

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Christ Healing the Blind

by El Greco (1570)

Laetare!
Fourth Sunday of Lent
15 March 2026

Lent



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

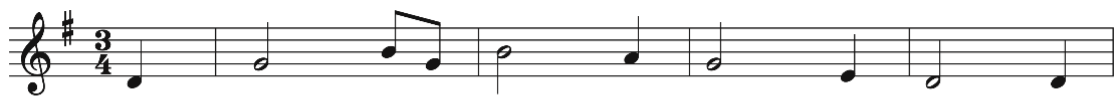
15 MARCH 2026

PRELUDE | Flute Sonata in E-flat Major, BWV 1031, No. 2, *Siciliana*.
Jessica Lizak, *flute* and Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN



1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And
3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found; Was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

PENITENTIAL RITE

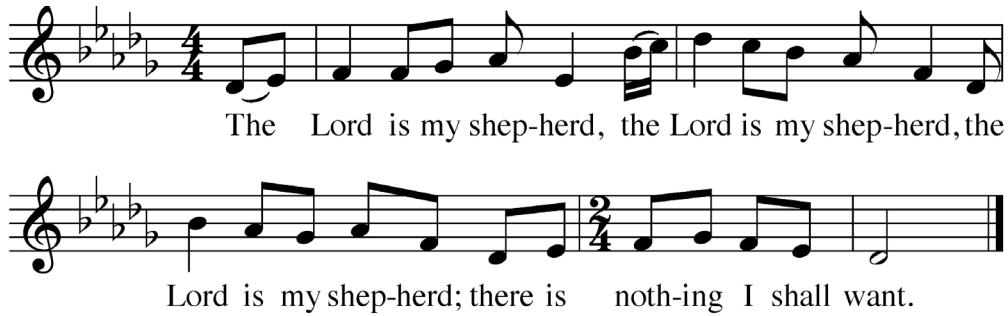
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 23: The Lord is My Shepherd

Marty Haugen



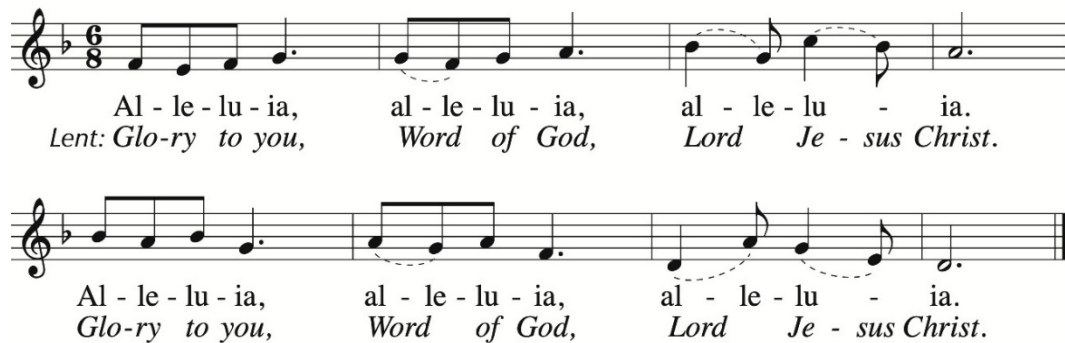
The Lord is my shep-herd, the Lord is my shep-herd, the
Lord is my shep-herd; there is noth-ing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul.
2. He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.
3. You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.
4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lords' own house I dwell for length of days unending.

SECOND READING | Ephesians 5: 8-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony Alonso



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Lent: Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

GOSPEL | JOHN 9: 1-41

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

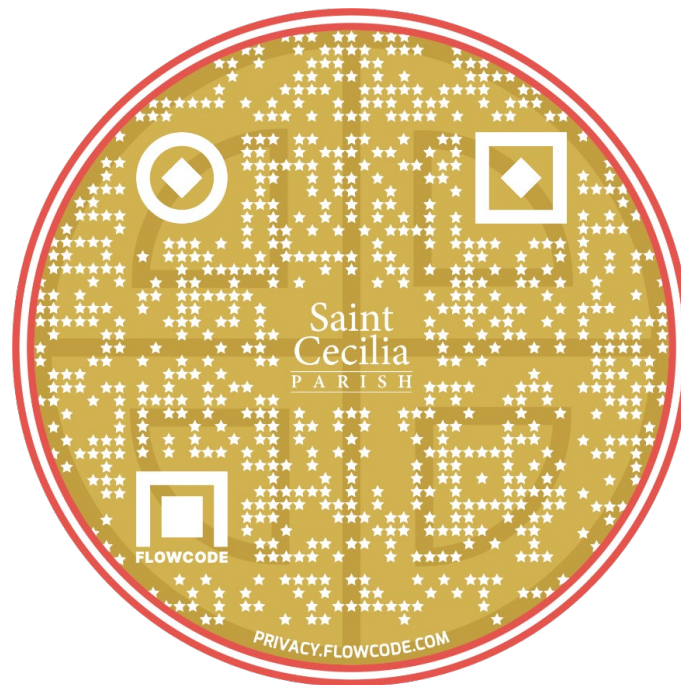
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

