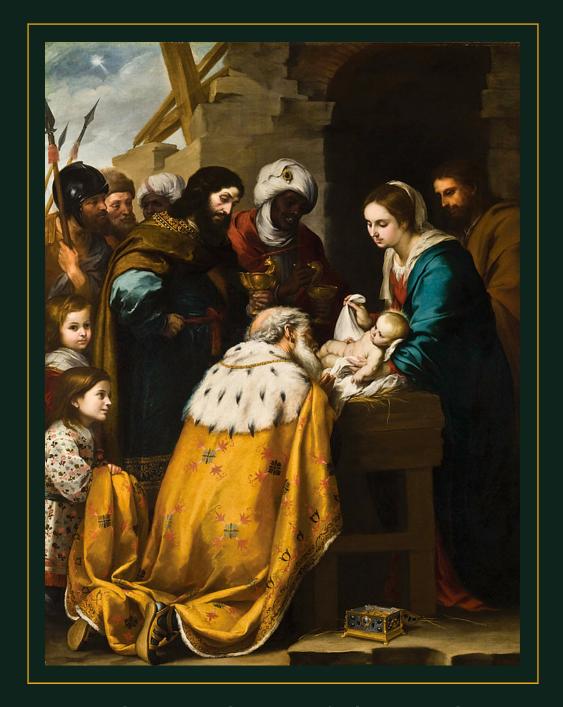
Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Epiphany of the Lord 7 January 2024

Adoration of the Magi by Gentile da Fabriano

Saint Cecilia P A R I S H

7 January 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

PRELUDE | Adoration

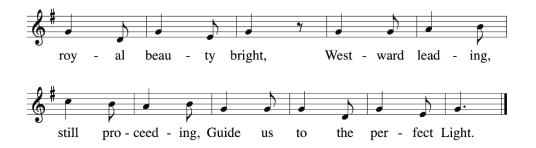
Florence B. Price (1887-1953)

THE ORDER OF THE MASS INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT





CALL TO WORSHIP

▶ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

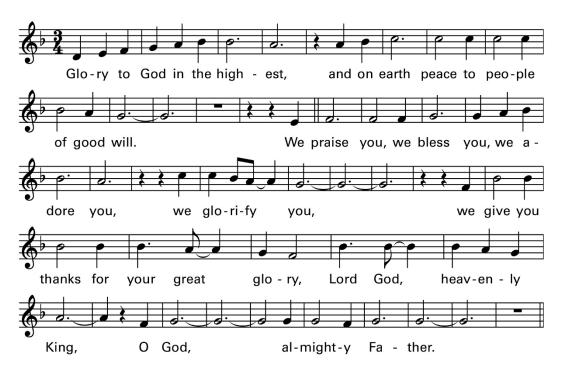
₩ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

GLORIA | Mass of Renewal

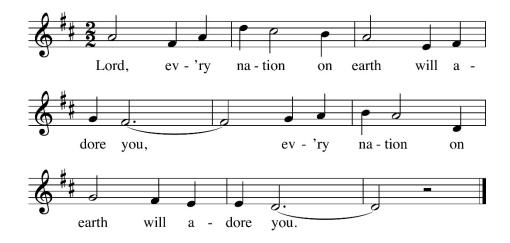
Curtis Stephan





Collect

LITURGY OF THE WORD

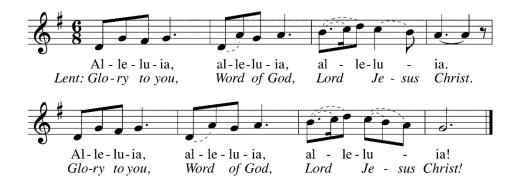


- 1. O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgment.
- 2. In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth.
- 3. The kings of Tarshish and the islands shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him.
- 4. For he shall save the needy when they cry, the poor, and those who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Jubilation Mass

James Chepponis



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!

