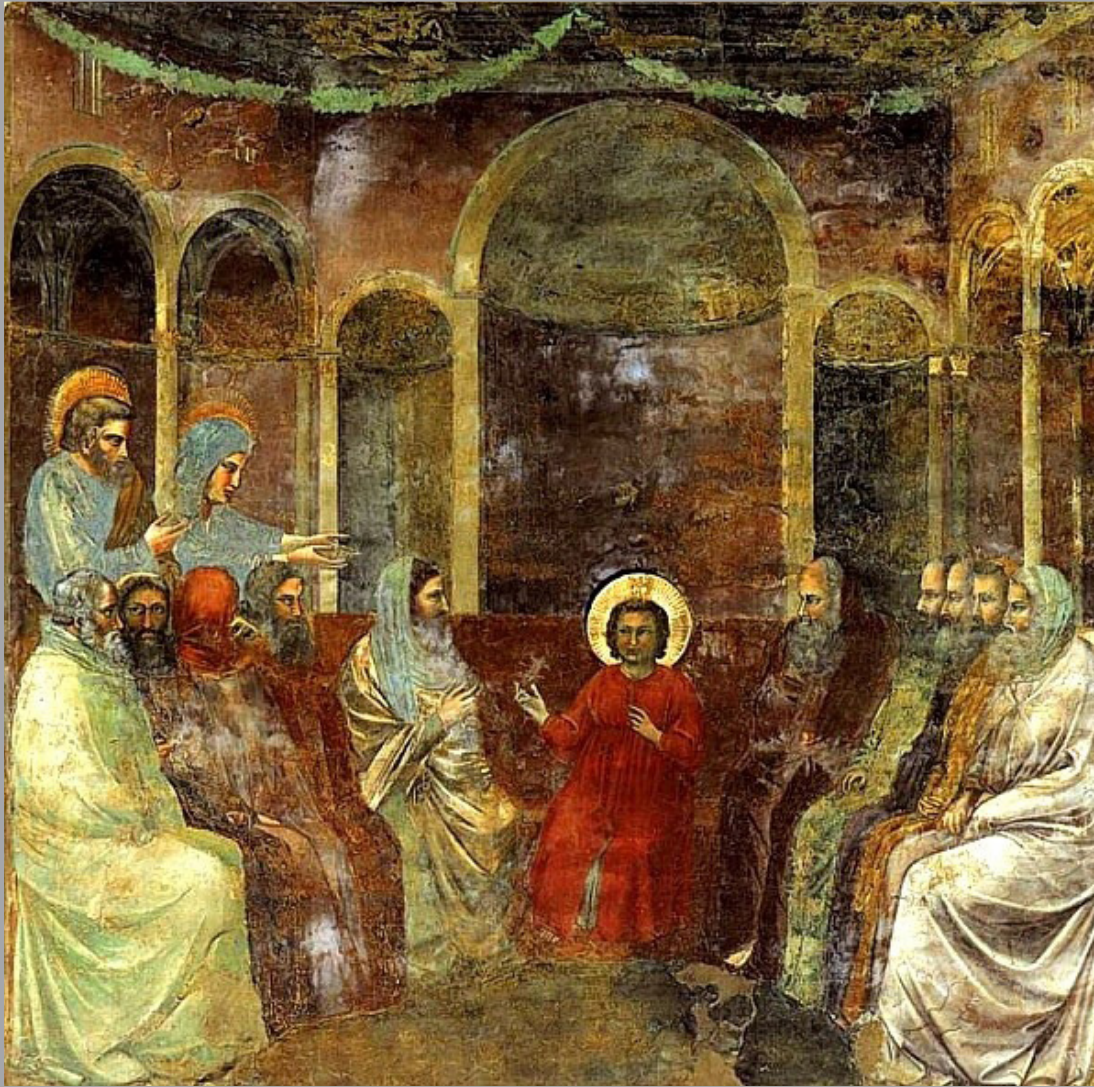


Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
29 December 2024

The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple
Portion of an altarpiece by Fra Angelico, 1395-1455

