

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 January 2025

Christ Reads From Isaiah

Mike Moyers

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 26 JANUARY 2025

PRELUDE | *Herzlich tut mich verlangen*, Op. 122
Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

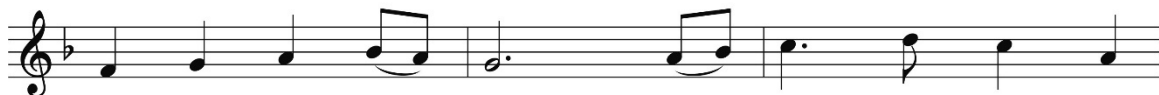
Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | All are Welcome

Marty Haugen



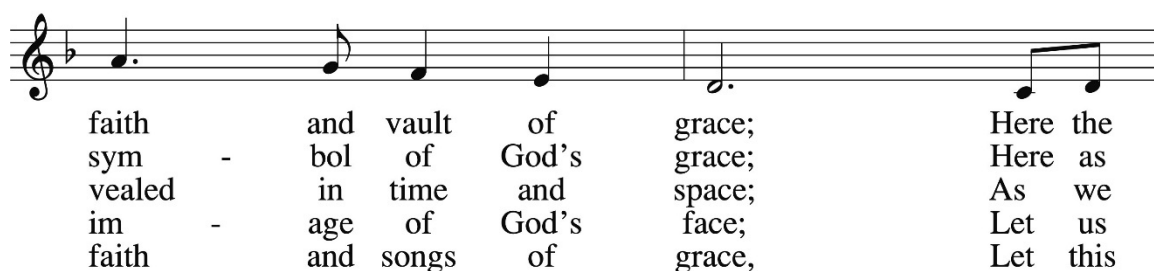
1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
3. Let us build a house where love is found In
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
serve and teach, And live the Word they've
taught and claimed As words with - in the



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. The score ends with a double bar line.

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 | Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10



Your words, Lord, are Spir-it and life, your words are Spir-it and life.

The law of the LORD is perfect;
it revives the soul.

The decrees of the LORD are steadfast;
they give wisdom to the simple. R.

The precepts of the LORD are right;
they gladden the heart.

The command of the LORD is clear;
it gives light to the eyes. R.

The fear of the LORD is pure,
abiding forever.

The judgments of the LORD are true;
they are, all of them, just. R.

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,

win favor in your sight, O LORD,
my rock and my redeemer! R.

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Ruah Mass of the Breath of God

Ian Callahan

Cantor Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *All* Al - le - lu - ia, al -
This is the day the Lord has made. *This is the day the
le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Lord has made. Let us re - joice, be glad and sing.

Al - le - lu - ia, al le - lu ia.
Let us re - joice, be glad and sing.

GOSPEL | Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

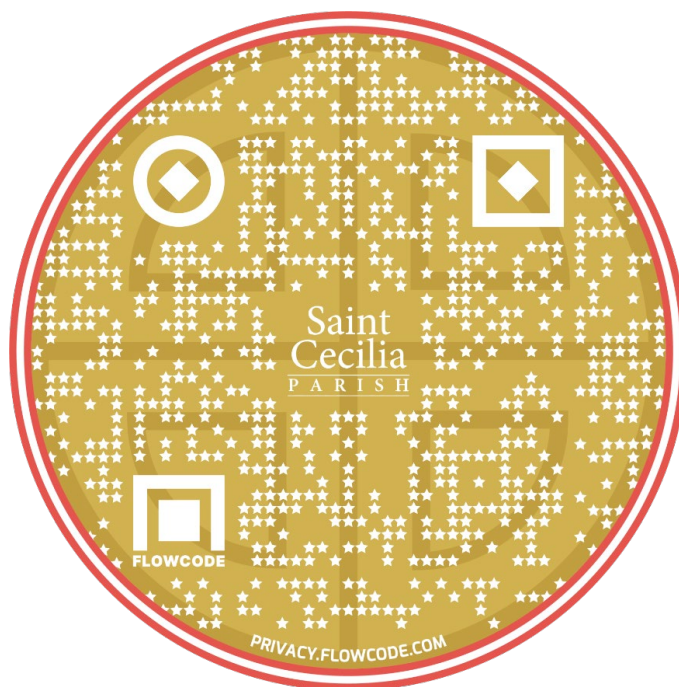
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Come to the Feast

