

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



## The First Sunday of Lent 26 February 2023

The Temptation of Christ by Tobias Verhaecht (1561–1631)

# Saint Cecilia


P A R I S H

26 February 2023


## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Again We Keep This Solemn Fast


OLD ONE HUNDREDTH




1. A - gain we keep this sol - emn fast,  
2. The law and proph - ets from of old  
3. More spar - ing, there - fore, let us make  
4. Let us a - void each harm - ful way  
5. We pray, O bless - ed Three in One,



A gift of faith from a - ges past,  
In fig - ured ways this Lent fore - told,  
The words we speak, the food we take,  
That lures the care - less mind a - stray;  
Our God while end - less a - ges run,



This Lent which binds us lov - ing - ly  
Which Christ, all a - ges' Lord and Guide,  
Our sleep, our laugh - ter, ev - 'ry sense;  
By watch - ful prayer our spir - its free  
That this, our Lent of for - ty days,



To faith and hope and char - i - ty.  
In these last days has sanc - ti - fied.  
Learn peace through ho - ly pen - i - tence.  
From schem - ing of the En - e - my.  
May bring us growth and give you praise.

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.

COLLECT

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 51: Be Merciful, O Lord

Marty Haugen

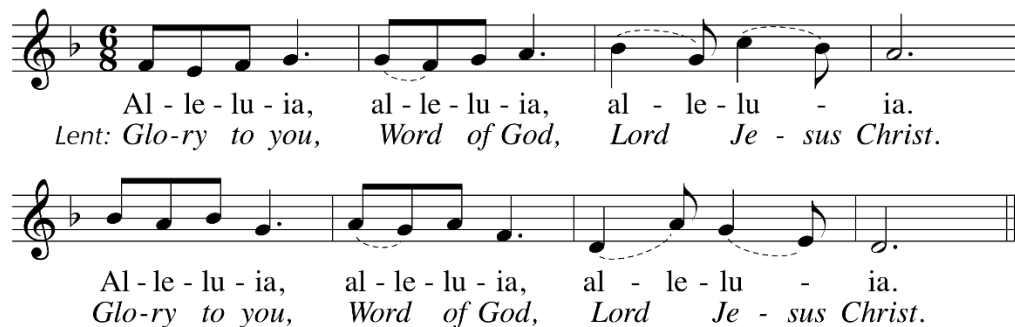


1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your merciful love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash me completely from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
2. My transgressions, truly I know them; my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.
3. Create a pure heart for me, O God; renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence; take not your holy spirit from me.
4. Restore in me the joy of your salvation; sustain in me a willing spirit.  
O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

SECOND READING | Romans 5: 12-19

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony Alonso



GOSPEL | Matthew 4: 1-11

HOMILY

## NICENE CREED

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

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

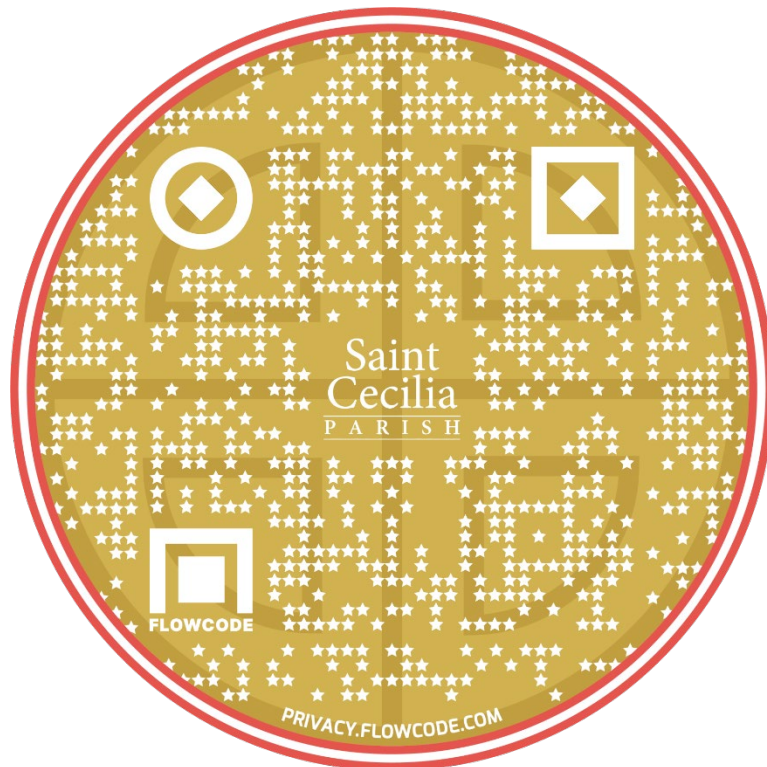
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit [www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston](http://www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston).

