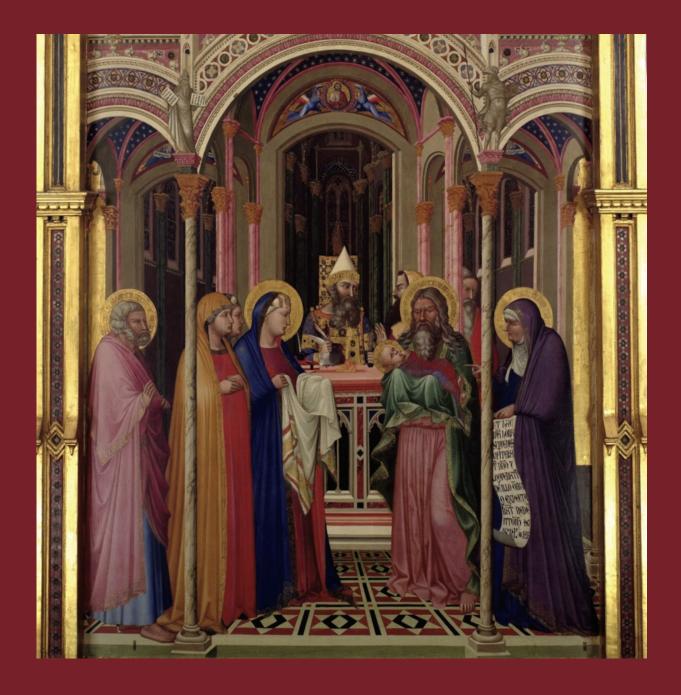


P A R I S H



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph 31 December 2023

Presentation at the Temple by Ambrogio Lorenzetti, 1342



31 December 2023 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

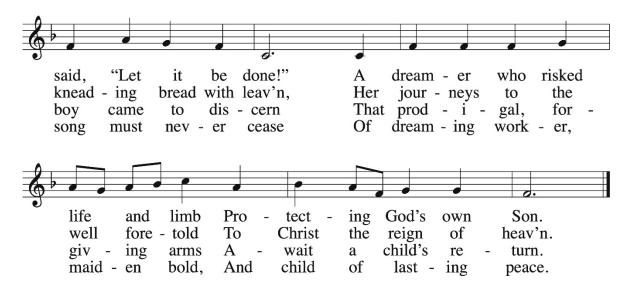
PRELUDE

THE ORDER OF THE MASS Introductory Rites

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | Come, Sing a Home and Family

FOREST GREEN





CALL TO WORSHIP

♥ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

♥ The Lord be with you.

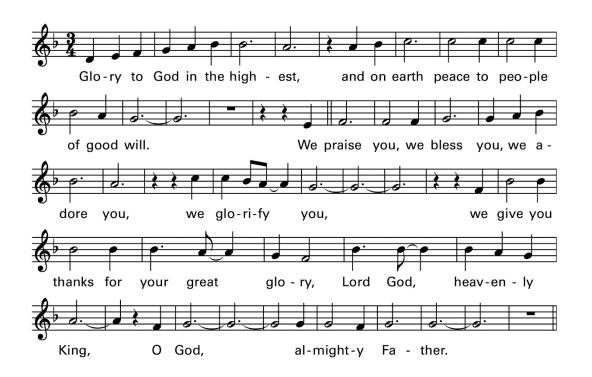
All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Gloria

Mass of Remembrance

Curtis Stephan





Collect

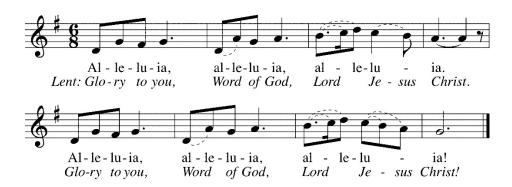
LITURGY OF THE WORD

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



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Jubilation Mass

James Chepponis



GOSPEL | Luke 2: 22-40

HOMILY

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

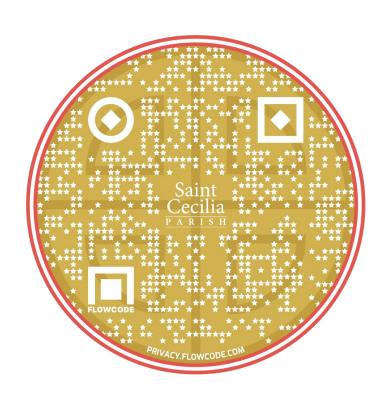
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

