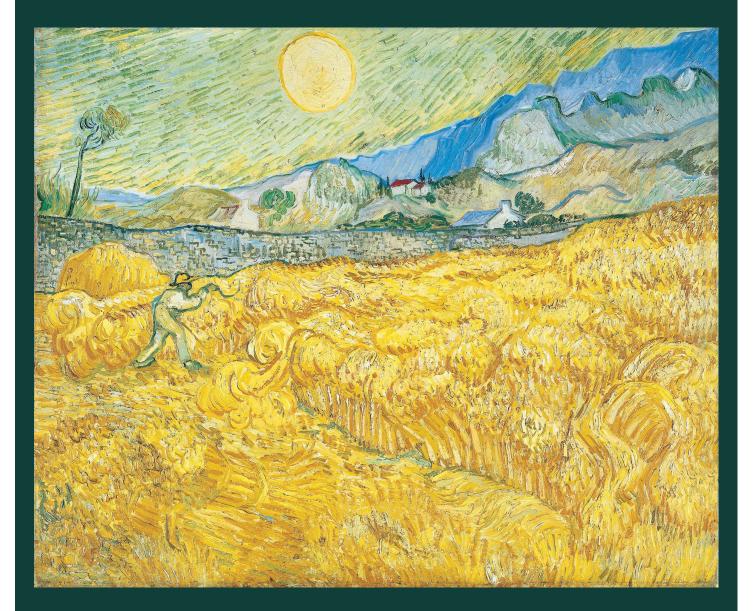


P A R I S H



Fifth Sunday of Lent 17 March 2024

Wheat Field Behind Saint-Paul Hospital with a Reaper by Vincent van Gogh



17 March 2024 THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

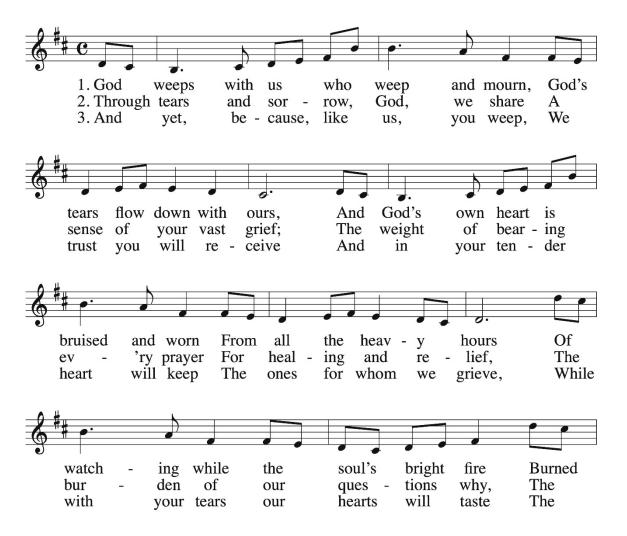
PRELUDE | O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde gross

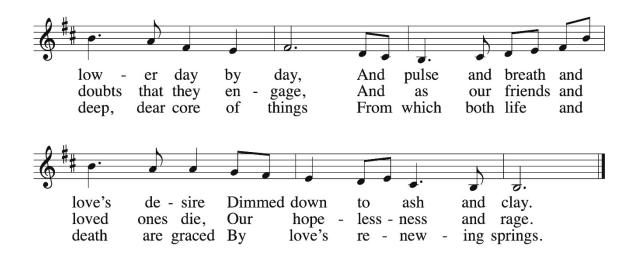
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE ORDER OF THE MASS INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn

MOSHIER





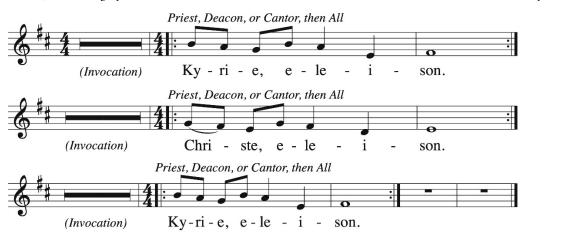
CALL TO WORSHIP

♥ 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



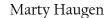
Tony Alonso

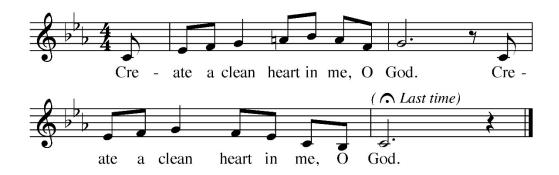
Collect

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Ps. 51: Create a Clean Heart in Me, O God



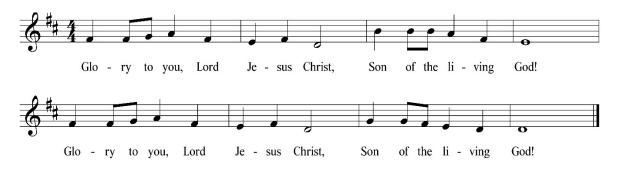


- 1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your merciful love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash me completely from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- 2. Create a pure heart for me, O God; renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence; take not your holy spirit from me.
- 3. Restore in me the joy of your salvation; sustain in me a willing spirit. I will teach transgressors your ways, that sinners may return to you.