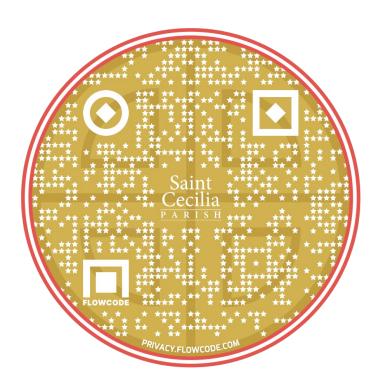
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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:

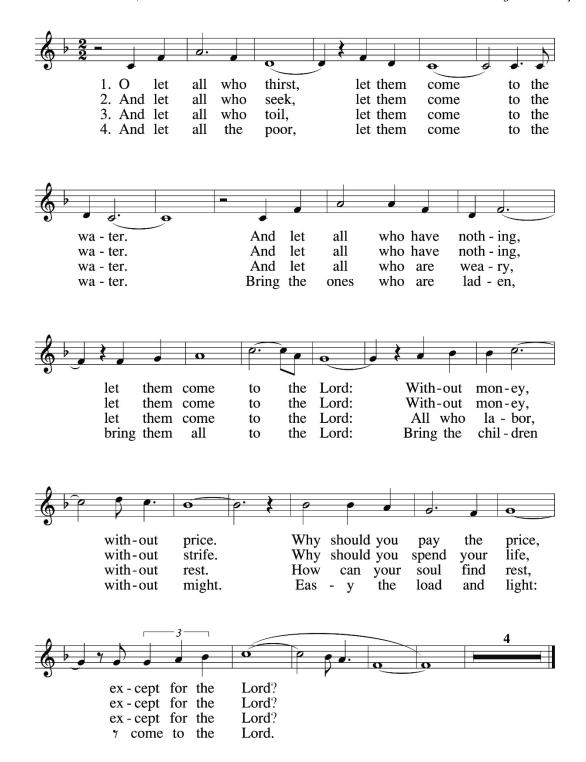
Saint Cecilia Parish 18 Belvidere Street Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | Come to the Water

John Foley, SJ

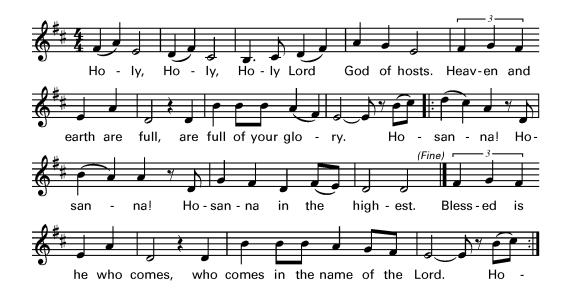


EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- **▼** 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.

HOLY, HOLY | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | 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.



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.





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 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 6 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant Karen McMenamy, lector

Sunday, January 7 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant Linda Frayling, lector

Sunday, January 7 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Cathy Anderson, Mary D'Angelo, and Natasha Bolton-Pierre, lectors

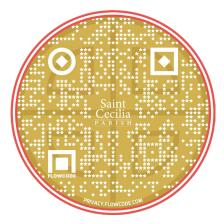
Sunday, January 7 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Ben DeWinter, Jen Kowieski, and Karen McMenamy, lectors

Sunday, January 7 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant Karen Vachon, lector

SCAN THIS CODE FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 6 | 5:00 p.m. Gerald Maloney, 77th Anniversary

Sunday, January 7 | 9:30 a.m.

Richard Sullivan, *Memorial*Michele Sullivan, *Memorial*Amy Robbins, *Memorial*

Sunday, January 7 | 11:30 a.m.

Mafalda G. Risti, *Memorial* William Ruggiero, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 John 1:35-42



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

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

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: The **Tella Family** of Charlestown, **Enrique Fortun** of Revere, **Jason Deramo** of Rockland, **Matt Razek** of Brighton, **Justin Terch** of Cloquet, Minnesota, **Catherine McKinnon** of Punta Gorda, Florida, and the **McKinnon-Howe Family** of Norwood. If you have not previously registered, you can do so at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Visit Our Family Flex Center

As we gather to celebrate Mass, we are reminded of the importance of community and the shared experience of worship. However, we understand that attending Mass with young children can sometimes be challenging. That's why we encourage you to visit our Family Center, located to the left of the parish café and underneath the staircase on Saint Cecilia Street. The center is open during liturgies and provides a comfortable environment for parents with young children. Here, parents can watch Mass as their children play, and nursing mothers can enjoy a quieter, more private space. If you have any questions about the Family Center, please contact our Director of Facilities and Events, Lisa Pickering at her parish email.

