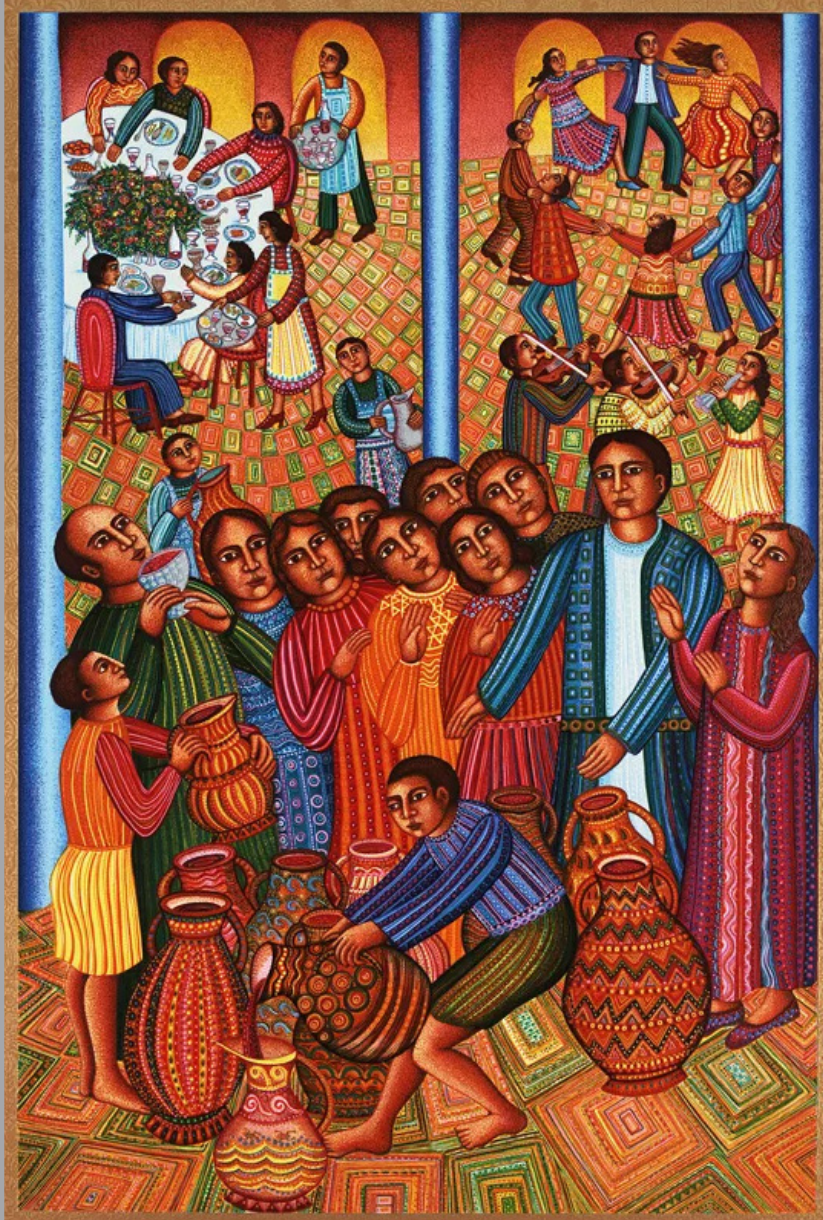


# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 January 2025

Wedding Feast

John August Swanson, 1996

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 19 JANUARY 2025

PRELUDE | Adagio from Symphony No. 5, Op. 42, No. 1  
Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Charles-Marie Widor  
(1844-1937)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Lift Every Voice and Sing

ANTHEM



1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en  
2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning  
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had  
tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the



ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning  
died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry  
way; Thou who hast by thy might Led us in - to the



skies, Let it re-sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
feet Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?  
light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has  
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been  
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we

taught us; Sing a song full of the  
wa - tered; We have come, tread - ing our  
met thee; Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the  
path through the blood of the slaugh - tered; Out from the  
wine of the world, we for - get thee; Shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun Of our new day be - gun,  
gloom - y past, Till now we stand at last  
neath thy hand, May we for - ev - er stand,

Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.  
True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

#### 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, glo - ry to God, glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and on earth peace, 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;

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score consists of ten lines of music. The first line has a 6/8 time signature. The second line has a 3/8 time signature. The third line has a 6/8 time signature. The fourth line has a 3/8 time signature. The fifth line has a 6/8 time signature. The sixth line has a 3/8 time signature. The seventh line has a 6/8 time signature. The eighth line has a 3/8 time signature. The ninth line has a 6/8 time signature. The tenth line has a 3/8 time signature.

