

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
25 December 2023

The Nativity by Sandro Botticelli

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 25 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 the
 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.

PENITENTIAL RITE

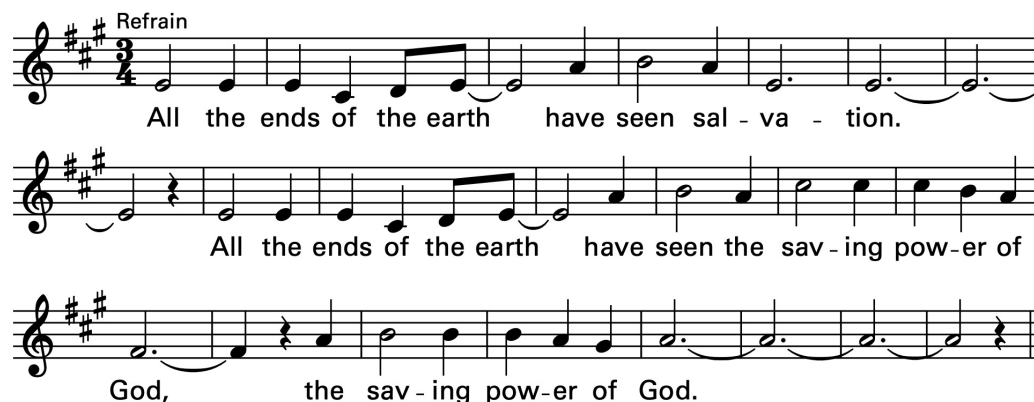
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a -
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you
thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly
King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.
Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got-ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb 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
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - men.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 52: 7-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 98: All the Ends of the Earth

Bob Hurd

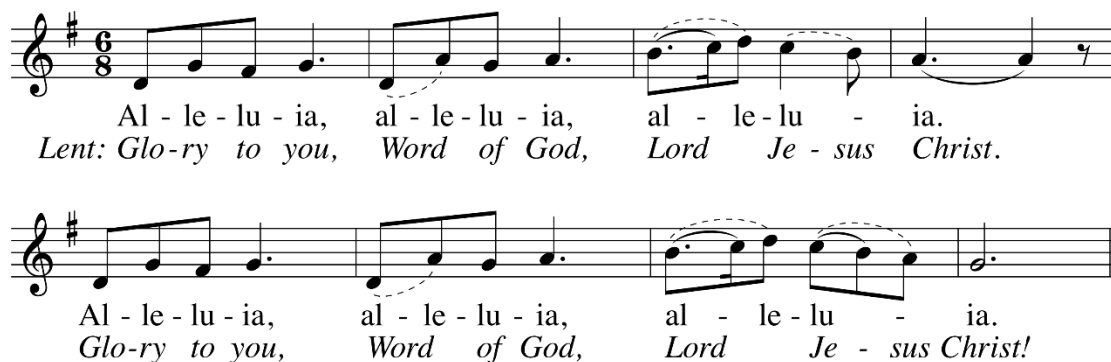


1. Let us sing a new song for the wonderful deeds of our God, whose holy arm has prevailed, bringing salvation and victory.
2. All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God. Ring out your joy, break into song; all you lands sing praise.
3. Sing the praises of God; with the harp and song give praise. O trumpets sound! Joyfully sing; sing to the ruler of all.

SECOND READING | Hebrews 1: 1-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Jubilation Mass

James J. Chepponis



GOSPEL | John 1: 1-18

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

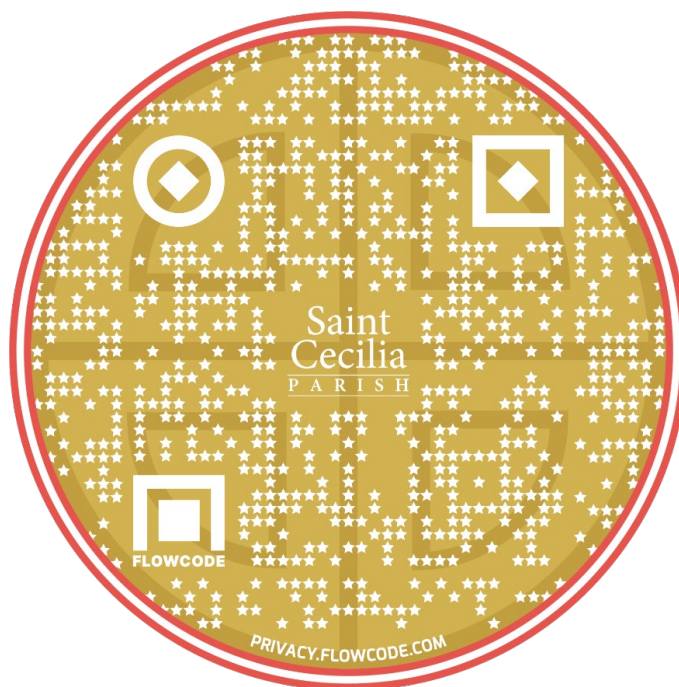
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the
4. See him in a man - ger laid Whom the choirs of



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re - ply
strains pro - long? Say what may the tid - ings be
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee
an - gels praise; Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid,



Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song.
Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
While our hearts in love we raise.