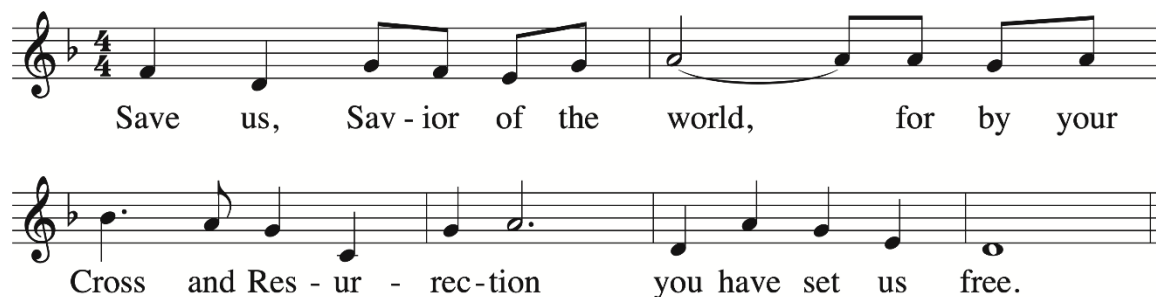
SANCTUS | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso



Save us, Sav - ior of the world, for by your
Cross and Res - ur - rec - tion you have set us free.

AMEN | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso



A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

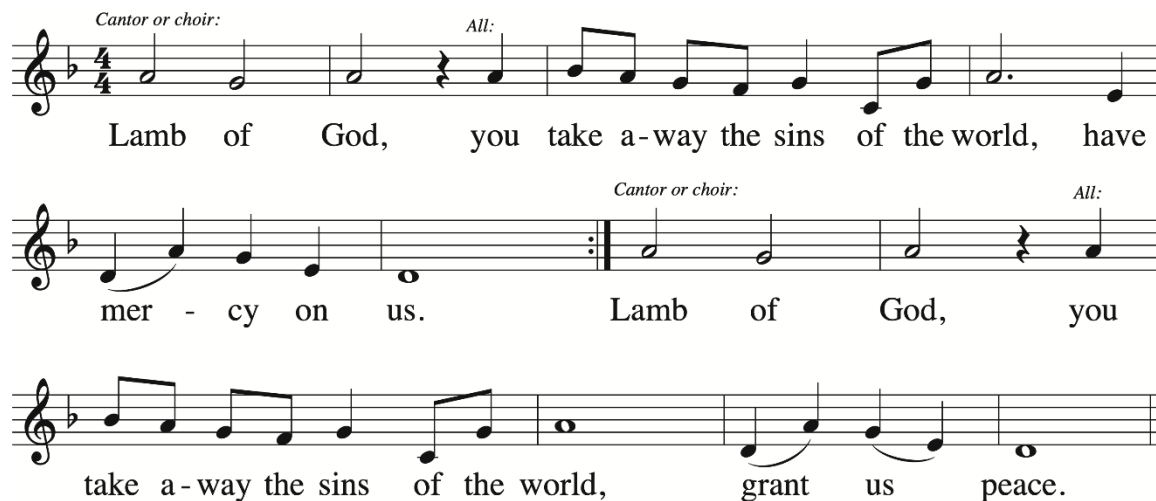
THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso



Cantor or choir: Lamb of God, *All:* you take a-way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy on us. *Cantor or choir:* Lamb of God, *All:* you
take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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.

COMMUNION | Come to Me

Michael Joncas

Refrain



Come to me, come to me, come when you are wea - ry;



come to me, come to me, and I will give you rest.

Verses 1, 2



1. All who la - bor and are bur - dened,
2. Take my yoke up - on your shoul - ders,



all who la - bor and are bur - dened, let them come to me,
take my yoke up - on your shoul - ders, come and learn from me,



come to me, and I will give them rest.
learn from me, for I am gen - tle of heart.

