

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

21 January 2024

Plaque with the Calling of Saints Peter and Andrew, ca. 1160-80

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

21 January 2024

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Bye and Bye

arranged by William Farley Smith
(1941-1997)

THE ORDER OF THE MASS INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | You Walk Along Our Shoreline

AURELIA



1. You walk a - long our shore-line, Where land meets un - known sea.
2. You call us, Christ, to gath - er The peo - ple of the earth.
3. We cast our net, O Je - sus; We cry the king-dom's name;



We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me.
We can - not fish for on - ly Those lives we think have worth.
We work for love and jus - tice; We learn to hope through pain.



And if you still will fol - low Through storm and wave and shoal,
We spread your net of gos - pel A - cross the wa - ter's face,
You call us, Lord, to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,



Then I will make you fish - ers, But of the hu - man soul."
Our boat a com - mon shel - ter For all found by your grace.
To let your judg - ment heal us So that all may be one.

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.

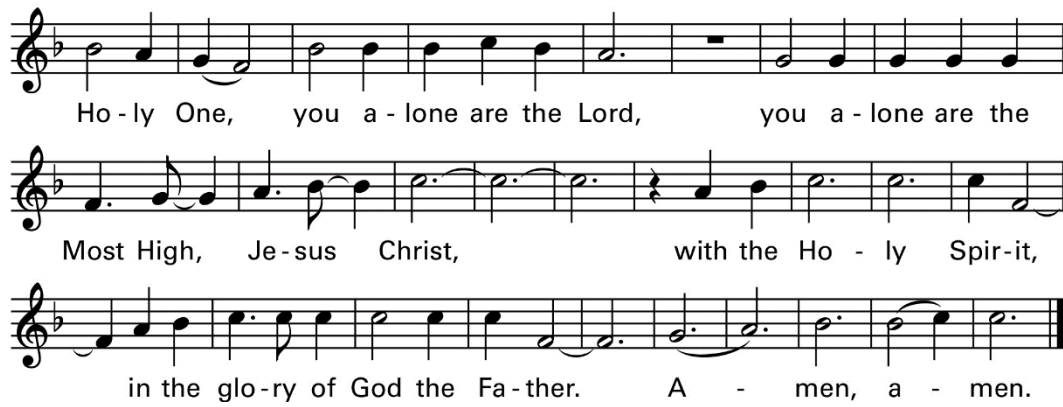
All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

GLORIA | Mass of 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



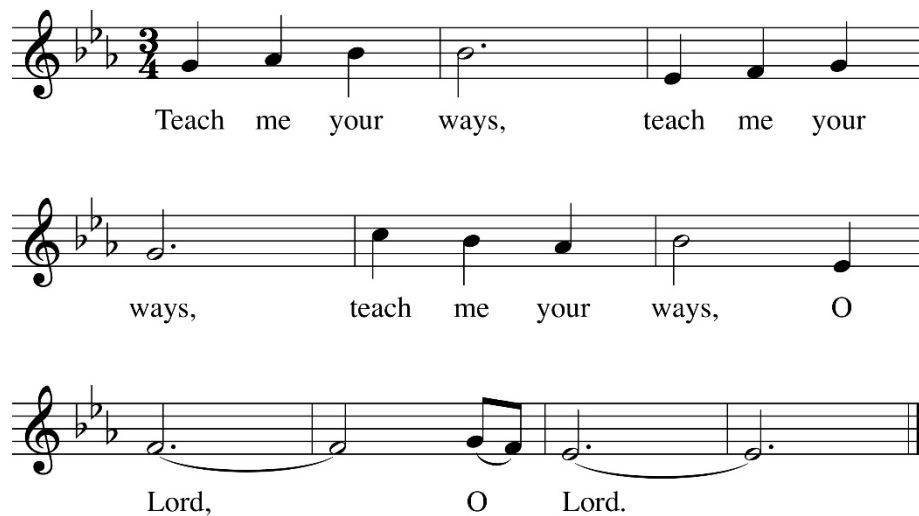
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