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | The Cross of Jesus

Francis Patrick O'Brien



1. Come, O God, re - new your peo - ple,  
2. Deep with - in cre - ate a new heart;  
3. In the dark - ness that sur - rounds us  
4. Call us forth to walk in jus - tice;



We who long to see your face.  
Melt a - way the win - ter chill.  
We have lost you from our sight.  
Res - cue us from sin and grave.



Strength - en hearts that have grown fee - ble;  
Help us now to make a new start;  
E - ven though your love has found us,  
Through the pow - er of your Spir - it,



Fill our lives with truth and grace.  
Help us now to know your will.  
We em - brace the powers of night.  
Breathe in us the breath that saves.



On - ly you can win our free - dom;  
Washed in wa - ters of for - give - ness,  
Scat - ter now our deep - est dark - ness;  
Strength - en us in our com - mun - ion,



On - ly you can bring us peace.  
Cleansed in wa - ters of new birth,  
Guide our hearts in - to the light.  
One in Word and cup and bread.

On - ly in the cross of Je - sus  
Lead us to the cross of Je - sus,  
Join us to the cross of Je - sus.  
Here with - in the cross of Je - sus

Will the cap - tives find re - lease.  
Bring - ing life to all the earth.  
Help us set our liv - ing right.  
All who hun - ger will be fed.

# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

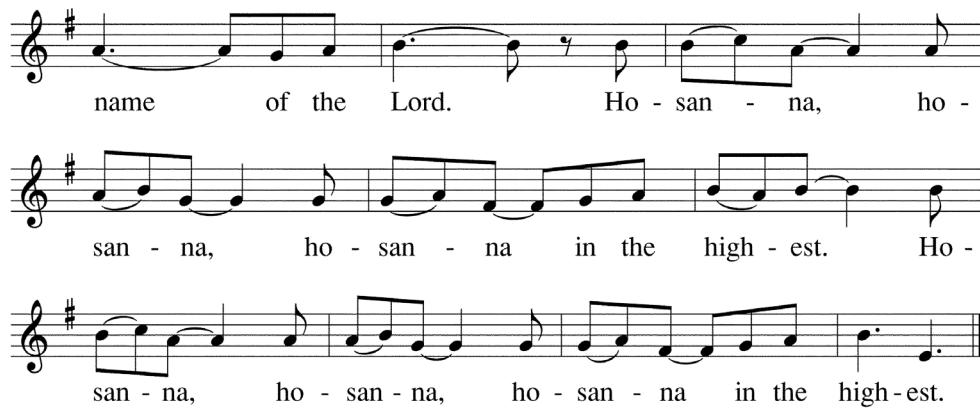
✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

## HOLY, HOLY | Mass of the Angels and Saints

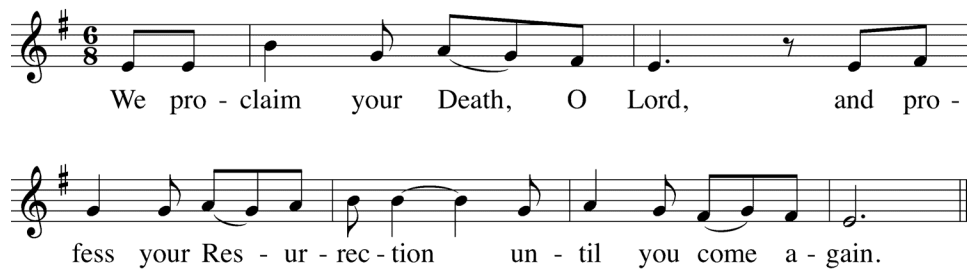
Steven R. Janco

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the



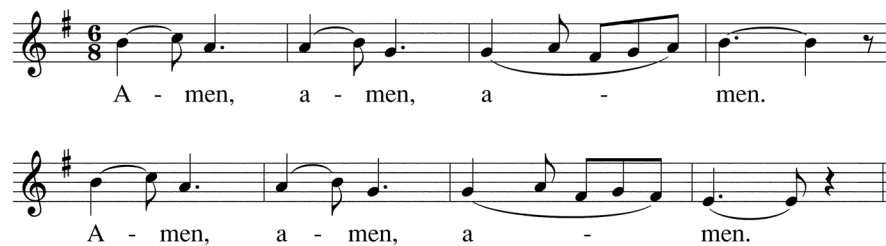
# MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



# GREAT AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

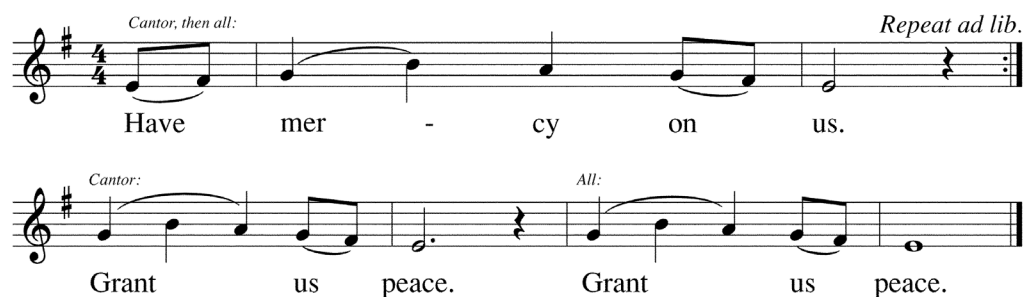


# THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.





## 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.

## Refrain



As the bread of life is bro-ken, the cup of love out - poured,



We are one in Christ, our Sav - ior, and sent to serve the Lord.