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 29 DECEMBER 2024

PRELUDE | *Puer natus in Bethlehem and Gelobet seist du, Jesus Christ*
Brett Maguire, parish organist

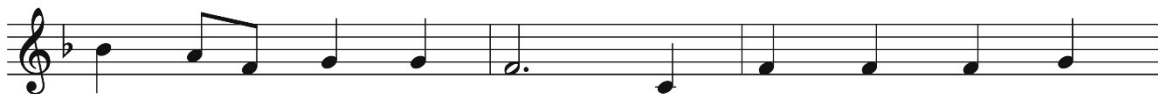
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Come, Sing a Home and Family

FOREST GREEN



1. Come, sing a home and fam - i - ly In
2. At Mar - y's ta - ble Je - sus learned To
3. By Jo - seph's side young Je - sus learned To
4. What - ev - er form our fam - 'ly takes, The



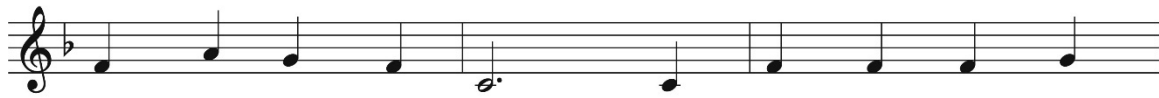
Naz - a - reth of old, Whose hum - ble grace a
bless, give thanks, and eat, To wel - come all as
work and read and pray, The law and love of
gos - pel way we seek: To feed the hun - gry,



no - ble place In Chris - tian life now holds: A
hon - ored guests By wash - ing wea - ry feet. Her
God a - bove Placed in his heart to stay. While
heal the sick, Lift up the poor and weak. In



maid - en's ho - ly, vi - brant faith, Which
sweep - ing floors and light - ing lamps, Her
cra - dled by the car - pen - ter, The
dai - ly life and sim - ple tasks Our



said, "Let it be done!" A dream - er who risked
knead - ing bread with leav'n, Her jour - neys to the
boy came to dis - cern That prod - i - gal, for -
song must nev - er cease Of dream - ing work - er,



life and limb Pro - tect - ing God's own Son.
well fore - told To Christ the reign of heav'n.
giv - ing arms A - wait a child's re - turn.
maid - en bold, And child of last - ing peace.

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

GLORIA | Mass of Renewal

Curtis Stephan



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.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14



Bless-ed are those who fear the Lord. Bless-ed are those who fear the Lord.

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
and walk in his ways!

By the labor of your hands you shall eat.
You will be blessed and prosper. *R.*

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive

around your table. *R.*

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the husband who fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from Zion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life! *R.*

SECOND READING | Colossians 3: 12-21

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Jubilation Mass

James J. Chepponis



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 | Luke 2: 21-52

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Jubilation Mass

James J. Chepponis



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 | Luke 2: 21-52

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!

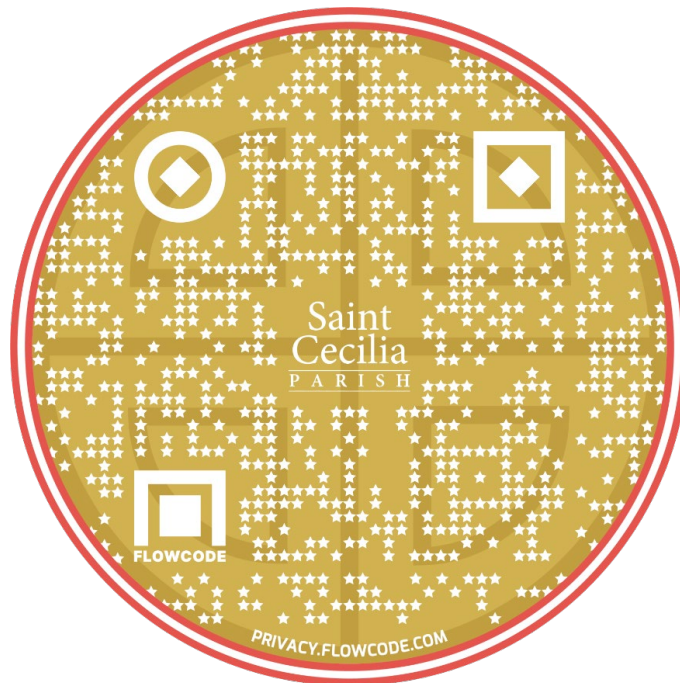
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 | In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst