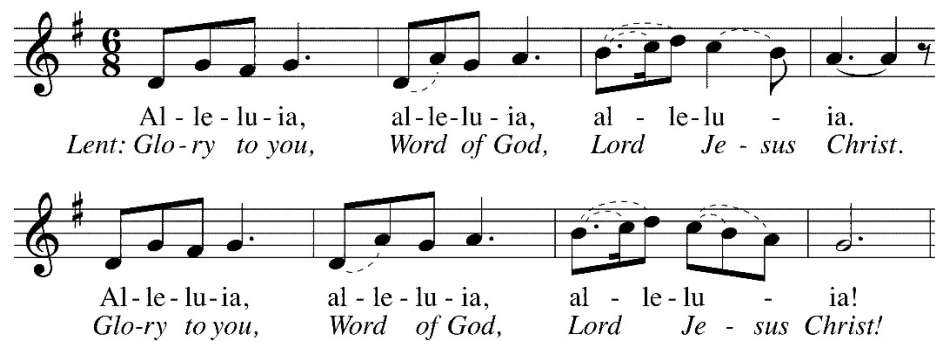
RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 25: Teach Me Your Ways

Marty Haugen



1. O Lord, make me know your ways. Teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth, and teach me; for you are the God of my salvation.
2. Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
In your merciful love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.
3. Good and upright is the Lord; he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgment; to the humble he teaches his way.

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31



GOSPEL | Mark 1: 14-20

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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!

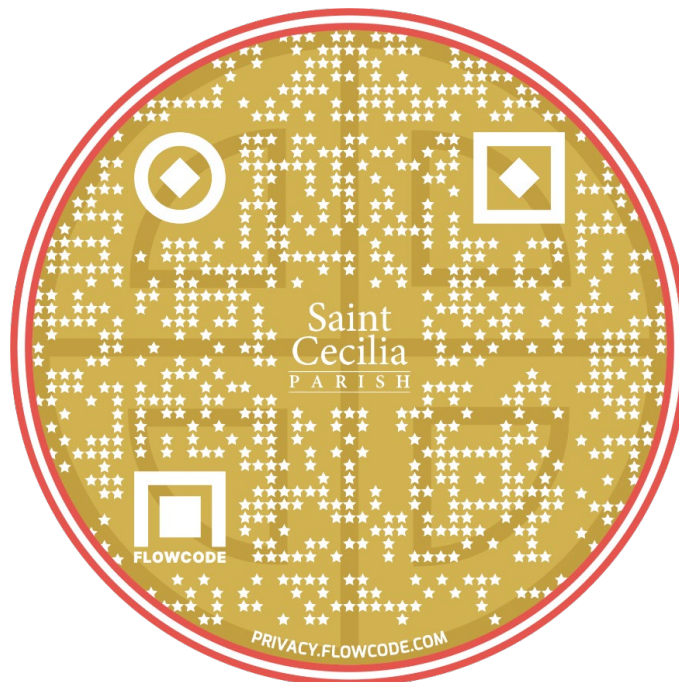
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 | Abide with Me

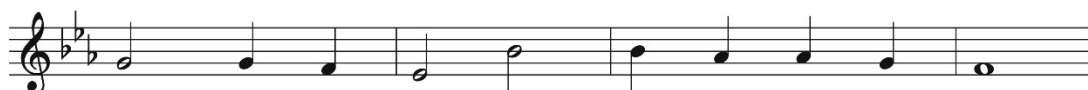
EVENTIDE



1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3. I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide
Earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
What but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

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

GREAT AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

A - men. A - men. A - men.