## Verses



1. We, the man - y who are gath - ered, are u -
2. In the word of God pro - claimed here the good
3. In the bread of life here giv - en, we be -
4. Sent as bless - ing for God's peo - ple, to go



nit - ed now as one. In this joy - ful cel - e -  
 news of truth is heard. In the tell - ing of the  
 come what we re - ceive. In the cup of love here  
 forth in love and peace, In our wit - ness to God's



bra - tion, we re - call what God has done.  
 sto - ries, we are o - pen to God's word.  
 of - fered, we af - firm what we be - lieve.  
 king - dom, may our char - i - ty in - crease.

D.C.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | *Miserere Mei*

Orlando di Lasso

(c. 1532-1594)

*Miserere mei, Domine,  
 secundum magnam misericordiam tua;  
 Dele, Domini, iniquitatem meam.*

Have mercy on me, Lord  
 according to Your great mercy.  
 O Lord, blot out my iniquity.

## 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.



1. The glo - ry of these for - ty days We  
2. A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw The  
3. So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, De -  
4. Then grant, O God, that we may, too, Re -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; For Christ, through whom all  
lov - ing God who gave the law; And to E - li - jah,  
liv - ered from the li - ons' might; And John, the Bride - groom's  
turn in fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, Him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
fast - ing, came The steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
friend, be - came The her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
with your grace, And give us joy to see your face.

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

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](mailto:RDuff@stceciliaboston.org).

# 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, February 25 | 5:00 p.m.**

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

### **Sunday, February 26 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Harry Minehart, lector

### **Sunday, February 26 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Maggie Loh, Christopher Loh, and  
Natasha Bolton-Pierre, lectors

### **Sunday, February 26 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Bob Mann, Jen Kolwieski,  
and Eileen Maguire, lectors

### **Sunday, February 26 | 6:00 p.m.**

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant  
Spencer Dunne and Ngozi Udeh, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

### **Sunday, February 26 | 9:30 a.m.**

Dorothy Hunt, *5th Anniversary*  
James P.B. McDonough, *Memorial*  
John Sullivan, *Memorial*  
Paul DeSabato, *Memorial*  
Jack Tobin, *Memorial*  
Teresa McGarvey, *Special Intention*

### **Sunday, February 26 | 11:30 a.m.**

Virginia Noyes, *1st Anniversary*

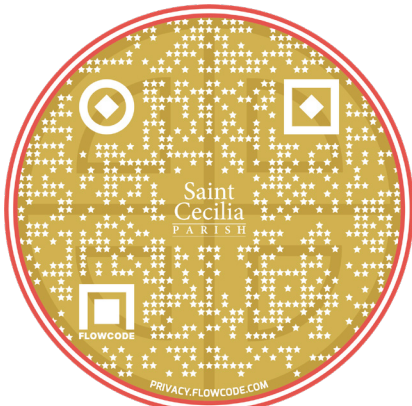
## TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Genesis 12:1-4a  
2 Timothy 1:8b-10  
Matthew 17:1-9

**SCAN THIS CODE  
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!**



"GET AWAY, SATAN!"



# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

## Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Tim Finn, Mary Torok, Glenn Gallo, Carol Tebo, John Hosang, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rick Gaillardetz, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.**

## Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: **Jennifer Mitton** and **Andrew Fanikos** of Medford, **Henry Patton** of Cambridge, **Helen Potter** of Boston, **Mackenzie Donald** and **Daniel Smoot** of Boston, **Sister Lois Dee, OP**, Cornwall, New York, **Mark Barrett** of Peabody, **Susan Runne** of Pembroke, **Ellie Loughlin** of Boston, **the Greco Family** of Middletown, Connecticut, **Catherine Malloy** and **Brian Duffy** of Isle of Palms, South Carolina, **Megan Nerz** of Raleigh, North Carolina, and **Linda Iacelli** of Rochester, New York. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

## Take a Little Black Book for Lent

These books are available in the narthex. Please take one home and spend just six minutes a day in reflection to prepare for our celebration of Easter. If you aren't coming to church in-person you can order your own directly from their website at [littlebooks.org](http://littlebooks.org). They are available in paper (\$5) and ebook (\$4) formats. You can also get all the seasonal books on the Little Books app available for iOS and Android devices at [littlebooks.org/app](http://littlebooks.org/app).

