# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



# Fourth Sunday of Lent *Laetare!*10 March 2024

Cactus Bloom in the Desert by Maureen Gilmer

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

10 March 2024

#### THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

PRELUDE | Priere à Notre Dame from Suite Gothique

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

# THE ORDER OF THE MASS INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

the Son,

ST. THOMAS

the Spir - it,



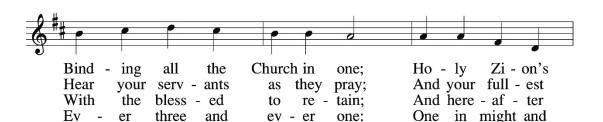
- 1. Christ is made the sure foun da tion, Christ, our Head and
- 2. To this tem ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord of
- 3. Here be-stow on all your ser-vants What they ask of
- 4. Praise and hon or to the Fa ther, Praise and hon or



hon - or

to

Praise and





#### CALL TO WORSHIP

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

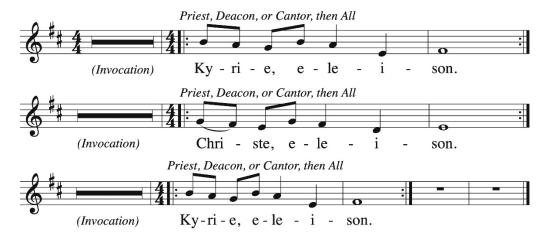
All: Amen.

**★** The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT | Mass of Joy and Peace

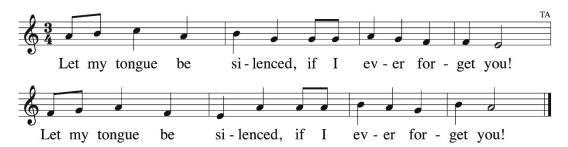
Tony Alonso



COLLECT

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23



By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. R.

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. "Sing to us," they said, "one of Zion's songs." R.

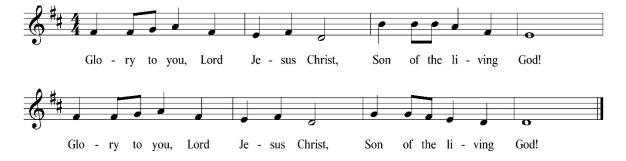
O how could we sing the song of the LORD on foreign soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! R.

O let my tongue cleave fast to my palate if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem, the first of my joys! R.

SECOND READING | Ephesians 2: 4-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Ruah Mass of the Breath of God

Ian Callanan



GOSPEL | John 3: 14-21

HOMILY

#### Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made.  $\,$ 

For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

#### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

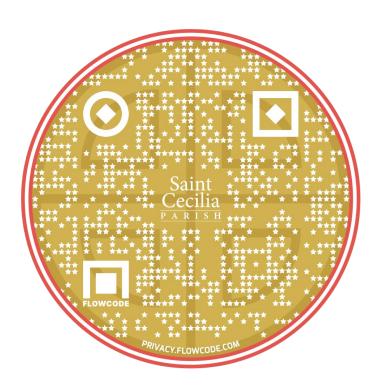
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

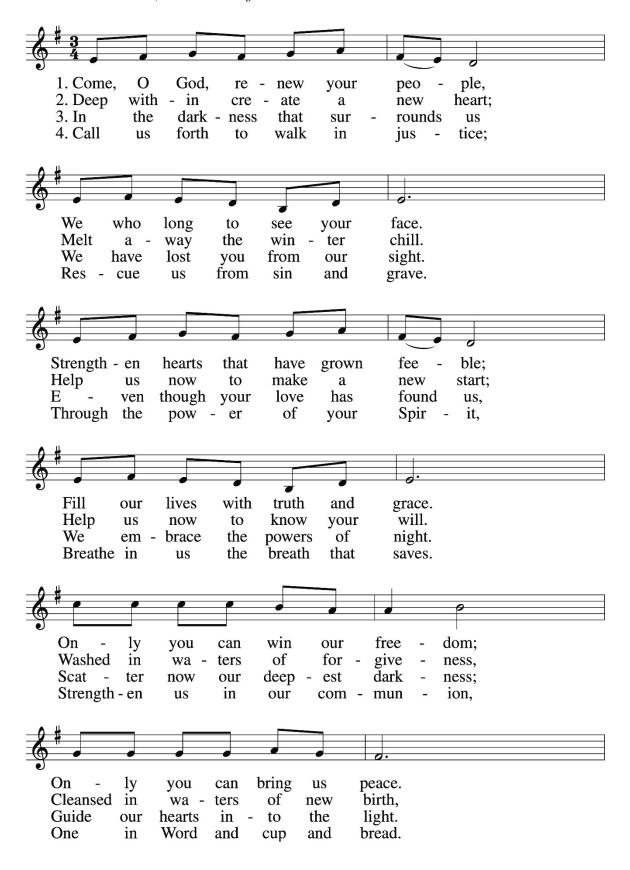
Saint Cecilia Parish 18 Belvidere Street Boston, MA 02115