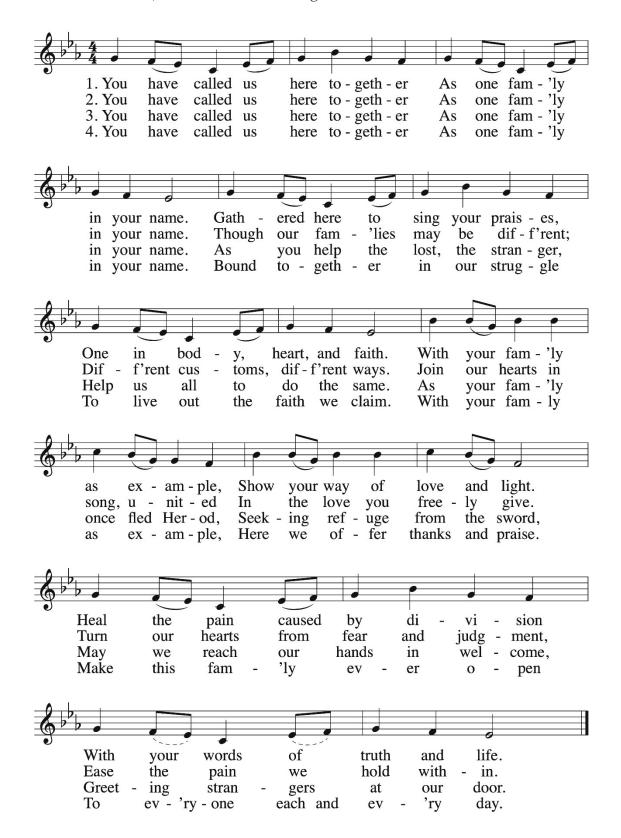
Saint Cecilia Parish 18 Belvidere Street Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | You Have Called Us Together Here

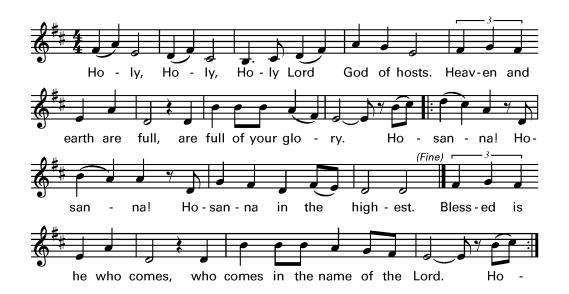
Zack Stachowski



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ♥ The Lord be with you.
- All: And with your spirit.
- ✤ Lift up your hearts.
- All: We lift them up to the Lord.
- ♥ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- All: It is right and just.
- HOLY, HOLY | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte





GREAT AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



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

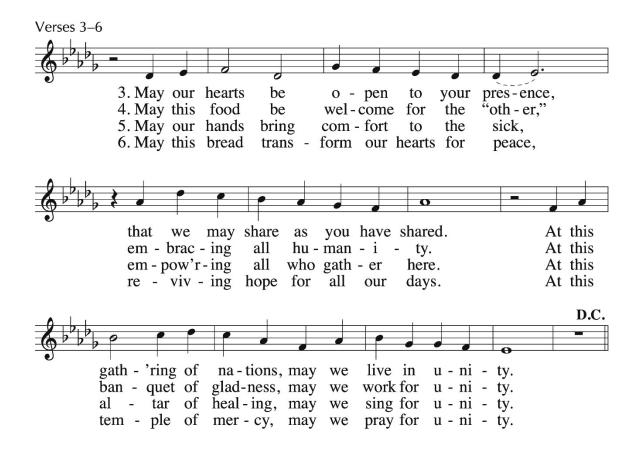
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.

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. Amen.





COMMUNION MEDITATION | Meditation

Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CONCLUDING RITES

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

♥ 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.

 \blacksquare Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.



POSTLUDE

Music in this worship aid is printed with permission under Onelicense.net #A700-137.

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

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 Massachusett 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 30 | 5:00 p.m. Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant Jim Dougherty, lector

Sunday, December 31 | 8:00 a.m. Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant Emily St. Germain, lector

Sunday, December 31 | 9:30 a.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Maggie Giles, Zachary Boutin, and Kelly McClintock, lectors

Sunday, December 31 | 11:30 a.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Virgen Palermo, Jen Kowieski, and Moira Macdonald, lectors



SPECIAL INTENTIONS

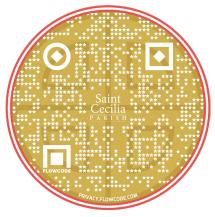
Wednesday, January 3 | 8:00 a.m. John Weir, *Memorial*

> TODAY'S READINGS Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21 Luke 2:22-40

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

SCAN THIS CODE FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Bob Mann died on Sunday, December 18. His funeral Mass was this Thursday. Pray for Bob's eternal repose and for the consolation of his family and friends. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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 Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: **Thomas Caffrey** and **Alberto Nascimento** of Quincy, **Mary Cecil** of Boston, **Kyle MacKinnon** of Boston, **Lynn and Gary Holforty** of Monroe, Connecticut, the **McKenzie Family** of Boston, and **Kate Daley** and **Sean Hannigan** of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so at <u>www.stceciliaboston.org</u>.