Bob Hurd

Refrain / Estribillo



Come, come to the ban - quet. Come,
 Ven, ven al ban - que - te. Ven a la
 Bilingual: Ven, ven al ban - que - te. Ven a la



come to the feast. Here the hun - gry find plen -
 fies - ta de Dios. Los que tie - nen ham -
 fies - ta de Dios. Here the hun - gry find plen -



ty, here the thirst-y shall drink, here at the
 bre y sed se - rán sa - cia - dos. Ven a la
 ty, here the thirst-y shall drink. Ven a la



sup-per of Je - sus, come to the feast.
 ce - na de Cris - to, ven a la fies-ta de Dios.
 ce - na de Cris - to, come to the feast.

1.-6. To verses
 A las estrofas

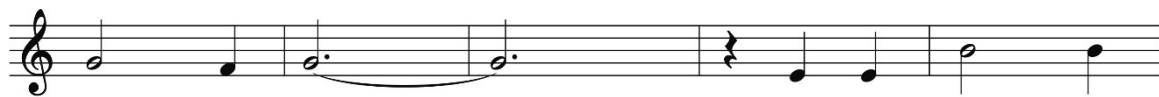


feast, come to the feast.
 Dios, ven a la fies-ta de Dios.
 feast, come to the feast.


Verses / Estrofas



1. Like the child whose fish - es and loaves fed the
 2. 'Til the seed is giv - en to earth, it is
 3. In the stran - ger by our side, in the
 1. ¿Quién le pue - de dar de co - mer a la
 2. Hay que dar - se a mo - rir pa - ra
 3. Los des - am - pa - ra - dos ven - drán a par -



mul - ti - tude, in the Lord the
just one grain; but once sown its
least and last, in the thirst for
mul - ti - tud? *Con Je - sús, al*
co - se - char, *las se - mi - llas*
tir el pan y ve - rán su



lit - tle we have, bro - ken and shared, be -
death brings new birth, the har - vest is rich; what's
jus - tice we share, Christ is here in the
com - par - tir lo po - co que hay, re - ci -
de li - ber - tad y re - su - rrec - ción, la pro -
dig - ni dad de nue - vo en Je - sús, Sal - va -



comes a - bun - dant food.
lost is raised a - gain.
break - ing of the bread.
bi - mos ple - ni - tud.
me - sa de vi - vir.
dor y Buen Pas - tor. **D.C.**

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
 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. ¡Ven, Se - ñor Je - sús!

AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

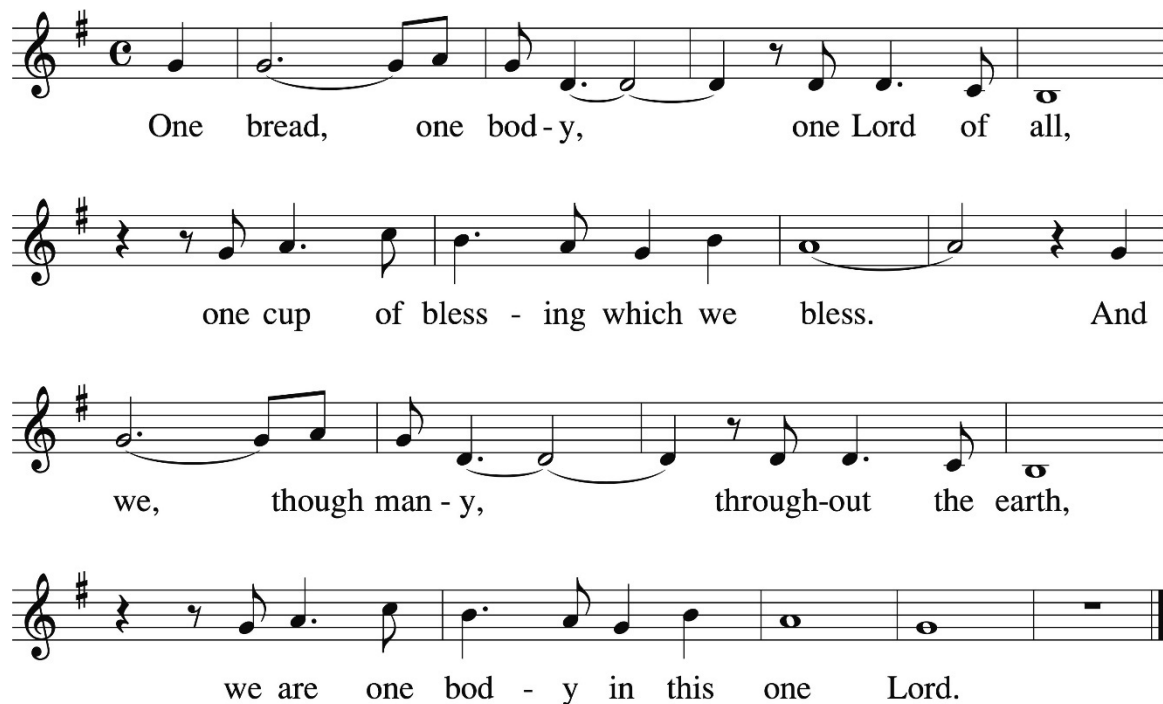
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.

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.



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all,
 one cup of bless - ing which we bless. And
 we, though man - y, through-out the earth,
 we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

Verses



1. Gen - tile or Jew, Ser - vant or free,
 2. Man - y the gifts, Man - y the works,
 3. Grain for the fields, Scat-tered and grown,
 Wom - an or man no more.
 One in the Lord of all.
 Gath-ered to one for all.

D.C.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | You Shall Go Out with Joy

Edmonds

come, all who thirst, come to the waters. Incline your ear, and your soul shall live.
 Seek the Lord while he is near you, and call upon him while he may be found.

I shall make a new covenant with you, restore your soul in mercy and in truth.
 I have promised glory unto you; you shall go out, you shall go out with joy!

For as the rain comes down from heaven, so shall my word go forth to you.
 Seek the Lord while he is near you, and call upon him while he may be found.

Come, all who thirst; come to the waters. Restore your soul, for the Lord has called you.
 I shall make a new covenant with you, restore your souls in mercy and in truth.

I have promised glory unto you; you shall go out, you shall go out with joy!

CONCLUDING RITES

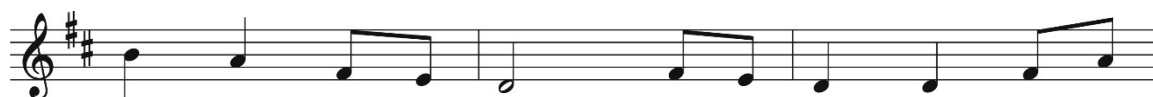
- ✠ The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
- ✠ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
- ✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.
All: Thanks be to God.
- ✠