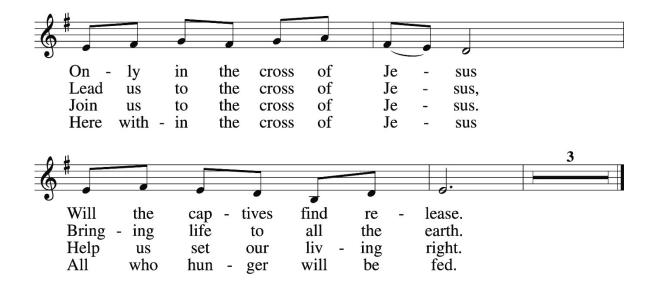


#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS | The Cross of Jesus

Francis Patrick O'Brien





#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**▼** The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

**¥** Lift up your hearts.

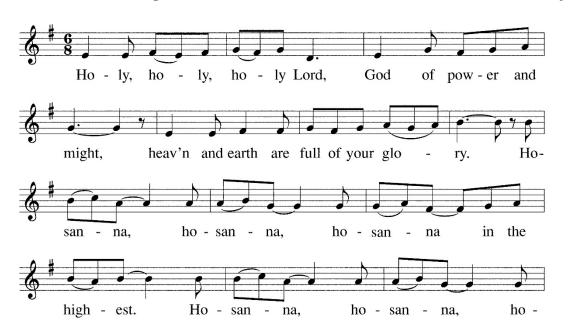
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

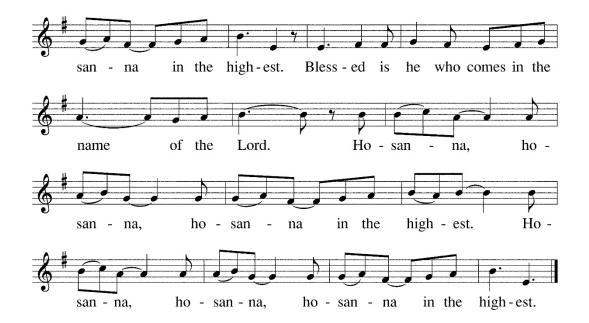
▶ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY | Mass of the Angels and Saints

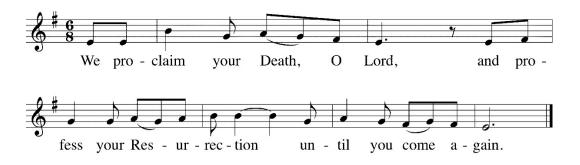
Steven R. Janco





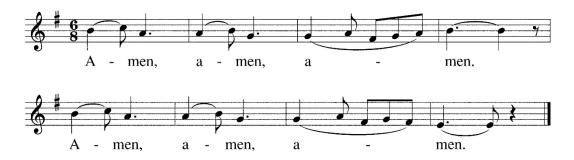
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



Great Amen | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



#### **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.

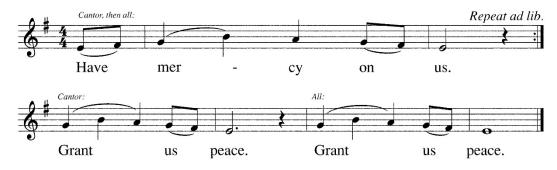
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

#### DOXOLOGY

#### SIGN OF PEACE

#### LAMB OF GOD | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

#### ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Loving Jesus, I believe that you

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.





COMMUNION MEDITATION | God So Loved the World

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

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.



POSTLUDE | Allegro Assai from Organ Sonata, Op. 65, No. 1

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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: <a href="mailto:RDuff@stceciliaboston.org">RDuff@stceciliaboston.org</a>.