1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,
2. Our God, heav'n can - not hold him, Nor earth sus - tain;
3. An - gels and arch - an - gels May have gath - ered there,
4. What can I give him, Poor as I am?



Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;
Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way When he comes to reign;
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Thronged the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble place suf - ficed The
But his moth - er on - ly, In her maid - en bliss,
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet



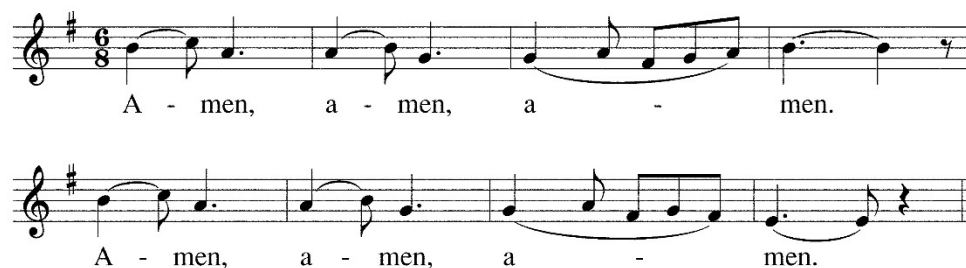
In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.
Lord God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
Wor-shipped the be - lov - ed With a kiss.
what I can I give him— Give my heart.

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.

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -
 fess your Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.



COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
 Amen.

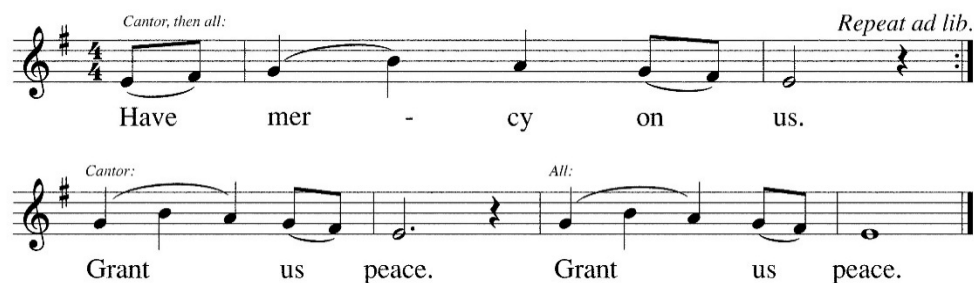
DOXOLOGY

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

AGNUS DEI | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



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.

COMMUNION | What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come,



Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing, Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for
peas - ant, king, to own him. The King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;



Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | The Blessed Son of God

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

CONCLUDING RITES

RECESSIONAL | Love Has Come

UM FLAMBEAU



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!

POSTLUDE |  étranger

Louis-Claude Daquin
(1694-1772)

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

WELCOME!

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children's faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus' teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids ("Irish working out girls") and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings. Our church building resides on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket and Massachusetts tribal nations.

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci's The Last Supper, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius' life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We've been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God's love makes all things new.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, December 28 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Uma Staehler, lector

Sunday, December 29 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Elli St. George, lector

Sunday, December 29 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Jay Woods, OFM, celebrant
Kelly McClintock, Harry Minehart, and
Letitia Howland, lectors

Sunday, December 29 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Jim Walther, OMV, celebrant
Karen McMenamy, Virgen Palermo, and
Tom Comparato, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 29 | 5:00 p.m.

Mary and Lloyd Hackley, *Anniversary*
Jacqueline Czerniakowski, *Memorial*
Thomas Whalen, *Memorial*
Greg Hackley, *Memorial*

Wednesday, January 1 | 10:00 a.m.