SECOND READING | Hebrews 5: 7-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Ruah Mass of the Breath of God

Ian Callanan



GOSPEL | John 12: 20-33

Homily

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!

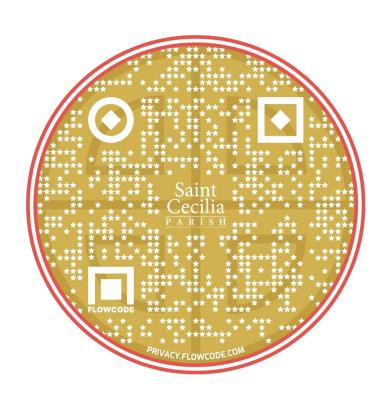
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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.

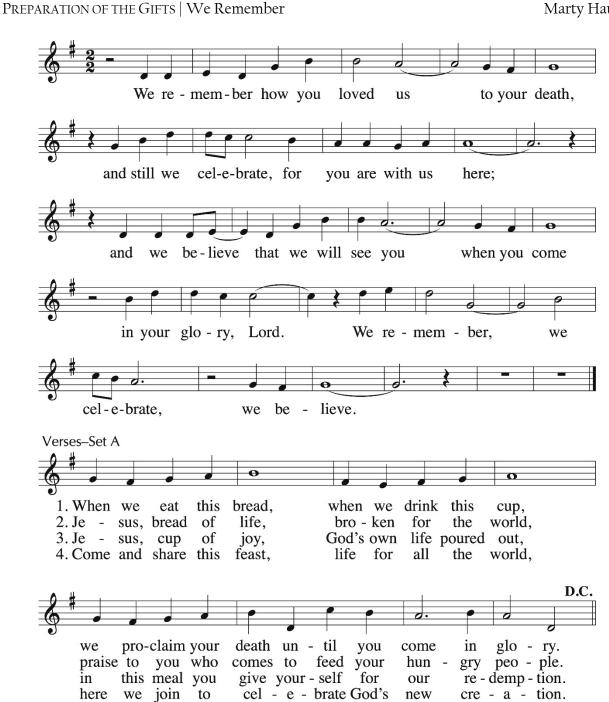
If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish 18 Belvidere Street Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Marty Haugen

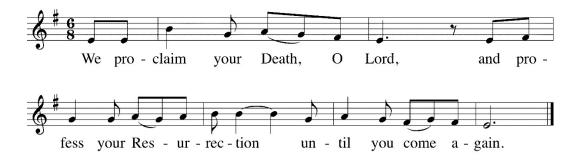
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ♥ 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

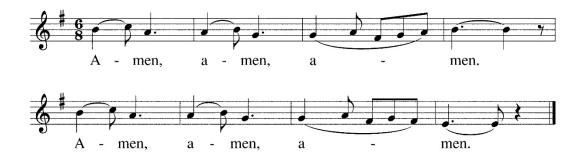
Steven R. Janco





GREAT AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

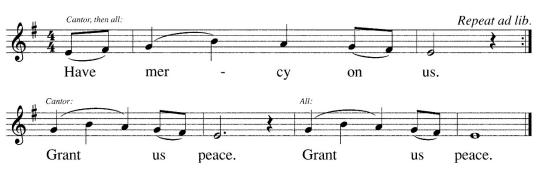
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

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.

Bernadette Farrell



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CONCLUDING RITES

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

 \blacksquare The Lord be with you.

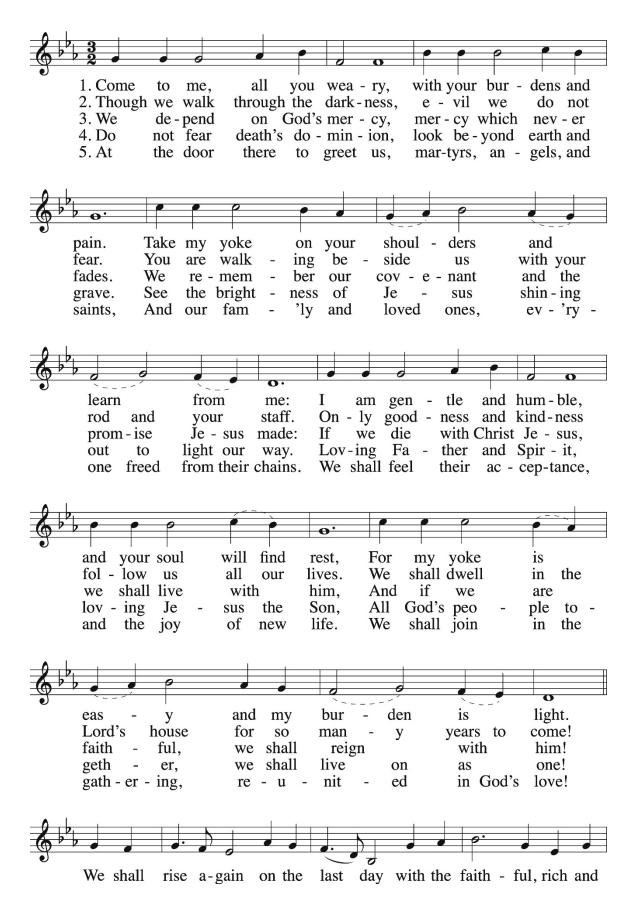
All: And with your spirit.