# 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.



# HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday
Mass of the Lord's Passion
Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. 9:30 Mass will be in-person & YouTube livestreamed

## THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

### **Holy Thursday**

7:30 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
In-person & YouTube livestreamed
10:00 p.m. Night Prayer
In-person following adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Good Friday** 

3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
In-person & YouTube livestreamed
7:30 p.m. Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
In-person & YouTube livestreamed

Holy Saturday 8:00 p.m. *The Great Vigil of Easter* In-person & YouTube livestreamed

#### **Easter Sunday**

8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. *Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord* 9:30 Mass will be in-person & YouTube livestreamed

Livestreamed Masses can be viewed at www.stceciliaboston.org.

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



#### MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

#### Saturday, March 9 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant Rev. Gerald Blaszczak, SJ, concelebrant Maggie Giles, lector

#### Sunday, March 10 | 8:00 a.m.

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

#### Sunday, March 10 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Julie Desautels, Karen McMenamy, and Letitia Howland, lectors

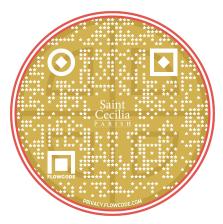
#### Sunday, March 10 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Zachary Boutin, Nikko Mendoza, and Thomas O'Brien, lectors

#### Sunday, March 10 | 6:00 p.m.

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

#### SCAN THIS CODE FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!

#### SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Sunday, March 10 | 8:00 a.m.**John & Angelina Machado, *Memorial* 

Sunday, March 10 | 9:30 a.m.

Cindy Brophy Ward, *Anniversary*Raul Degasperi, *Memorial*Bill Deery, *Memorial*Francis Frederick Perry Jr., *Memorial*Bob Smith, *Memorial* 

#### TODAY'S READINGS

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 Ephesians 2:4-10 John 3:14-21

#### **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:7-9 John 12:20-33



# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

#### **Our Sick**

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

#### Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Donna Rustvold** of Fountain View, California, **Ruth Molina** and **Brendan Burke** of Plymouth, **Vannah Caumeran** of Brighton, the **Villefranc-O'Brien Family** of Wakefield, **Kevin Nguyen** of Boston, **Lena Caprio** and **Lewis Raibley** of Brookline, and **Barbara and Stephen Gramolini** of Belmont. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at <a href="https://www.stceciliaboston.org">www.stceciliaboston.org</a>.

#### **Laetare Sunday**

This Sunday we will be at the midpoint of our Lenten journey. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday and is marked by a joyful anticipation of the Easter celebration. Laetare means "Rejoice!" and the introit, or entrance antiphon, of the Mass begins with that word. Like Gaudete Sunday in Advent, the optional liturgical color is rose. Help brighten our celebration by wearing something rose—colored to Mass this Sunday.

#### **Lenten Wednesdays Mass & Reconciliation**

On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent (March 13, 20, and 27) 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. Come celebrate the sacrament of God's mercy and healing love this Lent.

#### Welcome, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur!

Following the 6:00 Mass this weekend, the Sisters will join us in the Parish Hall for a pizza dinner and discussion about polarization. Come enjoy some pizza and fellowship while learning more about how polarization robs people of their human dignity and how we might prevent it.

#### **Easter Flowers**

We invite you to remember your loved ones by donating toward our Easter flowers. Please fill out this form: <a href="https://forms.gle/x8ZSXcyheh2QuVcc7">https://forms.gle/x8ZSXcyheh2QuVcc7</a>, which has the donation link: <a href="https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/easter-flowers-2024">https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/easter-flowers-2024</a>. Envelopes will also be available in the narthex for people who would like to print the names of

their loved ones. The names of those remembered will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Palm Sunday (March 24) will be the last opportunity to donate.

#### **Women's History Month**

March is Women's History Month—a good time to recognize and honor the indispensable role of women in the Church and their enduring contribution to the building of faith communities, advocating for social justice, and fostering environments of acceptance and love. We also acknowledge the continued struggle by women for equity in the Church and other institutions.