RECESSIONAL | Sing a New Church

NETTLETON



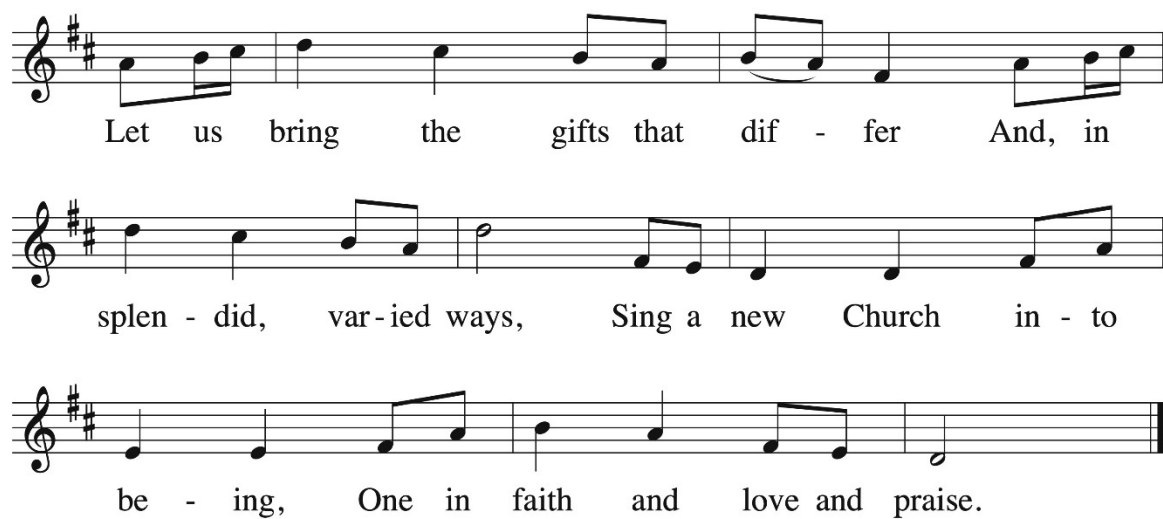
1. Sum - moned by the God who made us Rich in
2. Ra - diant ris - en from the wa - ter, Robed in
3. Trust the good - ness of cre - a - tion; Trust the
4. Bring the hopes of ev - 'ry na - tion; Bring the
5. Draw to - geth - er at one ta - ble All the



our di - ver - si - ty, Gath - ered in the name of
ho - li - ness and light, Male and fe - male in God's
Spir - it strong with - in. Dare to dream the vi - sion
art of ev - 'ry race. Weave a song of peace and
hu - man fam - i - ly; Shape a cir - cle ev - er



Je - sus, Rich - er still in u - ni - ty:
im - age, Male and fe - male, God's de - light:
prom - ised, Sprung from seed of what has been.
jus - tice; Let it sound through time and space.
wid - er And a peo - ple ev - er free.



POSTLUDE | Kleine Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

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.

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

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 25 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Mary Kane, lector

Sunday, January 26 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Tom Skorupa, lector

Sunday, January 26 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Natasha Bolton-Pierre, Rosaria Salerno,
and Peter Haley, lectors

Sunday, January 26 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Tim McGillicuddy, Kate McGillicuddy,
and Thomas O'Brien, lectors

Sunday, January 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Nikko Mendoza, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 25 | 5:00 p.m.

Maria Cullen, *Fourth Anniversary*
Don Flaherty, *Memorial*

Sunday, January 26 | 9:30 a.m.

Bob Carroll, *Memorial*
Catherine Carroll, *Memorial*
Peter DiGiulio, *Memorial*

Wednesday, January 29 | 8:00 a.m.

Chip Flaherty, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

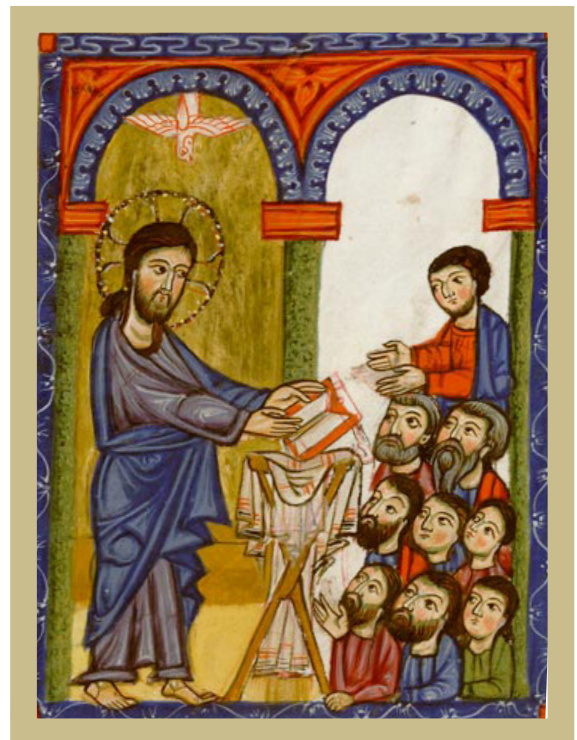
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Malachi 3:1-4