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!

Christmas Flowers

You are invited to remember your loved ones by donating towards the Christmas flowers that will grace our sanctuary. In the rear of the church you will find envelopes and a basket that you can use for this purpose. You can also bring your envelope to the reception desk. **Please note that all names that are collected from now on will be published in the Epiphany bulletin.** Please be sure to PRINT clearly. If you'd like to participate online, please visit the following link to donate: <u>https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/christmas-flowers-2023</u> and this link to record the name(s) of your loved one(s): <u>https://bit.ly/3Rjd2JH</u>

Coffee Hospitality Pause

In order to give our hardworking coffee hospitality team a well-deserved break, we will not be serving coffee on December 24, Christmas Day, or on Sunday, December 31. Coffee hospitality will resume on Sunday, January 7 after the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies.

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 any questions about the Family Center, please contact our Director of Facilities and Events, Lisa Pickering at her parish email.

Young Families Ministry Meet-Up

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!

Christmas Season Liturgy of the Hours

Join us for First Vespers of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on New Year's Eve (12/31 at 6:00 p.m. ET) and Lauds on the Memorial of Saint André Bessette (1/6 at 9:00 a.m.

ET). Join us live on the Saint Cecilia Facebook page or email our Hours and Taize Ministry lead with questions.



THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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 of 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. At one time this feast was celebrated on the Sunday following Epiphany (now the Baptism of the Lord), but since 1969 the feast is celebrated on the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas. 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 (today's Gospel for Year B); and Mary and Joseph's frantic search for their young son in Jerusalem.

SAVE THE DATE: WINTER WALK BOSTON

For the eighth year, a consortium of agencies focused on homelessness, including Women's Lunch Place, Pine Street Inn, Boston Health Care for the Homeless, Y2Y Harvard Square, and common cathedral are sponsoring a fundraising walk through the streets of Boston. The event takes place on Sunday, February 11, 2024. 100% of the money raised by walkers will be donated to organizations throughout the state.

Winter Walk is a non-profit organization raising awareness and funds to end homelessness in our communities. Winter Walk is our chance to link arms with those who experience homelessness and to listen humbly to their stories. It is our chance to show them we care about their lives and to affirm our commitment to do all it takes to ease their struggles.

The Saint Cecilia Hunger & Homelessness Ministry has had a Winter Walk team since the beginning of this organization, and we will again in 2024. Look for further details in the coming weeks.



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!



THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA DECEMBER 31 - JANUARY 7

Sunday, December 31

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom Young Families Gathering following 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Family Flex Center First Vespers of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Tuesday, January 2 No Holy Hour

(Holy Hour to Return on Tuesday, February 7)

Wednesday, January 3

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30 a.m. via Zoom Rainbow Ministries: LGBTQ A Space to Share, 6:30–8:00 p.m. SCYA Women's Group, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, January 4

Wisdom Group, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Saturday, January 6

Lauds for the Memorial of St. Andre Bessette, 9:00 a.m. via Zoom

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 Maria Barbosa Mr. & Mrs. Vasco Barbosa Esther Barker Joanne Bean Joseph Bernard Chuck & Betty Botosh Virginia Boyer Jack Brent Angelina Brigalli The Brooks Family **Eileen Browning** Ursula Bruer 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 Catherine Charland Earl Charland

Mary & John Coen Tim Coen Leroy Coffin John Coghlan Ann Coleman Margaret Collins James Collins Judith & Larry Condon Maria Cone Gerry & Charlotte Conklin Fr. Chuck Connolly, S.J. Mickey & Joe Contilli Maurice & Marjorie Cormier Patrick Corrigan Dan & Judy Crumlish Mary Curley Danielle Daccache Farhat Mr & Mrs Saheed W Dahar Sr Sean Dalton Jean Dapra **Richard Dapra** John & Betty Davis Norma De Robinson Frank & Joanne DeMare The DeMers Family John Z. Dennehy Mr. & Mrs. Philip F. Dennehy Sr. Marc DeSousa Mary & Cosmo DeVelis Mary Devino Mary & Joe Devlin