#### The Second Scrutiny

At the 11:30 liturgy, we celebrate the second scrutiny of our Elect. We pray that, like the man born blind, the eyes and hearts of Eliana, Junyi, Motoy, Andy, Mike, Matthew, and Nima be opened to Christ's light as the source of all salvation and love. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue this period of Purification and Enlightenment in preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

#### **Pray for Our High School Confirmation Retreatants**

This weekend our high school students preparing for the sacrament of confirmation are on their retreat, which will focus on encountering Jesus through witnesses such as Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J. His work at Homeboy Industries embodies Jesus' compassion for those we often consider as being on the margins of society. We pray for our confirmation candidates in a special way this weekend. May they come to know the Lord through their encounters with the most vulnerable of our society.

#### **Catholic Appeal Commitment Weekend**

We're very excited to launch the Catholic Appeal this weekend at Saint Cecilia. Thank you to those who have already responded generously to Cardinal Seán's invitation! Because of your early support, we have reached 15% of our monetary goal and 21% of our donor goal. As Catholics, each of us shares the responsibility of the Church community—both directly within our parish and to the greater Church. Thank you for responding in faith, hope, and charity by making a gift to the 2024 Catholic Appeal. We are stronger together and your generous participation is greatly appreciated! You can donate here: https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate1/



# AN EVENING WITH MARK-DAVID JANUS, C.S.P. Thursday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m | Hybrid

The Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry is pleased to host an evening with Paulist Fr. Mark-David Janus, C.S.P in the Parish Hall on Thursday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. The event will also be livestreamed to the Saint Cecilia YouTube channel (https://bit.ly/4bwgOkl). Fr. Mark-David has served as president and publisher of Paulist Press since 2010. In 2015, he edited the Paulist Press book Crossing the Threshold of Mercy: A Spiritual Guide for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. In 2018 he authored Your One Wild and Precious Life: Thoughts on Vocation. A native of Rochester, New York, Fr. Mark-David earned an undergraduate degree at St. John Fisher College, a master's degree at The Catholic University of America, and a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Connecticut. He made his first promises to the Paulist community on August 16, 1975, and was ordained a priest on May 19, 1979.

#### ST. PATRICK'S DAY BRUNCH TO Support Mary ann Brett Pantry

Saturday, March 16 | 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.



Dorchester's 15th annual Saint Patrick's Day Brunch will benefit our nonprofit partners at the Mary Ann Brett Pantry. The event will be held in Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish Hall at 800 Columbia Road. Dorchester. Honor-

ees at the event include The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, The Honorable Frank Baker, and Latoyia Edwards. Dan Rea will be the Master of Ceremonies. Tickets are \$100 each. You can make checks payable to Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry and send them to: *Jim Brett, 7 Wedmore Street, Dorchester, MA 02125*. All proceeds benefit the Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry.

# ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?

Are you an adult Catholic who has been baptized and received first Communion, but was never confirmed? If so, perhaps this is the right time.



This year's adult confirmation will take place at Saint Cecilia on Pentecost Sunday, May 19 at 2:00 p.m. We will be offering a class at Saint Cecilia for adults who wish to prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. Four classes will be held at Saint Cecilia from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: April 10, April 17, April 24, and May 1. If you would like more information or would like to register for this class, contact Scott MacDonald at his parish email address.



#### A REMINDER TO PARENTS

While at Saint Cecilia, children should never go to the restrooms alone. We are happy that you feel so safe here, but please remember that we are in an urban building that is wide open and has multiple entrances. For the safety of our children, please do not allow them to wander around unsupervised, and please do not ever allow them to go to the restroom unaccompanied by a parent.

#### SCYA LENTEN REFLECTIONS Prayer. Fasting. & Almsgiving

Monday, March 11 | 7:00-8:00 p.m. Hybrid [In-Person in the Community Room & on Zoom] | Open to: Young Adults (18-40)

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



#### EVENINGS WITH FRANK RUNYEON

The Charlestown Catholic Collaborative invites you to two very special evenings with TV and film star Frank Runyeon, who will light up St. Mary Church at 55 Warren Street with three presentations: Signs! The Gospel of John on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m., and The Sermon on the Mount and Hollywood vs. Faith! on Friday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. Invite everyone to this special evening! Admission is a free-will offering. Mark these dates on your calendar and join us. For more information, call 617-242-4664 or go to charlestowncatholic.org.



#### TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES

Please keep in mind that our nonprofit partner agencies have an ongoing need for donations of travel-size toiletries. Individual size shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and soap are always needed. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant (none of which can typically be found in a hotel room!) are also always in demand. Donated toiletries need to be unused and there are plastic bins in the narthex for donations. The agencies are: Women's Lunch Place on Newbury Street (<a href="www.womenslunchplace.org">www.womenslunchplace.org</a>), Y2Y Youth Shelter in Harvard Square (<a href="www.Y2YNetwork.org">www.Y2YNetwork.org</a>), and the Families in Transition at the Huntington YMCA.

# ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

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

## 22ND ANNUAL EVELYN UNDERHILL LECTURE IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Beyond the Reactive Mind: Christian
Contemplative Practice in Polarized Times

Presenter: Brian Robinette, associate professor of

theology, Boston College

Saturday, March 23 | 10:00–11:30 a.m. | In-person | Theology and Ministry Library, Auditorium - Room 113 | Brighton Campus, 117 Lake Street, Boston, MA Boston College | Registration Required | Free

For further details or to register for these events, please check the STM Online: <a href="https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education/featured-events.html">https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education/featured-events.html</a>

## BOISI CENTER FOR RELIGION AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

Spotlight on U.S. Catholic History: Reinterpreting the Past after Clerical Sex Abuse

**Presenter:** Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Professor of History and American Studies from the University of Notre Dame

Thursday, March 21 | 12:00—1:00 p.m. | Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, 101, 24 Quincy Rd., Chestnut Hill | Luncheon | RSVP | Free

For further details, visit: <a href="https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/centers/boisi-center/events.html">https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/centers/boisi-center/events.html</a>

#### SAINT SUSANNA PARISH — DEDHAM

#### The Theology of God's Mystery Today

**Presenter:** Craig Tichelkamp, Th.D., Catholic theologian teaching at Stonehill College, Tufts University, and Harvard Divinity School Monday, March 4 | 7:00-9:00 p.m. | Zoom

For further details on this presentation, please check the website: <a href="https://www.saintsusanna.org/adult\_faith\_formation.html">https://www.saintsusanna.org/adult\_faith\_formation.html</a>



# OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Last Saturday, our current RCIA cohort Catholic Charities food pantry in Dorchester. Collectively, they filled hundreds of bags of dry goods, helped unload and stock a truckload of donated food, and assembled snack packs for children. During their visit, they met with Beth Chambers, VP of Basic Needs for Catholic Charities, and Mark Lippolt, lead for Saint Cecilia's Hunger and Homelessness Ministry. This provided them with a deeper understanding of the populations Catholic Charities serves and the tremendous need in the Greater Boston area for food, shelter, and other basic needs. They also gained insight into Catholic Social Teaching, which are called to ensure that all people have access to the basic needs required for a life of

One of the RCIA cohort members, Ryan Maloney (on the right, below), had the following to say about the morning of service, "Within a few minutes of meeting Beth Chambers, I recognized in her the very reason I was drawn to returning to Catholicism. Beth embodies love and service and the drive to help those less fortunate. She cemented my calling to work with the elderly or those in hospice once things settle down after the Easter Vigil. I can't wait to get more involved in serving my community! To call Beth an inspiration seems almost trivial. Thank you so much, Beth, for having us over on Saturday!"



# DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

We hope you will consider participating in this important 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, new immigrants, and those who are unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices. Saint Cecilia has committed to providing these items to the food pantries: Cheerios or corn flakes, 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—especially Cheerios. Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex, where we have collection bins for donations.



#### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CHOIRS

In about two months, we will celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus with Christians everywhere, with the Church universal, with all our talents, and with faith-filled and hopeful hearts. This holiest of weeks is a golden opportunity to welcome thousands of Saint Cecilia community members to a joyous and sacred time of prayer and celebration.

If you would like to add your voice to the choirs that uplift and breathe life into these liturgies, please contact Director of Music Robert Duff at his parish email for more information or to schedule a vocal hearing/audition. To commit, attendance at Thursday night rehearsals (7:00-9:00 p.m.) beginning on March 7 is required. The choirs will sing at the following liturgies:

Palm Sunday Masses (3/24) 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper (3/28) 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (3/29) 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass (3/30) 8:00 p.m. Easter Sunday Masses (3/31) 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

# JOIN OUR WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP!

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group holds two online gatherings each week. They meet on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. to share the ways in which faith informs and enriches the second half of life. Although the group is not a book club, their conversation is informed by the spiritual book or article that they read together each week. Through the end of Lent, they will share selected readings from the C21 Center at Boston College. For more information about their meetings or to be added to their mailing list, please email the ministry at their parish address.

