

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Nativity of the Lord 25 December 2024

The Nativity

From the fresco cycle at the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua

Giotto, c. 1304-1315

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 25 DECEMBER 2024

PRELUDES | Advent chorales from *Das Orgelbüchlein*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685=1750)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
Gottes Sohn ist kommen
Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn
Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott
Puer nattes in Bethlehem
Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich
Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ
Brett Maguire, parish organist

INTROIT | *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.

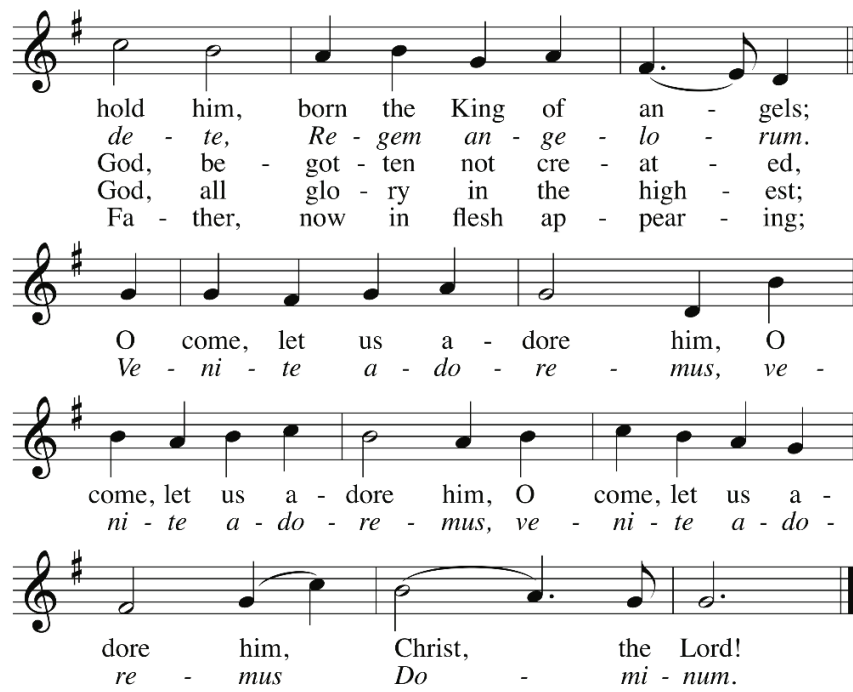
ENTRANCE PROCESSION | O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

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.

PENITENTIAL RITE

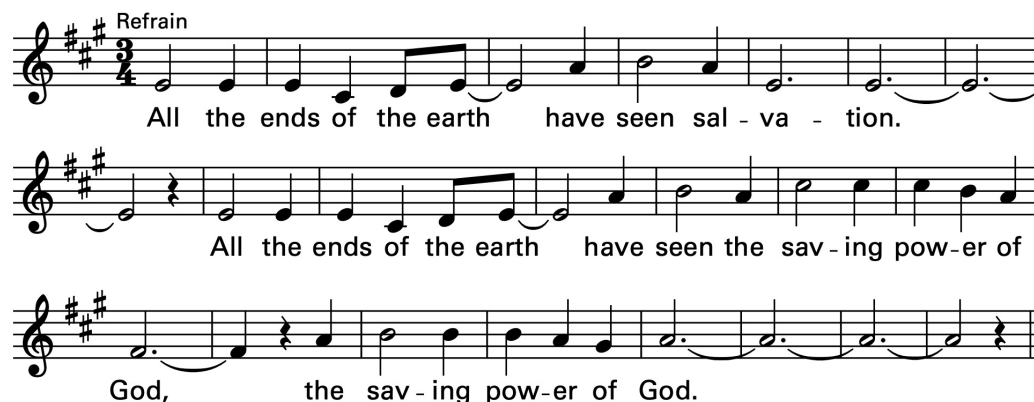
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a -
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you
thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly
King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.
Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got-ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb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

