

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

28 January 2024

Jesus Casts Out the Unclean Spirit by Herman, Paul, and Johan Limbourg

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28 January 2024

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | A Little More Faith in Jesus

arranged by John W. Work III
(1901-1967)

THE ORDER OF THE MASS INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | Be Not Afraid

Robert J. Dufford, SJ

1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you
shall not die of thirst. You shall wan-der far in
safe-ty though you do not know the way. You shall
speak your words in for-eign lands and all will un-der -
stand. You shall see the face of God and live.

✂ Refrain
Be not a-fraid. I go be-fore you al-ways.
Come, fol-low me, and I will give you rest.

Verse 2

2. If you pass through rag - ing wa - ters in the
 sea, you shall not drown. If you walk a - mid the burn - ing flames,
 you shall not be harmed. If you stand be - fore the
 pow'r of hell and death is at your side,
 know that I am with you through it all. **D.S.**

Verse 3

3. Bless - ed are your poor, for the king - dom shall be
 theirs. Blest are you that weep and mourn, for
 one day you shall laugh. And if wick - ed tongues in -
 sult and hate you all be - cause of me,
 bless - ed, bless - ed are you! **D.S.**

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 | Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 95: If Today You Hear His Voice

Marty Haugen

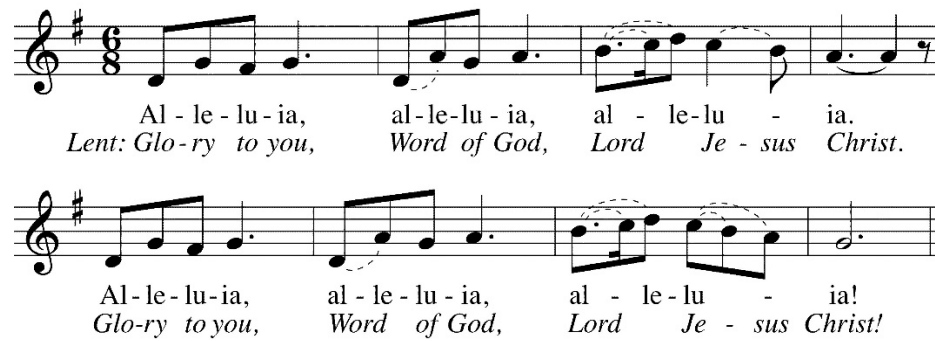


Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving
thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise. *R.*

O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the LORD who
made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock

of his hand. *R.*
O that today you would listen to his
voice!
“Harden not your hearts as at
Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the
desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they
saw my work.” *R.*

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35



GOSPEL | Mark 1: 21-28

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!

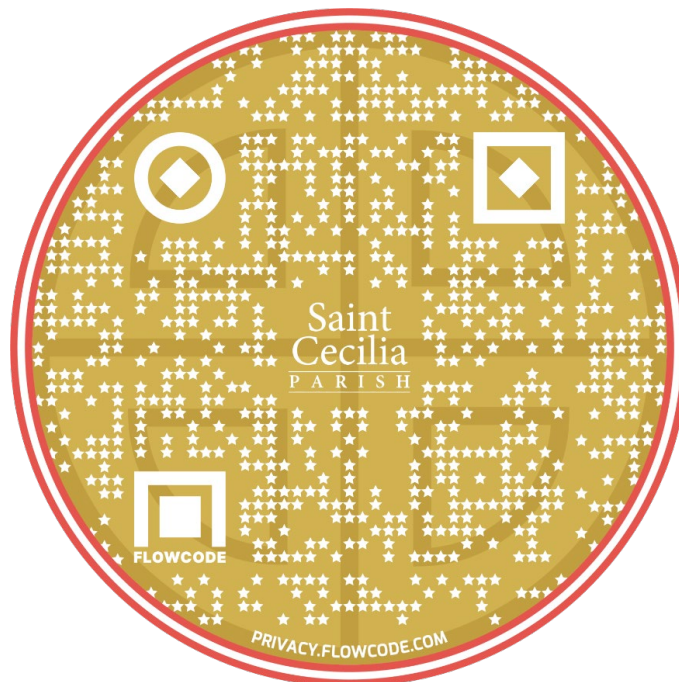
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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:

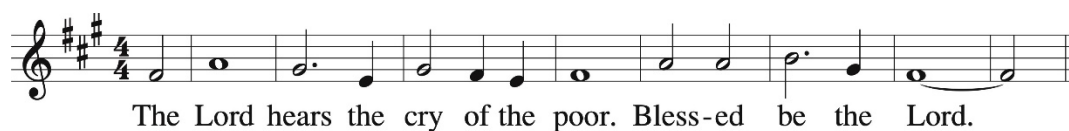
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | The Cry of the Poor

John Foley



Verses

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor.
2. Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas;
and to hearts broken, God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor.
3. Every spirit crushed, God will save; will be ransom for their lives;
will be safe shelter for their fears, and will hear the cry of the poor.
4. We proclaim your greatness, O God, your praise ever in our mouth;
every face brightened in your light, for you hear the cry of the poor.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

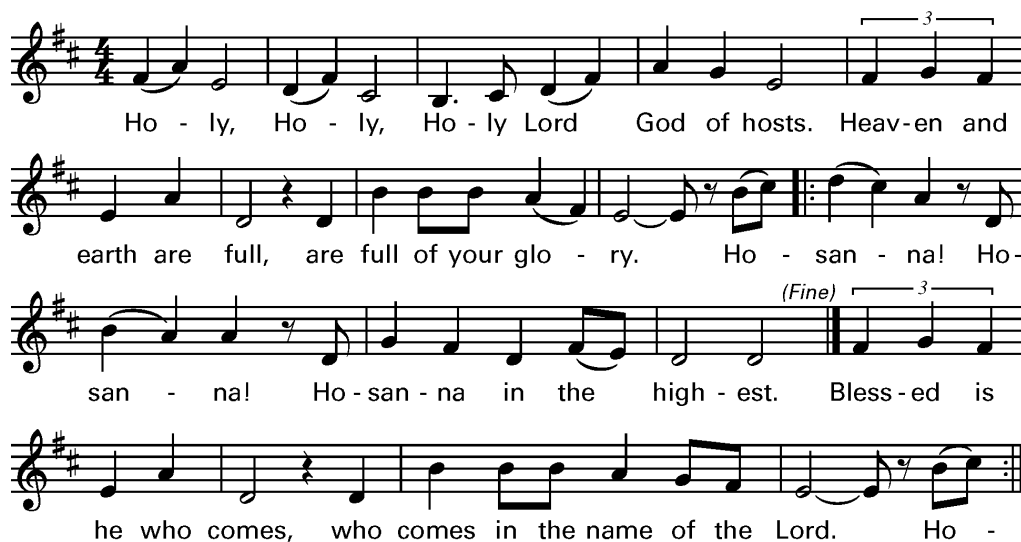
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte





GREAT AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

DOXOLOGY

SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an "Act of Spiritual Communion." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of grace. We can be assured that when we express our desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, God will be with us spiritually in a special way. Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion that we encourage you to pray as you participate in our live-streamed liturgies.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Loving Jesus, I believe that you
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

COMMUNION | Healer of Our Every Ill

Bernadette Farrell




Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, Light of each to - mor - row,
Give us peace be - yond our fear And hope be - yond our sor - row.


Verses



1. You who know our fears and sad - ness,
2. In the pain and joy, be - hold - ing
3. Give us strength to love each oth - er,
4. You who know each thought and feel - ing,



Grace us with your peace and glad - ness.
How your grace is still un - fold - ing,
Ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
Teach us all your way of heal - ing.



Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
Give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

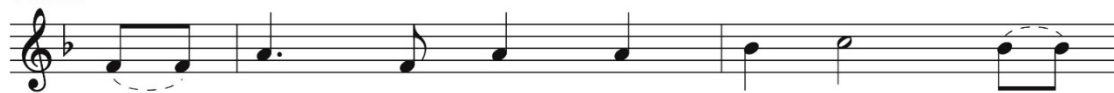


There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole;

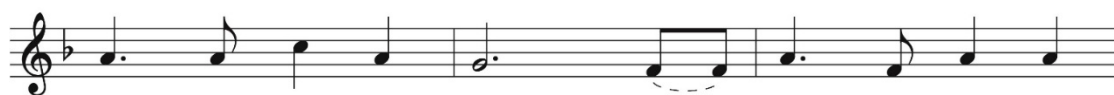


There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To heal the sin-sick soul.