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 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,

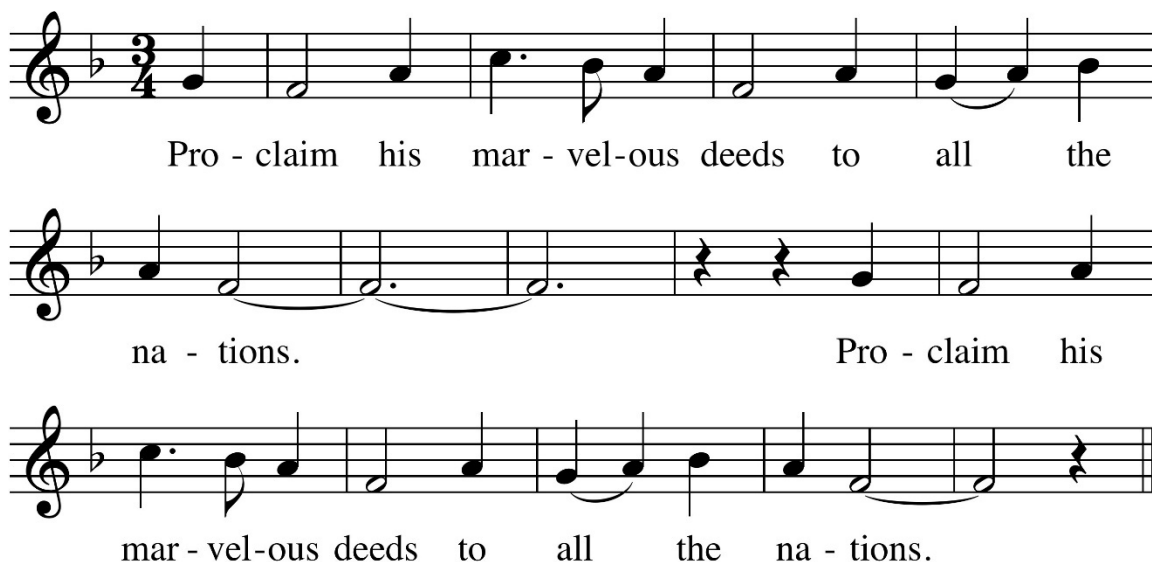
with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo-ry of God the

Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 62: 1-5

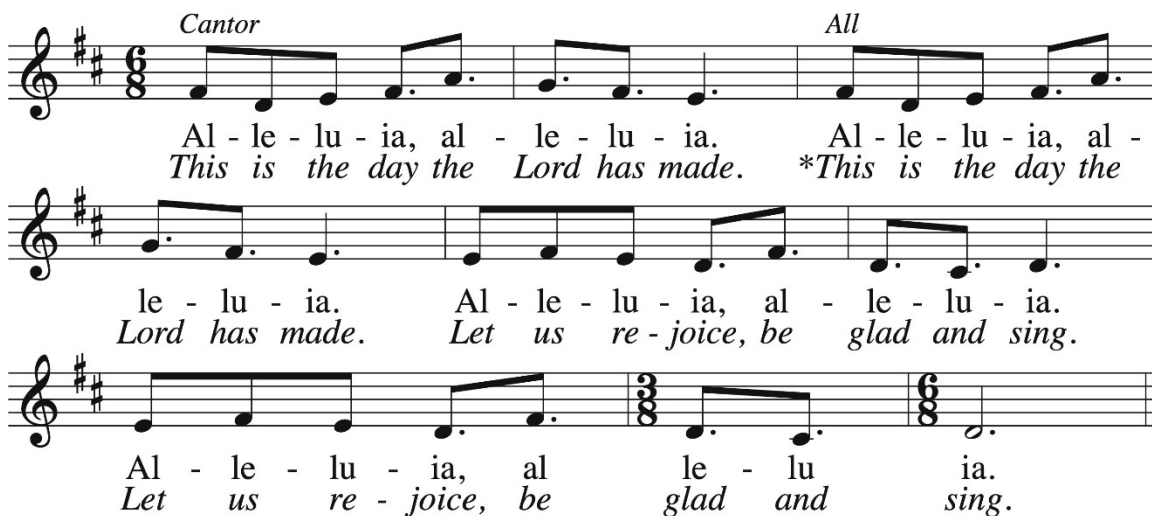


1. O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. O sing to the Lord; bless his name.
2. Proclaim his salvation day by day. Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples.
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name.
4. Worship the Lord in holy splendor. O tremble before him, all the earth. Say to the nations, "The Lord is king." He will judge the peoples in fairness.

## SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Ruah Mass of the Breath of God

Ian Callahan



GOSPEL | John 2: 1-11

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYER



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

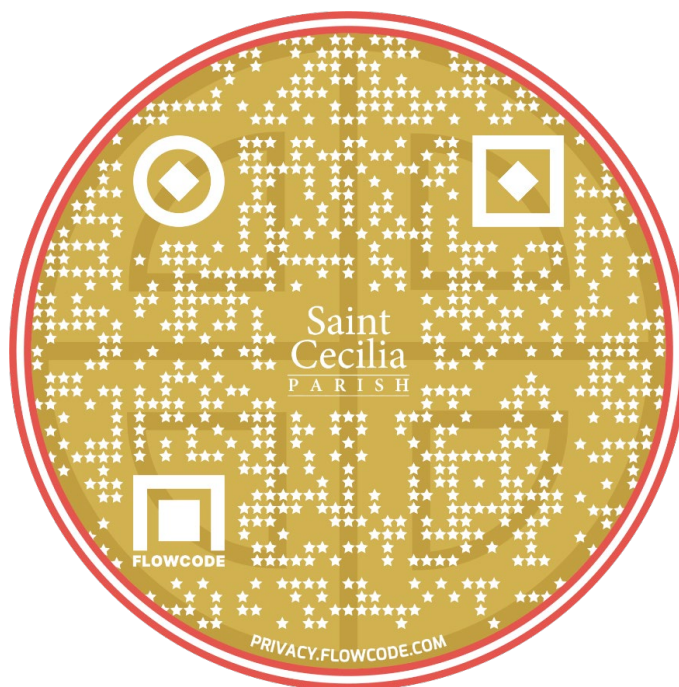
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115

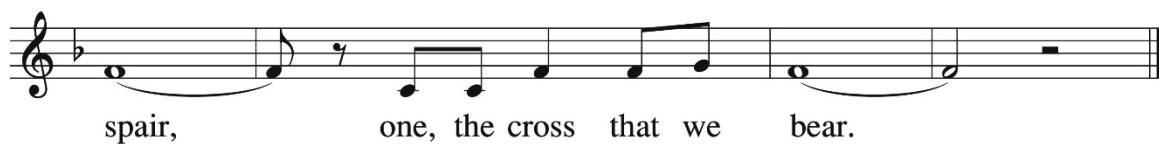
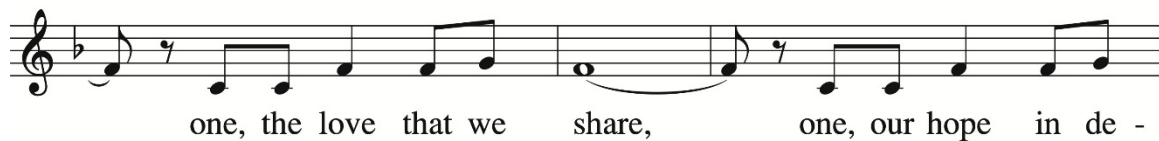
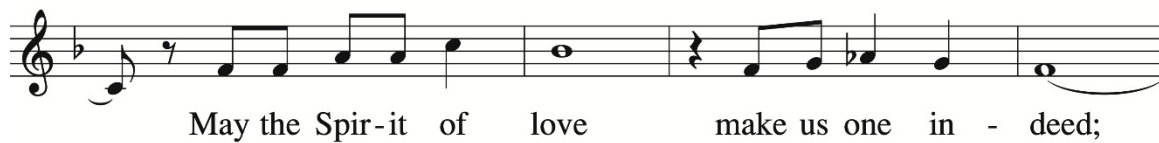
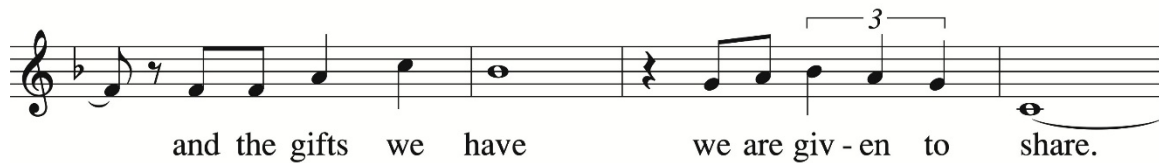