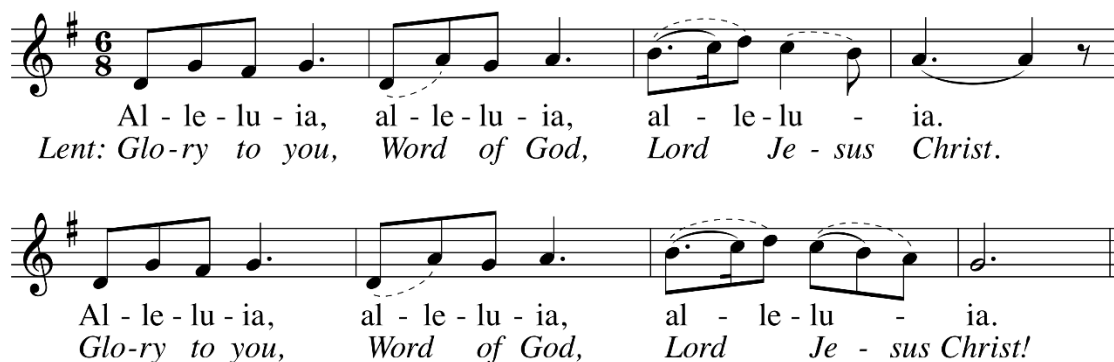


1. Let us sing a new song for the wonderful deeds of our God, whose holy arm has prevailed, bringing salvation and victory.
2. All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God. Ring out your joy, break into song; all you lands sing praise.
3. Sing the praises of God; with the harp and song give praise.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

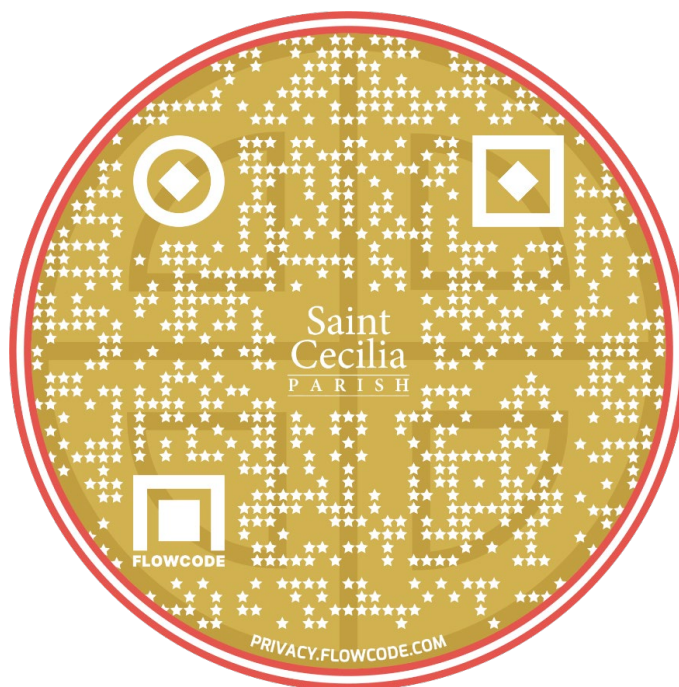
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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.

Gló - - - ri - a

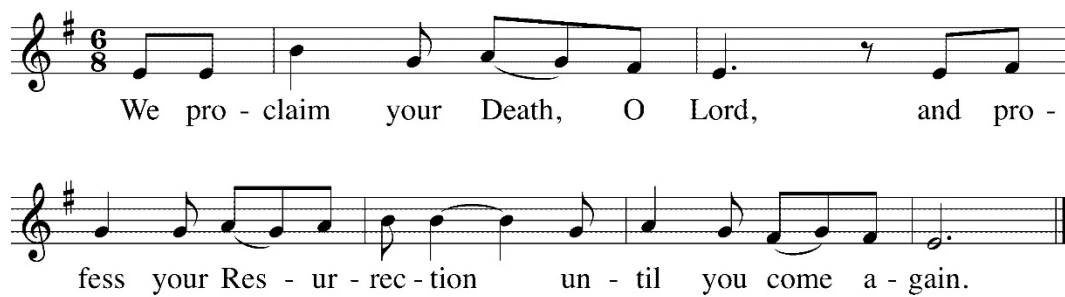
in ex - cél - sis De - o. Gló - -

- - ri - a in ex - cél - sis De - o.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

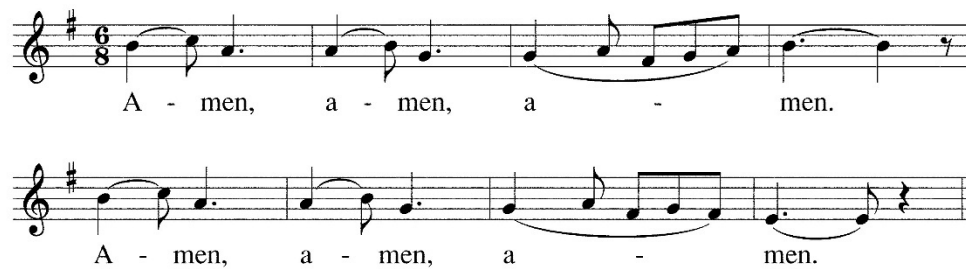
- ✠ The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
- ✠ Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
- ✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