The Baptism of the Lord

Tomorrow's feast concludes the Christmas season and Tuesday begins the First Week in Ordinary Time. We will have five Sundays in winter Ordinary Time before we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

For All Who Have Been Baptized

Pray for all who have been baptized in our parish, particularly those during this last year, that they may faithfully fulfill their baptismal promises and live as disciples of Jesus.

Thank You!

The collection at all the Christmas Masses was designated for the support of our senior priests. Due to your generosity, we were able to send \$17,131 to Clergy Trust. Please note that this figure does not reflect the generous gifts that people made directly to the Clergy Trust website. On behalf of all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston, thank you very much.

Liturgy of the Hours

Join us on Saturday, January 6, for Morning Prayer for the Memorial of St. Andre Bessette at 9:00 a.m. via Facebook Live and Zoom. If you have questions or if you'd like to receive the Zoom link, please email Mark Brown at hoursandtaize@stceciliaboston.org for more information.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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, it 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 this Monday, 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."





EPIPHANY DOOR BLESSING

20 + C + M + B + 24



It is an Epiphany custom to inscribe with chalk the initials of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, along with the numerals of the new year, over the main doorway of your house or apartment. Traditionally, the letters and

numbers are inscribed in this format: 20 + C + M + B + 24. In addition to the letters being the initials of the traditional names of the three Magi, they also abbreviate the Latin words "Christus mansionem benedicat," or "May Christ bless the house." At Saint Cecilia, we pray that we will be a welcoming presence for all who pass through our doors; we pray that we will welcome everyone without judgment or prejudice. You are invited to take home a piece of blessed chalk with you today and say a prayer of blessing at your door. This is one option:

Loving God,

We pray through the intercession of the Magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, that you help us create a home of peace and love.

Give to those who pass through the doorways of this house, an awareness of your presence within their hearts.

Bless our comings and our goings. Watch over us and over all our guests; when we leave, bless our journeys and bring us safely home.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son and our Lord.
Amen.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

ONLINE COURSES

New Testament Visions of Faith
January 24 – March 5 | 6-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00

The Creed: What We Believe

January 24 - February 28 | 5-Week Online Course

Registration Required | \$60.00

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

SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

Living in a Neurodiverse World: Creating and Supporting Meaningful Relationships

Presenter: Lindsay Thelin Wagner, MOT, OTR, Director of Neurodiversity and Community Inclusion at the League School of Greater Boston

Monday, January 8 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Zoom

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: https://www.saintsusanna.org/adult_faith_formation.html

DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

Please consider participating in our food donation ministry during the upcoming months so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The local economy might have improved for some of us, but the working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices. Saint Cecilia has committed to providing these items to food pantries: Cheerios or cornflakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta and spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, canned tuna fish, canned chicken breast, cooking oil, and tomato sauce. While any canned or shelf-stable items are appreciated, it is particularly helpful when parishioners can help with the staples listed above. Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex.

54TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

Monday, January 15 | 9:00 a.m. Boston Convention and Exhibition Center & Online

This year's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast celebration will be a hybrid event with both inperson and online components. The 2024 theme is: "Keeping the Promise of Democracy." In light of the assaults on affirmative action, civil rights, reproductive care, and protections for LGBTQ+ people, the event is inspired by the words of Dr. King on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, "This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy."

The keynote speaker will be Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Ph.D., Ford Foundation Professor of History, Race and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School. Muhammad is the award-winning author of *The Condemnation of Blackness*, a "brilliant work that tells us how directly the past has formed us" (The New York Review of Books), and his work has been featured in the landmark New York Times "1619 Project" as well as Ava DuVernay's Oscar-nominated Netflix documentary *13th*.