Verses



1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And
2. Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, For
3. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you



think my work's in vain, But then the Ho - ly
Je - sus is your friend; And if you lack for
can - not pray like Paul, You can tell the love of



Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.
knowl-edge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.
Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!"

COMMUNION MEDITATION | *Verbum Caro*

Dan Forrest
(b. 1978)

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.

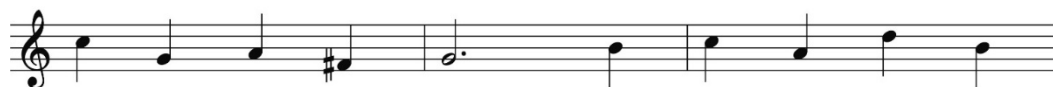
All: Amen.

✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.



1. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our
2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne Your
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or
4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight Are
5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Bears
6. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our



hope for years to come, Our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; Suf - fi - cient is your
 earth re - ceived its frame, From ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, Short as the watch that
 all our years a - way; They fly for - got - ten,
 hope for years to come, Still be our guard while



storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home.
 arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 you are God, To end - less years the same.
 ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 as a dream Dies at the o - p'ning day.
 trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home.

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.

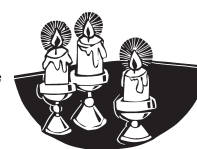
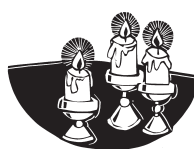
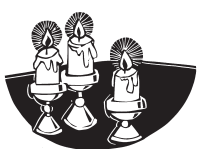
Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two 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 27 | 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, January 28 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Bobbi Moran, lector

Sunday, January 28 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Zachary Boutin, Erin Young, and Karen McMenamy, lectors

Sunday, January 28 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Chika Offurum, Mark Richburg, and Cathy Anderson, lectors

Sunday, January 28 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ, celebrant
Julie Bogdanski, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 28 | 9:30 a.m.

Coley Wallace, *3rd Anniversary*
Fr. Vin Maffei, *5th Anniversary*
Catherine Carroll, *20th Anniversary*
Bob Carroll, *Memorial*
Dianne Zimmerman, *Memorial*
Carol Ascrizzi, *Memorial*

Friday, February 2 | 8:00 a.m.

Lois Valenti, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

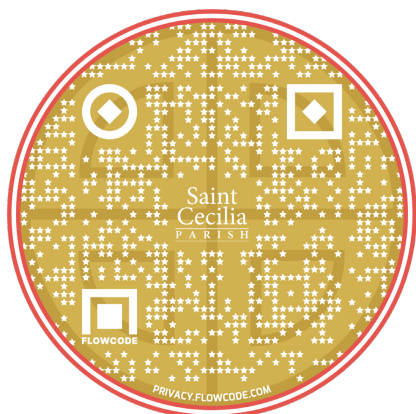
NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Mark 1:29-39

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!

PIZZA IS BACK!

February 4 | After the 6:00 p.m. Mass

Following the 6:00 p.m. Mass on the first Sunday of every month, we invite you to join us downstairs in the parish hall for pizza and fellowship. This program is aimed at drawing folks together over a shared meal and begins on February 4 and runs through May. We hope to see you there!

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Kevin Finn's brother, **Timothy Finn**, died on Wednesday, January 17. Pray for Tim's eternal repose and for the consolation of his family and friends. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Jacqueline Lavelle, 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: **Cara O'Connor** and **John Carione** of Boston, the **Shea Family** of Jamaica Plain, **Erica Schlatter** of North Attleboro, **Christine Savini** of Milton, **Bernard Franklin** of Roxbury, **Mariana Pesina-Alvarez** of Boston, and the **Baker Family** of Winchester. If you have not previously registered, you can do so at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Special Collection for the Church in Latin America

This week's second collection supports various pastoral projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The Collection for the Church in Latin America funds the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. You can donate here: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/church-in-latin-america-2024>

Happy Anniversary!