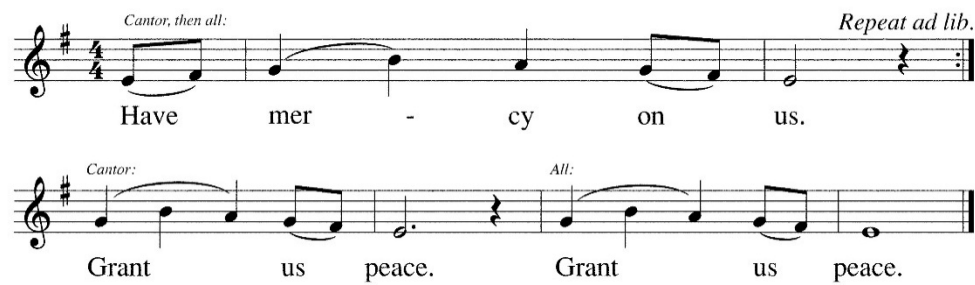
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an “Act of Spiritual Communion.” When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of grace. We can be assured that when we express our desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, God will be with us spiritually in a special way. Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion that we encourage you to pray as you participate in our live-streamed liturgies:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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



1. O 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.



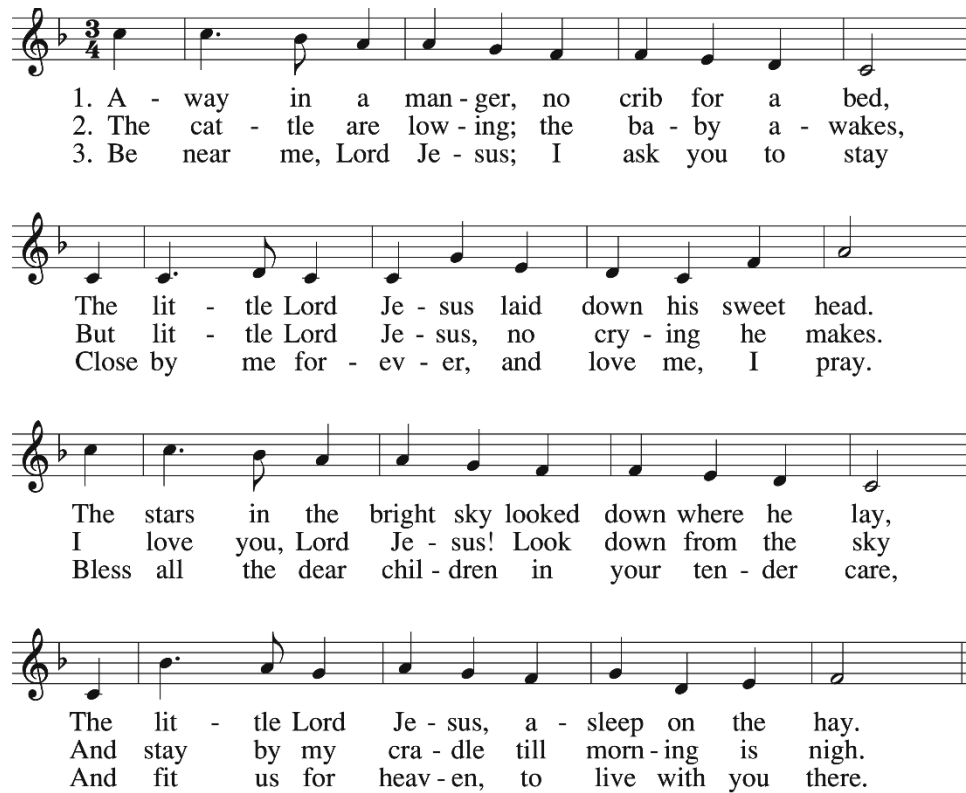
Yet in the dark streets shin - eth The
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The



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.

COMMUNION MEDITATION |

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.

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends,

Wow, where did this year go? It flew by ... and it seems like each year on the calendar ticks by faster and faster. I'm sure this has nothing to do with age! Yet, as time moves on, as the days go by, each year at Christmastime we have this unique and beautiful time to remember the source of our existence, the cause of our hope and joy, and the opportunity to greet the One who comes to us as the bringer of light and life, now and eternally, through the gracious gift of forgiveness and love. "All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." I mean, just think about it!