Mary Jane Connors Gilet, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12



CHRISTMASTIME

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Peggie Breslin, Mark Brown, Joan Dunphy, Tom Franzago, Jacqueline Lavelle, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, Fred Tufts, and Serena Suglia.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered parishioners: **Matt** and **Janet Rouso** of New Orleans, **Paula Dean** of Fredericksburg, Texas, **Maureen Gelineau** of Milton, **Kate DeVlieger** and **Nick O'Neil** of Boston, **Collin Myers** and **Krista Zalatores** of Boston, and **Fallon** and **Alec Creta**, also of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

No 6:00 P.M. Mass

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

Coffee Hospitality Pause

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

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

This Wednesday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God—a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. This liturgy will not be livestreamed.

For Those Without the Love of Family

Pray for all who have no families and for those who are alienated from or have been rejected by their families. May they experience love and acceptance through friendship and community.

Happy Anniversary!

This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of **Florrie Reddish**, who was baptized on January 3. May the Lord continue to bless Florrie with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Florrie!

Today's Feast

On the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we celebrate a feast in honor of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This is a modern feast, instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1893 and extended to the whole Roman Church by Pope Benedict XV in 1921. Strains on family life in those post-war days were enormous. From its inception, this feast was meant to inspire people with an image of family harmony even amidst hardship. The Gospels chosen back in 1969 all depict stressful times in the family of Jesus: the flight into Egypt; the presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple with its warning of future sorrow; and Mary and Joseph's frantic search for their young son in Jerusalem (today's Gospel for Year C).



TRAVEL-SIZE TOILETRIES

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



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Generous parishioners have donated a supply of children's books that can be found in a box in the narthex. Parents should always feel free to borrow from this box during Mass. Two recently added books to our little lending library are titles by Nancy Cote Marek, whose whimsical artwork has brightened the church and parish center for the past two years. The new books are *Watch the Cookie!* and *Jackson's Blanket*.

PARISH CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- *How well does Saint Cecilia Parish care for God's creation?*
- *What do you think should be part of a climate plan for the parish?*

Beginning next Sunday, January 5, and lasting through the month of January, our parish Climate Group will have an online form as well as in-person opportunities for parishioners to respond to these questions and offer input for the Parish Climate Action Plan. We hope everyone will take part in this initiative. For more information, please email climatejustice@stceciliaboston.org.



UPCOMING FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

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

The Saint Cecilia FFF Ministry is pleased to welcome back Sebastian Gomes, executive editor of audio and video at America Media, as January's special guest. Sebastian has produced a number of podcasts for America and most recently was part of a group from America Media that traveled to Rome to cover the second Vatican assembly of the global Synod on Synodality—a nearly month-long meeting of clerics and laypeople brought together to discuss the future of the Catholic Church. On Sunday, January 12, Sebastian will speak about key elements of the final document from the Synod, *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission*. This is a good opportunity to hear about where the synod delegates see the Church moving. Participants will have an opportunity to ask Sebastian questions during this coffee hour. To register for the FFF email list, please use this link: bit.ly/45pDVRa.

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
 Rev. Msgr. Robert Stanton
 Dorothy Starzyk
 William Starzyk Jr.
 Mary and Melvin States
 Winston Earl Stevens
 Wayne Matthew Stevens
 The Stevens Family
 Elaine Stritch
 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
 D. Joseph Unni
 Gregg VanNostrand
 Brian VanNostrand
 Angie and Frank Verderane
 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

SYNODALITY—AND 'CONTROVERSIAL' ISSUES—ARE HERE TO STAY: TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SYNOD'S FINAL DOCUMENT

BY JAMES MARTIN, SJ

We have completed our work as synod delegates and have, with the approval of the Holy Father, published our final document: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” This is the fruit not only of our prayer, dialogue and discernment over these past two years in Rome, but even more importantly, reflective of the broad consultation that began in 2021 with the People of God in every diocese in the world. What are the highlights of this document? As I see it, they are as follows:

1. Synodality is a “constitutive dimension” of the church.

This is an important phrase and concept that appears early in the document (No. 28). It means that along with, for example, the concept of the magisterium or the tradition of social justice, it is an essential element of the church. The final document says that synodality—which is defined in a variety of ways in Part 1—is a path that enables the church to be more “participatory and missionary,” and can no longer be considered a curiosity, a practice to be dabbled in or a passing fad. Rather, it is essential to how the church understands itself.