Nancy Diaco James DiBona E Michael DiFabio 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 Mary & Daniel Federici Genoveva Figueroa Emma Fischer Walter Fletcher Nora Frank Henry & Eileen Gabel Bernard & Doris Gallagher Tom & Helen Gallagher Carmina Garcia Joseph Garcia Michael Garvey Willard Gelwick

Judith Gelwick 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 The Hickey Family John & Dorothea Hines Timothy Hinsdale Ben & Janice Hinsdale Thomas Hinsdale Margaret Hinsdale Pometta Ellen Hogan Fr. Gerry Hogan Norbert & Helen Hootsmans Edmond & Agnes Horsley Winston & Godfrey Horsley Carol Howland Richard Howland Michael Howland Betty & Stanley Hughes Marguerite P. Hurley Marion Jesse John & Margaret Joyce Maria Julien Jared Kniffen Joseph & Cecilia Kurta

Catherine "Kay" Kyle Mike LaDouceur Ruth M. Lallv Robert F. Lally Jack Lally Fr. Jim Larkin Richard Larue Josephine & Barney LaSala Neil Leonard Susan Levinsky Susan Levinsky Claire & Joseph Lippolt Beirne Lovely, Jr. Lorraine Lyons Barbara & John MacDonald Barbara & Fred Maglero 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 Alexander & Josephine Mathurine William John McCarron Patrick & Margaret McDonagh Tim McGee Bill McLaughlin Jim McLaughlin Joan McMahon Jimmy McManus Jimmy McManus Mary Alice McManus

Robert Menson 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 John & Kathleen Mullen Daniel Mullin Dan Mullin Elizabeth Murphy Edwin Murphy Robert Murphy Ed Murphy Marilyn Murphy Cleveland & Dorothy Nelson Kurt Nieswender Grace Nisbet Sr. Jeannette Normandin, SSA Virginia Noves Kathleen & Daniel O'Brien Jerry O'Connor Dennis O'Malley Patricia Oakes Placido Paez C Cristobal Paez L Elena Paez L. George Palermo Ana Palermo Ernest Palermo **Christine Palmer** Tim Pert

7

Julia Powell Mary Louise Powell Dan Regan Marian & Raymond Reisner Grace Rett Shirley Rich Sheldon Rich Cecilia Riley 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 The Sullivan Family Earl & Mardene Sunderhaus

Blanche & Francis Surette Susan Szum John & Ruth Szum Angela Towle Raymond Towle Kathryn & Clifford Towle Nadine & John Troppy Frank & Estelle Unni D. Joseph Unni Rico Valencia, Jr. Louis & Margaret Venditti Angie & Frank Verderane Elizabeth Volk Anne Volk Maurice Wade Anne Walley Marie Walley Frank Williams Yvette Wilson **Daniel Winterson** Laura Yetman Robert Yobaccio Dianne Zimmerman

DO YOU HAVE A SECRET? – A SERMON ON LUKE 2:22-40 BY MICHAEL K. MARSH

Many years ago, at the suggestion of my priest, I did some work with a counselor. During one of our meetings the conversation lulled and he asked me a question. "Mike, do you have a secret?"

Tears filled my eyes. I had butterflies in my stomach. And my heart was pounding. I nodded, whispered yes, and waited for what I knew would be his next question. But it never came. He never asked what my secret was. Later, I realized that he didn't need to know my secret. But I did. I needed to let it pierce my soul, to feel it and deal with it. And he knew that.

I had been living in a dark silence and hiding from my own life. I needed to know and reveal my secret, my inner thoughts, to myself.

The secrets we keep from ourselves are often more hurtful and destructive than the secrets we keep from others. We think we keep secrets but the reality is they keep us. They keep us fearful, isolated, and marginalized. They keep us separated from ourselves and others. They keep us from healing, wholeness, and life. And I don't think that's how any of us want to live.

I'll bet you also know about the dark silence of a secret. I'll bet there are parts of your life that you've hidden, rejected, or would like to forget. I'll bet you've worried or wondered what would happen if that secret or those parts of your life ever got loose and came to light.

We fear the light of disclosure, of being found out, of being seen in a bad light, the light of investigations and accusations. And for good reason. The tell all disclosure can hurt and sometimes destroy people. But there is another light, a softer light. It's what Simeon calls "a light for revelation."

The light of disclosure is what others use against us, but a light for revelation is what Jesus uses for us. It's the light by which we walk in peace; the light by which we see healing, hope, and more life; the light that the darkness cannot overcome.

That's what I experienced with my counselor's question.