It is December, and the light seems to fade fast as the day goes on. We now begin the slow climb from the autumnal equinox toward the summer solstice ... from darkness to light ... from Christmas toward Holy Week and Easter ... from dying to rising. It's all around us in nature, in the natural rhythms, in the seasons of time and of liturgy. We always lament the darkness and the loss of light; we always rejoice and look forward to the abundance of more and more light! As it is in the seasons, so it is with our faith and our belief: we are people of light; "light that the darkness will not overcome." How can you and I be people of light? How can you and I bring light into someone else's dark or dreary day? How can we be people of upbeat spirits with and for those who are wrestling with isolation, depression, loneliness or grief? How can we be hope in any hopelessness especially when we think of the seemingly systematic decimation of the Palestinians in Gaza, the unfathomable pain of the Israeli hostage families, the terrorized people of Haiti, the war ravaged citizens of Ukraine, or the beleaguered people in Syria, our own country or around the world ... ? How? By being drawn to the "true light (Jn 1:9), which enlightens everyone." Drawn to Him this Christmas, we can spread His light, His hope and His love. We then make better the lives of those whose paths cross ours.

But even with this belief, think of how frazzled and confused Mary and Joseph must have been as the "light bearers" of Jesus, the light of this world! As the angel spoke to Mary, he said, "Do not be afraid. You have found favor with God." Then he spoke to Joe, "Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home. It is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." Then as the glory of the Lord shone upon them, the angel then said to the shepherds, "Behold I proclaim to you good news of great joy for all people: a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." Go check out the manger in the barn (because there was no room for "them types" in the inn).

God is always shining light and life into our rejections and into the lives of all the characters in the gospels ... even into our lives ... characters or not! God always wants to break into our darkness and bring light, hope, goodness and life. Isn't that who Jesus is? Isn't that what Jesus is all about? Isn't that what we all desire from others and hope to be ourselves? Shine the light! Be the hope!! Enhance life!!!

This Christmas, belief in God, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the Holy Spirit is meant to remind us that we come from them and, after the last breath, we go back to them. In the meantime, there's a way to be, work to be done, people to be accompanied, tended, forgiven, fed, healed, included, not judged, but lifted up, listened to, visited, and loved. Pretty simple. Sometimes elusive. But always true and right and good.

This upcoming 2025, let us make conscious and active choices to be light and life to those around us ... even when it's most challenging. Let's not give into cynicism, sarcasm, negativity and despair. They're all from the dark side and not from the Light. Let's be a people of hope, let's give others hope by our actions and words. Let us try to be light even when those around us might be trying to extinguish our flame. Let's follow the star that shines light upon us in our stables and homes, in the fields or in the cities, and let's praise God with the shepherds and magi, the angels and heavenly host as we remember what each Christmas is really all about.

On behalf of all of us here at Saint Cecilia, with great gratitude to the whole staff and multitude of parish ministers, I wish you all a very light filled, hope-full, blessed and Merry Christmas!

Peace,

Father John

Christmas

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Tuesday, December 24 | 4:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Nikko Mendoza, Louisa Essmann,
and Letitia Howland, lectors

Tuesday, December 24 | 6:30 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Julie DesAutels, Kelly McClintock,
and Karen McMenamy, lectors

Wednesday, December 25 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Maggie Giles and Bobbi Moran, lectors



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

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS



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SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

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GIVE A GIFT TO OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Each year Christmas allows us the opportunity to appeal for donations to help Clergy Trust care for the health and well-being of our active and senior priests in good standing. At all our Christmas liturgies the entire offertory collection will be directed to Clergy Trust. On behalf of all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston, thank you for your generosity.

<https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/clergy-fund-christmas-collection-2024>

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Tony Abbruzzi
Geraldine Abell
Donald E. Abell
The Abood Family
The Abruzzi Family
John and Maureen Ahern
Harry Almquist
Lisa Andersson
Elsie and Tony Andrade
Lewis Aries
Mary Aries
Cora Arnold
Carol Ascrizzi
Catherine Aylward
Maria Barbosa
Mr. and Mrs. Vasco Barbosa
Romania Barclay
Charles and Betty Benhayon
Julius and Eleanore Bienkowski
Paul Bienkowski
Mary Botosh
Charles and Betty Botosh
Michael and Ann Bowles
Robert Bowman
Ralph Boyer
Virginia Boyer
Mary Bradley
John Brait
Jack Brent
The Brooks Family
Eileen Browning
Francisco Bucasus
The Bufalini Family
The Burke Family
Billy Byrne
Dorothy and Bill Byrne
Glenn Calmus
Howard and Marjorie Camden
Charles Campion
Maria Cristina Campo de Paez
Martha Cano de Paez
Josephine Capizzi
Jack Capizzi
Robert Cataldo
Teddy Chagnon
Catherine Charland
Earl Charland
Borys and Olga Chermak
Ann Coleman
Margaret and James Collins