Tickets for the in-person breakfast are \$50 and can be purchased by visiting https://bostonmlkbreakfast.org/breakfast-2024/.



JOIN THE FAR-FLUNG FLOCK COFFEE HOUR!

Sunday, January 7, 4:00 p.m. ET | Zoom

This month's guest is Joan Kennedy, a Far-Flung Flock member from Connecticut. Joan has a master of theological studies degree from the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (STM), where she facilitates online adult education courses. Joan's talk, "Basketball, Women, and the Church," considers how attitudes toward women in the Catholic tradition have improved overtime, just as attitudes toward women in culture and society have changed, as seen in women's basketball. We invite you to join us for this interesting, interactive conversation!

If you have not registered or attended any online coffee hour in the past, you must register for the FFF email list with this link (https://bit.ly/45pDVRa). You will get an email with the Zoom link a few days before the call. Be sure to add the FFF email address to your contacts to prevent emails from going into your spam/junk folders. If you do not receive our emails, it could be because you mistyped your email address or didn't add the FFF address to your contacts.



SAVE THE DATE: WINTER WALK BOSTON

For the eighth year, a consortium of agencies focused on homelessness, including Women's Lunch Place, Pine Street Inn, Boston Health Care for the Homeless, Y2Y Harvard Square, and common cathedral are sponsoring a fundraising walk through the streets of Boston. The event takes place on Sunday, February 11, 2024. 100% of the money raised by walkers will be donated to organizations throughout the state.

Winter Walk is a non-profit organization raising awareness and funds to end homelessness in our communities. Winter Walk is our chance to link arms with those who experience homelessness and to listen humbly to their stories. It is our chance to show them we care about their lives and to affirm our commitment to do all it takes to ease their struggles.

The Saint Cecilia Hunger & Homelessness Ministry has had a Winter Walk team since the beginning of this organization, and we will again in 2024. We'll be sharing more information about this important event in the coming weeks.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA JANUARY 6 - JANUARY 14

Saturday, January 6

Lauds for the Memorial of St. Andre Bessette, 9:00 a.m. | Facebook Live & Zoom

Sunday, January 7

Wisdom Group Meeting, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom

Monday, January 8

Knitting Ministry Meeting, 3:30—4:30 p.m. | Zoom

Tuesday, January 9

RCIA, 6:30—8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30 a.m. | Zoom SCYA Women's Group, 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Thursday January 11

Wisdom Group Meeting, 7:30 p.m. | Zoom

SAVE THE DATE: 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. Please contact our Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility, Scott Macdonald, at his parish email with any questions.



PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

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

VIRTUS is the umbrella term for a two-part training designed to keep children safe in the parish setting. The Archdiocese requires this two-part training of all volunteers and staff who have the potential for direct contact with children or the vulnerable due to their involvement in the parish. The first part, Protecting God's Children (or PGC), is a training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms that a child is being abused and how to talk with children about these issues. The second part is a mandated reporter training. All parish staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to attend this one-time training. If you intend to volunteer in the future and haven't attended this training before, please join us. Please note that both parts will be covered in Sunday's session and the training will be approximately 3 hours, including videos and group discussion. Help us by officially registering for this course on January 21 at 11:00 a.m. at https://www.virtusonline.org/. Doing so will create a permanent record of your participation and completion of the training. If you can't register online, please join us anyway and come a few minutes early so you can be registered in the system. Thank you so much, and we look forward to seeing you!

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

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

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



assembly of the Synod on Synodality, and so we're excited to learn more about the Synod from him. This event will also be livestreamed on the Saint Cecilia YouTube.