On Friday, 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!



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

On Friday, February 2, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which commemorates the Jewish practice of the purification of the mother after childbirth and the presentation of the child to God in the temple. Mass will be held at 8:00 a.m.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA JANUARY 28 – FEBRUARY 4

Sunday, January 28

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom
Young Families Monthly Gathering,
following the 9:30 Mass in the Family Flex Center

Tuesday, January 30

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

Wednesday, January 31

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30 a.m. | Zoom
New & Expecting Parents Faith Sharing Group,
10:00 a.m. in the Family Flex Center
Communion Circle at Mount Pleasant, 4:00 p.m.
Rainbow Ministries: LGBTQ+ Space to Share, 6:30 p.m.
Synod Speaker Sebastian Gomes, 6:30 p.m.
SCYA Women's Group, 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Thursday, February 1

Wisdom Group, 7:30 p.m. | Zoom
Communion Circle at Hale House, 4:00 p.m.

Friday, February 2

Vespers for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord,
6:00 p.m. | Facebook Live & Zoom

Sunday, February 4

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom
Young Families Ministry Gathering,
following the 9:30 Mass in the Family Flex Center
Far-Flung Flock Online Coffee Hour, 4:00 p.m. | Zoom

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.

SCYA LENTEN REFLECTIONS— PRAYER, FASTING, & ALMSGIVING

Mondays (2/12, 2/26, 3/11) | 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Hybrid (In-Person at Saint Cecilia (Community Room)/
Zoom) | Open to: Young Adults (18-40)

How is God inviting you to draw closer to him this Lent? Each Lent, we're invited to pray, fast, and give alms, but what does that look like in 2024? Do you want to try something new this year, but don't know where to start? Consider joining the Saint Cecilia Young Adults (SCYA) in a three-part series as they dive deeply into each of these three Lenten practices! The group will discuss the spirit of these challenging calls and share ideas of how to put them into practice in new ways. Deepen your relationships with God and fellow young adults through this journey of Lenten reflection. RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/3vOQI2A>

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 & Shop, and Shaw's/Star Market—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 customary generosity is greatly appreciated.

MORE ABOUT THE NEW PARENTS FAITH SHARING CIRCLE

Life with a newborn is filled with physical, emotional, and spiritual joys and challenges. This drop-in faith sharing circle welcomes all parents of infants, and those who are expecting, to support one another in navigating the challenges of parenthood in 2024 and to build community within the context of our shared Catholic faith. Bring your babies to share what is on your mind and in your heart with others from your faith community. Light refreshments will be provided.

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

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

Join us this Wednesday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall 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:

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

This 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.

HEARING ASSISTANCE IN CHURCH

The church is equipped with an assistive listening system and small receivers are available for anyone who may have trouble hearing the sound system. If you would like to use one of these receivers, please ask one of our greeters.

CATIE'S CLOSET

For the third year, we are excited to invite you to support Catie's Closet! Catie's Closet assists kids aged 4-18 who are experiencing poverty by giving them clothing discreetly and respectfully through their schools, including Boston Public Schools. Their goal is to improve school attendance and graduation rates. They have targeted 100 schools locally and serve 70,000 students, on average, daily.

This February, in honor of Saint Valentine's Day, we are holding a virtual clothing drive for Catie's Closet. You can get detailed information about their Amazon Wish List at <https://amzn.to/4b7YrZO> or check their website for opportunities to get involved—www.catiescloset.org. We are unable to accept donated items at Saint Cecilia at this time.

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 email with questions.