## Special Collection This Weekend

This weekend there will be a special collection to support the Church in underdeveloped areas of the world. Your generosity will help fund Catholic Relief Services, the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe, and three important national Catholic missions: The Military Archdiocese, Catholic Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Thank you for your generosity. You can donate using this link: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/support-of-the-church-around-the-world-2023>

## Black History Month

Though only 28 days long, Black History Month is a time to celebrate and lift up the lives and achievements of Black Americans past and present. We plan to celebrate this year by sharing articles and highlighting some facts about some noteworthy Black figures in history. These values echo the

main principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and we pray that they are increasingly embraced by all Americans.

## Lenten Wednesdays—Mass & Reconciliation

On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent (March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; April 5) we will celebrate Mass in the sanctuary at 6:00. Following Mass, confessions will be heard until 8:00 for anyone who wishes to celebrate the sacrament. If you've been away from the sacrament for a long time, rest assured, the clergy will guide you through reconciliation and there's no need to be nervous about the structure of the rite. Come celebrate the sacrament of God's mercy and healing love this Lent.



## TRIDUUM & EASTER CHOIR

The Saint Cecilia Choir invites any parishioner interested in singing at Triduum and/or during the Easter season to join the choir for these important liturgies. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings, March 16-30 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 25 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. If you are interested, please contact our director of music, Robert Duff, at [rduff@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:rduff@stceciliaboston.org).



HELP HABITAT FOR  
HUMANITY WELCOME  
FAMILIES TO THEIR  
NEW HOMES!

Here's Habitat Greater Boston's Amazon Wish List of items that will make moving into a new Habitat home even more special for local families! Your generosity makes a significant impact on the lives of these families. All items on this list are reasonably priced under \$75: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/38KJ36TTTSL8Y?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/38KJ36TTTSL8Y?ref_=wl_share)

## A REMINDER ABOUT PARISH SAFETY

Hello, Parishioners, Friends, and Visitors—

You may have noticed the presence of members of the Berklee Police Department in church during our 9:30 and 11:30 Sunday liturgies. As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe parish environment, we have invited officers into our space. Officers not only keep us safe, but they have assisted us with medical emergencies and traffic situations. With the unfortunate increase in nationwide targeted violence against houses of worship, we are grateful for the good relationship we have with Berklee Police, and we welcome their presence. If you ever notice behavior that makes you feel ill at ease, we encourage you to approach one of the officers.

Our parish staff and ministry leaders have completed an Active Shooter Response Training, but we need to rely on everyone to understand the importance of remaining vigilant, reporting suspicious activity, and being aware of their surroundings. Together, let's commit ourselves to maintaining a safe and peaceful environment at Saint Cecilia. Be kind and be well.

Peace,  
Lisa Pickering  
Director of Facilities



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Praying the Stations of the Cross is a wonderful Lenten tradition in the Church. We will pray them as a community on Good Friday, but you can pray the Stations online by visiting [www.stjames-cathedral.org/Prayer/jkblstations/stations.htm](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org/Prayer/jkblstations/stations.htm)

## RITE OF SENDING

The First Sunday of Lent is always a very special moment in the life of the Church. In churches throughout the world, a special gathering takes place in which the catechumens who will receive the Easter sacraments at the Great Vigil of Easter gather to celebrate the Rite of Election, which closes the period of the catechumenate. It is an extraordinary sign of both the Church's growth and the ministry of evangelization.

At Sunday's 11:30 liturgy, we celebrate the Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election. In this rite, the parish community is invited to express its support of our catechumens by sending them forth to the Rite of Election.

We thank God for the gift of new life in our Church and commend to God's care our catechumens who ask to be numbered among the Elect. During this rite, upon the testimony of godparents and catechists, the affirmation of Saint Cecilia parishioners, and the catechumens' own affirmation of their desire to enter fully into the life of the Church, the Church makes its "election" of these catechumens to receive the Easter Sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. Cardinal Seán will declare them to be members of the Elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the Easter Vigil. They now begin a Period of Purification and Enlightenment—the final, intense preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, three scrutines (rites for self-searching and repentance) will take place at the 11:30 liturgy. Please pray for these newest members of our community—both our catechumens and our candidates for full communion.

### CATECHUMENS

(Those preparing for baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist)

**Brynna Autumn Finley • Ruby Liza Rollins  
Helen Sherrah-Davies**

### CANDIDATES FOR FULL COMMUNION

(Those already baptized in non-Catholic churches and who are preparing for confirmation, and Eucharist)

**Leander Maria Krawinkel • Christopher Leslie Selph  
Kathryn Anne Vasinda • Kate Veideman  
Phenix Zuck**

### UNCATECHIZED CATHOLICS

(Those already baptized in the Catholic Church but who did not receive further catechesis)

**Hunter Nathaniel Campbell • Glenn Gallo  
Josefina Mendez • Vivian Elizabeth Merant  
Johanna Elizabeth Wilson**

## CAN YOU HELP OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS?

**Help Our Confirmation Class Collect  
Items for Our Neighbors in Need**

From March 3-5, our 9th and 10th graders will be on retreat and part of their weekend includes making care kits for Women's Lunch Place. If you are able, please consider donating personal care items like sanitary products, sunscreen, tissues, and reusable water bottles. You can find the donation bin in the narthex or send donations via Amazon to Saint Cecilia (18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115), care of Olivia Hastie. If you have any questions, please email our Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie (ohastie@stceciliaboston.org).

