Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Epiphany of the Lord 5 January 2025

The Adoration of the Magi From the fresco cycle at the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua Giotto, c. 1304-1315

Saint Cecilia

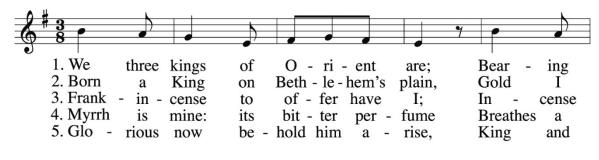
P A R I S H

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 5 JANUARY 2025

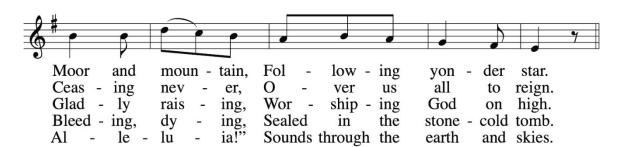
PRELUDE | Prière à Notre-Dame Brett Maguire, parish organist Léon Boëllman (1862-1897)

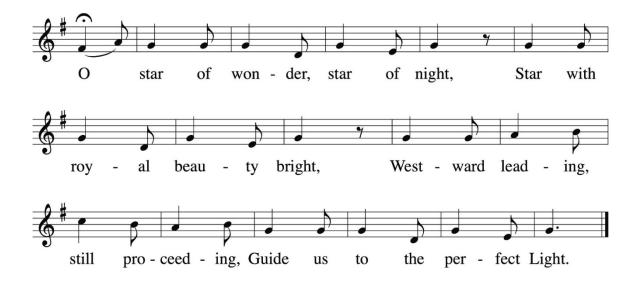
ENTRANCE PROCESSION | We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT









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.

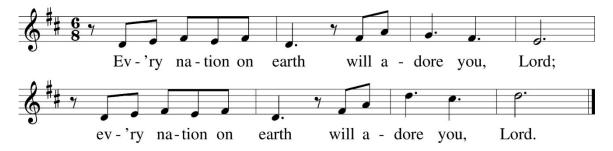
PENITENTIAL RITE



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 60: 1-6

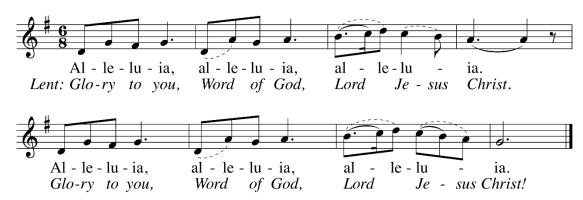
RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 72: Lord, Every Nation on Earth



Verses

- 1. O God, with your judgment endow the king; with your justice endow the king's son. With justice he will govern your people, your afflicted ones with right judgment.
- 2. Justice shall flow'r in his days, lasting peace 'til the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, from the river to the ends of the earth.
- 3. The kings of Tarshish and the Isles offer gifts, those from Seba and Arabia bring tribute. All kings shall pay him their homage, all nations shall serve him.
- 4. He rescues the poor when they cry out, the afflicted with no one to help. The lowly and poor he shall pity, the lives of the poor he will save.

SECOND READING | Ephesians 2: 2-3a, 5-6



GOSPEL | Matthew 2: 1-12

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

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 his kingdom will have no end.

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!

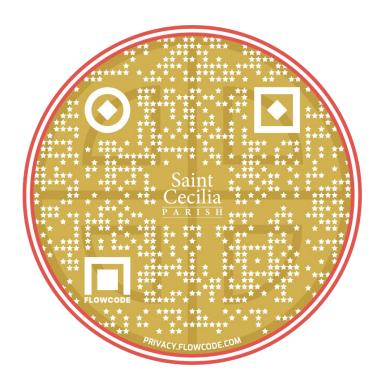
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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.