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 22:22-40



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Mark Brown, Jacqueline Lavelle, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, Fred Tufts, Serena Suglia, and Baby Eloise Josephine Mason.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia

We are pleased to welcome the following newly registered parishioners: **Patricia McCaffrey** of Red Bank, New Jersey; **Helen** and **Denis Coleman** of Salem; **Carole Sousa** of Cambridge; and **Erica Pesci** and **Alex Pearson**, **Kathleen Wynne** and **Christopher Beck**, and **Kate Sweeney** and **Tim Fitzgerald**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.



Happy Anniversary!

This Monday we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of **Tanya Chermak** who was baptized on January 27. May the Lord continue to bless Tanya with the grace to live out her baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Tanya!

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.

Special Collection This Weekend – January 25/26

This weekend we will have a special collection for the Church in Latin America. Your contribution will help promote solidarity throughout the hemisphere by providing support for pastoral projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. To give online, please visit: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/church-in-latin-america-2025>.



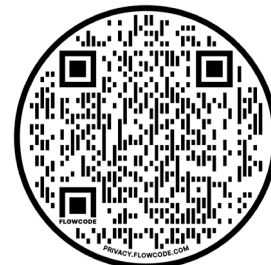
Special Collection to Support Relief Efforts in Southern California

The enormity of the tragedy that has unfolded in Southern California as a result of the wildfires is heartbreaking. The wildfires have killed 28 people so far, and that number is likely to increase. More than 15,400 structures have been destroyed; 40,000 acres have been impacted; there have been many injuries, homes and businesses have been destroyed, and entire neighborhoods are now leveled. Thousands of firefighters and other first responders have been working around the clock to contain and put out the fires.

Recognizing the immediate and growing needs, Catholic Charities USA is seeking assistance to support their relief efforts. In a spirit of solidarity, Archbishop Henning has authorized all parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston to take up a special collection in support of Catholic Charities.

Next weekend, February 1/2, we will take up this collection. If you would like to donate by check, please make out your check to: Saint Cecilia Parish, and write "LA Wildfires Relief" in the memo line. We will then forward all contributions to the Archdiocese for processing and sending to Catholic Charities USA. To make an online donation, please use the Flowcode below.

On behalf of Archbishop Henning, thank you for your attentiveness to this important collection and expression of our solidarity with those who are suffering.



SIMEON AND ANNA SENIORS

The next gathering of the Simeon and Anna Seniors group is this Thursday, January 30. From 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:30 there will be time for prayer. All parish seniors are welcome to participate.

HELP CATHOLIC CHARITIES

NEWLY-ARRIVED REFUGEES NEED OUR SUPPORT

For the past eight years, Saint Cecilia has provided ongoing support to Catholic Charities programs that provide aid to refugees. We have offered to provide refugee families with supermarket and retail gift cards so that they will have food and household items while their applications for asylum are processed. If you are able to purchase one or more gift cards (Visa, Target, Market Basket, Stop & Shop, and Shaw's/Star Market—no more than \$25 per card, please—please either drop them in the offertory basket at Mass or mail them to:

Mark Lippolt
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

Thank you for your customary generosity. The need has never been greater.



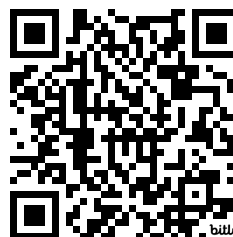
WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY

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 has just begun reading 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.

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 online 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 contact the parish office.

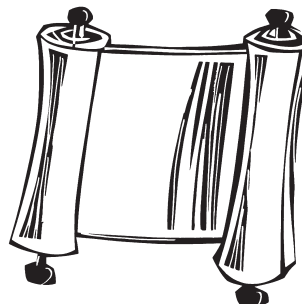


LAUDATO SI' GOALS

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

**NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 | 2:00 P.M.
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. This group meets every other Sunday, after the 11:30 Mass coffee hour and the next meeting will be on Sunday, February 2. If interested, please email our Young Adult ministry or call the parish office.

