Michael F. Groden

Meaghan Grotz

Mr. & Mrs. Granderson Hall

Brian Hare

Ellen Harrington

Rose Hart

John & Dorothea Hines

Timothy Hinsdale

Ben & Janice Hinsdale

Thomas Hinsdale

Margaret Hinsdale Pometta

Ellen Hogan

Fr. Gerry Hogan



---


## SAINT CECILIA PARISH

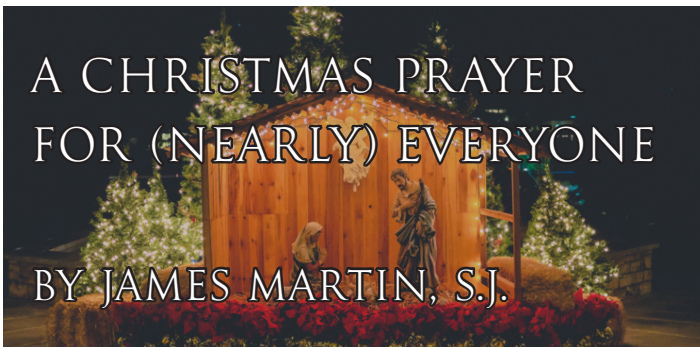
---

Norbert & Helen Hootsmans  
Carol Howland  
Richard Howland  
Michael Howland  
Marguerite P. Hurley  
Marion Jesse  
John & Margaret Joyce  
Maria Julien  
Jared Kniffen  
Joseph & Cecilia Kurta  
Catherine "Kay" Kyle  
Mike LaDouceur  
Ruth M. Lally  
Robert F. Lally  
Jack Lally  
Fr. Jim Larkin  
Richard Larue  
Neil Leonard  
Susan Levinsky  
Beirne Lovely, Jr.  
Lorraine Lyons  
Ilda, Peter, & Paul Maguire  
George Mahon  
Gerry & Bridie Maloney  
Jay Manley  
James & Mary Manley  
Rina Mariani  
Valerie Mariani  
Leonard Mariani  
Ralph Mariani  
Fred & Josephine Mason  
Patrick & Margaret McDonagh  
Tim McGee  
Bill McLaughlin  
Jim McLaughlin  
Joan McMahan  
Jimmy McManus

Mary Alice McManus  
Florence Meserve  
Josephine Moitoso  
Christopher Molica  
Jeff Monroe  
Eleanor Byrne Mooney Dahar  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mooney Sr.  
George Morales  
Bernard & Teresa Morelli  
John B. Morse  
Francis X. & Margaret Morse  
Daniel Mullin  
Elizabeth Murphy  
Edwin Murphy  
Robert Murphy  
Ed Murphy  
Cleveland & Dorothy Nelson  
Sr. Jeannette Normandin, SSA  
Kathleen & Daniel O'Brien  
Jerry O'Connor  
Patricia Oakes  
Placido Paez C.  
Cristobal Paez L.  
Elena Paez L.  
George Palermo  
Ana Palermo  
Ernest Palermo  
Tim Pert  
Julia Powell  
Mary Louise Powell  
Grace Rett  
Shirley Rich  
Sheldon Rich  
Grace Romasanta  
Edgar & Josephine Roy  
Ted Rubin  
Lauren & James Russo

Fr. Richard Segreve  
Elizabeth, John, & Peter Shatswell  
Susan Shaughnessy  
Laura Shea  
Siobhan Shea  
Jeanne G. Shea  
Paul & Mary Siebert  
The Sielicki Family  
Robert E. Simmons  
Mary & Frank Skinner  
Janice Slotnick  
Rubin Slotnick  
Ellen Solomita  
Edith Sorrentino  
Dorothy Starzyk  
William Starzyk, Jr.  
Mary & Melvin States  
Winston Earl Stevens  
Wayne Matthew Stevens  
James, Joan, & Clare Stewart  
Elizabeth Strickland  
Walter & Mary Sullivan  
Earl & Mardene Sunderhaus  
Susan Szum  
John & Ruth Szum  
Nadine & John Troppy  
Frank & Estelle Unni  
D. Joseph Unni  
Rico Valencia, Jr.  
Louis & Margaret Venditti  
Angie & Frank Verderane  
Frank Williams  
Yvette Wilson  
Daniel Winterson  
Laura Yetman  
Dianne Zimmerman





Dear God, I know that it is Christmas and I am supposed to be focused on the birth of Jesus, but once again Advent came and went and all I did was focus on so many other things. So, this Christmas, please help me remember a few simple things, even if I am stressed from shopping and travel, lonely from a lack of friends and family, sick from a difficult illness or poor from the lack of work or a living wage. Help me remember that when you became human, you came into the world in the most vulnerable way possible—as an infant. That meant that you were totally dependent on Mary and Joseph to care for you. And when you left this world, naked on a cross, you were vulnerable, too. That shows what you were willing to do just to love me.