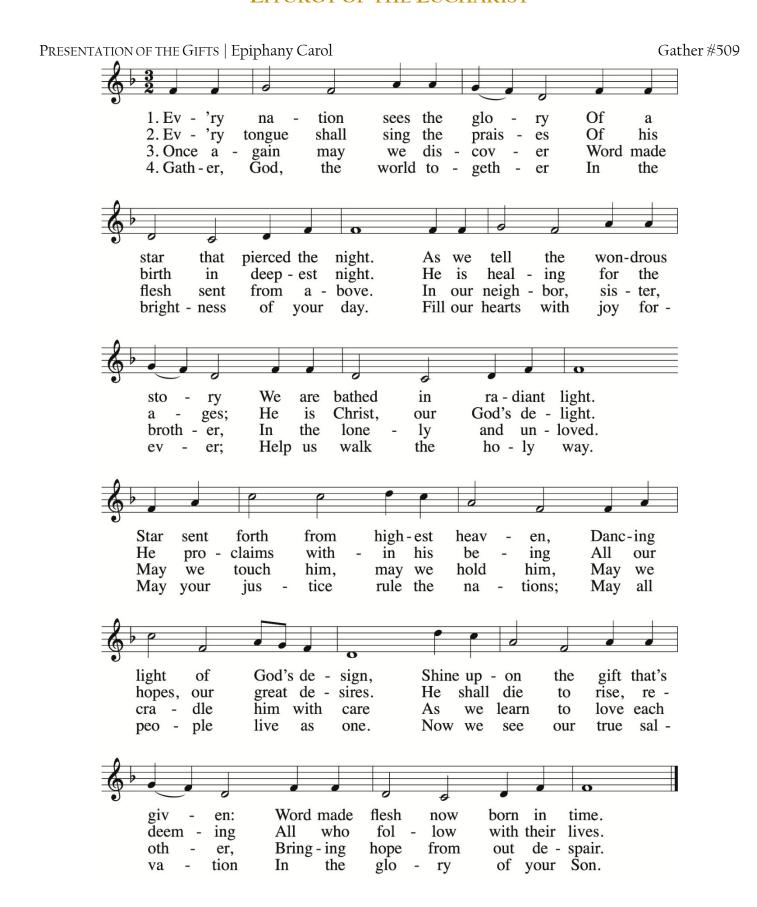
If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish 18 Belvidere Street Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



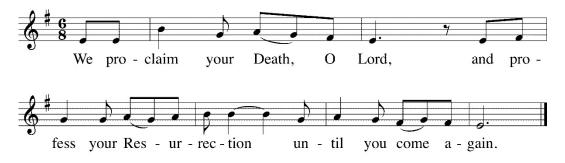
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ★ The Lord be with you.All: And with your spirit.
- ♣ Lift up your hearts.All: We lift them up to the Lord.
- ► Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. All: It is right and just.

SANCTUS | Mass of the Angels and Saints

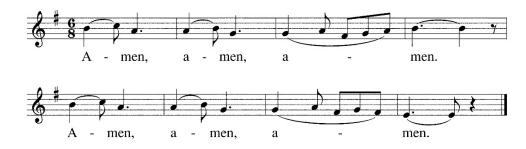
Steven R. Janco





AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



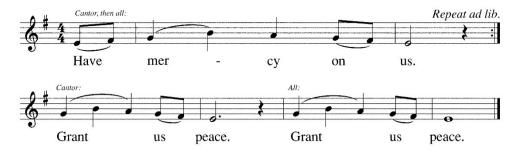
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



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.



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 | Go Tell It on the Mountain

African American Spiritual



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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children's faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus' teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids ("Irish working out girls") and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings. Our church building resides on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket and Massachusett tribal nations.

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci's The Last Supper, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius' life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We've been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God's love makes all things new.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, January 4 | 5:00 p.m. Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant Tom Skorupa, lector

Sunday, January 5 | 8:00 a.m. Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant Emily St. Germain, lector

Sunday, January 5 | 9:30 a.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Elli St. George, Virgen Palermo, and Christie Hedges, lectors

Sunday, January 5 | 11:30 a.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Mark Richburg, Pat Scofield, and Jen Kowieski, lectors

Sunday, January 5 | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Maggie Giles, lector

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 4 | 5:00 p.m.Gerald Maloney, *78th Anniversary*Margaret Cunnane, *Memorial*

Sunday, January 5 | 9:30 a.m. Jim English, First Anniversary Caridad Lopez, Memorial Jackie Glarin, Memorial Jim Del Fiore, First Anniversary Richard Droesch, Memorial

Sunday, January 5 | 11:30 a.m. William Ruggiero, *Memorial*



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Peggie Breslin, Mark Brown, Joan Dunphy, Tom Franzago, Jacqueline Lavelle, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, Fred Tufts, and Serena Suglia.