D.C.

Verse 3



3. For the heart I hold is hum - ble, yes, the
heart I hold is hum-ble, and my yoke is eas-y, my
bur - den light, and you will find rest for your souls. D.C.

Verse 4



4. All the Fa - ther gives will come to me;
all the Fa - ther gives will come to me; and who -
ev - er comes to me, who - ev - er comes to me,
I will nev - er cast out. D.C.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | The Lord is My Shepherd

John Rutter

CONCLUDING RITES

RECESSIONAL | Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris M. Akers

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you
 lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
 day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r To
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness. Be my
 3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
 aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
 blind with - out thy Light to see. Lord, just al - ways

dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

POSTLUDE | Flute Sonata in E-flat Major, BWV 1031, No. 4, *Presto*.
 Jessica Lizak, *flute* and Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Johann Sebastian Bach
 (1685-1750)

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.

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, March 14 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Elli St George, lector

Sunday, March 15 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Linda Frayling, lector

Sunday, March 15 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, Thomas O'Brien, Cole Young, lectors

Sunday, March 15 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Bobbi Moran, Mark Richburg, Emily St Germain, lectors

Sunday, March 15 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Nikko Mendoza, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 15 | 9:30 a.m.

William Cahill, *51st Anniversary*
George Zammit, *Memorial*
Keitha B. Hassell, *Memorial*
Thomas Sean O'Keefe, *Memorial*
Honorable Francis J. Larkin, *Memorial*

Sunday, March 15 | 11:30 a.m.

Virginia Noyes, *4th Anniversary*
Mark Brostowski, *Memorial*

Wednesday, March 18 | 8:00 a.m.

Philip R. Shaw, *Memorial*

Friday, March 20 | 8:00 a.m.

Joseph Sansivero, *Memorial*
Mary Pat Cunnane, *Memorial*
Johnny Cunnane, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

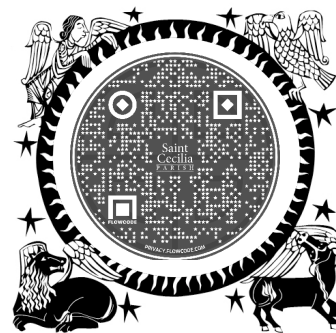
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT READINGS

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

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Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Fred Tufts, Baby Eloise Josephine Mason, Kevin J. Owens, So Kwai Sim, Daria, Maureen McLaughlin, Anne Kenney, Margaret Flagg, Paul Surette, and Deirdre Sullivan.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Donna and Peter Kenny, David Gerbrands, Jeanne Parma, and Natalie Viyaran.** If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

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!

The Second Scrutiny

This week at the 11:30 a.m. liturgy we will celebrate the second scrutiny of our Elect. Just as Christ raised Lazarus from the dead, we pray that He will dispel any darkness from our Elect, and draw Lena, Ronan, Olivia, David, Jared, Josie, Caroline, Nicholas, Natalie, and Quinn closer to his great love and light. Please pray for our Elect on their continued journey toward receiving the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Lenten Wednesdays — Mass & Reconciliation

On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent (March 11, 18, 25; and April 1) 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.

Lenten Accompaniment with Fr. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ

Deepen your spiritual journey this Lent with personal check-ins with Father Jim Shaughnessy, SJ. Available by appointment, Father Jim offers spiritual conversation, blessings, discernment mentoring, and guidance in praying the Ignatian Examen. To schedule a meeting, please call reception at (617) 536-4548.

Catholic Appeal 2026

Last weekend, the 2026 Catholic Appeal launched across the Archdiocese of Boston! Please enter into solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need and spread hope by making a gift today. Thank you to those who have already responded generously to Father John's invitation to contribute. Through early support, our parish has already reached 38% of our financial goal and 19% of our donor goal. Together, we are on our way to greater success. To donate, head to bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you for your support!

Easter Flowers

We invite you to remember your loved ones by donating towards our Easter flowers. Please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/ZCB6ZC5Poig8raLB9>, which has the donation link: www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/easter-flowers-2026. 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 29) will be the last opportunity to donate.



IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

This Week's Liturgies.....	3
Prayers and Occasions.....	4
Coming Up At Saint Cecilia.....	6
Women's History Month: Julia Greeley, OFS....	7
Saint Patrick.....	10
San Antonio Archbishop on the Profit-Driven, Inhumane Migrant Crackdown	
By Gina Christian.....	11
Parish Resources.....	14

LENTEN PRAYER IN THE IGNATIAN TRADITION

THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Are you looking for something to do during Lent this year? If so, this might be just the thing! Fr. John Predmore, SJ will host six Lenten online prayer sessions to accompany participants through the major movements of The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. Participants will gather via Zoom to discuss the major prayer movements of the week, and to discuss the graces received over the past week. Participants will be invited to find some time to spend in prayer each day. The gatherings will take place every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. beginning on February 25 (The First Week of Lent) and ending on April 1 (Wednesday of Holy Week).

- **Time:** March 11, 18, 25, & April 1 at 7:00 PM (EST)
- **Zoom Link:** <https://bchigh.zoom.us/j/86986460260?pwd=89ugakXLWXzrbqapmvG1JlxpHfeJtP.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 869 8646 0260 | **Passcode:** 674764

WEEKLY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

SATURDAYS | MARCH 14, 21, & 28 | 9AM COMMUNITY ROOM

Our own Lenten awakening is also a journey through the wilderness—a time of both struggle and promise. This Lent, we invite you to join us for a weekly Saturday morning devotional, “Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!” using resources created by Kate Bowler. Using Kate’s resources, we will companion with one another as we embrace life’s everyday struggles alongside its beauty and navigate the darkness as we move towards the light and promise of Easter.

Lent is a time of renewal and grace, but you don’t have to go it alone. You are welcome to come when you can—no six-week commitment is necessary and drop-ins are always welcome.

For more information, reach out to Mary Wessel at her parish email.

ANNA & SIMEON SENIORS

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 | 10AM | PARISH HALL

The next Anna and Simeon Seniors Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19th. From 10:00 to 10:30 am there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:30 there will be time for prayer. All parish seniors are invited to participate.

FAST FOR A GREENER LENT

Lenten spiritual traditions include fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. Deepen your ecological spirituality this Lent by signing up for the Greener Lent program at <https://greenerlent.org> where there are opportunities to reduce meat consumption beyond the usual Fridays in Lent, or commit to daily prayer for Care for God’s Creation.

When you register, please be sure to pick “St Cecilia Boston” as your group. Also, if you need some vegetarian recipes, check these out: <https://goodnewsveg.com/good-recipes/>.

17TH ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON SOCIAL JUSTICE CONVOCATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 | 8AM - 3:30PM | BOSTON COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Join us for a day filled with reflection, dialogue, and action as we learn about Catholic Social Teaching and how to apply it to our faith. Don't miss out on inspiring workshops, community discussions, and meaningful networking with like-minded folks. Let's come together to make a difference!

To register, head to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1983573780574?aff=oddtcreator>.

PLANNING, PACKING, AND PREPPING FOR THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 7PM VIA ZOOM

PILGRIMAGE, verb: the journey to a distant, sacred goal

A pilgrimage is a journey, both outwards to hallowed places and inwards to spiritual growth. The Camino de Santiago can be seen as a “moving retreat” ending at the tomb of Jesus’ cousin, St. James in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Join Nancy Nee Hanifin, Coffee Czar Karen McMenamy and gregarious greeter Anna DeMare for the second of two presentations on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

Last month’s talk was on the history & traditions of the Camino de Santiago, This presentation will focus on the practical: “Planning, Packing, and Prepping” for the Camino de Santiago. To join the meeting, please use the link below.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86837729921?pwd=DmMokLXRpjw2gEes0bcJWVtWJa6qx.1>



WINTER WALK BOSTON

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 | 10AM | BOSTON COMMON

The Winter Walk is an initiative that believes ending homelessness is within our reach. The mission of the Walk is to raise awareness and funds towards that goal, and to support organizations that are working on prevention, support, and care for our homeless community.

We hope you can join us on March 22, 2025 on the Boston Common, where the Walk will begin and end. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. with the event starting at 10 a.m. Look for the tents on the corner of Charles Street and Beacon Street. It is hoped that each adult walker will raise \$100.00 -- either by paying it as a registration fee or raising it from friends and family.

There is a Saint Cecilia Hunger & Homelessness team again this year -- we've participated each year since the event began. We have designated Capuchin Mobile Ministries as the recipient of the funds we raise again this year. If you would like to join or support our Team (donations from non-walkers gladly accepted) please go to: <https://fundraisers.winterwalk.org/mark-lippolt>.