*You were vulnerable for me.*

Help me remember that when you came into this world, it was not into some powerful clan in Galilee, not into some great ruling family of Judea and certainly not into a royal dynasty in Rome. You could have come in power and exercised that power as a scholar, a soldier, a king or an emperor. Instead, you came with no earthly power at all.

*You were powerless for me.*

Help me remember that you could have entered the world in a wealthy family. There was no need for you to be born to a young, probably illiterate woman who was married to a simple carpenter and who lived in a town so insignificant that one of your disciples would make a joke about it. But you chose not only to enter a poor family but to toil for many years as a laborer yourself.

*You were poor for me.*

Help me remember that you spent most of your life in obscurity in Nazareth, living an everyday life and working as a carpenter alongside Joseph. You were not well known. You did not set out to make a big name for yourself. In fact, the Gospels barely mention your hidden life in Nazareth, the place you spent your first 30 years. That is how simple, obscure and uneventful most of your life was.

*You were unknown for me.*

Help me remember that when you became human you took on a human body. That means that you experienced everything that anybody does. You had stomachaches and headaches, got colds and the flu, experienced hunger and thirst, and grew weary at the end of a long day. It also means that you experienced joy and sadness, frustration and anger, and all the emotions that any human being does, even in your divinity.

*You were human for me.*

Help me remember that your entire life, from your birth to your death on a cross, was spent in love. You loved Mary and Joseph and your whole extended family. Later, you loved your friends, disciples and followers. You loved even your enemies and persecutors. And you had a special love for anyone who was poor, sick, lonely, misunderstood or marginalized in any way. Your entire life was poured out as one great offering of love.

*You were love for me.*

Help me remember that you offered yourself without counting the cost. You preached the good news to the poor, healed the sick and shared the coming of the reign of God with everyone. Not everyone wanted to hear your message, but you kept proclaiming it until your death. You gave your whole self for humanity, even when we rejected you. You gave up even your body and spirit on the cross.

*You were everything for me.*

Help me remember that Christmas is only the beginning of the story. After your death, you returned as the Risen One, never again to die, offering hope in the face of despair, love in the face of hate and life in the face of death. Your rising on Easter Sunday revealed the same message that the angel told your mother when he announced the coming Christmas: Nothing is impossible with God!

*You are life for me.*

Dear God, I know that I don't always remember these things at Christmas. There are so many emotions swirling in my head this time of year. But I want to remember them. And I trust that the desire to remember them is itself a good thing and comes from you.

This Christmas, give me the gift of memory,  
And I will remember that you became love for me,  
So that I can become love for others.

*~ Father James Martin, S.J., is a Jesuit priest, author and editor at large at America.*

# 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

**Christine Burns**, Digital and Print 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)

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

[cgannon@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cgannon@stceciliaboston.org)

**Daniel Lamoureux**, Vigil Organist

[music@dlamoureux.com](mailto:music@dlamoureux.com)

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

[smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org)

**Brett Maguire**, Organist

[bmaguire@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:bmaguire@stceciliaboston.org)

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

[cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org)

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

[nobrien@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:nobrien@stceciliaboston.org)

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

[lpickering@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:lpickering@stceciliaboston.org)

**Tanya Rybarczyk**, Pastoral Associate

[trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org)

## Assisting Clergy

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ | Rev. Peter Grover, OMV | Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

## Audiovisual Support

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

[mcdeery@gmail.com](mailto:mcdeery@gmail.com)

**Geoffrey Edwards**, Livestream Videographer

[gedwards@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:gedwards@stceciliaboston.org)

**Vasily Izumchensky**, Livestream Sound Engineer

[vizumchensky@berklee.edu](mailto:vizumchensky@berklee.edu)

## Reception

**Keith Brinkley, Joe O'Brien, Juliette Kaoudji,**

**Paul Keating, & Ellie Sanderson**

[reception@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:reception@stceciliaboston.org)

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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, Carly-Anne Gannon, at [cgannon@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cgannon@stceciliaboston.org).

## 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 ([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. 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)

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.

## 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.