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

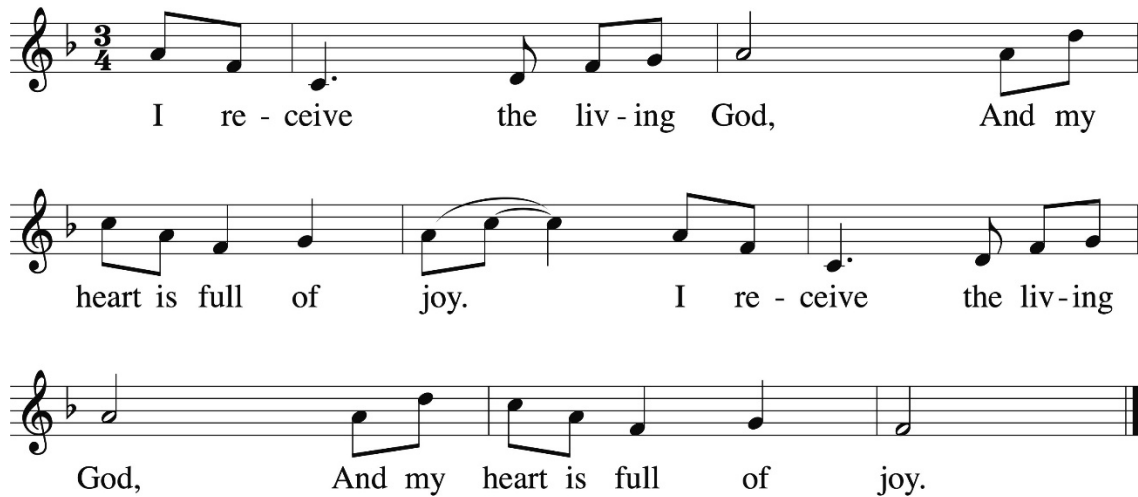


SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

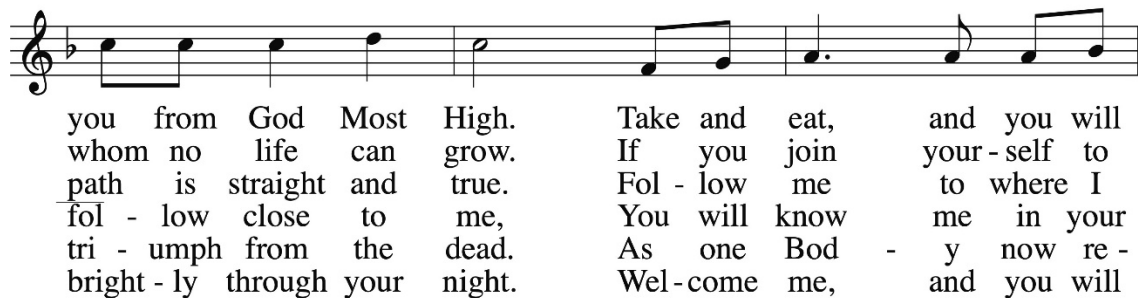
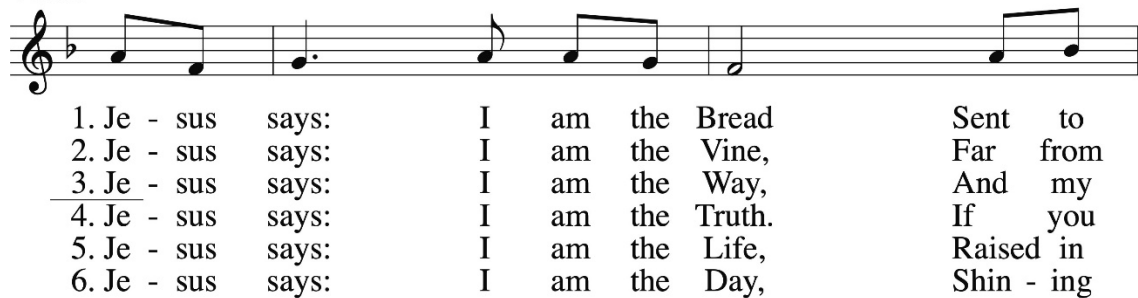
It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an “Act of Spiritual Communion.” When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of 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.



Verses



7. Jesus says: I am the Love
Which can bind you close to me.
Those who know this gift I bring
Will find true community.
8. Jesus says: I am the Peace
Which the world cannot bestow.
Learn to love and live in me,
And in you my Reign will grow.
9. Jesus says: I am the Lamb,
And my death set sinners free.
Those who drink the cup I drink
Must take up this work with me.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | “How Lovely are the Messengers” from Saint Paul Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1833)

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.

✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.

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, oh 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, oh Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

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, January 20 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Catherine Horsley, lector

Sunday, January 21 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant

Sunday, January 21 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Maggie Giles, Ben DeWinter, and Julie Bogdanski, lectors

Sunday, January 21 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Ritika Philip, Virgen Palermo, and Pat Scofield, lectors

Sunday, January 21 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ, celebrant
Cynthia Wanner, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 21 | 8:00 a.m.