Or a check made payable to Winter Walk can be sent to:

Hunger & Homelessness Ministry
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

LEARN WHY GOD NEEDS OUR HELP WITH THE TREES

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 | 1PM | PARISH HALL

Trees have many important functions in our world, they capture pollution to make the air we breathe cleaner, absorb storm water to help protect from flooding, provide shade which can reduce heat by 10 degrees, and so much more.



Come learn from parishioners, and founders of WE Tree Boston Inc, how you can play a role for caring for trees where you live, work or worship.

Come learn about trees and meet others looking to live out Pope Francis's call to action in *Laudato Si'*.

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

MARCH 14 - 19

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Weekly Lenten Devotional | 9am | Comm. Room

Lenten Retreat | 9am - 3pm | Parish Hall

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Camino de Santiago Presentation | 7pm via Zoom

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12pm | Comm. Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Mass + Reconciliation | 6pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Lenten Prayer with Fr. Predmore, SJ | 7pm via Zoom

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

KNIT-A-LONG FOR ADULTS:

NECK WARMERS FOR CHARITY

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 | 10AM - 2PM | PARISH HALL

Through the simple yet meaningful work of knitting and crocheting, the Saint Cecilia Knitting & Crochet Ministry creates items such as prayer shawls, blankets, hats, scarves (and more) that provide warmth, comfort, and encouragement to those who are ill, grieving and in need.



To help bolster our efforts, we will be offering a "Learn to Knit" session on Saturday, March 28th from 10am to 2pm. The cost is \$25.00 (materials and reference guide will be provided). The project we will be working on is a neck warmer. Our goal is to expand our group and increase our outreach. By joining us, you will not only share your talent but also your heart, helping us extend kindness, encouragement, and hope to those around us. Together, we can make a meaningful difference - one stitch at a time. For more information, please email the ministry.

WISDOM & MATURE
SPIRITUALITY GROUP

THURSDAY EVENINGS | 7:30–8:30 PM | ZOOM
SUNDAY MORNINGS | 8:30–9:30 AM | ZOOM

The parish Wisdom & Mature Spirituality group holds two weekly online gatherings, with the hope of sharing ways in which faith can inform and enrich us during the second half of life. Conversations are often informed by shared spiritual reading, but reading the book is always optional. The next book that this group will be reading is *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, by Richard Rohr, OFM.

To request more information about joining these online gatherings or to be added to the ministry's mailing list, please send an email to the ministry.



BHCHP'S MEDICINE THAT
MATTERS GALA

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 | 5:30-9PM
OMNI BOSTON SEAPORT HOTEL

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) extends a warm invitation to the Saint Cecilia community to attend our Medicine that Matters Gala on April 28, 2026 at the Omni Boston Seaport Hotel. We will be honoring the impact of two longtime partners in our work: Saint Cecilia parishioner Sharon McNally, CEO of Camp Harbor View and the Biogen Foundation. Sharon will be receiving the Dr. Jim O'Connell Award for her 20 year commitment to ensuring the highest quality health care for our patients, and the Biogen Foundation will be presented with the Tim Russert Award for their the extraordinary efforts to improve access to critical resources and innovative services for the people we serve.

Individual tickets are \$500 – details on tickets and sponsorships can be found at www.bhchp.org/events/2026-gala/. Your support for the work of Dr. Jim O'Connell and our staff will help us provide the highest quality health care to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Greater Boston. Thank you for all you do for our patients throughout the year! For questions on sponsorship opportunities, please contact: Linda O'Connor at 617-733-5850.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH:
SERVANT OF GOD
JULIA GREELEY, OFS



Portrait: National Black Catholic Congress

Servant of God Julia Greeley, OFS, was born into slavery in Missouri, where she endured the trauma of racial violence—blinded in one eye as a child by the lash meant for her mother. Her early suffering became a lifelong testament to the brutal realities of systemic racism and the resilience of Black faith.

After emancipation, Julia worked for families in Missouri and later in Colorado, where she eventually settled in Denver. There, she entered the Catholic Church and found deep spiritual refuge in the Sacred Heart of Jesus—a devotion that became both her source of healing and her mission of mercy.

Each month, Julia visited firehouses across Denver, sharing literature and speaking about the love of Christ.

A daily communicant, Julia lived her faith through charity. Known as “Denver’s Angel of Mercy,” she spent her evenings delivering food, clothing, and coal to poor families—Black, white, immigrant—anyone in need. She often gave anonymously, honoring the dignity of those she served and defying the racial and social hierarchies of her time.

Julia Greeley’s life is a witness to racial justice rooted in love. Her legacy calls the Church to remember that reconciliation begins with mercy, and that holiness is often found in the quiet, courageous acts.