#### LENTEN ALMS CHANGE LIVES

Throughout Lent, we are called to repentance and deeper communion with God and neighbor through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In a special way, Lenten almsgiving enables us to grow in generosity, actively participate in the body of Christ and respond to God's call to love and care for others. Your Lenten alms through Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl program make a global difference for millions. They help families in countries like Uganda, El Salvador, and Indonesia to access nutritious food, build sustainable livelihoods, and adapt and thrive in the face of climate change. Please consider donating today and join us in praying that we may grow closer to God by serving one another this Lent. Donate here: https://bit.ly/42FAtRR

#### THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA March 10 - March 17

#### Sunday, March 10

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom Second Scrutiny of the Elect, 11:30 a.m. Mass Pizza Sunday following the 6:00 p.m. Mass with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

#### Monday, March 11

SCYA Lenten Reflection, 7:00—8:00 p.m., Hybrid

#### Tuesday, March 12

Evening Prayer, 6:00 p.m. | Zoom RCIA, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, March 13

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30 a.m. | Zoom New & Expecting Parents Faith Sharing Group; 10:30 a.m. Arrival & Social Time; Programming beginning at 11:00 a.m., Family Flex Room Communion Circle at Mt. Pleasant Home, 3:00 p.m. SCYA Women's Group, 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

#### Thursday, March 14

Communion Circle, Hale House, 4:00 p.m. An Evening with Mark-David Janus, C.S.P, 6:30–8:30 p.m. | Hybrid Wisdom Group, 7:30 p.m. | Zoom

#### Friday, March 15

SCYA Traveling Station of the Cross Saint Clements Eucharistic Shrine 1105 Boylston St, Boston, MA

#### Saturday, March 16

Marriage Ministry Pre-Cana Gathering, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Parish Hall SCYA Service Outing to Cradles to Crayons, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

#### Sunday, March 17

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom Third Scrutiny of the Elect, 11:30 a.m. Mass





Bulletin editor's note: This week's bulletin article is the sermon that Methodist Pastor Jo Anne Taylor preached on March 11, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church in New Ulm, Minnesota.

Are you getting tired of Lent, yet? If this were the fourth Sunday of Advent, we'd be nearly done with the purple of penitence and preparation. We would be anticipating the celebration of Christ's coming in less than a week—Christmas Eve would be just around the corner!

But this isn't Advent. It's Lent. We have a ways to go before the end of this 40-day journey into the wilderness. There are still two more weeks before we can wave palm branches at the entry into Holy Week. We have *three* more weeks to fast and pray and prepare our hearts for Christ's resurrection on Easter morning.

Here in the middle of Lent, we could sure use some joy. I think that's why, centuries ago, someone thought it would be a good idea to make the fourth Sunday of Lent be Laetare Sunday, a Sunday when we get to 'rejoice in the Lord.' It's kind of like that third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we light a rose-colored candle instead of a dark purple one. And what better gospel passage to bring us joy, than the third chapter of John? This is where we find the famous verse that sums up the whole gospel message—"For God so loved the world..."

And this brings us to Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a rabbi, who comes to Jesus under cover of darkness. Maybe Rabbi Nic comes to Jesus at night to keep his conversation a secret from the other Pharisees. Maybe he doesn't want to admit publicly that he is in contact with Jesus.

Or maybe he was trying to speak with Jesus when he had a better chance to spend significant time in conversation, after the crowds have left for the day. Whatever motivation caused Nicodemus to wait until darkness had fallen, his appearance at night is unusual enough that later, when Nicodemus re-enters the story (7:50), he is referred to as "the one who came to Jesus at night."

It's pretty clear that Nicodemus comes to Jesus in a state of confusion and spiritual blindness, and he can't seem to grasp what Jesus is trying to teach him. Whether he's being stubborn or simply misguided in his lack of understanding, Nicodemus is completely in the dark when it comes to comprehending how God actually works.

It's also clear that Nicodemus has been keeping an eye on Jesus. He has seen him teaching in the synagogues, and he recognizes that Jesus teaches with an authority he himself would never dare to claim. The conversation Jesus has with Nicodemus is focused on the idea of new birth, of being born both of flesh *and* of spirit. When Nicodemus leaves Jesus, we aren't sure if he has decided to become a disciple or not. We won't know that for several more chapters.