6:00 P.M. Mass and Pizza

The 6:00 Mass will resume this Epiphany Sunday, and we will serve pizza in the Parish Hall following the liturgy.

Coffee Hospitality Resumes

After a brief pause, coffee hospitality will resume this Sunday, January 5 following the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies.

Today's Feast

The Epiphany of the Lord is one of the great solemnities of the liturgical year. Traditionally celebrated on January 6, the twelfth day of Christmas, is is so important that in many countries, including the United States, it is transferred to the nearest Sunday when it doesn't happen to fall on a Sunday. On Christmas Day we celebrate the Word becoming flesh; on Epiphany we celebrate the news getting out—the revelation of this amazing happening to the world. Epiphany comes to us from the East as its Greek name indicates. The word means "manifestation," "showing forth," or "revelation." In the Eastern Churches, this day is a triple celebration of the revealing of Christ to the Magi; to people gathered at the Jordan when Jesus was baptized by John; and to the wedding guests at Cana. While the Church in the West emphasizes the visit of the Magi to the infant Christ today, with the Baptism of the Lord commemorated next Sunday, a hint of the ancient origins of Epiphany survives in one of today's antiphons for Evening Prayer: "Three mysteries mark this holy day: today the star leads the Magi to the infant Christ; today water is changed into wine for the wedding feast; today Christ wills to be baptized by John in the river Jordan to bring us salvation."

Tribute to Father Peter Gyves, SJ, MD

A Faith That Does Justice, the interfaith organization founded by Father Peter Gyves, SJ, has prepared a special tribute to Father Gyves, and copies are available in the narthex. A Faith That Does Justice challenges people to experience God by living their faith intentionally in service to others. The organization is committed to helping those in need and also showing how people are marginalized by unjust societal structures.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia

We are pleased to welcome the following newly registered parishioners: Jacques Rousseau of Milton, Delaware, Mia Corso of Medford, Melissa and John Hughes of Lexington, and Megan Cox, and Anne Krane, both of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.



WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY

Are you in the second half of life? If so, the Wisdom and Mature Spirituality group holds two Zoom gatherings each week: Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30. While not specifically a book club, participants have conversations informed by shared spiritual reading and discuss ways in which our faith informs and enriches the second half of life. The group is presently concluding an exploration of Awareness by Anthony de Mello, SJ. Looking ahead, for two weeks beginning on January 9 they will be taking a look at the classic little book, The Story of the Other Wise Man by Henry Van Dyke, and on January 23 they will begin Jesuit priest Gregory Boyle's newest book, Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times. For more information or to be added to the Wisdom and Mature Spirituality mailing list, please call or email the parish office.

TRAVEL-SIZE TOILETRIES

If you travel frequently, you may have extra toiletries left over from hotel stays. We can help! Three of our nonprofit partner agencies have an ongoing need for donations of travel-size toiletries. The following miniature products are always needed: shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, soap, and hand sanitizer. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant (none of which are typically found in hotel rooms) are also always in demand. Donated toiletries must be unused and there are plastic bins in the narthex where you can leave your donations. All contributed items will be donated to Women's Lunch Place, Catholic Charities, and Capuchin Mobile Ministries. Thank you!



DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

We hope you will consider participating in this important ministry during the holidays so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices.

Saint Cecilia has committed to providing the following items to the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett food pantries: Cheerios or corn flakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta/spaghetti, boxed macaroni & cheese, canned tuna fish, canned chicken breast, cooking oil, and tomato sauce. While any canned or shelf-stable items are appreciated, it is particularly helpful when donations are made from the staples listed above. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept donations of produce or baked items.