SIT & KNIT

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 | 9:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M.

The next "Sit & Knit" will take place next Sunday, February 2 from 9:30 to 12:00 in the parish café. Stop by and meet our small army of knitters and crocheters who create such beautiful fiber arts for the Saint Cecilia community.

HELP WANTED— KNITTERS OR CROCHETERS

Whether you are a seasoned knitter and/or crocheter, or are just beginning, the Saint Cecilia knitting and crochet community could use you. There are no dues to be paid and no required meetings to attend (although this group does meet monthly on Zoom). You will be provided with yarn and patterns for a variety of projects. Even simple headbands bring warmth and comfort for those who live on our streets. Although this may sound like a cottage industry, it is actually a prayer ministry through which our knitters and crocheters respond to those in need. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Ann Marie Turo by calling the parish office.

LOOKING FOR FRIENDLY, OUTGOING PEOPLE

Do you feel welcome when you step into our warm narthex and receive an even warmer welcome from one of our parish greeters? The ministry of Greeter is an important one in parish life. Our parish greeters extend a warm welcome to parishioners and visitors as they arrive for the weekend liturgy. Greeters also help distribute worship aids and bulletins, they answer questions, help with parking validations, invite people to bring forward our gifts of bread and wine at the Offertory, and they sometimes invite parishioners to assist with the collection. Perhaps this is something you can imagine yourself doing. We need more greeters at all of our weekend liturgies, but in particular at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. liturgy and the 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Sunday liturgies. If you're interested, you can indicate how often you'd like to be scheduled. For more information on being a part of this important ministry, please reach out to our Pastoral Associate, Mary Wessel.



UPCOMING FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

**NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 | 4:00–5:00 P.M.
SAINT CECILIA MARRIAGE MINISTRY**

On February 2, the FFF will welcome Michael and Julianne Lavelle, leaders and facilitators of our parish marriage ministry, to our online coffee hour. The parish marriage ministry has been a blessing to many engaged couples who are preparing for marriage in the Church. Michael and Julianne work with a team of married couples who present a two-day program that includes discussions about the importance of decision making as a part of married life. If you have not yet registered for the online coffee hour, please use this link: bit.ly/45pDVRa.

CAN'T YOU HEAR THE WHISPERING?

BY JEAN DENTON

Can't you hear the whispering before the synagogue meeting began? Jesus was there to teach. "Hey! Atta boy, Jesus!" "Didn't know he had it in him!" "Our local boy really made good!"

Jesus had developed an energetic and enthusiastic following. He was praised by everyone—the wonder seekers, the truth-seekers—and when he came to his home town, he was invited to teach in the local synagogue. He chose to read from Isaiah the prophet, from what we know as the first few verses of the 61st chapter: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Reverently he rolled up the scroll, then sat in their midst to begin his teaching. Every eye was on him, and all were sitting on the edges of their chairs in rapt attention awaiting their man's wisdom. And all Jesus said was, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." That's it!

And that's all Jesus needed to say. In one sentence, he tells them what the year of the Lord's favor really looks like—like a person deeply in love with God and the world, who loves enough to care that the destitute are given good news of healing, that brokenhearted people are comforted, that people in bondage are set at liberty.

Who knows what the people expected or wanted to hear. Maybe they sought wonders and miracles. Maybe they wanted to be told the Roman occupation would be overthrown. But Jesus' message was not what they expected, and it was not what they wanted. A few verses later, Luke says, "All in the synagogue were filled with wrath, and they rose up and put him out of the city."

It is entirely too easy for us to hear this story with our sophisticated 21st century ears, thinking, "Interesting. Jesus always did put a different twist on things. He was talking above their heads. And what a simplistic reaction, turning against him so quickly!" We see Jesus' description of the kingdom of God as having everything to do with Galilee 2,000 years ago, and nothing to do with us moderns today. We know power and potential like never before; we know affluence and efficiency and automation.