Maria Cone
Jack Connors
Mickey and Joe Contilli
Maurice and Marjorie Cornier
Patrick Corrigan
Francis and Madeline Cotton
Deirdre Mary Coyle
Mark Czystochowa
Mr. and Mrs. Saheed W. Dahar
Atty. and Mrs. Victor W. Dahar Sr.
Ted D'Aloia
Sean Dalton
The David Family
John and Betty Davis
Frank and Joanne DeMare
Nick DeMetrades
John Z. Dennehy
Mary Dennehy Anzivino
Mr. and Mrs. Philip F. Dennehy Sr.
Norma DeRobinson
Joseph DeSisto
Marc DeSousa
Mary and Cosmo DeVelis
Alfred and Eileen DeVito
Mary and Joe Devlin
Kathy Devin
Marjorie DiGennaro
Frank DiGennaro
Charles and Brenda DiGiovanni
Philip & Ann Dinkel
Cecelia Dodson
Alice and Walter Doherty
Arthur F. Donnett
R. Margaret Dunnett
Stephen Ellis
John and Irene Faldetta
Tony, Ann, and John Farinelli
Mary Fazio
Arlene Finn
Walter Fletcher
Franchi and Mancini Families
Nora Frank
Alice Fraser
Henry and Eileen Gabel
Don Garaventi
Carmina Garcia
Joseph Garcia
Michael Garvey
George and Kathleen Gildea
William and Anne Giles

Jane Murphy Given
Peter Grant
Katherine Greene
Lucy B. Griffin
James J. Griffin
The Griffin Family
Brad and Patty Griffith
Jack Gripshover
Rev. Msgr. Michael F. Groden
Janet Guevara
Pearl Guevara
Victor Guevara
Mr. and Mrs. Granderson Hall
Helen Hanigan
Brian Hare
Rose Hart
Mary Healy
Nicole Bairos Heck
Albert Hodge
Father Gerry Hogan
Carol Howland
Richard Howland
Sean Hughes
Sadie Isiminger
Marion Jesse
John and Margaret Joyce
Maria Julien
Barbara Klug
John Kiley
Brig. Gen. Leo A. Kiley (Ret.)
The Kowley Family
Joseph Kurta
Cecilia Kurta
D Rene, Dot, and Bill L'Abbe
Josephine and Barney La Sala
Jack Lally
Ruth M. and Robert F. Lally
Richard Larue
Jonathan Levinsky
Susan Levinsky
Kenny Liebling
Claire and Joseph Lippolt
Carmen Lombardo
The Longer Family
F Beirne Lovely
Fr. Bill Lugger
Lorraine Lyons
Barbara and John MacDonald
Phyllis MacDonald
Mary MacEvoy

John and Angelina Machado
 Rev. Msgr. Vincent J. Mackay
 Kenneth MacNeil
 John and Noreen Mageary
 Barbara and Fred Maglero
 Rene, Dot, and Bill L'Abbe
 Josephine and Barney La Sala
 Jack Lally
 Ruth M. and Robert F. Lally
 Richard Larue
 Jonathan Levinsky
 Susan Levinsky
 Kenny Liebling
 Claire and Joseph Lippolt
 Carmen Lombardo
 The Longer Family
 F Beirne Lovely
 Fr. Bill Lugger
 Lorraine Lyons
 Barbara and John MacDonald
 Phyllis MacDonald
 Mary MacEvoy
 John and Angelina Machado
 Msgr. Vincent J. Mackay
 Kenneth MacNeil
 John and Noreen Mageary
 Barbara and Fred Maglero
 Ilda, Peter, and Paul Maguire
 Dolly Mahre
 Bridie and Gerald Maloney
 Joel Maksymowicz
 Walt Mamaluy
 Leonard Mariani
 The Marron Family
 Ana Mata
 Carmen Mata
 Natividad Mata
 Patricio Mata
 Manuel Matos
 Judy Matteson
 Stephen Matteson
 William John Mccarron
 Dr. James and Mrs. Margaret McDonough
 Peter J. McGinn
 Bill McLaughlin
 Jim McLaughlin
 Jimmy McManus
 Peter Menansche
 Deborah Meyer
 Joe Michalski
 Vjera and John Mihaic
 Christopher Miller
 Dorothy and Frank Miller
 Kathleen Modeste
 Andre K. Modeste
 Frank and Claire Moffatt
 Josephine Moitoso
 Jeff Monroe

Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Mooney
 George Morales
 Bernard and Teresa Morelli
 Irene Morillo
 John Morse
 Francis X and Margaret Morse
 The Moylan Family
 Dorothea Mulhern
 R. Paul Mulhern
 Dan Mullin
 Edwin Murphy
 Elizabeth Murphy
 Ed Murphy
 Robert Murphy
 Ted Murphy
 Marilyn Murphy
 Deceased Members of the
 Murphy and Westover Families
 The Nauyokas Family
 Cleveland and Dorothy Nelson
 Joseph and Margaret Nolan
 Mary Noret
 Glenn Noret
 Sr. Jeannette Normandin, SSA
 Virginia Noyes
 Daniel & Kathleen O'Brien
 Jerry O'Connor
 John O'Connor
 Theresa O'Connor
 Paul O'Connor
 Richard S. O'Hara, MD
 Patricia Oakes
 Mary and C. Anthony Olivieri
 Maria Olivieri Hakansson
 Rigoberto Ortiz
 Placido Paez C
 Elena Paez L
 Cristobal Paez L
 Ernesto and Ana and George Palermo
 Carmela and Anthony Pandolfo
 Bob Patterson
 Apolonio Peña
 Tim Pert
 Raima Pert
 Rev. Msgr. Francis L. Phelan
 John Pirani
 Phyllis Pirani
 Jack Pirani
 Pamela Polacsek
 Dorothy W. and Gifford Potter (Bunt)
 Julia Powell
 Mary Louise Powell
 Nicholas Christopher Powers
 Marian and Raymond Reisner
 William Reisner
 Shirley Rich
 Sheldon Rich
 Marianne Richard

Mary Richard
 Joseph and Frances Rinaldi
 Giuseppina and Carmelo Roccuzzo
 James (Skip) Rogers
 Grace Romasanta
 Edgar & Josephine Roy
 Mary and Raif Saati
 Vladimir Schklyarov
 Father Richard Segreve
 Trevor J. Sesskin
 Kent Sharp
 Elizabeth, John, and Peter Shatswell
 Susan Shaughnessy
 Mary and Francis Skinner
 Janice and Rubin Slotnick
 Ellen Solomita
 Janet Stank
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 William Starzyk Jr.
 Mary and Melvin States
 Winston Earl Stevens
 Wayne Matthew Stevens
 The Stevens Family
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 James Sullivan
 Adelaide Sullivan
 Walter and Mary Sullivan
 Francis and Blanche Surette
 Rudy and Helen Tetrault
 Angela and Raymond Towle
 Kathryn and Clifford Towle
 Nadine and John Troppy
 Frank and Estelle Unni
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 Anne Volk
 Elizabeth Volk
 Anne Walley
 Marie A. Walley
 Marie J. Walley
 John Walsh
 Rose Mary Walsh
 Margaret Walsh
 Catherine Walsh
 Joanne Wessling
 Francine Whippen
 Frank Williams
 Daniel Winterson
 Laura Yetman
 Dolores, Anthony, Denise (Winter) and
 John Zankowski
 Mr. and Mrs. Zekas
 Barbara and Adam Zintel

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.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

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

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMF

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.

Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m., & 6:00 p.m.

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Hearing Assistance in Church

The church is equipped with an assistive listening system. If you would like to use one of the small receivers, please ask one of our greeters.

For Those with Celiac Disease

If you have celiac disease, please let us know. We have a supply of low-gluten altar bread available for those who cannot tolerate gluten.

Building Accessibility

Both the church and Parish Hall Center are accessible by elevator.

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 after 4:00 every day of the week. To get this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Baptism for Infants

Infant baptism is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. For more information, please contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Carly-Anne Gannon.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, Erin Young, or Kathy Sanders, MD if you have any questions. The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

This is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation.

Marriage

Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

Care of the Sick

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the Parish Office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

Order of Christian Funerals

The parish is prepared to celebrate the Vigil (wake) in the church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and around the world. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.

Please note:

According to online safety guidelines released by the Archdiocese of Boston, we have removed email addresses from our online parish bulletin to avoid the danger of potential phishing scams. If you need a staff member's email address or a ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists will be happy to share the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online.