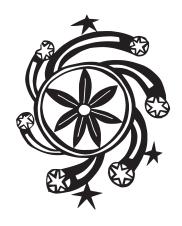
You may wish to follow the example of some parishioners and have some of the above items delivered to the parish via Amazon or a similar service. If you choose to order donations online, please have your items delivered to:

> Saint Cecilia Parish 18 Belvidere Street Boston, MA 02115

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?

Beginning this Sunday, January 5, and lasting through the month of January, our parish Climate Group will have an online form as well as in-person opportunities for parishioners to respond to these questions and offer input for the Parish Climate Action Plan. We hope everyone will take part in this initiative. For more information, please call or email the parish office.



UPCOMING FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 | 4:00 P.M. (EST)

The Saint Cecilia FFF Ministry is pleased to welcome back Sebastian Gomes, executive editor of audio and video at America Media, as January's special guest. Sebastian has produced a number of podcasts for America and most recently was part of a group from America Media that traveled to Rome to cover the second Vatican assembly of the global Synod on Synodality—a nearly month-long meeting of clerics and laypeople brought together to discuss the future of the Catholic Church. Next Sunday, January 12, Sebastian will speak about key elements of the final document from the Synod, For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission. This is a good opportunity to hear about where the synod delegates see the Church moving. Participants will have an opportunity to ask Sebastian questions during this coffee hour. To register for the FFF email list, please use this link: bit. ly/45pDVRa.

Christmas flowers

Tony Abbruzzi Geraldine Abell Donald E. Abell The Abood Family The Abruzzi Family John and Maureen Ahern Harry Almquist Lisa Andersson Elsie and Tony Andrade **Lewis Aries** Mary Aries Cora Arnold Carol Ascrizzi Catherine Aylward Maria Barbosa Mr. and Mrs. Vasco Barbosa Romania Barclay Charles and Betty Benhavon Fr. Richard Bertrand, SJ Julius and Eleanore Bienkowski Paul Bienkowski Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bigeard Mary Botosh Charles and Betty Botosh Michael and Ann Bowles Robert Bowman Ralph Boyer Virginia Boyer Mary Bradley John Brait Jack Brent The Brooks Family **Eileen Browning** Francisco Bucasus The Bufalini Family The Burke Family Billy Byrne Dorothy and Bill Byrne Glenn Calmus Howard and Marjorie Camden **Charles Campion** Maria Cristina Campo de Paez Martha Cano de Paez Josephine Capizzi Jack Capizzi Robert Cataldo Teddy Chagnon Catherine Charland Earl Charland

Borys and Olga Chermak

Ann Coleman

Margaret and James Collins

Maria Cone **Jack Connors** Mickey and Joe Contilli Maurice and Marjorie Cornier Patrick Corrigan Francis and Madeline Cotton Deirdre Mary Coyle Mark Czestochowa Mr. and Mrs. Saheed W. Dahar Atty. and Mrs. Victor W. Dahar Sr. Ted D'Aloia Sean Dalton The David Family John and Betty Davis Frank and Joanne DeMare Nick DeMetrades John Z. Dennehy Mary Dennehy Anzivino Mr. and Mrs. Philip F. Dennehy Sr. Norma DeRobinson Joseph DeSisto Marc DeSousa Mary and Cosmo DeVelis Alfred and Eileen DeVito Mary and Joe Devlin Kathy Devin Marjorie DiGennaro Frank DiGennaro Charles and Brenda DiGiovanni Philip & Ann Dinkel Cecelia Dodson Alice and Walter Doherty Arthur F. Donnett R. Margaret Dunnett Stephen Ellis John and Irene Faldetta Tony, Ann, and John Farinelli Mary Fazio Arlene Finn Walter Fletcher Franchi and Mancini Families Nora Frank Alice Fraser Henry and Eileen Gabel Don Garaventi Carmina Garcia Joseph Garcia Michael Garvey Paul Gilbert