We have nearly magical high-tech curing. We know about kingdoms, and corporations, and business, and healthcare delivery systems.

Jesus' description doesn't cut it for us any better than it did for those people in the synagogue long ago. Jesus' ideas are not what we, urbane and worldly-wise, want or expect. We, too, dismiss Jesus. We escort him out, albeit with more tempered "wrath." We rise up to say "We know better!"

And we do so to our own peril.

Our current systems aren't working. Some of our major medical complexes refine exorbitantly expensive technical procedures while located in neighborhoods with scandalously high infant mortality rates. Over 40 million people in our country have no access to medical resources. The cavernous gap between the haves and the have-nots grows daily. People live in fear. Surely this is not the kingdom of God.

Maybe it's time we paid attention to Jesus.

Jesus said the kingdom of God will come when we tell the good news of salvation—when we tell people who are hanging on by a thread that God loves and wants them; when we tell people that God wants them to be whole, to have life and to have life abundantly; when we sit with those who are suffering and stay with them as they seek to find God in pain.

Jesus said the kingdom of God will come when we set the captives free—when we dare to befriend those who are bound and help them take off their chains of addiction or self-hatred or isolation; when we show those who are oppressed that there is a way out and that we will be with them as they find it; when we stay with them long enough to hear the pain and despair in their stories and hold forth hope when they can not hold hope for themselves.

Jesus said the kingdom of God will come when we proclaim recovery of sight to the blind—when we pray with people for healing and expect that God will heal; when we believe God wants to do a new thing in peoples' lives, giving a vision where it was lost, giving insight where there was denial, giving clarity where there was confusion.

Luke was a physician, a healer, and Luke was an evangelist. These roles are inseparable, for an evangelist tells the good news of salvation, and salvation means healing. The root of the word "salvation" is the Latin verb *salvere*, to be well, to be in good health, to be whole. Salvation is not just of spirit in the world to come, but salvation is of body and mind as well. Salvation is not just for the life beyond but also for this life, for here, for now.

Luke's Gospel is filled with healing as good news—Jesus' compassion for the underprivileged, the marginalized, the people on the fringes. Luke's Gospel holds more stories of Jesus' care for women and children than the other Gospels. There are more accounts of angels visiting and saying, "Fear not." There are plentiful narratives of Jesus' healing ministry.

Certainly this is the good news. Certainly this is scripture that God calls us Christians, as "little Christs," to fulfill in the needy world around us—to proclaim the good news of salvation, to bind up the wounds of those around us, to listen, to hear, to liberate. We can do it, for just as with Jesus, the spirit of God is upon us!

—The Rev. Jean Denton has woven together her life-long interests in body and spirit. After a career in public health, nursing education, and health care administration, Denton was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. For many years, she taught parish nursing, health ministry, and clergy wellness. She helped found Health Ministries Association and National Episcopal Health Ministries, and she served on the faculty of CREDO, a clergy wellness program. Jean served as Senior Associate Rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Indianapolis and in retirement assists at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Dear Saint Cecilia Parishioners,

It has been so heartwarming to hear about the donations that truly POURED in from Saint Cecilia parishioners. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity, and our time working on the Giving Tree together over these past months has made it clear that this is truly a labor of love.

I have spoken with the program directors, and they are all so grateful for your impactful gifts. Marjean, VP of Immigration and Refugee Services said, "We are in the midst of an unusually high refugee arrival season, so these gift cards will be put to immediate use as we welcome more than 24 people through mid-January."

Thank you again for embodying the true Christmas spirit and undertaking the incredible labor to coordinate the Saint Cecilia Advent Giving Tree. We are so grateful to be the recipients of your generosity and we wish you all a happy New Year!

Gratefully,

Alicia Ridenour
Senior Director of Volunteer Programs
Catholic Charities Boston

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

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

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Schedule for Liturgy

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

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

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

Parking

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

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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.