Always oriented toward mission—and therefore not an end to itself—synodality can be seen as “gathering at all levels of the Church for mutual listening, dialogue, and community discernment” (No. 28). This ancient path finds its roots in the Council of Jerusalem and in the “constant ecclesial practice of meeting in synods,” a process that helps us together to “dialogue, discern and decide” (No. 28). For me, this is one of the most important messages of the synod: the fundamental place of synodality in the church.

The final document is firmly grounded in the person of Jesus Christ, something that seemingly every delegate desired. The overarching theme of the document is the Resurrection—the theme of Cardinal-elect Timothy Radcliffe’s retreat for this final session of the synod and the visual backdrop in the Paul VI hall, where we met every day. The Resurrection provides not only the document’s literary structure but also its spiritual foundation. All we do, we do for, through and with the Risen One.



2. Decision-making must be participatory.

One theme repeated over and over in this document, in regard to almost every facet of the life of the church, is wide participation in decision-making. “[I]t is essential that we promote the broadest participation possible in the discernment process, particularly involving those who are at the margins of the Christian community and society” (No. 82). It would be impossible to read this document and not understand that all people should have a voice in both the decision-making and decision-taking processes, while still recognizing the role of the hierarchy.

It is a recognition, once again, that the Holy Spirit is active and alive in all the People of God—not simply in cardinals, archbishops, bishops and priests. The final document also helpfully outlines procedures for listening and discernment. This extends to all levels of the church, including future synods, which are recommended, as this Synod did for the first time, to include not simply bishops but “other members of the People of God” (No. 136). Likewise, in terms of decision-making, the document also includes a strong call for the People of God to have “a greater voice in choosing bishops” (No. 70). Finally, to this is added the strong call for transparency, accountability and evaluation at all levels of the church, as a way of inviting the faithful to see, judge and understand how their pastors are operating (No. 95).

3. Bishops and pastors are “obliged to listen.”

The call for listening and participation is central to the document, as I have mentioned.

And it is bishops and pastors who are most strongly called, over and over, to listen to the voices of the faithful in their dioceses and parishes:

Those in authority are, in several instances, obligated by current law to conduct a consultation before taking a decision. Those with pastoral authority are obliged to listen to those who participate in the consultation and may not act as if the consultation had not taken place. Therefore, those in authority will not depart from the fruits of consultation that produce an agreement without a compelling reason which must be appropriately explained..." (No. 91).

It's also worth quoting No. 92 at length, which speaks of the authority of the bishop, the episcopal conferences and the bishop of Rome, to make decisions, which is grounded in the magisterium. Nonetheless:

Such an exercise of authority...is not without limits; it may not ignore a direction which emerges through proper discernment within a consultative process, especially if this is done by participatory bodies.

On the parish level as well, the church is encouraged to listen to all—especially to those who feel marginalized—the synod recommends that parishes consider instituting a “ministry of listening and accompaniment.” To my mind, this proposal was truly a fruit of the Holy Spirit and seemed to spring naturally from our long conversations about the church we all love and serve. As the document notes, we didn't decide if this was to be mandated but recommended that local churches should experiment with this new ministry (No. 78). But all locales do not have to move as fast on this, or on other suggestions, since a synodal style recognizes, “Differences in pace can be valued as an expression of legitimate diversity...” (No. 124).