Richard Gilbert

George and Kathleen Gildea

William and Anne Giles

Jane Murphy Given Peter Grant Katherine Greene Lucy B. Griffin James J. Griffin The Griffin Family Brad and Patty Griffith Jack Gripshover Rev. Msgr. Michael F. Groden Janet Guevara Pearl Guevara Victor Guevara Mr. and Mrs. Granderson Hall Helen Hanigan Brian Hare Rose Hart Mary Healy Nicole Bairos Heck Albert Hodge Father Gerry Hogan Carol Howland Richard Howland Sean Hughes Sadie Isiminger Marion Jesse John and Margaret Joyce Maria Julien Barbara Klug John Kiley Brig. Gen. Leo A. Kiley (Ret.) The Kowley Family Joseph Kurta Cecilia Kurta Rene, Dot, and Bill L'Abbe Josephine and Barney La Sala Jack Lally Ruth M. and Robert F. Lally Richard Larue Jonathan Levinsky Susan Levinsky Kenny Liebling Claire and Joseph Lippolt Carmen Lombardo The Longer Family F Beirne Lovely Fr. Bill Lugger **Lorraine Lyons** Barbara and John MacDonald Phyllis MacDonald Mary MacEvoy John and Angelina Machado

Msgr. Vincent J. Mackay

John and Noreen Mageary Barbara and Fred Maglero Ilda, Peter, and Paul Maguire Dolly Mahre Joel Maksymowicz Bridie and Gerald Maloney Walt Mamaluy Leonard Mariani The Marron Family Ana Mata Carmen Mata Natividad Mata Patricio Mata Manuel Matos Judy Matteson Stephen Matteson William John Mccarron Dr. James and Mrs. Margaret McDonough Peter J. McGinn Bill McLaughlin Jim McLaughlin Jimmy McManus Peter Menansche Deborah Meyer Joe Michalski Viera and John Mihaic Christopher Miller Dorothy and Frank Miller Kathleen Modeste Andre K. Modeste Frank and Claire Moffatt Josephine Moitoso Jeff Monroe Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Mooney **George Morales** Bernard and Teresa Morelli Irene Morillo John Morse Francis X and Margaret Morse The Moylan Family Dorothea Mulhern R. Paul Mulhern Dan Mullin Ed Murphy **Edwin Murphy** Elizabeth Murphy Marilyn Murphy Robert Murphy Ted Murphy Deceased Members of the Murphy and Westover Families The Nauyokas Family Ivan Nazario Cleveland and Dorothy Nelson

Joseph and Margaret Nolan

Glenn Noret

Kenneth MacNeil

Mary Noret Sr. Jeannette Normandin, SSA Thomas and Kathryn Norton Virginia Noyes Patricia Oakes Daniel & Kathleen O'Brien Jerry O'Connor John O'Connor Paul O'Connor Theresa O'Connor Richard S. O'Hara, MD Mary and C. Anthony Olivieri Maria Olivieri Hakansson Rigoberto Ortiz Cristobal Paez L Elena Paez L Placido Paez C Ernesto and Ana and George Palermo Carmela and Anthony Pandolfo **Bob Patterson** Apolonio Peña Raima Pert Tim Pert Rev. Msgr. Francis L. Phelan Jack Pirani John Pirani Phyllis Pirani Pamela Polacsek Dorothy W. and Gifford Potter (Bunt) Julia Powell Mary Louise Powell **Nicholas Christopher Powers** Marian and Raymond Reisner William Reisner Sheldon Rich Shirley Rich Marianne Richard Mary Richard Joseph and Frances Rinaldi Giuseppina and Carmelo Roccuzzo James (Skip) Rogers Grace Romasanta Deceased Members of the Romeo/ Gilbert/LaSala Family John and Christine Romeo Edgar & Josephine Roy Mary and Raif Saati Vladimir Schklyarov Father Richard Segreve Trevor J. Sesskin Kent Sharp Elizabeth, John, and Peter Shatswell Susan Shaughnessy Mary and Francis Skinner