But after Jesus speaks to him, Jesus turns to us, and begins to speak in second person plural terms. He is addressing all of us when he says, "If I tell you all of earthly things, like wind and water, and you don't get it, how will you be able to grasp heavenly things, like spirit and rebirth?" (v 13)

Jesus continues to speak:

"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." (John 3:14-21)

Throughout the Gospel of John, we find an emphasis on the contrast between light and dark. In the opening prologue, John writes, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light" (1:5) and a few verses later, "The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light." (1:10)

And now Jesus says, "this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than

light because their deeds were evil." (v 19) These are harsh words. They don't have the same "warm fuzzy" feel of that familiar verse that starts "God so loved the world..." These words *sound* harsh because Jesus isn't talking to someone else. He's talking directly to *us*.

Here in the heart of Lent, God calls us into a face-to-face conversation. We aren't hearing a nice story about Rabbi Nic's encounter with Jesus. Nicodemus has gone home. We are the ones looking Jesus in the eye. He is talking directly to you and to me and to everyone who claims him as Lord and Savior. Ours are the deeds that are being held up to the light in judgment. And ours is the belief that is being called into question. Do we really believe in Jesus as the Son of God? Where is the evidence? How does that belief show itself in the things we do? When our deeds are held up to the light, is it clear that they have been "done in God?"

We don't like to talk about judgment much. We don't like to think about those who are condemned already because they have not believed in the Son of God. And we sure don't like to have our behavior scrutinized for its godliness. Because we know we fall short. Every one of us falls short. We all need God's grace, that 'unmerited favor' God offers to everyone he loves.

If you don't get anything else out of John's gospel, be sure you get this: God loves you. These words of Jesus go deep into describing *the way* God loves us—not "how much," but how.

- God loves us by lifting up his Son so we can believe in him. (14-15)
- God loves us by sending his only Son to give us eternal life (16)
- God loves us by saving us from our sin (17) not just our petty little everyday sins but from all our Sin with a capital S.
- God loves us by shining the light of Christ into the dark places in our lives, the places where we try to hide our sin (19)
- God loves us by drawing us into the light, so that what we do is "done in God" (21)

Why would God bother to love us in this way? Why doesn't God just write us off as a loss? It seems rather foolish of God to waste divine love on our sorry lot. But God doesn't love us because of our worthiness. God loves us because God *is* love. That's the primary identity out of which God operates. Love is *who God is*.

God keeps loving us, giving us his own self, even when we don't deserve it, can't grasp it, and don't love him back.

He keeps loving us through our rebellion, through our complacency, through our poor attempts to keep control in our own hands. If this were anyone but God, we'd laugh at how foolishly he loves.

For God loved the world in this way: that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

How are you like Nicodemus? What keeps you in the dark, preventing you from turning toward the light? How do you try to keep your faith hidden, or separated from the other parts of your life? What assumptions do you hold onto, that prevent you from experiencing the peace that comes from claiming Jesus as your Savior, and trusting in his grace alone? What keeps you from naming Jesus as your Lord and being born anew of the Spirit?

Remember the rich young ruler who went away sorrowful because he had many possessions? We never know the end of his story, because the gospels never mention him again. But we do hear from Nicodemus again – twice. The first time, he defends Jesus to the other Pharisees and priests, asking the other leaders to give Jesus a fair trial (7:50). The last time we see him, he is at the foot of the cross, with Joseph of Arimathea, taking down Jesus' broken body and preparing it for burial with an unusually large amount of spices (19:39).

Did he finally come into the light?
Did he eventually experience a spiritual birth?

I think so. I think his actions demonstrate an awakening to the light of belief in the Son of God. Nicodemus shows us that sometimes we don't get a struck-by-lightning experience. Sometimes, the process of claiming Jesus as Lord and Savior takes a while. Some of us can't identify a single *moment* when we suddenly realize our salvation is secure, but we still claim Christ's grace and we confess Jesus as our Lord. Is Jesus calling you out of the darkness, into the light of his saving grace? Are you ready to make him Lord of your entire life, not just the part that you think of as "belonging to church"? Are you ready to step out of the darkness, and into the light of God's love for you? For God loved you in this way: he gave his only Son, so that if you believe in him, you will not perish but you will have eternal life.