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

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

BOISI CENTER FOR RELIGION AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

**A Century of the Iraqi Hawza: How Clerics Shaped
Protests and Politics in Modern-Day Iraq**

Presenter: Marsin Alshamary, Boston College

**Wednesday, January 31 | 12:00-1:00 p.m. | 101, 24 Quincy
Rd., Chestnut Hill | Luncheon | RSVP Requested | Free**

For further details and to RSVP: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/centers/boisi-center/events/archive/spring-2024-events/a-century-of-the-iraqi-hawza-how-clerics-shaped-protests-and-po.html?applied=aemshell>

Religious Nationalism and the Dimming of Religious Freedom

Presenter: Dr. Stephen Schneck, United States Commission on
International Religious Freedom

**Wednesday, February 6 | 6:00-7:30 p.m. | Devlin Hall 026,
255 Beacon St, Chestnut Hill, MA | RSVP Requested | Free**

For further details and to RSVP: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/centers/boisi-center/events/archive/spring-2024-events/religious-nationalism-and-the-dimming-of-religious-freedom.html>



SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

Unlaunched Voices: An Evening with Walt Whitman

Presenter: Stephen Collins, actor, educator,
and historical tour guide

Monday, February 5 | 7:00-9:00 p.m. | Zoom

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



NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Tuesday, February 6 | 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary in Saint Cecilia Church

Open to: Everyone

On the first Tuesday of every month, our Young Adults host a Holy Hour from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Saint Cecilia sanctuary, and we invite you to give yourself the gift of spending an uninterrupted hour in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, supported by music and prayer. One parishioner recently described the Holy Hour by saying, "Last night was just filled with healing and grace...it was one of the most powerful experiences I have had at Saint Cecilia, and there have been so many..." Bring yourself, and all that you are carrying, and allow yourself to rest in God's love. ***Please use the St. Cecilia Street entrance and ring the bell to enter the building.***



**GET IT OUT:
UNDERSTANDING THE
UNCLEAN SPIRITS
BY KATE MOOREHEAD**

Scholars believe that Mark wrote his gospel first. It is the shortest gospel, the most succinct, as if Mark is just trying to get it all down, all those memories of what Jesus did and said.

Mark does not begin with the story of Jesus' birth, it begins with Jesus' baptism and his journey into the desert where he is tempted by the devil. When Jesus emerges from the desert, he calls his disciples to follow him and then he begins his ministry.

The first miracle in the gospel of Mark is an exorcism. Jesus casts out a demon, or in the Greek, an unclean spirit. Unclean spirit. Demon. Sounds medieval, doesn't it? We don't have those anymore. We don't believe in that kind of stuff today. Try going out and talking about unclean spirits or demons on the streets. The only people who talk about that stuff are the homeless, mentally ill, and religious fanatics, right? If you go into work and start talking about unclean spirits, they may suggest you take a nice long leave of absence.

Instead we talk of things like: anger issues, addiction, anxiety, agoraphobia, alcoholism and depression. We hospitalize and we medicate and both of these things are good—hey, medicine and science are not our enemies. But if we neglect the spiritual aspect of our lives, if we neglect the role of God and of the darkness, then we will never master our own minds. It is one thing to get a doctor's help. It is another to sanitize and diagnose while ignoring the life of the soul and the role of God in our lives.

If we want to be truly well, we must open our minds to the life of the spirit, to things that we cannot see but nevertheless influence us profoundly. We must return to Scripture and look carefully at what Jesus did when battling temptation and darkness. We must listen and we must learn. We may know a great deal about the human mind and body in this the 21st century, but Jesus knew more.

Jesus enters a synagogue to worship God on the Sabbath, as all devout Jews would. And an unclean spirit confronts Jesus. Notice that this spirit is not called evil, just unclean. And

notice that this spirit confronts Jesus when Jesus is trying to worship! Often our darkness, our unclean influences rise faster when we are growing closer to God. When my husband and I were about to walk into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the most holy site in the world and a place that I had longed to go, a man came out of the shadows and began to scream at us. I can't even remember what he wanted, money or something. I only remember the look on his face and how much he disturbed me. We decided not to go into the church that day because he upset me so much. Instead, we went early the next morning. But I later wondered who he was and how he prevented us from entering.