Bob Mann, *Month's Mind*

Sunday, January 21 | 9:30 a.m.

Edward Skiba, *Memorial*
Cameron O'Brien, *Memorial*
Liam McDonnell, *Memorial*

Sunday, January 21 | 11:30 a.m.

Madeline Lynch, *1st Anniversary*
Maria Cullen, *3rd Anniversary*

TODAY'S READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

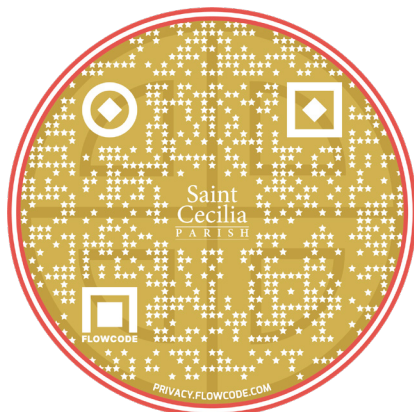
NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Jacqueline Lavelle, Tim Finn, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, and Fred Tufts.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: The **Fleischman Family** of Boston, **Carolyn and Kerry Barry** of Warrington, Pennsylvania, **Nathalia Jimenez** of Natick, **John Gaspich** of Boston, **Abigail Luscko** and **Forrest Evans** of Boston, **Kristen Townson** of Andover, the **Raithel-Landefeld Family** of Brookline, **Jane Wilson** of Melrose, **Susan Chapdelaine** of Bailey Island, Maine, **Patricia Quinlan** of Hyde Park, and **Debby and Joe Deneen** of Marlborough. If you have not previously registered, you can do so at www.stceciliaboston.org.



Next Week's Special Collection

Next week's second collection supports the Church in Latin America (CLA). The CLA provides support for pastoral projects in financially poorer dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean. CLA funds catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs, and formation programs for religious, priests, and deacons. CLA is making it possible for the Catholic faithful in the Western hemisphere to help each other. You can donate here: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/church-in-latin-america-2024>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began on Thursday, January 18, and ends on January 25. Since 1908, this week has been dedicated to prayer for Christian unity and this year's theme is "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself," from the Gospel of Luke 10:27. The theme, taken from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, reflects the connection between love of God and love of neighbor with a particular concern for challenging the boundaries of who is considered "neighbor." In this pericope, Jesus is questioned as to the path to eternal life. His answer is not to only observe the commandments, but to also imitate the love of God in the giving of self for another. It is a call for charity, mercy, justice, and unity.

FEBRUARY PARISH RETREAT

We're pleased to announce that we're hosting a day retreat at the parish on Saturday, February 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you'd like to join us, you can register by filling out this short form: <https://forms.gle/5mXmzRD3HnYUWng58>. If you have any questions, please email our Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility, Scott Macdonald, at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA JANUARY 21 – JANUARY 28

Sunday, January 21

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom
VIRTUS Training, 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Lector Training, 2:00—3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 23

Communion Circle at Saint Cecilia House, 1:00 p.m.
RCIA, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30 a.m. | Zoom
Communion Circle at Susan Balis House, 3:30 p.m.
SCYA Women's Group, 7:00 p.m. | Zoom
Taizé Prayer, 7:00 p.m. | Zoom
Young Families *Mental Health Matters: A Workshop to Empower Parents*, 7:00—8:30 p.m. | Zoom;
sponsored by Evangelize Boston

Friday, January 26

Saint Cecilia Young Adult Men's Retreat begins!

Saturday, January 27

CARES Retreat, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 28

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom
Young Families Ministry Gathering,
after 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Family Flex Room

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

VIRTUS Training | Sunday, January 21, 11:00 a.m.
Community Room

VIRTUS is the umbrella term for a two-part training designed to keep children safe in the parish setting. The Archdiocese requires this two-part training of all volunteers and staff who have the potential for direct contact with children or the vulnerable due to their involvement in the parish. The first part, Protecting God's Children (or PGC), is a training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms that a child is being abused and how to talk with children about these issues. The second part is a mandated reporter training. All parish staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to attend this one-time training. If you intend to volunteer in the future and haven't attended this training before, please join us. Please note that both parts will be covered in Sunday's session and the training will be approximately 3 hours, including videos and group discussion. The online registration is full, but we will accept parishioner walk-ins. Please arrive no later than 10:45 a.m. in the Community Room so you can be registered in the system. Thank you so much, and we look forward to seeing you!