## NEWS FROM THE BOSTON CHAPTER OF CRS: OPERATION RICE BOWL

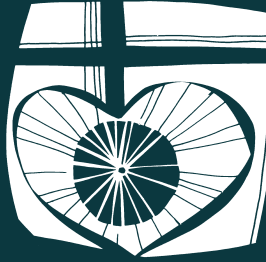
This weekend we will be distributing Rice Bowls from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Operation Rice Bowl is a Lenten discipline for the entire parish. Sometimes it is mistaken as a children's project. In solidarity with the poor, participants are encouraged to eat more sparingly during Lent and to donate the money saved to CRS. Each of us can make sacrifices: ordering lower on the menu at Starbucks, skipping a snack, having a meatless meal, forgoing wine with dinner, or fasting on Good Friday. The money saved in your Rice Bowl supports the worldwide efforts of CRS and 25% of the funds collected goes to support the local anti-poverty work of our friends at Catholic Charities of Boston. On a designated Sunday during the Easter season, you will be invited to bring your filled bank back to church and we will send the money we collect to CRS. For more information, please visit <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>



## DID YOU KNOW?

**Your support of Community Servings, especially through Pie in the Sky, enabled the agency to provide nearly 1.1 million medically-tailored meals to its clients in 2022. This is the first time the number of meals exceeded 1 million in a year.**

## SEEKING MARRIED COUPLES FOR SAINT CECILIA'S MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM (PRE-CANA)



One of the primary initiatives of our Marriage Ministry is to offer a Marriage Prep course for all engaged couples. Since 2019, Saint Cecilia has offered our own course, based on the Archdiocese model of Marriage Prep ("Transformed in Love"), in which married couples serve as witness couples to lead the engaged couples through the coursework.

But we can't do this without your help! Whether you have been married for a month or 50 years, we would love your marital experience and wisdom for the engaged couples enrolled in the program. Marriage Prep courses are offered several times a year, but commitments are flexible. *Our next class is March 4/March 11!* For more information, email Julianne and Michael Lavelle at [stc.marriage@gmail.com](mailto:stc.marriage@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT TAIZÉ PRAYER

Join us on the First Sunday of Lent, February 26, at 5:00 p.m. EST for a meditative hour of song, Scripture, and silence, live-streamed from the candlelit beauty of Saint Francis de Sales Church in West Philadelphia (<https://www.facebook.com/SFDSPhiladelphia/>), where former Saint Cecilia choir member Mark Brown currently sings. This ecumenical prayer service will consist of songs from Taizé, readings, prayers, and an extended period of silence. The Taizé Community is made up of about a hundred brothers, Catholics, and from various Protestant backgrounds, coming from around thirty nations. By its very existence, the community is a "parable of communion" that wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples. To learn more, visit [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)

## 2023 CATHOLIC APPEAL



Next weekend, the 2023 Catholic Appeal will officially launch here in our parish and across the Archdiocese. One of the most meaningful ways that we witness the presence of Christ and deepen the impact of our Church's ministries is by supporting the Catholic Appeal. We invite you to prayerfully consider extending your generosity to this year's appeal. Many of you have already done so and we are deeply grateful. Our fundraising goal is \$129,530 and our participation goal is 98 distinct donations. When our parish reaches both its goals, a portion of the additional funds received will be returned to us for use in our parish. To make a gift online, please visit [www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now](http://www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now). Thank you!

## HELP THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HELPED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES' FOOD PANTRY IN DORCHESTER

As you may know, the Catholic Charities' Yawkey Center in Dorchester also operates an infant and young child's daycare center. Two years ago, the pantry received a donation from a 4-year-old parishioner who sent cake mix through Amazon so that one of the families who receive assistance from Catholic Charities could make a birthday cake. That has sparked an interest in creating a "Birthday Pantry" within the food pantry so that families in need can have some of the items needed to have a birthday celebration for their children.

Here is the Catholic Charities' Amazon Wish List:  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VUJISQ0QS3P9?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VUJISQ0QS3P9?ref_=wl_share)

Most of the items are reasonably priced and we hope that, by everyone doing just a little, we can turn this 4-year-old's generosity into an ongoing program. Let's see if we can amplify young Owen's giving by adding to it in the next week. And if you send an item through Amazon, consider putting in a note saying, "Great idea, Owen!"

JOIN LISA SHARON HARPER, FR. JAMES MARTIN, SJ, AND MORE AT ISP'S COMPANY OF GRACE!