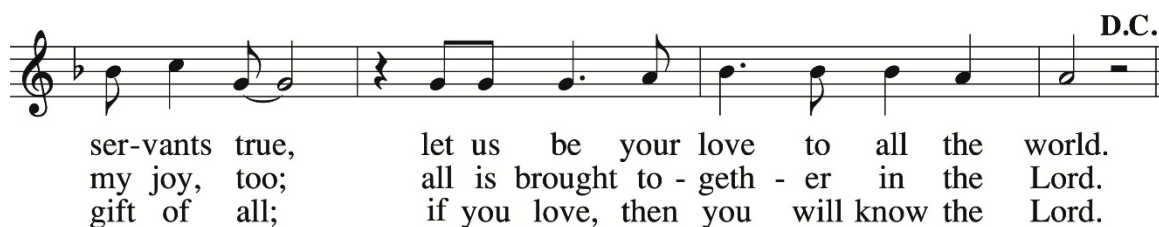
# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | We are Many Parts

Marty Haugen



## Verses

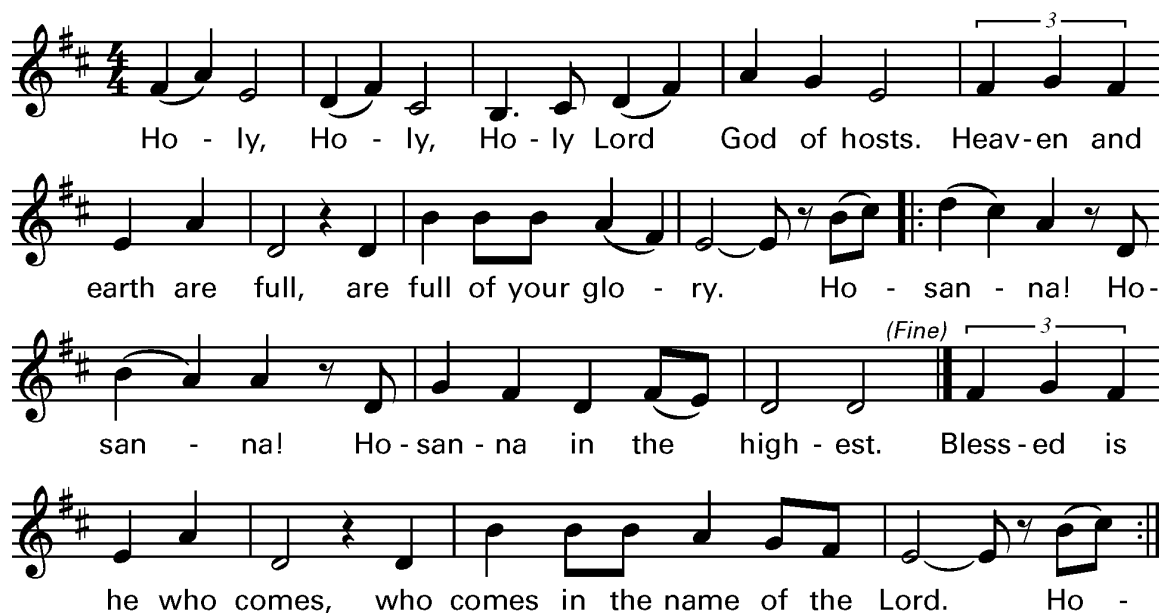


## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ✦ 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.

## SANCTUS | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and  
earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho -  
san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is  
he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It includes lyrics in English and Spanish. The first staff has a triplet of eighth notes. The second staff has a repeat sign. The third staff has a 'Fine' marking and a triplet of eighth notes. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your  
A-nun - cia - mos tu muer - te, pro-cla - ma - mos tu  
Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.  
re - su-rrec-ción. y ¡Ven, Se - ñor Je - sús!