HELP CATHOLIC CHARITIES SUPPORT NEWLY-ARRIVED REFUGEES

For the past seven years, our parish has provided ongoing support to Catholic Charities programs that provide aid to refugees. Just in the past year, Catholic Charities has opened two new shelters to address the Commonwealth's refugee and homelessness crisis. We have offered to provide refugee families with supermarket and general gift cards so that they will have food and household items while their applications for political asylum are processed. If you would like to purchase gift cards to Visa, Target, Market Basket, Stop 'n Shop, and Shaw's/Star Markets—and no more than \$25 per card—please feel free to drop them in the offertory basket or mail them to: *Mark Lippolt, Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115*. The need has never been greater and your accustomed generosity is greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE: WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SYNOD AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

Wednesday, January 31, 6:30 p.m ET | Hybrid

Join us on January 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room for a talk with Sebastian Gomes, *America Media's* executive editor of audio and video. Gomes was one of several members of *America's* staff who traveled



to Rome for an up-close look at last October's assembly of the Synod on Synodality, and so we're excited to learn more about the Synod from him. This event will also be livestreamed on the Saint Cecilia YouTube.

From the projects Gomes has worked on at *America*, you may recognize him from the feature documentary "People of God: How Catholic Parish Life is Changing in the United States." This hour-long documentary is culmination of the conversations Gomes and his team had with Catholics across the country, and Saint Cecilia is one of the four highlighted parishes. If you haven't already, we encourage you to watch this documentary to learn more about the shifts and trends in American Catholic parish life.

YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

The Saint Cecilia Young Families Ministry (SCYF) invites our young families to attend the following events:

Wednesday, January 24, 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Mental Health Matters: A Workshop to Empower Parents
Zoom | Led by Evangelize Boston

Sunday, January 28 (following the 9:30 a.m. Mass)

Regular Fellowship Meeting
In-person, in the Saint Cecilia Family Flex Center

Wednesday, January 31, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

New & Expecting Parents Faith Sharing Circle
In-person, in the Saint Cecilia Family Flex Center

Learn more and register for these events by visiting the SCYF's Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/scyfboston>



CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

Sunday, January 28, 7:30 p.m.
New England Conservatory's Brown Hall

"Music for Food" is a musician-led initiative to fight hunger in our local communities. According to Project Bread: "Prior to the pandemic, household food insecurity in Massachusetts was at 8.2%. The pandemic fueled a hunger crisis unlike any other in our lifetime, at its peak rendering 19.6% of households food insecure." Music for Food's concerts have raised funds to create more than 1.5 million meals.

Music for Food's 14th season continues at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 28 in New England Conservatory's Brown Hall. This program includes two masterworks for string quartet by Franz Joseph Haydn: his *Seven Last Words of Christ* and his Quartet in d minor, op. 103. Also featured is the world premiere of Da-Yu Liu's *Echoes of Loss* for viola and piano. Admission is free with a suggested donation (\$40/adult, \$15/student), no tickets or RSVPs are necessary, and ALL proceeds will benefit Women's Lunch Place (WLP), which is celebrating its 41st anniversary of providing resources to vulnerable women in Boston.



COPY OF YOUR 2023 TAX STATEMENT

If you would like a copy of your 2023 tax statement, please email Colleen Melaugh at cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org.

LOW-GLUTEN ALTAR BREAD AVAILABLE

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. These hosts are prepared by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Missouri.

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BUILDING A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS: AN URGENT IMPERATIVE

Saturday, January 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m. ET | Zoom

As we approach the third anniversary of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entering into force, our friends on the St. Katharine Drexel Social Justice Committee invite you to examine the existential threat and moral implications of nuclear weapons, to enter into dialogue about solutions, and to pray and act as individuals and groups.