Janice and Rubin Slotnick

Ellen Solomita

Janet Stank

Rev. Msgr. Robert Stanton Dorothy Starzyk William Starzyk Jr. Mary and Melvin States Winston Earl Stevens Wayne Matthew Stevens The Stevens Family Elaine Stritch James Sullivan Adelaide Sullivan Walter and Mary Sullivan Francis and Blanche Surette Rudy and Helen Tetrault Angela and Raymond Towle Kathryn and Clifford Towle Nadine and John Troppy Frank and Estelle Unni D. Joseph Unni Gregg VanNostrand Brian VanNostrand Andrew J. Veneto Sr. Angie and Frank Verderane Anne Volk Elizabeth Volk Anne Walley Marie A. Walley Marie J. Walley John Walsh Rose Mary Walsh Margaret Walsh Catherine Walsh Joanne Wessling Francine Whippen Frank Williams **Daniel Winterson** Laura Yetman Dolores, Anthony, Denise (Winter) and John Zankowski Mr. and Mrs. Zekas Barbara and Adam Zintel

POPE FRANCIS ON EPIPHANY: DON'T GET STUCK IN A SPIRITUAL PARKING LOT—FAITH IS ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD

BY POPE FRANCIS

The Magi travel towards Bethlehem. Their pilgrimage speaks also to us, who are called to journey towards Jesus, for he is the North Star that lights up the sky of life and guides our steps towards true joy. Yet where did the Magi's pilgrimage to encounter Jesus begin? What made these men of the East set out on their journey?

They had excellent reasons not to depart. They were wise men and astrologers, famous and wealthy. Having attained sufficient cultural, social and economic security, they could have remained content with what they already knew and possessed. Instead, they let themselves be unsettled by a question and by a sign: "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star..." (Mt 2:2).

They did not allow their hearts to retreat into the caves of gloom and apathy; they longed to see the light. They were not content to plod through life, but yearned for new and greater horizons. Their eyes were not fixed here below; they were windows open to the heavens. As Benedict XVI said, the Magi were "men with a restless heart.... They were filled with expectation, not satisfied with their secure income and their respectable place in society.... They were seekers after God."

Where did it originate, this spirit of healthy restlessness that led them to set out on their journey? It was born of desire. That was their secret: the capacity to desire. Let us think about this. To desire means to fuel the fire that burns within us; it drives us to look beyond what is immediate and visible. To desire means embracing life as a mystery that surpasses us, as an ever-present cranny in the wall that beckons us to look into the distance, since life is not just our here and now, but something much greater.

It is like a blank canvas that cries out for color. A great painter, Vincent Van Gogh, once said that his need for God drove him to go outside at night to paint the stars. For that is the way God made us: brimming with desire, directed, like the Magi, towards the stars. With no exaggeration, we can say that we are what we desire. For it is our desires that enlarge our gaze and drive our lives forward, beyond the barriers of habit, beyond banal consumerism, beyond



a drab and dreary faith, beyond the fear of becoming involved and serving others and the common good. In the words of St. Augustine, "our entire life is an exercise of holy desire" (Homily on the First Letter of John, IV, 6).

Brothers and sisters, as it was for the Magi, so it is for us. The journey of life and faith demands a deep desire and inner zeal. Sometimes we live in a spirit of a "parking lot"; we stay parked, without the impulse of desire that carries us forward. We do well to ask: where are we on our journey of faith? Have we been stuck all too long, nestled inside a conventional, external and formal religiosity that no longer warms our hearts and changes our lives? Do our words and our liturgies ignite in people's hearts a desire to move towards God, or are they a "dead language" that speaks only of itself and to itself?

It is sad when a community of believers loses its desire and is content with "maintenance" rather than allowing itself to be startled by Jesus and by the explosive and unsettling joy of the Gospel. It is sad when a priest has closed the door of desire, sad to fall into clerical functionalism, very sad.

The crisis of faith in our lives and in our societies also has to do with the eclipse of desire for God. It is related to a kind of slumbering of the spirit, to the habit of being content to live from day to day, without ever asking what God really wants from us. We peer over earthly maps, but forget to look up to heaven. We are sated with plenty of things, but fail to hunger for our absent desire for God. We are fixated on our own needs, on what we will eat and wear (cf. Mt 6:25), even as we let the longing for greater things evaporate.