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

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. (Rev. 1:5-6)

The Abruzzi Family
Lee Anderson

Elsie & Tony Andrade

Mary Dennehy Anzivino

Cora Arnold

Patrick Attridge

Catherine Aylward

Maria Barbosa

Mr. & Mrs. Vasco Barbosa

Esther Barker

Joanne Bean

Joseph Bernard

Chuck & Betty Botosh

Virginia Boyer

Jack Brent

Angelina Brigalli

The Brooks Family

Eileen Browning

Ursula Bruer

Francisco Bucasus

Arthur Burgess

Sheila Butler

Bill Byrne, Jr.

Glenn Calmus

Maria Cristina Campo

Bill & Catherine Carroll

Bill & Marilyn Carroll

Bob Carroll

John Alan Cates

Teddy Chagnon

Catherine Charland

Earl Charland

Mary & John Coen

Tim Coen

Leroy Coffin

John Coghlan

Ann Coleman

Margaret Collins

James Collins

Judith & Larry Condon

Maria Cone

Gerry & Charlotte Conklin

Fr. Chuck Connolly, S.J.

Mickey & Joe Contilli

Maurice & Marjorie Cormier

Patrick Corrigan

Dan & Judy Crumlish

Mary Curley

Danielle Daccache Farhat

Mr & Mrs. Saheed W. Dahar Sr.

Sean Dalton

Jean Dapra

Richard Dapra

John & Betty Davis

Norma De Robinson

Frank & Joanne DeMare

The DeMers Family

John Z. Dennehy

Mr. & Mrs. Philip F. Dennehy Sr.

Robert DeSantis

Marc DeSousa

Mary & Cosmo DeVelis

Mary Devino

Mary & Joe Devlin

Nancy Diaco

James DiBona

E Michael DiFabio

Marjorie DiGennaro

Frank DiGennaro

Agnes Dillon

James T. Dillon

Susan M Dillon

Cecelia Dodson

Alice & Walter Doherty

Mary & Bill Donlan

John Drexelius

Joan Drexelius

Joe Drexelius

Lucille Dumont Andrews

Arthur F. Dunnett

R. Margaret Dunnett

Franchi & Mancini Families

Mary Fazio

Mary & Daniel Federici

Genoveva Figueroa

Emma Fischer

Walter Fletcher

Nora Frank

Henry & Eileen Gabel

Bernard & Doris Gallagher

Tom & Helen Gallagher

Carmina Garcia

. . . .

Michael Garvey Willard Gelwick Judith Gelwick Jane M. Given Susan Gordon Patrick Graf Sara Graf James J. Griffin Lucy B. Griffin Mary A. Griffin Lucy Ann Griffin Michell Griffin Jack Gripshover Rev. Msgr. Michael F. Groden Meaghan Grotz Mr. & Mrs. Granderson Hall Brian Hare Ellen Harrington Rose Hart The Hickey Family John & Dorothea Hines Timothy Hinsdale Ben & Janice Hinsdale Thomas Hinsdale Margaret Hinsdale Pometta Ellen Hogan Fr. Gerry Hogan Norbert & Helen Hootsmans Edmond & Agnes Horsley Winston & Godfrey Horsley Carol Howland Richard Howland Michael Howland Betty & Stanley Hughes Marguerite P. Hurley

Marion Jesse

John & Margaret Joyce Maria Julien Jared Kniffen Joseph & Cecilia Kurta Catherine "Kay" Kyle Mike LaDouceur Ruth M. Lally Robert F. Lally Jack Lally Fr. Jim Larkin Richard Larue Josephine & Barney LaSala Neil Leonard Susan Levinsky Susan Levinsky Claire & Joseph Lippolt Beirne Lovely, Jr. Lorraine Lyons Barbara & John MacDonald Barbara & Fred Maglero Ilda, Peter, & Paul Maguire George Mahon Gerry & Bridie Maloney Jay Manley James & Mary Manley Rina Mariani Valerie Mariani Leonard Mariani Ralph Mariani Fred & Josephine Mason Alexander & Josephine Mathurine William John McCarron Patrick & Margaret McDonagh Tim McGee Bill McLaughlin