The speakers are John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, NM, who in 2022 led the way in the U.S. Catholic Church with his groundbreaking pastoral letter on nuclear disarmament; Dr. Ira Helfand, co-founder and past president of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War; and Marie Dennis, Catholic Nonviolence Initiative/Pax Christi International. Pax Christi Massachusetts is sponsoring this event with Pax Christi USA, with many co-sponsors from across North America. You can register here: <http://tinyurl.com/ForumJan27>.

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WINTER WALK BOSTON

Ending homelessness is within our reach! For the eighth consecutive year, a consortium of agencies focused on homelessness are sponsoring a 2-mile fundraising walk through the streets of Boston. The event takes place on Sunday, February 11 at 8:30 a. m. and we will walk during the coldest month of the year. The Walk will begin and end on the Boston Common at the open field at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets. Participants, housed and unhoused, will walk shoulder to shoulder and then share a meal together. It is hoped that each adult walker will raise \$100—either by paying it as a registration fee or raising it from friends and family. There is a Saint Cecilia Hunger & Homelessness Ministry team again this year—we've participated each year since the event began. We would like to designate Women's Lunch Place as the recipient of the funds we raise this year. If you would like to join or support our team, please go to: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/winterwalk2024-boston/team/943814/>. Please contact Mark Lippolt at the Hunger and Homelessness Ministry parish email with questions.

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ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

ANNUAL CANDLEMAS LECTURE

Catholicity, Sacrifice, and Shame: Subverting Polarization in Our Contemporary Ecclesial and Political Cultures

Presenter: James Alison—theologian, priest, and author
Wednesday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.
Gasson Hall, 100, Chestnut Hill Campus

For more information and to register: <https://events.bc.edu/event/annual-candlemas-lecture-james-alison-catholicity-sacrifice-and-shame-subverting-polarization-in-our-contemporary-ecclesial-and-political-cultures>

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

Job: Make It Make Sense

February 7 – March 12 | 5-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00

Lent 2024: Reflecting Together

February 7 – March 19 | 6-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00

Ordinary Sacredness: Xaverian Values for Everyday Life

February 7 – March 19 | 6-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00

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

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

Enlivening a Spirit Community Through Faith and Racial Justice!

Presenter: Reverend Myra Brown,
Pastor of Spiritus Christi Church in Rochester, NY
Monday, January 22 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

For more on this presentation, please check the website:
https://www.saintsusanna.org/adult_faith_formation.htm

SAINT AGNES OF ROME

This week, we celebrate the feast day of Saint Agnes of Rome (January 21), whose stained glass window is on the side of the church nearest the Hilton (east side). We have no way of knowing why our forebears chose to honor Agnes with a window, but hers is strikingly detailed and colorful. It is believed that Agnes' family were Christian Roman nobility and that she was born approximately 291 A.D. She was martyred before the age of fourteen during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. The window shows Agnes with a lamb because of her chastity and innocence and because her name sounds like *agnus*, the Latin word for "lamb." On her feast day, two lambs are blessed and from their wool are made the palliums sent by the Pope to archbishops. She is the patron saint of chastity, gardeners, engaged couples, and girls.

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.

JOIN OUR WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP!

The Saint Cecilia Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group holds two weekly online gatherings—Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Members of the group gather to share ways in which faith informs and enriches the second half of life. For more information about meetings or to join their mailing list, please contact the group via their ministry email.





already blessed, so what could a priest's public blessing add to it? Why does it matter?

I think back to our families. When Damian I were married, our parents and siblings celebrated and supported us. Although we were the ones who made the decision to build our lives together, they witnessed it all, and their encouragement continues to give us strength. We are so thankful they are part of our lives.

The same is true of the Catholic Church. We belong to the People of God, who have shaped our spiritual journeys and been a channel of God's grace to us. Our faith community is central to our shared life, and it's fitting that the church also be a public part of our relationship. A formal blessing is a sign of the church's openness to us and our openness to the church.

This is the gift of mutuality in the Christian community and in human relationships, more broadly. Blessings for same-sex couples are powerful signs that couples like us share in the same channels of grace that all people enjoy. God gives grace to us, and we are agents of grace to others, both in the church and outside of it. No one is excluded from God's abundant love.