And we find ourselves living in communities that crave everything, have everything, yet all too often feel nothing but emptiness in their hearts: closed communities of

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

individuals, bishops, priests, or consecrated men and women. Indeed the lack of desire leads only to sadness and indifference, to sad communities, sad priests or bishops.

Let us look first to ourselves and ask: How is the journey of my faith going? This is a question that we can ask ourselves today, each one of us. How is the journey of my faith going? Is it parked or is it on the move? Faith, if it is to grow, has to begin ever anew. It needs to be sparked by desire, to take up the challenge of entering into a living and lively relationship with God. Does my heart still burn with desire for God? Or have I allowed force of habit and my own disappointments to extinguish that flame?

Today, brothers and sisters, is the day we should ask these questions. Today is the day we should return to nurturing our desire. How do we do this? Let us go to the Magi and learn from their "school of desire." They will teach us in their school of desire. Let us look at the steps they took, and draw some lessons from them.

In the first place, they set out at the rising of the star. The Magi teach us that we need to set out anew each day, in life as in faith, for faith is not a suit of armor that encases us; instead, it is a fascinating journey, a constant and restless movement, ever in search of God, always discerning our way forward.

Then, in Jerusalem the Magi ask questions: They inquire where the Child is to be found. They teach us that we need to question. We need to listen carefully to the questions of our heart and our conscience, for it is there that God often speaks to us. He addresses us more with questions than with answers. We must learn this well: God addresses us more with questions than with answers. Yet let us also be unsettled by the questions of our children, and by the doubts, hopes and desires of the men and women of our time. We need to entertain questions.

The Magi then defy Herod. They teach us that we need a courageous faith, one that is unafraid to challenge the sinister logic of power, and become seeds of justice and fraternity in societies where in our day modern Herods continue to sow death and slaughter the poor and innocent, amid general indifference.

Finally, the Magi return "by another way" (Mt 2:12). They challenge us to take new paths. Here we see the creativity of the Spirit who always brings out new things.

That is also one of the tasks of the Synod we are currently undertaking: to journey together and to listen to one another, so that the Spirit can suggest to us new ways and paths to bring the Gospel to the hearts of those who are distant, indifferent or without hope, yet continue to seek what the Magi found: "a great joy" (Mt 2:10). We must always move forwards.

At the end of the Magi's journey came the climactic moment: once they arrived at their destination, "they fell down and worshiped the Child" (cf. v. 11). They worshiped. Let us never forget this: the journey of faith finds renewed strength and fulfillment only when it is made in the presence of God. Only if we recover our "taste" for adoration will our desire be rekindled. Desire leads us to adoration and adoration renews our desire. For our desire for God can only grow when we place ourselves in his presence. For Jesus alone heals our desires. From what? From the tyranny of needs.

Indeed, our hearts grow sickly whenever our desires coincide merely with our needs. God, on the other hand, elevates our desires; he purifies them and heals them of selfishness, opening them to love for him and for our brothers and sisters. This is why we should not neglect adoration, that prayer of silent adoration which is not so common among us. Please let us not forget adoration.

In this way, like the Magi, we will have the daily certainty that even in the darkest nights a star continues to shine. It is the star of the Lord, who comes to care for our frail humanity. Let us set out on the path towards him. Let us not give apathy and resignation the power to drive us into a cheerless and banal existence. Let our restless hearts embrace the restlessness of the Spirit.

The world expects from believers a new burst of enthusiasm for the things of heaven. Like the Magi, let us lift up our eyes, listen to the desire lodged in our hearts, and follow the star that God makes shine above us. As restless seekers, let us remain open to God's surprises. Brothers and sisters, let us dream, let us seek and let us adore.



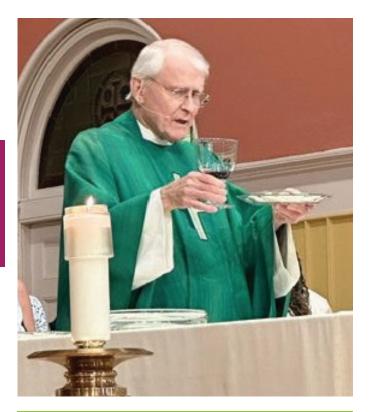


Peter Gyves, SJ, MD: **A Tribute**

Priest and prophet. Leader and servant. Together, these characterize the remarkable life of Peter Gyves, SJ MD, who fulfilled each of these roles with conviction, passion and humility.