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It includes lyrics in English and Spanish. The first staff has a repeat sign. The second staff ends with a double bar line.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

INSIDE HYMNAL FRONT COVER

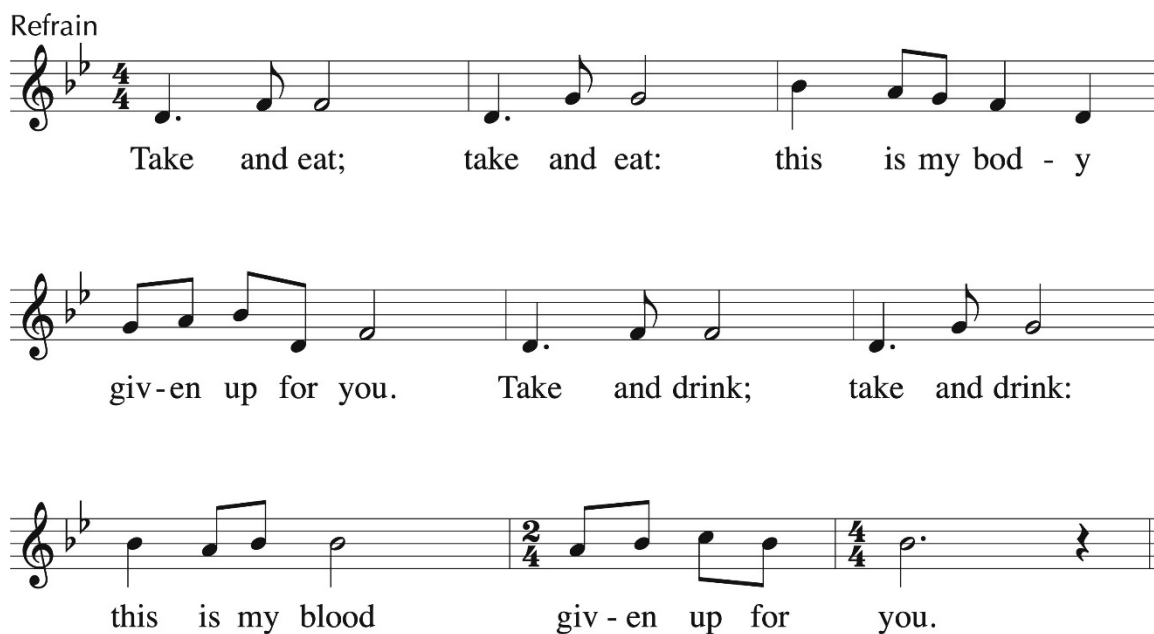
## AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



## COMMUNION | Take and Eat

Michael Joncas



Verses



1. I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
2. I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
3. I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
4. I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid;
5. I am the light that came in - to the world;
6. I am the first and last, the Liv - ing One;



I am the seed that died to be re - born;  
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;  
 I am the gate that guards you night and day;  
 A cho - sen stone and pre - cious in his eyes;  
 I am the light that dark - ness can - not hide;  
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;



I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;  
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;  
 You are my flock: you know the shep-herd's voice;  
 You are God's dwell - ing place, on me you rest;  
 I am the morn - ing star that nev - er sets;  
 I am the bride-groom, this my wed - ding song;



I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.  
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.  
 You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.  
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.  
 Lift up your face, in you my light will shine.  
 You are my bride, come to the mar - riage feast.

## CONCLUDING RITES

- ✧ The Lord be with you.  
All: And with your spirit.
- ✧ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
All: Amen.
- ✧ Go forth, the Mass is ended.  
All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL | Lead Me, Guide Me


Doris M. Aikers

### Refrain



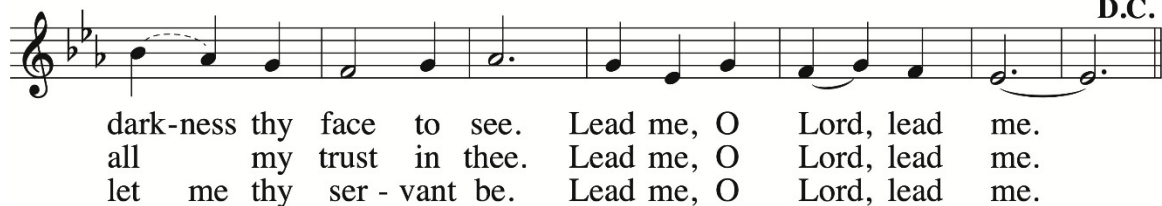
Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you  
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each  
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

### Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r To  
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness. Be my  
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am  
help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the  
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting  
blind with - out thy Light to see. Lord, just al - ways

### D.C.



dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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

# 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.



# A PRAYER FOR INAUGURATION DAY

Almighty and Sovereign God:

As our nation undergoes this presidential transition, we pray:  
“Thy Kingdom Come.”