As we were blessed by Father Martin, we were also aware of how the image would be received around the world. As a married, gay Catholic couple, we hope that our life is an open book to outsiders. Many are unfamiliar with LGBTQ believers. Some queer folks and some traditional Catholics share one thing in common—they don't believe the church is a good place for LGBTQ folks. But Damian and I show that it is possible to be a thriving, married, gay Catholic couple. I hope that we can share God's light with LGBTQ folks who have only experienced darkness in religious spaces, and I believe that our presence in the Catholic Church is helping Catholics be less homophobic. I trust that God is working through our public witness.

Since our blessing, we've received a world of support from family, friends and strangers. There has also been plenty of vitriol directed toward us. Thank God, grace doesn't depend on what others think! My relationship to my husband is a visible sign of God's work in our lives. Today, the church is learning to see that as well, and the blessing we received is an important step in the church's work reconciling all people to each other and to God.

~ Jason Steidl Jack is an assistant teaching professor of religious studies at St. Joseph's University in Brooklyn, N.Y. He earned a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Fordham University in 2018.

My husband Damian and I were blessed by Outreach editor James Martin, S.J., earlier this week. Just a day after the Vatican announced that priests could offer "the gift of blessing that flows from the Heart of Christ through his Church," we sought out Father Martin, who is a friend, mentor, ally and pastor. *The New York Times* was there to capture the moment.

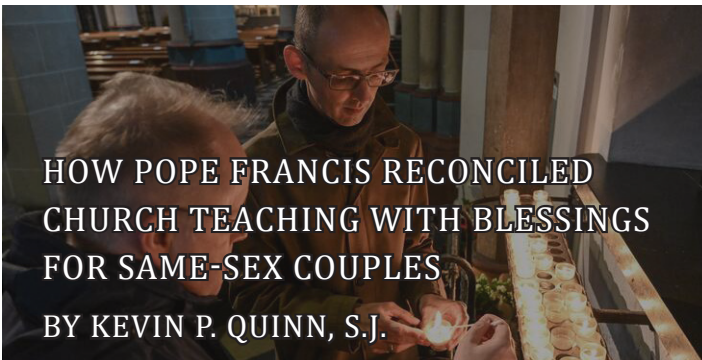
On the subway to his Manhattan residence, I read Genesis 32:22-32, the story of Jacob wrestling with a messenger of God. In this tale, Jacob's struggle lasted through the night. As a gay Catholic, I've done my share of wrestling with God and the church. Like Jacob, I carry injuries from the encounter, but I continue the fight. I won't let go of God until I receive a blessing.

Two years ago, my husband and I were blessed to be married at the Judson Memorial Church, a progressive Protestant community in Manhattan, by a friend who is a Protestant minister. It was a small, Covid-era affair, with only the officiant and a witness present. Later that fall, we celebrated our commitment with a beautiful picnic for friends and family. Our trans friend gave an official blessing, and many of our church friends blessed us by attending.

Since our wedding, our love for each has continued to grow. Damian and I are blessed with friends, family and community. As we chart our life together, we see God showing up in our daily routines—from the time we wake up in the morning, to prayer, to walks in our neighborhood, to special trips to the botanical gardens, to shared weddings, funerals, holidays and vacations.

God is with us in the daily grind too—when we are tired from too much work and struggle to be less grumpy with each other; when we are already late for dinner and have a hard time being patient with the partner who can never find his chapstick; when we have been wronged and learn how to forgive each other. Our marriage is blessed.

In light of the Vatican announcement, I've been reflecting on my desire for a blessing. Our marriage is real and we are



HOW POPE FRANCIS RECONCILED CHURCH TEACHING WITH BLESSINGS FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES

BY KEVIN P. QUINN, S.J.

Make no mistake, “*Fiducia Supplicans: On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings*” advances a carefully crafted “theological reflection” that, as stated in the text, “implies a real development from what has been said about blessings in the Magisterium and the official texts of the Church.” The declaration from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith broadens and deepens the classical understanding of blessings by offering “a specific and innovative contribution to the *pastoral meaning of blessings*” (emphasis in original) as specifically applied to “the possibility of blessing couples in irregular situations and same-sex couples without officially validating their status or changing in any way the Church’s perennial teaching on marriage.”