Joan McMahon Jimmy McManus Jimmy McManus Mary Alice McManus Robert Menson Florence Meserve Josephine Moitoso Christopher Molica Jeff Monroe Eleanor Byrne Mooney Dahar Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mooney Sr. George Morales Bernard & Teresa Morelli John B. Morse Francis X. & Margaret Morse John & Kathleen Mullen Daniel Mullin Dan Mullin Elizabeth Murphy **Edwin Murphy** Robert Murphy Ed Murphy Marilyn Murphy Cleveland & Dorothy Nelson Kurt Nieswender Grace Nisbet Sr. Jeannette Normandin, SSA Virginia Noyes Kathleen & Daniel O'Brien Jerry O'Connor Dennis O'Malley Patricia Oakes Placido Paez C. Cristobal Paez L. Elena Paez L. George Palermo

Jim McLaughlin

Ana Palermo

Ernest Palermo

Christine Palmer

Tim Pert

Julia Powell

Mary Louise Powell

Dan Regan

Marian & Raymond Reisner

Grace Rett

Shirley Rich

Sheldon Rich

Cecilia Riley

Grace Romasanta

Edgar & Josephine Roy

Ted Rubin

Lauren & James Russo

Fr. Richard Segreve

Elizabeth, John, & Peter Shatswell

Susan Shaughnessy

Laura Shea

Siobhan Shea

Jeanne G. Shea

Paul & Mary Siebert

The Sielicki Family

Robert E. Simmons

Mary & Frank Skinner

Janice Slotnick

Rubin Slotnick

Ellen Solomita

Edith Sorrentino

Dorothy Starzyk

William Starzyk, Jr.

Mary & Melvin States

Winston Earl Stevens

Wayne Matthew Stevens

James, Joan, & Clare Stewart

Elizabeth Strickland

Walter & Mary Sullivan

The Sullivan Family

Earl & Mardene Sunderhaus

Blanche & Francis Surette

Susan Szum

John & Ruth Szum

Angela Towle

Raymond Towle

Kathryn & Clifford Towle

Nadine & John Troppy

Frank & Estelle Unni

D. Joseph Unni

Rico Valencia, Jr.

Louis & Margaret Venditti

Angie & Frank Verderane

Elizabeth Volk

Anne Volk

Maurice Wade

Anne Walley

Marie Walley

Frank Williams

Yvette Wilson

Daniel Winterson

Laura Yetman

Robert Yobaccio

Dianne Zimmerman



DO YOU HAVE A SECRET? - A SERMON ON LUKE 2:22-40 BY MICHAEL K. MARSH

Many years ago, at the suggestion of my priest, I did some work with a counselor. During one of our meetings the conversation lulled and he asked me a question. "Mike, do you have a secret?"

Tears filled my eyes. I had butterflies in my stomach. And my heart was pounding. I nodded, whispered yes, and waited for what I knew would be his next question. But it never came. He never asked what my secret was. Later, I realized that he didn't need to know my secret. But I did. I needed to let it pierce my soul, to feel it and deal with it. And he knew that.

I had been living in a dark silence and hiding from my own life. I needed to know and reveal my secret, my inner thoughts, to myself.

The secrets we keep from ourselves are often more hurtful and destructive than the secrets we keep from others. We think we keep secrets but the reality is they keep us. They keep us fearful, isolated, and marginalized. They keep us separated from ourselves and others. They keep us from healing, wholeness, and life. And I don't think that's how any of us want to live.

I'll bet you also know about the dark silence of a secret. I'll bet there are parts of your life that you've hidden, rejected, or would like to forget. I'll bet you've worried or wondered what would happen if that secret or those parts of your life ever got loose and came to light.

We fear the light of disclosure, of being found out, of being seen in a bad light, the light of investigations and accusations. And for good reason. The tell all disclosure can hurt and sometimes destroy people. But there is another light, a softer light. It's what Simeon calls "a light for revelation."

The light of disclosure is what others use against us, but a light for revelation is what Jesus uses for us. It's the light by which we walk in peace; the light by which we see healing, hope, and more life; the light that the darkness cannot overcome.

That's what I experienced with my counselor's question.