It's no accident that Lent began on Valentine's Day this year. This is how God loved the world. The cross is the ultimate expression of God's love. Craig Keener writes, "No where in this Gospel does God say, 'I love you'; rather, he

demonstrates his [seemingly foolish] love for humanity by self-sacrifice (13:34, 14:31), and demands the same practical demonstration of love from his followers."[1]

Throughout this season of Lent, some of you have been reading Michael Frost's book, *Surprise the World*. Each week, we've practiced new ways of demonstrating tiny sacrifices of self—from blessing others with words of encouragement and acts of kindness, to giving up our regular eating habits so we can share a table with someone else. These are all ways to lift up the cross of Christ—not in condemnation, but in love. As you leave today, I'd like you to accept a small gift. It's a pin that shows a cross and heart fused together. You can wear it as reminder of the way God loves you. And you can also wear it as a conversation starter. If someone asks you about it, you can tell them you wear it to remember the way God loves you. Let the Holy Spirit take it from there.

[1] Craig Keener, *The Gospel of John: A Commentary, Volume* 1, 566-67.

~ Jo Anne Taylor is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Covenant Church, and is a certified intentional interim/transitional pastor. She taught voice and choral music for over 25 years.



#### HENRY OSSAWA TANNER

As an extension of Black History Month's focus on Black excellence in the arts, we want to share about artist Henry Ossawa Tanner, who left an indelible mark on the arts and shattered barriers for other minority artists in the United States and the world.

Tanner, the youngest of nine children, was born to Sarah Elizabeth Miller Tanner, who escaped slavery, and Bishop Benjamin Tucker Tanner, a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His artistic journey began in Philadelphia, where he honed his craft amidst the challenges of racism and discrimination. Despite his undeniable talent, Tanner faced the bitter reality of being treated as a novelty and an exception in the United States, pushing him to seek artistic freedom in Paris, France. There, he found the space to create authentically, delving into themes that celebrated faith, nature, and intimate scenes of Black American life.

His groundbreaking success as the first Black painter to have his work acquired by major American museums marked a turning point in the representation of Black artists. Tanner's oeuvre, including iconic pieces like "The Savior" and "The Annunciation," spoke to his deep connection to religion and the human experience.

Tanner's artistic skill garnered him attention from the public, particularly later in life. In 1923, the French government honored him as the chevalier of the Legion of Honor, the highest French order of merit. Though he died in 1937, it was not until 1995 that Tanner's paintings, such as "Sand Dunes at Sunset" and "Atlantic City," secured a place in the White House permanent collection. It goes without saying that this decades-long gap speaks to the ongoing discrimination against Black Americans, the lack of recognition given to Black Americans and their work, and the sociopolitical climate of those decades in American history.



Nicodemus Visiting Jesus, by Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1899, 33.7 x 39.5 inches, in the collection of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Yet, it was not only in the realm of art that Tanner's family made history. His sister, Hallie Tanner Dillon Johnson, was the first licensed female physician in Alabama and received an invitation from Booker T. Washington to practice at the Tuskegee Institute. In addition, his niece, Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexender, was one of the first three Black women to earn her Ph.D. and the first Black woman to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania's Law School.

Today, the preservation efforts led by organizations like Friends of the Tanner House (Tanner's historical home in Philadelphia) are fueled by the desire to honor not just Tanner as an artist, but his lineage of trailblazers. The Tanner family's resilience and accomplishments continue to inspire a new generation, reminding us that, in the face of adversity, art and academic excellence can be powerful tools for change and progress.

# PARISH RESOURCES

#### Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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

Phone |  $617\ 536\ 4548$ ; Fax |  $617\ 536\ 1781$ 

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

#### Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Christine Burns, Digital and Print Media Coordinator
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Carly-Anne Gannon, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development
Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
Tanya Rybarczyk, Pastoral Associate

#### **Assisting Clergy**

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

#### Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist Brett Maguire, Parish Organist Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

#### **Audiovisual Support**

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer

#### Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m. Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30\*, 11:30 a.m, & 6:00 p.m. Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

#### **Hearing Assistance in Church**

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

#### **Building Accessibility**

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

#### For Those with Celiac Disease

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

#### Parking

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

#### **Baptism for Infants**

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

#### Faith Formation for Children

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

#### 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)

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

#### Marriage

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

#### Care of the Sick

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

#### Order of Christian Funerals

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

#### **Joining Our Community**

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

#### Please note:

According to online 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!