- USCCB

UPDATE FROM THE GBIO TEAM



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Have you participated in a listening session? Do you have a social or economic issue you'd like GBIO to address in their next campaign? The parish Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) team wants to hear from you. Share your thoughts and help shape the future of

our community.

ABOUT GBIO

GBIO is an interfaith coalition working towards social and economic justice in Greater Boston since 1998. Saint Cecilia is part of a larger network of 60 member institutions and 107,000 individuals driving positive change.

FAITH AND ADVOCACY

GBIO's focus on advocacy aligns with our faith-based service efforts, recognizing that both are essential expressions of our faith. In Catholic Social Teaching, advocacy is about addressing systemic injustices and promoting policies that support the common good. It's rooted in the principles of human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity, and the preferential option for the poor. By focusing on advocacy, GBIO can help create lasting change and promote a more just society.

FAQs

Does GBIO replace the existing ministries?

No, GBIO focuses on advocacy which is different than service. Service meets immediate needs, advocacy changes systems—both are important expressions of our faith.

What if I already participate in another parish ministry?

As St. Paul reminds us in his first letter to the church of Corinth, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service, but the same Lord." Your participation in our GBIO efforts can take many forms: joining a listening session, sharing what you've learned with someone else, or praying for our efforts. Every gift matters!

Is anything happening right now?

Saint Cecilia is joining churches, temples, and mosques across the Greater Boston area in hosting GBIO listening sessions. Your input will help shape GBIO's next campaign, and we're aiming to gather insights by the end of March.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Contact the GBIO email to join the parish GBIO team or to request an additional listening session.

What social or economic issues spark hope and action in you? Perhaps this is the time to get involved and be part of the holy work of the building of God's Kingdom in the Greater Boston area.

A GOOD WAY TO PRACTICE ALMSGIVING THIS LENT

WELCOME HOME BASKETS FOR DISPLACED PINE STREET INN RESIDENTS

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but shows them no compassion, how can the love of God be in that person?" -1 John 3:18

As Christians we're called to have compassion towards others, especially the most vulnerable in our society. And almsgiving is one of the three traditional pillars of Lent—alongside prayer and fasting—that help foster a closer relationship with God.

This Lent, join us in practicing almsgiving by preparing a welcome basket for displaced residents returning to one of Pine Street Inn's supportive housing sites after a recent electrical fire. Thirty residents are waiting for renovations to be complete before they can move back to their homes. You are invited to fill a laundry basket with essentials like kitchenware, toiletries, and cleaning supplies that will be given to the residents when they return.

If you'd like to participate in this effort, please see the following page for more information and for a detailed list of what Pine Street is requesting.

Please note that items purchased through Amazon should NOT be delivered to the church. When you scan the QR code to access the Amazon wish list, please be sure to select this shipping address:

**Pine Street Inn – Volunteer Department
Boston, MA**

This project will continue until the end of March. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Pickering at her parish email address. Thank you in advance for your generosity!





Pine Street Inn
Ending Homelessness

Welcome Home Baskets



If you are interested in collecting new items for individuals moving into Pine Street's housing, please contact the Pine Street Inn Volunteer Department (contact information below).

Please consider including the following new items in a laundry basket:

Bedroom:

- 1 New Pillow
- 1 Sheet Set (Full, Twin, or Queen)
- 1 Comforter
- 1 Clock Radio
- 1 Fan

Kitchen:

- 2 Dish Towels 1 Can Opener 1
- Box of Trash Bags 2 Pot Holders
- 1 Dish Scrubber 1 4-Piece Dish
- Set 4 Reusable Storage
- Containers 1 set of Silverware 1
- Kitchen Utensil Set (wooden
- spoon, spatula, measuring cups)

Bathroom:

- 2 Bath Towels
- 2 Hand Towels
- 1 Vinyl Shower Curtain
- 1 Set of Shower Curtain Rings
- 1 Bath Mat
- 1 Package of Toilet Paper
- 1 Full-size Shampoo and
- Conditioner
- 1 Full-size Liquid Bodywash

Cleaning:

- 1 All-Purpose Cleaner
- 1 Package of Disinfecting Wipes
- 1 Package of Paper Towels
- 2 Sponges
- 1 Small Dustpan and Broom
- 1 Liquid Dish Soap



To learn more about this opportunity, please contact:
Volunteer Programs at volunteer@pinestreetinn.org or call **617.892.9184**

Pine Street Inn
444 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

SAINT PATRICK



Happy Saint Patrick's Day! Saint Patrick was a British bishop known for his courage, action, and determination in his efforts evangelizing Ireland.