Thursday, March 9 at 8:00 p.m. ET

The Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) partners with social service agencies to care for the spiritual needs of people recovering from homelessness and substance use addiction. In 20+ cities across the U.S., Canada, and Ireland, volunteers provide spiritual reflections and overnight retreat experiences for thousands of people on the journey of recovery. ISP programs invite people to share their own sacred stories, deepen their spiritual journey, and ultimately find renewed hope, meaning, and purpose for their journey ahead.

Join ISP alumni leaders and special guests, including Lisa Sharon Harper, Fr. James Martin, SJ, and Mary Karr, for a memorable evening on March 9. Together, we'll celebrate the power of sharing sacred stories on the journey to wholeness and healing! The event is free to attend. To register, visit [ispretreats.org/cog](http://ispretreats.org/cog).



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

### BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY CAMPUS EVENTS/WEBINARS

#### Father Ed: The Story of Bill W.'s Spiritual Sponsor

Presenter: Dawn Eden Goldstein, author of the biography entitled *Father Ed: The Story of Bill W.'s Spiritual Sponsor*

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Attend in person (lunch provided) or virtually

Boston College, Chestnut Hill | Corcoran Commons,

Heights Room | Registration Required | Free of charge

#### Praying with Sweetgrass: Becoming Naturalized to Place

Presenters: Rev. Dr. H. Daniel Zacharias (associate professor of New Testament Studies at Acadia Divinity College), and Dr. Damian Costello (director of postgraduate studies at NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community)

Thursday, March 9, 2023 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Virtual

Event | Registration Required | Free of charge

### ANNUAL LECTURE IN HONOR OF RICHARD J. CLIFFORD, S.J.

#### Mercy in the Old Testament: The Fruit of the Womb

Presenter: Dr. Andrew R. Davis, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Thursday, March 16, 2023 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Boston

College - Brighton Campus, 117 Lake Street, Boston |

Theology and Ministry Library, Auditorium - Room 113 |

Registration Required | Free of charge

To learn more or register, visit: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education/campus-events.html>

## ONLINE COURSES

#### Black Catholic Spirituality

March 8 – April 4, 2023 | 4-Week Online Course

Registration Required | \$30.00

#### The Gospel of John

March 8 – April 11, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course

Registration Required | \$60.00

#### The Psalms: Prayers for All Times

March 8 – April 11, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course

Registration Required | \$60.00

To learn more or register, visit the STM Online Crossroads website: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads.html>



## WHERE HAS GOD BEEN DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Following the 6:00 p.m. Mass on March 12, join us in the parish hall for pizza and conversation with Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Let's share how we experienced God during the pandemic and how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our spiritual lives.

## JOIN THE FAR-FLUNG FLOCK'S MARCH ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

**Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. ET**

The Remote Fellowship Community, a.k.a. Far Flung Flock, is excited to welcome yet another ministry leader and member of Saint Cecilia Parish as a special guest. Some of you may even remember Mark Lippolt as the guest at our very first coffee hour in November 2021, when he presented the history of Saint Cecilia.

Mark has been a parishioner at Saint Cecilia for more than 30 years. A native "New Yawker," Mark has lived in the Greater Boston area since he arrived in Massachusetts to attend Brandeis University many, many, MANY years ago. At the Parish, he is the long-time 2nd-grade catechist, member of the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils, and he spearheads the Hunger & Homelessness Ministry. Deeply involved in the civic life of Boston, Mark currently serves as the Treasurer of Women's Lunch Place and he serves on the Advisory Boards of Community Servings (where he is a former Board Chair) and the Huntington YMCA (the oldest in the country) and on the steering committee for the Boston Chapter of Catholic Relief Services. In his spare time, he holds down a full-time paid position as the Assistant Manager of a residential real estate office in Brookline, MA.

We are excited to welcome Mark once again and look forward to hearing all about the wonderful things his ministry is accomplishing!

If you have joined our monthly calls in the past, you will automatically receive the Zoom link for this call a few days in advance of the meeting. If you're interested in joining the Far-Flung Flock's mailing list to receive the monthly Zoom link, please email Mary Ann Gallagher at [gallaghercomms@gmail.com](mailto:gallaghercomms@gmail.com). Thank you!



## Lent 2023 Liturgy of the Hours LAUDS

### JOIN US FOR MORNING PRAYER

Saturday, March 4 at 9:00 am

Saturday, April 1 at 9:00 am

Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 am  
*Holy Thursday & the Conclusion of Lent*

## VESPERS

### JOIN US FOR EVENING PRAYER

Monday, March 20 at 6:00 pm  
*Solemnity of Saint Joseph*

Join us live on the Saint Cecilia Facebook page or via Zoom.  
Email [sc.hoursandtalze@gmail.com](mailto:sc.hoursandtalze@gmail.com) for details.  
Liturgies last approximately half an hour.

## IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

### *Your most important work may be after you retire!*

IVC is an opportunity for adult men and women "50 and better" to offer their skills, wisdom, and life experience in service to those in need. In return for a commitment of 1 or 2 days a week with a local service opportunity, the IVC program provides monthly spiritual guidance for personal reflection, prayerful conversations with fellow IVC members and occasional retreats. Together, we hope to see the face of Christ in those we serve.

IVC serves schools and a variety of non-profits throughout the city of Boston and beyond! If you are in the New England area and would like to learn more, Saint Cecilia parishioner Tanya Rybarczyk will be available after the 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses on March 5. You can contact Tanya at [trybarczyk@ivcusa.org](mailto:trybarczyk@ivcusa.org). For a virtual information session with Fr. James Martin, SJ on March 21st, more information on IVC, or to access other IVC regional contacts, visit us at: [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org)

***Share your lifetime of experience and  
get the experience of a lifetime!***



# CATHOLICS LOVE LENT. HOW CAN WE KEEP THEM COMING BACK FOR MORE?

BY PAUL JARZEMBOWSKI



Almost every trend line in Christian engagement and church participation today slopes downward. Study after study reinforces the sobering reality of religious disaffiliation. Yet there is good news: Each Ash Wednesday, our pews are overflowing.

While weekly Mass attendance (among self-identified Catholics) hovers around 25 percent on any given Sunday, that number more than doubles on Ash Wednesday. Among young adults in their 20s and 30s—the generations most disconnected from religious practice—the number of individuals who receive ashes triples from their average engagement (from 14 percent to 41 percent), according to statistics from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

That same study shows that upwards of 64 percent of all self-identified Catholics abstain from eating meat on Fridays in Lent and significant amounts of young people, including many who are otherwise disaffiliated, give up something for or engage in positive acts during the Lenten season.

These staggering numbers go squarely against the observations of pundits and prognosticators who claim that most Americans, especially youth and young adults, are done with religion. Each Lent, this phenomenon tells a different story. We do not often tell this story, even though many of us could verify these statistics as we struggle to find a seat in crowded churches on Ash Wednesday. The very thing that many active churchgoers wish for (“if only more people would come to Mass”) finally comes to pass.

The reasons for this phenomenon are often as varied as the number of people in the pews. As *Lumen Gentium* noted, “All the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord, each in his (or her) own way” (No. 11). Every story is unique, and each reason is distinct. It can be tempting to make presumptions or judgments, but this

does nothing but distance us from each returning soul.

To truly know why a person receives ashes, chooses not to eat meat on Fridays, or changes habits in Lent, we should engage in dialogue with that individual: Ask and listen. The stories we hear may surprise and inspire us. This has been true for me in my years as a pastoral ministry leader in the church.

There are several common threads that have emerged in my listening with people, despite the very specific nuances of each one’s story. These threads are not exhaustive by any means, but they help me to better understand this incredible phenomenon and the people I have come to know.

## **Lent as a moment of rest and refuge.**

For those overwhelmed by life, Lent can be a sanctuary. The liturgical season’s slowness and gentleness are welcome experiences for individuals impacted by stress and anxiety, mental or physical health concerns, economic uncertainty, incessant polarization and many other factors. Lent offers people a chance to slow down and regroup. When experiences of Lent are streamlined, calm and quiet, many people find the peace and refuge they so desperately crave amid the craziness of life.

## **Lent as a spiritual oasis.**

Even among those who are disconnected from religious institutions, there is a spiritual longing and deep-seated desire for God’s presence. Some call those individuals “spiritual but not religious.” No matter the name, a good number do find solace in the spirituality of the Lenten season. The focus on the life and passion of Jesus, the simple yet profound prayers and devotions of Lent, and the tangible experience of ashes smudged on the forehead make faith accessible to many who long for the season’s holiness.

### **Lent as an attainable goal.**

To commit to a 40-day fast is quite “doable” to many people. Receiving ashes, refraining from eating meat for six Fridays, and giving up at least one thing for the season are not insurmountable tasks. For generations accustomed to various endurance challenges (i.e., Dry January, meatless Mondays, etc.), the Lenten journey is not that difficult, relatively speaking. The attainable goal of committing to Lent practices give many people some assurance that they can handle whatever life throws their way.

### **Lent as a second chance.**

With its emphasis on repentance and renewal, Ash Wednesday is like a second New Year’s Day. Recognizing imperfections and shortcomings, the Lenten season offers people a chance to make a resolution to be and to do better. The mark of ashes on the forehead signals a fresh start. For those who seek to “reinvent themselves,” Lent provides a welcome opportunity to expunge bad habits, build up new confidence to face temptations, and reexamine their life plan.