In his latter years, he devoted his life to A Faith That Does Justice, the interfaith organization he founded in 2015 in San Diego and subsequently moved to Boston. Its purpose: to provide those involved the tangible opportunities to put their faith into action.

Today, A Faith That Does Justice offers ESOL programs to immigrants and new migrants in Boston and two food programs, one for participants in the ESOL programs and the other for those experiencing homeless and/or food insecurity. Father Peter participated each week in the latter, purchasing the ingredients for sandwiches, assembling them and greeting each visitor personally. In addition, he offered a weekly Mass in Spanish to non–English speaking residents of Boston, followed by dinner; over time, participants created a close–knit community. Beyond these, A Faith That Does Justice offers a range of educational and faith–based programs to raise awareness of social justice issues.



"Love is fulfilled in acts of justice."

~Peter Gyves, SJ, MD

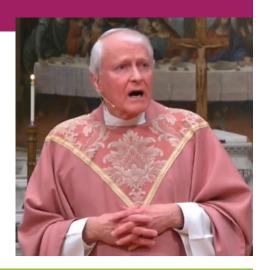


As a Catholic priest in the Christian tradition, Father Peter was noted for his exceptional homilies, each delivered without notes or hesitation, educating participants in the liturgy about the historical context and spiritual meaning of the scriptures, before exhorting the congregation to put their faith into action. He often said, "Dogma and devotion are good, but they are insufficient without action."

As In the Jewish tradition, Father Peter was an exemplar of Tikkun Olam, a concept that has come to connote the repair and improvement of the world. Like the great prophets, Father Peter could deliver harsh truths, to authorities, to his congregation and to public audiences. He did so with both confidence and compassion, seeking to inspire each person to seek opportunities to walk with love and solidarity with those who are suffering, with the ultimate goal of achieving justice.

Father Peter's success in recruiting such a diverse, accomplished and committed group of volunteers to A Faith That Does Justice flowed directly from his leadership style. He was, above all, a servant leader, putting the needs of others ahead of his own, and in the process he set a powerful example of the values and empathy he sought to instill in others,

Those who came to know Father Peter have been extraordinarily blessed by his life and his example. The volunteers of A Faith That Does Justice are deeply committed to carrying on his extraordinary legacy.



Father Peter: Student, Physician, Jesuit

The third of eleven children, Father Peter lived what he called a life of privilege, and he thrived in his pursuit of education. After years of study, during which he earned a BS from Boston College, an MD from Georgetown University, and an MA in Theology from Boston College, his education took a dramatically different course.

In 1989, while serving as a research scientist at the National Institutes of Health, a world away, six Jesuits and two female co-workers were assassinated in El Salvador, then in the midst of a civil war, for their work with and advocacy for the poor.



Father Peter was so profoundly moved by this injustice that he acted instinctively, traveling to El Salvador to join the Salvadoran people in their suffering and struggle for justice. His experience was transformational. In offering people health care and companionship in war zones and oppressed communities, Dr. Gyves acknowledged that he learned and received exponentially more in this role than from all his years of academic study. He realized, not just intellectually but viscerally, that the living conditions of most people in this world "prevent them from achieving their human potential or sharing fully in the abundance of God's creation."



This experience and the influence of his Jesuit education, which by then included a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Weston School of Theology and an MPH from Johns Hopkins University, ultimately let Dr. Gyves to join the Society of Jesus, known more familiarly as the Jesuits and in his founding and leadership of A Faith That Does Justice.



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, MD if you have any questions. The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

This is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation.

Marriage

Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

Care of the Sick

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the Parish Office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

Order of Christian Funerals

The parish is prepared to celebrate the Vigil (wake) in the church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and arround the world. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.

Please note:

According to online safely 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.