He is also the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Boston, so this Tuesday we celebrate the Irish immigrants who helped shape Saint Cecilia Church and the City of Boston! The foundation of Saint Cecilia was built on the generosity and perseverance of the Irish domestics who worked for wealthy families in the Back Bay.

Let Tuesday's celebrations serve as a reminder to show radical acceptance and love for our immigrant community members, no matter where they come from. While you are in the church, take a look and see if you can spot all of the depictions of Saint Patrick!

‘IT’S A BUSINESS’: SAN ANTONIO ARCHBISHOP ON THE PROFIT-DRIVEN, INHUMANE MIGRANT CRACKDOWN

BY GINA CHRISTIAN



Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio and Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, lead a march in El Paso March 24, 2025, against mass deportations by the U.S. government.

Days after a meeting among several Catholic bishops serving along both sides of the Texas-Mexico border — a regular gathering for the “Tex-Mex” bishops — OSV News spoke with Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio to explore his thoughts on the impact of the Trump administration’s sustained crackdown on migration.

OSV News: How would you sum up the current situation at the Texas-Mexico border?

Archbishop García-Siller: It’s very clear that for migrants

from the south — from Mexico and other parts of Central America and South America — there have been very few crossings for weeks.

Usually, we think about migration (at the U.S.-Mexico border) as moving from south to north. And in the meeting that we just had, it was clearly stated in many different ways that now the migration is north-south. So it’s a shift.

Of course, we understand that nations have the right to protect our borders. But the question here is this

new phenomenon, in which there are some recent migrants or refugees who were legally accepted in the United States — yet with this new administration, they have gone from being legally processed as refugees and migrants, who have been legally here, to illegal, automatically from one day to the next. And they also have been labeled criminals.

But many of those that became “illegals” and now “criminals” are people who have been here in the United States for 10, 15, 20, even 30 years. And those are the ones who are detained.

And of those who are detained, in the many detention centers in the country and the many more sites that ICE is getting, we need to recall that most of them, 70% or so, are not in the category of criminals.

So the question is why they are detained, and what treatment do they receive in the detention centers?

Some of those detention centers are in and around your archdiocese, correct?

Here in San Antonio, we have three, and they (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) just acquired a large, large building near San Antonio. These are buildings not meant to hold people, but merchandise — not humans.

What kind of situations are deported migrants returning to?

Several bishops in our meeting said that those released from U.S. custody and sent back have no identification — they (U.S. immigration officials) took all the papers of identification that they have, even from their own country. So these people return with nothing proving their identity. Their identity is taken away.

Besides that, they haven't been in their country of origin for a long time. So they are lost.

And there have been detainees who have been sent to countries that are not even their own countries of origin.

So it's all designed to make chaos of the process of how organizations help people to adjust, to be adapted, to be supported. I mean, they (U.S. immigration enforcement) just drop them in their country of origin or even in a country that they don't know anything about.

And they are treated like prisoners, like criminals, to

make them suffer all the way through, no matter what.

And there are different organizations (and detention facilities), and they don't have exactly the same procedures. Some procedures must be alike in relationship with the federal government, but as to how they operate them, they have different styles, ways, regulations and practices. And the detainees are moved around.

We met a family where the parents were moved to seven different detention centers in the last few months. It's hard to even understand in our minds how those people navigate (those moves). They don't know what to do in one detention center. They demand this (in one place); the other place doesn't even have even walls; it's like a tent. I mean, the dynamics are very different.

And the whole point is that they should not feel comfortable and to understand the system. The government controls them and the detention centers.

We are totally opposed to it. In the Church, we are totally opposed to it. We proclaim human dignity.

We want them to understand the system in order to find ways of dealing with it, and we want solutions to help them to move forward in whatever way we can.

For many, if not most, of those returning to their countries of origin, the conditions that drove them to migrate for safety reasons — such as conflict, narco trafficking, environmental degradation — remain unchanged. How are those you speak with navigating that reality?

Not only not changed, but those returning have been for several decades outside that country of origin. For them, the situation is even worse.

But I will tell you this: Many of the detainees arrived at a point where they say, “Deport me. Because this is shameful; I'm not a criminal. And I have been humiliated to a point that I want you to send me back.”

Yet another aspect of these detention centers is that they are not sending everyone who wants to go back. They don't send them back.