Gloria - a



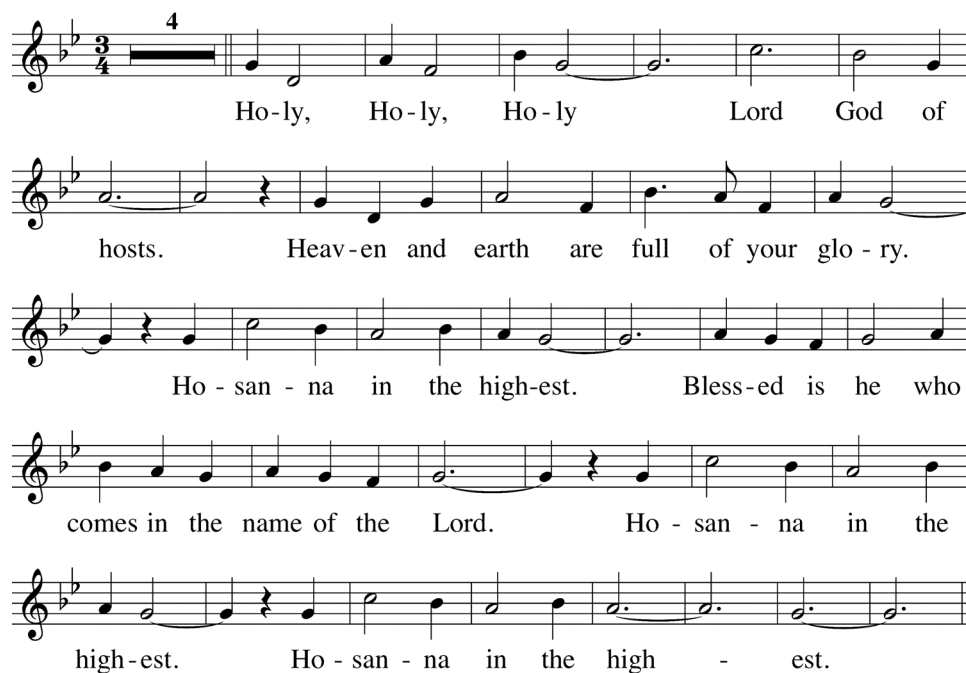
in ex - celsis De - o. Gloria -



- ri - a in ex - celsis De - o.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ✠ The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
- ✠ Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
- ✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of
hosts. Heav-en and earth are full 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.

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. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y And,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -



still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep and
 gath - ered all a - bove While mor - tals sleep, the
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts to
 scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
 en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.




Yet in the dark streets shin - eth The
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The




ev - er - last - ing Light. The hopes and fears of
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing to
 in this world of sin, Where meek souls will re -
 great glad tid - ings tell; O come to us, a -




all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 God the King, And peace to all on earth!
 ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!




1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love you, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
 And fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

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.

RECESSIONAL | Joy to the World

George Friderich Handel

(1685-

1759)

arranged by Richard Webster



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.

POSTLUDE | Noël Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin

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.



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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!"

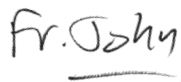
In the face of all the awful things happening around us, how can we begin to ask what our faith, our coming here today, means? How does our faith challenge us, propel us, nudge, push, shove, or make us take notice

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.

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.



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.

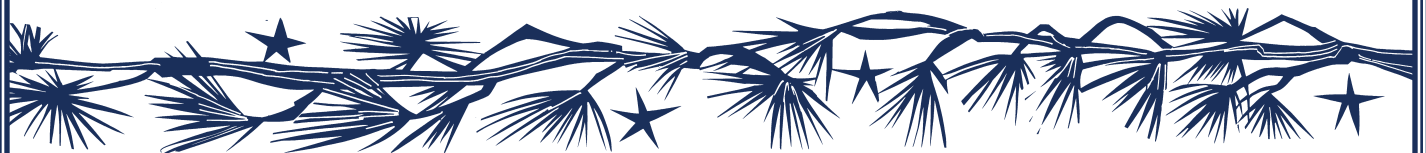
The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci's The Last Supper, and the dome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

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. 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.

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!

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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




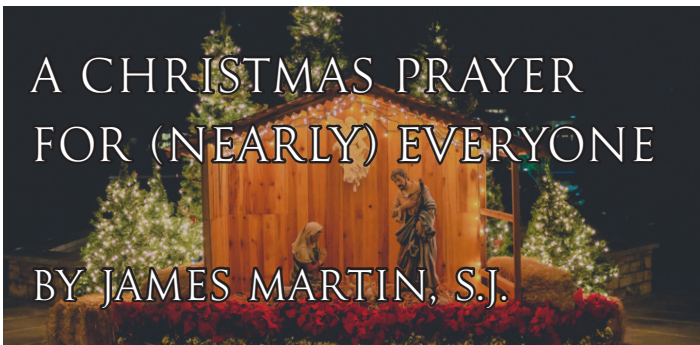
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

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 /// Website | 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

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

tcesario@stceciliaboston.org

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org

Robert Duff, Director of Music

rduff@stceciliaboston.org

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

cgannon@stceciliaboston.org

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

music@dlamoureux.com

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org

Brett Maguire, Organist

bmaguire@stceciliaboston.org

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

nobrien@stceciliaboston.org

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

lpickering@stceciliaboston.org

Tanya Rybarczyk, Pastoral Associate

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

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

gedwards@stceciliaboston.org

Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer

vizumchensky@berklee.edu

Reception

Keith Brinkley, Joe O'Brien, Juliette Kaoudji,

Paul Keating, & Ellie Sanderson

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.

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), Letitia Howland (L_howland@hotmail.com), or Erin Young (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.