May your Holy Spirit instill in our president-elect the values and principles of your kingdom to exercise the sacred trust of administering the nation.

Give our new president, his administration, and Congress the ability to honor you by doing what is right, fair, and just for all citizens, especially the poor, hungry, and marginalized.

We ask that all the people in our nation, irrespective of race, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, or religious faith be treated with dignity.

We pray for the wholeness, health, integrity, soundness, welfare, security, prosperity, harmony, and justice of all the citizens of our nation.

Help our nation develop a foreign policy that fosters peace, justice, equality, and freedoms that can advance the development, rights, and privileges of our global neighbors.

Move our nation to provide international leadership in the good stewardship of all the natural resources that you have entrusted to humankind.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever!

Amen.

*Adapted From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, January 18 | 5:00 p.m.**

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Catherine Horsley, lector

**Sunday, January 19 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Linda Frayling, lector

**Sunday, January 19 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Letitia Howland, Rosaria Salerno, and  
Karen Vachon, lectors

**Sunday, January 19 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Laura Melle, Karen McMenamy, and  
Chika Offurum, lectors

**Sunday, January 19 | 6:00 p.m.**

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant  
Gina Filloramo, lector

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Sunday, January 19 | 8:00 a.m.**

Patrick Casey, *Memorial*  
John P. Hart, *First Anniversary*

**Sunday, January 19 | 9:30 a.m.**

John Chory, *Month's Mind*  
Ricardo Benitez, *Memorial*  
Eileen Bolesky, *Third Anniversary*  
Dianne Zimmerman, *Memorial*  
Dr. Costas Lambrew, *Memorial*

**Sunday, January 19 | 11:30 a.m.**

Paul J. Maguire, *Anniversary*

## TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5  
1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
John 2:1-11

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10  
1 Corinthians 12:12-30  
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21



# 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, Serena Suglia, Christian Barros, and Baby Eloise Josephine Mason.

## Welcome to Saint Cecilia

We are pleased to welcome the following newly registered parishioners: **Maria Veale** of New York, New York; **Rosanne Colcord** of Andover; **Sandra Cross** of Marblehead; and **Arthur McIntyre**, **Thomas Lucy**, **Samantha** and **David Miranda**, and **Tiffany Marzouk** and **Ryan Forgione**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tomorrow, January 20, we commemorate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. This is a day for praying for the rediscovery of lost values and for the courage to stand in opposition to hatred and prejudice in all its forms. This holiday is also known as a "Day ON, not a Day OFF," and so we encourage you to read, reflect, and donate in service of racial equity, antiracism, and dismantling the systems of oppression that are still so prevalent in our society.

## Parish Offices Closed Tomorrow

Please note that the parish offices will be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## For an End to Racism

Pray that our parish may cultivate welcome, extend hospitality, and encourage the participation of people of all cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds. And pray that we respond wholeheartedly to the Spirit's call to act together to end violence and racism.

## Copy of Your 2024 Tax Statement

If you would like a copy of your 2024 tax statement, please email Colleen Melaugh at her parish email address.

## For Our Country

Pray that our nation may continue to promote liberty and freedom, justice and peace for all. And that all people of good will in our country be good stewards of the gifts God has given us and engage in a spirit of cooperation and respect for one another.

## Special Collection Next Weekend – January 25/26

Next weekend we will have a special collection for the Church in Latin America. This collection funds a wide range of pastoral activities and programs. Your contribution will help promote solidarity throughout the hemisphere by providing support for pastoral projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.



## 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 finishing the classic little book, *The Story of the Other Wise Man* by Henry Van Dyke, and next Thursday, January 23, 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.

## ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

There will be a training session for aspiring youth altar servers this Sunday, January 19 at 4:00 p.m. The training will take place in the church and will be followed by pizza and conversation in the parish café at 5:00. If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late! Please contact Mary Wessel in the parish office if you are interested in attending or learning more.