So the question is, why?

Because it's a business. So the government needs to use what they have in the budget for this crackdown on immigration. That is a huge amount of money. They have to contract

detention centers, organizations, all for profit.

We need to recall that these detention centers that the federal government uses are for profit.

They cannot have empty beds, because otherwise they don't make money. So they keep the detainees as much as they can, until they know they will be replaced by more detainees, newer detainees.

So it's business, business, business, business, business.

And people are suffering, including children. I call it a really perverse, inhumane system of dealing with people.

And we can tell you that we know about these situations, because in this archdiocese and many other dioceses in the country, we have been working for migrants and refugees for many decades. But it's not for profit. So it's very different, how we approach respect for people. We (the Church) are not using this situation of migrants and refugees for business.

Are you concerned that with the new U.S. and Israel-Iran war, domestic concern for migrants will be sidelined?

When I think about the wars that are now taking place throughout the world — they are led by those who are autocrats, tyrants, with systems created for an extreme sense of control. We are (here in the U.S.) trying to be peacemakers, but I think there is already a war in the U.S.; there is conflict and violence inside the country. And then this sense of conflict spreads outside the country. I mean, it's hard to understand the rationale. ... It's chaos.

Have you seen any shifts over the past year on how American Catholics think about immigration?

Sometimes, in a few conversations here and there, I'll hear that people have changed their thinking. And sometimes it's because some of them were affected because a neighbor, friends, parishioners were detained. And so that leads them to think about it, and they come to say, "Well, we need to control our borders, but in the way it's happening, there's something wrong."

But it's still a very low percentage. For the majority who don't change, it's because their political party and their affiliation seem more important, and it has taken a dimension of greater importance with regard to how

important our faith is, and having God in our lives. For some Catholics and Christians, Jesus Christ — his words, his actions, his lifestyle, the values that the faith presents — they are not a priority.

Jesus experienced the most profound migration than any other human being in the world. He, as God, also became man.



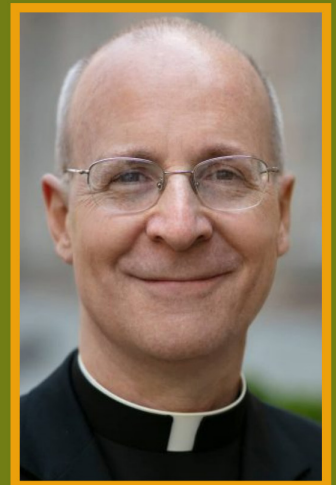
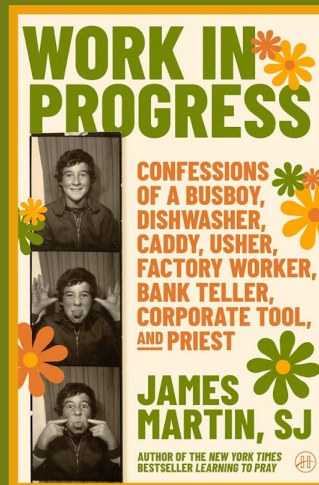
Originally published in OSV News on March 4, 2026.

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., is the 6th Archbishop of San Antonio, appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in October 2010.

Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.

AN EVENING WITH JAMES MARTIN, SJ

Saturday, March 21st | 6:30pm



Father Jim Martin will be joining us to discuss his latest book, "Work In Progress." Following the talk, books will be available for purchase. A reception will follow, where Father Jim Martin will be signing books.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Seven days a week, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
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
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, Deacon
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator
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 Operations & Events
Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

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

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show
Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer
Ben Worthley, Audio 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, and 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Father Jim Shaughnessy, SJ is available by appointment for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To schedule an appointment, please call the Parish Office. On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent, Mass is celebrated in the sanctuary at 6:00 and following Mass, Father Shaughnessy will hear confessions until 8:00—no appointment necessary.

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

Baptism for Infants

Infant baptism is celebrated on the first and third weekends 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 Pastoral Director of Operations, Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien.

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$15, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$15 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.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIRTUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, Erin Young, or Kathy Sanders 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.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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. For more information, contact Mary Wessel in the Parish Office.

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 parish offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics from many neighborhoods in and around Boston; we also have friends from around the country and the world. We invite local individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter your present status in the Catholic Church, current family or marital situation, gender or gender expression, sexual orientation, personal history, age, race, or self-image, you are invited and will be welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected here at Saint Cecilia. We are here to accompany and serve you.

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 a ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists will be happy to share the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online.