Notice that this unclean spirit speaks in the plural. It has many voices. And I would suggest that all of us, ALL OF US, have experienced unclean spirits at some points in our lives. Their voices differ. They find strongholds of hurt or pain in your childhood and play on them. A child whose father drank every night will grow into a man with an inner voice that tells him that alcohol will make him feel better and that he deserves a drink, that, in fact, he cannot live without that drink, and another and another, even when his body is being poisoned he loses his job, he may not be able to cast out the unclean spirit.

Sally has been married for four years. She has an unclean spirit that tells her she cannot tell her husband if she wants something or she is upset because that is unattractive and she will be bothering him. So when he says something that hurts her feelings at a party, she buries it and scolds herself. "You are just too sensitive," the voice says in her mind. "You are too needy and insecure. If you tell him how you feel, he will get angry and he will leave you." So she buries her needs and wants and gets more and more distant from her husband and miserable. And one of two things can happen, either she blows up or she poisons her love for him by becoming so unhappy and passive aggressive. And their marriage has no honesty and they are not talking to each other and that is just what the devil would want.

Or take a young man who was made fun of in childhood. Kids called him fat. So he believes that he is fat, even when he grew up tall and grew into himself. But he hates his body and irrationally hides from all kinds of exercise. He will come up with all kinds of excuses why he cannot take the time to move his body. And his unclean spirit tells him how ugly he is, how he could never be good at sports, and not to make a fool of himself in front of other people.

The unclean spirit that confronts Jesus knows who Jesus is immediately, when everyone else is pretty clueless. And the unclean spirit is paranoid, scared stiff. Irrational fear is a sign

of an unclean spirit. And what does Jesus do? Jesus does not answer the spirit or try to argue with it. Let me say that again, Jesus does not answer the spirit or try to argue with it. He speaks directly and simply with two commands...

Be silent!

Come out of him!

Be silent and come out.

But how can we, when we have unclean spirits or thoughts, how can we silence them?

Hear me on this...You cannot silence them. Only God can do that. But you can bring them out. You can get them out of yourself by writing them down or speaking them to someone that you trust. I can tell that I have an unclean spirit when I am embarrassed to tell my husband what I am thinking. Even thinking about telling him my stupid thought about how fat I am or how I messed something up makes me realize that the thought is unclean. If you are embarrassed to share it, do it anyway.

If Sally had simply spoken immediately about her hurt feelings with her husband, they might have grown closer. But she would have to be careful to speak as if it is an unclean spirit and not as if it is her, for example, "I felt angry..." Is much better than "you made me angry....or you are a jerk..." If you express your experience as just that, something that you thought or felt, then it does not have to become your whole identity, and it is easier to get it out. It is also easier for others to hear. These thoughts and feelings that we all have are just that, thoughts and feelings. You are a holy child of God, and thoughts and feelings don't define you.

We live in a world of unclean spirits. All you have to do is sit down to pray and you will hear them. They can be as simple as "you don't have time to pray, get up and do the laundry!" Or as dark as, "you don't deserve to be alive, go and kill yourself."

When you hear the voices of temptation and darkness, hear them, speak them or write them and get them outside of yourself, and then pray. Only Jesus can make them go away. He doesn't even destroy them, he just sends them away, and the implication is that they can and sometimes do come back. But this was his first miracle. This is what Jesus does. He saves us from ourselves.

~ The Very Rev. Katherine Moorehead has been an Episcopal priest for 25 years. In 2009, she was called to be the tenth Dean of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in Jacksonville, Florida.

She is the first woman to be called as Dean of a Cathedral in the Southeastern United States. Dean Kate is the author of eight books and produces a daily morning devotion of 4-6 minutes every day on YouTube.

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 parish ministry email.

MGH SEEKING EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

The Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Spiritual Care Department is looking for Extraordinary Ministers to administer Holy Communion to patients and families in the hospital. This is a wonderful volunteer ministry, and there is a great need.

Requirements: One-year commitment to serve at least one day a week for 2-3 hours, and a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing. If you are interested, please email Br. Jeff Shackleton, OFM, at jshackleton@mg.harvard.edu or call the MGH Spiritual Care Department at (617) 726-2220. Many blessings for considering this important ministry!



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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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!