## 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20 | 9:00–11:00 A.M.**  
**OMNI BOSTON HOTEL AT THE SEAPORT**  
**ENSEMBLE BALLROOM**



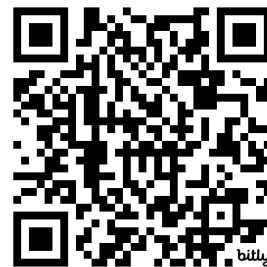
Once again, this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast will be a hybrid event with both in-person and online components. The 2025 theme is: "Freedom Isn't Free" and the keynote speaker will be professor, author, and

activist Angela Davis. This annual breakfast is a time to *gather* to convene, to envision, and to embody the Beloved Community that we yearn for; to *gather* to break bread and to be nourished to undertake the urgent work of justice and equity in our community; and to *gather* to remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose legacy of organizing and leadership continues to inspire and prepare us today for the difficult road ahead as we attempt to build the Beloved Community. The livestream is free, but in order to be emailed the link to the password-protected livestream page you must register by January 19. To register, visit [bostonmlkbreakfast.org/breakfast-2025/](https://bostonmlkbreakfast.org/breakfast-2025/). Tickets for the in-person breakfast are \$65 and can be purchased by visiting [bostonmlkbreakfast.org/breakfast-2025/](https://bostonmlkbreakfast.org/breakfast-2025/). There is a possibility of limited onsite ticket sales, however this is not guaranteed so we encourage everyone who wants to attend the breakfast to purchase a ticket prior to arrival.

## 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?*

Saint Cecilia is creating a Parish Climate Action Plan and our parish Climate Group would like to obtain as much input as possible from parishioners. During the month of January, we invite you to complete this on-line form with your concerns and ideas: <https://bit.ly/stceciliaplan>. You can also access the form by scanning the QR code below with a mobile device. If you would prefer to have a one-on-one conversation, please email [climatejustice@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:climatejustice@stceciliaboston.org).



## LAUDATO SI' GOALS

Each month, Saint Cecilia will focus on a different goal from the Laudato Si' Action Platform as part of the effort to create a Parish Climate Action Plan. The goals include: responding to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor; ecological economics; adopting sustainable lifestyles; ecological education; ecological spirituality; and building community resilience and empowerment.

*"Purchasing is always a moral—and not simply economic—act. Today, in a word, the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle."*

—Laudato Si' 206

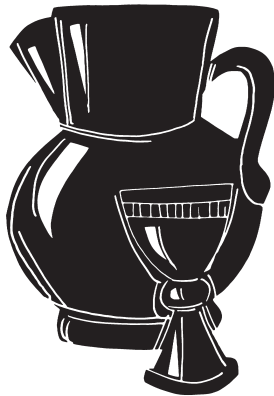




## YOUNG ADULT CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER MEETING

**THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 | 2:00**  
**FAMILY FLEX CENTER**

Looking for a way to stay grounded and connected? Meditation and contemplation are time-honored practices in the Catholic tradition, providing a means of deepening one's relationship with God and offering ways of dealing with the obstacles of distraction and anxiety. If you are a young adult between the ages of 18 and 40, consider joining the SCYA for a biweekly meditation and contemplative prayer group. We will be meeting every other Sunday, after the 11:30 Mass coffee hour. If interested, please email our Young Adult ministry or call the parish office.



## CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 | 7:00–9:00 P.M.**  
**NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY – WILLIAMS HALL**

The third Boston concert of Music for Food's 15<sup>th</sup> season—"The New World"—will highlight works by Dvořák and Ives and include performances by Terra String Quartet. Admission is free with a suggested donation (\$40/adult; \$15/student). No tickets or reservations are necessary. All proceeds will go to support Women's Lunch Place.

## 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



## HAITI AND THE WEDDING AT CANA

BY NADIA BOLZ-WEBER

*Editor's Note:* This sermon was delivered on January 17, 2010, just five days following the catastrophic earthquake that struck the nation of Haiti. In light of the wildfires continuing to burn in Southern California, we thought this sermon would tap into the painfully familiar themes of loss and suffering. As author and journalist Mitch Albom wrote, *"They may be different disasters in different countries, but loss knows no timeline. It recognizes no borders. It arrives and it stays, like the choking dust after an earthquake or the chocking smoke after a wildfire. If we truly want to empathize, we will recognize the need for help will go on and on, long after the headlines have disappeared."*

My family and I returned from vacation Tuesday to news reports of the devastation in Haiti. I, like all of you, listened in shock to the reports of tens of thousands dead and hundreds of thousands left without shelter, without food, without family. And within hours everyone realized ... on top of it all, there's no running water. Knowing this was going to be on everyone's hearts and minds I thought to myself "I have to preach Sunday—I wonder what the gospel text is ..." when I realized it was the wedding at Cana I thought, great. Jesus at a big party making sure the wine flows freely. No one wants to hear that today. Not today. Nobody wants to hear a quaint little miracle story about how generous God is when the poorest country in this hemisphere lies in even greater waste than before. Nobody wants to hear of an abundance of wine when people on the streets of Haiti are thirsty. Who dares speak of a party when our cantor Drew is mourning his friend Ben who died in a collapsed building in Port-au-Prince? When thousands of mothers are mourning their children?