That's what's happening to Simeon in today's gospel (Luke 2:22-40) when he takes the child Jesus in his arms and talks about going in peace, seeing salvation, and a light for revelation.

That's what the woman at the well with Jesus is describing when she says to the people of the city, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done."

That's what's going on with the prodigal son when "he came to himself," left the pig pens of the distant country, and began his journey home.

A light for revelation shone in their lives. Their inner thoughts had been revealed, not to the world but to themselves. They named and faced the dark silence of their lives. They let their hearts be opened and their heart's desires be known. They no longer hid secrets.

That's how I want to live, don't you? I think that's what we're asking for and why we start every liturgy by praying that God will "cleanse the thoughts of our hearts." You remember that prayer, right?

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts...

You probably know where this is going and what my next question will be. So here it is:

Do you have a secret?

Maybe your secret is about something you've done or left undone. Maybe it's about something that happened or was done to you. Maybe it's about guilt, shame, or embarrassment. Maybe it's something that's just too painful to let out. Maybe it was a choice or decision you wish you had never made. Maybe it's something in your family's history. Maybe it's how much you drink, your internet searches, a relationship, or your finances.

Or maybe it's a dream, desire, or ambition that you never told a soul. You hide it, ignore it, cover it up, because it just seems too good, too beautiful, or too big to be possible.

Have you ever hidden your truest and most authentic self for fear that you wouldn't be accepted or loved, or because it wasn't safe to be you? What's your heart's deepest desire, that one you don't talk about because it's too good to be true?

Do you ever feel like you are living a lie? What's the secret

truth behind that lie? Or maybe you are living less than who you really are or want to be. What's the secret life that wants to be free and alive?

What are the things you work hard to cover up and make sure no one knows? What's that one thing that when you think of it you say, "I'd just die if they ever found out about that?"

I'm not asking you to tell me your secret. I don't need to know your secret, but you do. You need to know it. That knowing, that facing up to ourselves, is a sacred meeting place. It is a temple as holy as the one in which old Simeon met the newborn Jesus. It's a place where the dark silence meets a light for revelation, where our old life meets our new life, where you and I meet our salvation.

What if you went to that place of meeting today? What if you held your secret in a light for revelation? What might you see?

That light is as gentle as a newborn. It will not betray you. It will not investigate or accuse you. It will not disclose something about you. Instead, it will reveal something to you. That light reveals love, peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, mercy, compassion, healing, wholeness, welcome and acceptance, beauty, hope, new life.

That's what Simeon saw in the temple. That's what the women saw at the well with Jesus. That's what the prodigal son saw in the pig pens of the distant country. That's what I saw that day in my counselor's office. And there's no reason it cannot be what you see.

~ The Rev. Mike Marsh has served as rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church – Uvalde, a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, since 2005.

About the Artist:

Severino Blanco is a Quechuan Christian artist from Cochabamba, Bolivia. In the early 1980s, he was commissioned by Father Manfred Rauh, a Jesuit missionary from Germany who spent most of his priestly life in Bolivia, to create a Life of Christ painting cycle for the interior of the chapel of the Casa del Catequista (CADECA), a training center for catechists. To make the gospel story really come alive for the catechists, who are mostly Quechua and Aymara, Blanco chose to set it in an Andean context, with Jesus as an indigenous South American—fully human, fully immersed in history and culture, fully *for them*.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

ONLINE COURSES

New Testament Visions of Faith January 24 – March 5 | 6-Week Online Course Registration Required | \$60.00

The Creed: What We Believe

January 24 - February 28 | 5-Week Online Course Registration Required | \$60.00

For further details or to register for these events, please check the STM Online: Crossroads website: <u>https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/</u>schools/stm/continuing-education.html#tab-stm_online_crossroads

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

Living in a Neurodiverse World: Creating and Supporting Meaningful Relationships

Presenter: Lindsay Thelin Wagner, MOT, OTR, Director of Neurodiversity and Community Inclusion at the League School of Greater Boston

Monday, January 8| 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: <u>https://www.saintsusanna.org/adult_faith_formation.html</u>



Severino Blanco, Simeon Blessing the Christ Child, 1980s.

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

*To email parish staff, please use the following formula: First Initial + Last Name @stceciliaboston.org Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support Christine Burns, Digital and Print Media Coordinator 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 Tanya Rybarczyk, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

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

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist Brett Maguire, Organist Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer

Reception

Keith Brinkley, Joe O'Brien, Juliette Kaoudji, Paul Keating, & Ellie Sanderson

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.

Building Accessibility

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

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.

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.

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, or Erin Young 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 arround 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 ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists would be happy to pass along the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online!