That's what's happening to Simeon in today's gospel (Luke 2:22-40) when he takes the child Jesus in his arms and talks about going in peace, seeing salvation, and a light for revelation.

That's what the woman at the well with Jesus is describing when she says to the people of the city, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done."

That's what's going on with the prodigal son when "he came to himself," left the pig pens of the distant country, and began his journey home.

A light for revelation shone in their lives. Their inner thoughts had been revealed, not to the world but to themselves. They named and faced the dark silence of their lives. They let their hearts be opened and their heart's desires be known. They no longer hid secrets.

That's how I want to live, don't you? I think that's what we're asking for and why we start every liturgy by praying that God will "cleanse the thoughts of our hearts." You remember that prayer, right?

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts...

You probably know where this is going and what my next question will be. So here it is:

Do you have a secret?

Maybe your secret is about something you've done or left undone. Maybe it's about something that happened or was done to you. Maybe it's about guilt, shame, or embarrassment. Maybe it's something that's just too painful to let out. Maybe it was a choice or decision you wish you had never made. Maybe it's something in your family's history. Maybe it's how much you drink, your internet searches, a relationship, or your finances.

Or maybe it's a dream, desire, or ambition that you never told a soul. You hide it, ignore it, cover it up, because it just seems too good, too beautiful, or too big to be possible.

Have you ever hidden your truest and most authentic self for fear that you wouldn't be accepted or loved, or because it wasn't safe to be you? What's your heart's deepest desire, that one you don't talk about because it's too good to be true?

Do you ever feel like you are living a lie? What's the secret

truth behind that lie? Or maybe you are living less than who you really are or want to be. What's the secret life that wants to be free and alive?

What are the things you work hard to cover up and make sure no one knows? What's that one thing that when you think of it you say, "I'd just die if they ever found out about that?"

I'm not asking you to tell me your secret. I don't need to know your secret, but you do. You need to know it. That knowing, that facing up to ourselves, is a sacred meeting place. It is a temple as holy as the one in which old Simeon met the newborn Jesus. It's a place where the dark silence meets a light for revelation, where our old life meets our new life, where you and I meet our salvation.

What if you went to that place of meeting today? What if you held your secret in a light for revelation? What might you see?

That light is as gentle as a newborn. It will not betray you. It will not investigate or accuse you. It will not disclose something about you. Instead, it will reveal something to you. That light reveals love, peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, mercy, compassion, healing, wholeness, welcome and acceptance, beauty, hope, new life.

That's what Simeon saw in the temple. That's what the women saw at the well with Jesus. That's what the prodigal son saw in the pig pens of the distant country. That's what I saw that day in my counselor's office. And there's no reason it cannot be what you see.

~ The Rev. Mike Marsh has served as rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church — Uvalde, a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, since 2005.



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 at their ministry email.

"It is the year of our Lord 2024.

Whether it will be, a year of our Lord,
or not, remains to be seen.

A year of our Lord must be carved out of the morass
of violence, indifference, and greed
flooding the news and dominating political discourse.

It will be a year of our Lord only if we actively chip away at the accretions of our worst, revealing the original masterpiece of love God creates and intends for humankind.

The tools with which 2024 are to be carved are at hand.

Mercy, compassion, forgiveness,
a thirst for justice and righteousness,
humility that places other's needs above my wants,
courage to suffer love's pains for the sake of another,
the stubborn trust that I am loved by God
despite contempt—be it from others
or my own self-hatred;
the yearning for hope, joy, passion, play,
the desire to learn, the need to create beauty,
these are the tools and can be found in the life of Jesus.

They are also found in other faith traditions, whose spiritual leaders humbly, selflessly, generously seek to love and serve God.

These are not the tools of the selfish and powerful. They are the tools of the loving, our tools—our lives.

May we live them well.

Happy New Year!"

~ Fr. Mark David Janus, CSP

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

*To email parish staff, please use the following formula:

First Initial + Last Name @stceciliaboston.org

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, 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.

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.

Building Accessibility

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

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.

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 our Faith Formation Program, please 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, 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)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 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 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!