### **Lent as a reminder of family and traditions.**

Some of the most common things I hear in Lent are “This reminds me of my family” (or “my parents” or “my grandparents”) and “I do this because I’m Catholic” (or “Christian”). Many receive ashes or engage in Lenten practices because they are traditions passed down to them by family. As we age, we often long to go back to our origins, tap into our past, and do things to honor our mothers, fathers, family members or cultural communities. Such longing brings many to return to church each Lent.

### **Lent as an accomplishment.**

The fear of failure is rampant today. Within a social media culture especially, our “imperfect” lives are constantly visible to others, and we see how “perfect” everyone else’s life seems to be. Faced with this, people revert inward and detach from commitment, fearing these risks could lead to another failure. Yet receiving ashes, making it through a meatless Friday, or putting a few coins in a CRS Rice Bowl are powerful accomplishments in this day and age, and bring many to engage in the Lenten journey.

### **Lent as a season of belonging.**

On Ash Wednesday, when I see a stranger with ashes on their head, I immediately feel a sense of connection to that person. I may not know who they are, but I know we both belong to something bigger. In an age of great isolation and loneliness, Lent reminds us there are many others walking along the same path. For 40 days, we are truly a “community on a journey,” as Pope Francis writes in *Christus Vivit*. This Lenten togetherness builds up a sense of belonging, which

is something very attractive for those who feel alone and detached.

However, these movements toward Lent, regardless of the particular reason, are very momentary. For some, it is a 40-day experience, fading once Easter arrives. For others, it is just a Friday thing. And for many more, it may only last for an hour or so on Ash Wednesday. Many of our parishes’ Lenten guests may not return to church for another year, especially if there is no one there to support them.

But if those who more regularly frequent the pews began to view Lent as a time of great evangelization and missionary accompaniment, we might be able to move some of these connections from fleeting to forever.

Just imagine what would happen if all the people of the church were attentive and present to those who reconnect on Ash Wednesday and during Lent. Just imagine if they knew of Jesus’ compassionate mercy and boundless love through the actions of the active churchgoers they encounter in Lent.

Our evangelization can take the form of a welcome spirit in our churches and with our families and friends at home, at work, at school and in the community. Getting to know the story of a newcomer and gently reaching out to support them in their joys and struggles can go a long way to turning a forgettable moment of return into a memorable milestone along the journey of faith.

We can all do something. Little steps can take us far. The overwhelming statistics about religious disaffiliation may seem insurmountable, but if only a few of us started engaging in missionary accompaniment on Ash Wednesday and throughout the season of Lent, the tide may be able to turn.

*~ Paul Jarzembowski is the author of Hope from the Ashes: Insights and Resources for Welcoming Lenten Visitors (Paulist Press, 2022). He also serves on staff at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., supporting the U.S. bishops’ mandate to resource the laity, lay leadership and the church’s ministries with youth and young adults.*

# 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  
**E-mail** | [info@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:info@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Website** | [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org)

## Parish Staff

**Rev. John J. Unni**, Pastor  
**Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ**, Pastoral Support  
**Keith Brinkley, Mike Currier, Rudy Flores, Parker Olson, Corey Ortiz**, Reception  
[reception@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:reception@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Christine Burns**, Digital Media Coordinator  
[cburns@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cburns@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Tyler Cesario**, Assistant Director of Music  
[tcesario@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:tcesario@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Mark Donohoe**, Pastoral Associate  
[mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Robert Duff**, Director of Music  
[rduff@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:rduff@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Giovanna Franchi**, Pastoral Minister  
[gfranchi@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:gfranchi@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Olivia Hastie**, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation  
[ohastie@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:ohastie@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Scott MacDonald**, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility  
[smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Colleen Melaugh**, Director of Finance and Development  
[cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Lisa Pickering**, Director of Facilities and Events  
[lpickering@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:lpickering@stceciliaboston.org)

## Assisting Clergy

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ  
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV  
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

## Audiovisual Support

**Maureen Deery**, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show  
[mcdeery@gmail.com](mailto:mcdeery@gmail.com)  
**Geoffrey Edwards**, Livestream Videographer  
[gedwards@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:gedwards@stceciliaboston.org)  
**Vasily Izumchensky**, Livestream Sound Engineer  
[vizumchensky@berklee.edu](mailto:vizumchensky@berklee.edu)

## 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.

## 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, Olivia Hastie, at [ohastie@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:ohastie@stceciliaboston.org).

## Marriage

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

## Order of Christian Funerals

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 also provide consultation and support to anyone in the parish who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Lois Flaherty ([loisflaherty@gmail.com](mailto:loisflaherty@gmail.com)), Maria Roche ([maria.roche15@gmail.com](mailto:maria.roche15@gmail.com)), Letitia Howland ([L\\_howland@hotmail.com](mailto:L_howland@hotmail.com)), or Erin Young ([erin.t.young@gmail.com](mailto:erin.t.young@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or concerns.

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 text of the policy is also available in the narthex and Parish Office, as well as on our website.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 take advantage of 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.

## 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. If you are local, please introduce yourself to a staff member or drop in for coffee on Sunday. 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.