This week's events bring with them a lot of questions about God, and none of them have to do with parties. One atheist blog I read this week sneeringly used the earthquake to make a case against believing in God at all. The writer implied that he could not believe in a God who would inflict such suffering on so many people, which made me admit that according to that definition, I must be an atheist too because I don't believe in that God either. But after reading the wedding in Cana story over and over



again this week I realized that I think Mary, the distraught mother of our Lord, might just be the key to seeing how this text speaks to our mourning and confusion and the death and suffering this week has brought to so many. They're at a wedding when Mary looks to her son and says the wine has run out. "Woman," Jesus says to his mother, seemingly dismissive and perhaps even disrespectful, "my hour has not yet come." To which Mary is like, "Oh yeah? Too bad." Ok she didn't really say that, but she did simply turn to the servant and said "do whatever he tells you."

Mary tugs at the shirt of God and says I will not keep silent. I will obey you and I will tell others to obey you but I will not keep silent. People are thirsty.

Mary stands here in a long line of prophets who have not stayed silent. The prophet Mary stands and says Lord, we've run out of wine and people are thirsty. And Jesus hears her. So Jesus does this crazy thing: He could have filled the actual wine jugs up with water to be turned to wine. That would have been the logical miracle (if there is such a thing). Instead, Jesus takes six ceremonial purification jars and has THOSE filled with water to turn into wine. Jesus responds in an almost embarrassingly excessive way. 180 gallons. Surely that's too much. But that's how Jesus is. It's a sign of what God is doing in Jesus, namely that the very abundance of this gift means that maybe it's not meant only for you and me. I mean we can try and keep 180 gallons of wine for ourselves but it will just become something we like to call "vinegar" unless it's shared.

So Mary only shows up twice in John's gospel and both times her son calls her "woman." Once is here at the wedding when she refuses to be silent because people are thirsty. The other is when she stands at the foot of the cross. She watches as her son and her Lord hangs innocent from a cross with the weight of the world's suffering tearing his very flesh.

This is our God. Not a distant judge, cruelly indifferent to

our pain, and not some monster causing calamity, but a God who weeps. A God who suffers not only for us but with us. Nowhere is the presence of God amidst suffering more salient than on the cross. This is a God who bears suffering. God does not initiate suffering—God transforms it.

That passage in John reads like this:

*Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said, "I am thirsty."*

I am thirsty he says. I am not watching this from a distant heaven. Jesus says I, too, am thirsty.

As we hear the cry of our Haitian brothers and sisters, let us discern the other voice we hear with them—that of Christ saying, "I am thirsty."

The reports that came in those first 24 hours following the quake said that when night fell on the streets of Port-au-Prince, people were singing hymns and psalms. Blessed be God, they sang. People were singing praises to God amidst their entire world destroyed.

Pat Robertson is wrong, by the way. There is no reason for this destruction—but there IS meaning. And this meaning is to be found as we again become the human family of God's new creation without country, religion, boundary, or race to divide us. In this moment, to the extent that we take up the responsibility of a mother caring for her son, a son for his mother. In this moment, to the extent that we act like Jesus and love and care for those suffering from the earthquake as if they are our own beloved family, we are all Haiti.

So we, with Mary, tug on the shirt of God and say we have run out, Lord. We need wine. Good wine. Enough for all, flowing over. We too will not keep silent. We will join with the family of God in the singing of hymns and psalms. And then we will listen to Jesus' command and fill some jars with water for the thirsty.

Blessed be God. Amen.

—Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran pastor, the founder and former pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints—a mission church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America located in Denver, Colorado. She is the author of three NYT bestselling memoirs, and is a leading voice in the emerging church movement. Her writing can be found at [www.nadiabolzweber.com](http://www.nadiabolzweber.com) and on the Sarcastic Lutheran blog. Her most recent book is Shameless: A Sexual Reformation (Convergent Books).





# 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](http://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.