In my opinion, the real development here is that Pope Francis has shifted the focus of the church’s concern from the nature of the relationship itself to the couple involved, by allowing the blessing of same-sex couples without endorsing their unions. (This distinction was reiterated in the press release released by the Dicastery on January 5 “to help clarify the reception of *Fiducia Supplicans*.”)

That is, the pope refocuses the church’s attention on the pastoral needs of same-sex couples while still advocating for the church’s doctrine of marriage. This turn to pastoral needs is both necessary and welcomed.

We can chart this development through three documents published over the last two years, including “*Fiducia Supplicans*” itself. In the “*Responsum* of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to a *Dubium* Regarding the Blessing of the Unions of Persons of the Same Sex,” issued in February 2021, the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was clear, declaring “illicit any form of blessing that tends to acknowledge [same-sex unions] as such.” It continued, “[T]he blessing would manifest not the intention to entrust such individual persons to the protection and help of God...but to approve and encourage a choice and a way of life that cannot be recognized as objectively ordered to the revealed plans of God.”

The focus of the Congregation is underscored by the title of the *responsum* itself: “the blessing of the *unions of persons*” (emphasis added); that is, the unions and not the people involved. And it is highlighted by what some consider the most notorious sentence in the entire *responsum*: “[God] does not and cannot bless sin.”

The second document is a letter made public on October 2, 2023, in which Pope Francis responded to a *dubia* letter delivered to him by two cardinals (and supported by three other cardinals), seeking clarification on five doctrinal questions, including the *dubium* “regarding the affirmation that the widespread practice of blessing same-sex unions is in accordance with Revelation and the Magisterium.” The cardinals asked the pope, “[C]an the Church...accept as a ‘possible good’ objectively sinful situations, such as unions with persons of the same sex, without departing from revealed doctrine?” Note the focus is again on the unions and not the people involved.

As noted in “*Fiducia Supplicans*,” Pope Francis’ response to the *dubium* on blessing same-sex unions “provided important clarifications for this reflection and represents a decisive element of the work of the Dicastery.” While acknowledging that the church “has a very clear understanding of marriage... and it is much more than a mere ‘ideal,’” the pope insists that “pastoral prudence must adequately discern whether there are forms of blessing, requested by one or more persons, that do not convey an erroneous conception of marriage. For when a blessing is requested, it is expressing a plea to God for help, a supplication to live better, a trust in a Father who can help us live better.”

Moreover, he insists “in our relationships with people, we must not lose pastoral charity...The defense of objective truth is not the only expression of this charity.” In speaking of pastoral prudence and charity, Pope Francis is gently guiding the church away from what many consider the dogmatism of his cardinal interlocutors.

The pope finally offers his expansive, pastoral approach concerning blessing individuals in same-sex unions with the declaration “*Fiducia Supplicans*”: “[W]hen the blessing is requested by a same-sex couple...such a blessing...[is] an expression of the Church’s maternal heart—similar to those that emanate from the core of popular piety—*there is no intention to legitimize anything*, but rather to open one’s life to God, to ask for his help to live better, and also to invoke the Holy Spirit so that the values of the Gospel may be lived with greater faithfulness” (emphasis added). To critics who argue that this approach contradicts the unchangeable teaching that the church cannot bless sinful acts, Pope Francis’ response is clear and direct: In responding to a

request for a blessing by a same-sex couple, the church is blessing them and not their relationship.

Pope Francis can assert in “Fiducia Supplicans” that “God never turns away anyone who approaches him!” and then courageously apply that undeniable truth to same-sex couples who seek God’s blessing through the church. The pope’s courage and compassion in promoting a pastoral approach to this contentious issue in the church is to be heartily applauded.

~ Kevin P. Quinn, S.J., serves as the special assistant for legal affairs to the Jesuit USA East Provincial. He is a former law professor and university president.



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
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, Parish 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.

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

Building Accessibility

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

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, at cgannon@stceciliaboston.org.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIRTUS). 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)

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 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!