4. Pastoral councils, diocesan synods, and other participatory assemblies should be mandatory.

Throughout both sessions of the Synod, we delegates grappled with how best to ensure that the faithful are able to be heard and can participate in the life of the church, which is centered, in most parts of the world, and for most people, in parish life. And so a variety of consultative bodies in both the Latin and Eastern Catholic Churches are noted, including, for the Latin Church: diocesan synods, presbyteral councils, diocesan pastoral councils, parish pastoral councils and diocesan and

pastoral councils for economics affairs (that is, finance councils), are central to participation, accountability and transparency. These are all provided for in canon law, but often exist only “nominally.” Therefore, we write, “We insist that they be made mandatory, as was requested at all stages of the synodal process, and that they can fully play their role, and not just in a purely formal way...” (No. 104).

5. Some “controversial” issues are not center stage but are included.

At the beginning of the synodal process, back in 2021, there were high hopes among many people that the synod would solve, or even adjudicate on, some controversial issues, including the ordaining of married men to the priesthood, the ordination of women to the diaconate and L.G.B.T.Q. issues. For the most part these issues were handed over to the 10 “study groups” for further discernment. This made sense: The prospect of 350 delegates coming to a conclusion on some of these complicated topics in a few weeks was untenable. Also the study groups made it possible for us to concentrate on the topics above. Nonetheless, many of these topics were in the background of our discussions. It's hard to talk about women's roles in the church without the topic of ordination to the diaconate arising. And the work of Study Group 5 (on the role of women) has been much in the news, with Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández initially not attending a meeting for synod delegates and then, on Thursday, speaking for 90 minutes on the topic before roughly 100 delegates. For our part, we said, in a much larger section on women, “There is no reason or impediment that should prevent women from carrying out leadership roles in the Church: what comes from the Holy Spirit cannot be stopped. Additionally, the question of women's access to diaconal ministry remains open. This discernment needs to continue” (No. 60).

The place of women overall was a central theme to the document, as it was an almost constant theme in our discussions over the last two years. (And it was not “controversial.”) Paragraph No. 60 begins with a clear statement (which many delegates from the developing world championed) on the “equal dignity” of women. We note their participation in all levels of the church, including “in positions of responsibility in Church institutions, in diocesan curias and the Roman Curia,” and we ask for the “full implementation of all the opportunities already

provided for in Canon Law” for women, particularly those roles that have been “under-explored.” There is also a call for “a significant presence of women” in the education and formation of priests and deacons (No. 148).

As for L.G.B.T.Q. issues, there was considerably greater openness to the topic this year, and ease of discussion overall, for several reasons. Mainly, because the topic was assigned to a study group, there was less need for delegates to, in a sense, debate the issues. But overall, I feel the attitude has shifted markedly among most delegates—and for the better. In the document, the term “L.G.B.T.Q.” is not used—not surprising, since it is still anathema for some delegates—but we ask the church to listen to those who “experience the pain of feeling excluded or judged, because of their marital situation, identity or sexuality” (50). Still, it is quite a feat that 350 delegates from around the world could agree on this kind of language. (The inclusion of the term “identity” was a pleasant surprise for me.) The final document is sure to delight some, disappoint others and perhaps even anger some people. But it is only the first step of a process for our church, as we journey with the Risen Christ “together on the road”—which is, of course, the ancient meaning of synod.

—The Rev. James Martin, SJ, is a Jesuit priest, author, editor at large at *America* and founder of *Outreach*.



WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY

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

DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

We hope you will consider participating in this important ministry during the holidays so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices.

Saint Cecilia has committed to providing the following items to the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett food pantries: Cheerios or corn flakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta/spaghetti, boxed macaroni & cheese, canned tuna fish, canned chicken breast, cooking oil, and tomato sauce. While any canned or shelf-stable items are appreciated, it is particularly helpful when donations are made from the staples listed above. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept donations of produce or baked items.

You may wish to follow the example of some parishioners and have some of the above items delivered to the parish via Amazon or a similar service. If you choose to order donations online, please have your items delivered to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

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

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Schedule for Liturgy

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

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

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

Parking

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

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

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

Please note:

According to online 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.