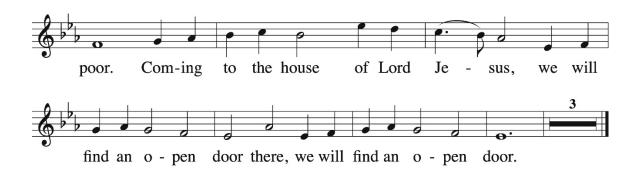
♥ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

 \blacksquare Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.





POSTLUDE | Toccata from Suite Gothique

Leon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

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: <u>RDuff@stceciliaboston.org</u>.

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.

$\frac{\text{Saint Cecilia}}{P A R I S H}$

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 16 | 5:00 p.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Catherine Horsley, lector

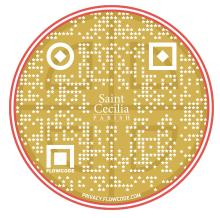
Sunday, March 17 | 8:00 a.m. Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant Jim Dougherty, lector

Sunday, March 17 | 9:30 a.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Natasha Bolton-Pierre, Chika Offurum, and Michael Lake, lectors

Sunday, March 17 | 11:30 a.m. Rev. John Unni, celebrant Tim McGillicuddy, Linda Frayling, and Kate McGillicuddy, lectors

Sunday, March 17 | 6:00 p.m. Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant Virgen Palermo, lector

SCAN THIS CODE FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 17 | 8:00 a.m. George Morales, Anniversary Sr. Jeannette Normandin, S.S.A., Memorial

Sunday, March 17 | 9:30 a.m. George Zammit, 13th Anniversary Stephen Francis Coyle, Memorial Margaret Cunnane, Memorial Carol Ascrizzi, Memorial Joan Derba, Memorial Frank Monte, Memorial

Sunday, March 17 | 11:30 a.m. Kathryn G. Norton, *Month's Mind*

Wednesday, March 20 | 8:0 a.m. Mary Pat Cunnane, *Memorial* Joseph G. & Mary A. Maciora, *Memorial* Mary G. Jacobs, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Mark 11:1-10 Isaiah 50:4-7 Philippians 2:6-11 Mark 14:1-15:47

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: **Mikayla Jackson** of Coventry, Rhode Island, **Gina Miranda** of Brookline, **Emily Bourke** of Boston, **Natalie Collet** of Boston, **Joe Maglitta** of Cambridge, and **Marie Connell** of Quincy. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at <u>www.stceciliaboston.org</u>.

Lenten Wednesdays Mass & Reconciliation

On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent (March 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.

Easter Flowers

We invite you to remember your loved ones by donating toward our Easter flowers. Please fill out this form: <u>https://forms.gle/x8ZSXcyheh2QuVcc7</u>, which has the donation link: <u>www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/easter-flowers-2024</u>. 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.

Thank You!

We are grateful for your recent generosity towards two special collections. Through your support, we raised \$3,079 in support of the Church around the world and \$3,763 for Catholic Charities of Boston during our Ash Wednesday collection. Your contributions are greatly appreciated, and we thank you for your kindness.

The Third Scrutiny

Today at the 11:30 a.m. liturgy we will celebrate the third 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 **Eliana**, **Junyi**, **Motoy**, **Andy**, **Mike**, **Matthew**, and **Nima** 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.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

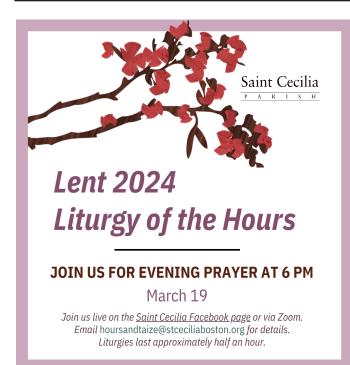
Today we commemorate Saint Patrick, patron saint of the Archdiocese of Boston, and the founders of Saint Cecilia Church—Irish immigrants who worked as domestics for the wealthy families in Back Bay. It is because of the perseverance and generosity of these Irish immigrants that we can all call Saint Cecilia our home. As we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day, let today also serve as a reminder to be radically welcoming to immigrants of all national origins as they serve as the backbone of our communities. Remember that a kind gesture, while it may be a small effort for you, can go a long way for those feeling like an outsider in a new home.

Help Care for Those in Need

At least a few times each week, men and women experiencing food insecurity come to the parish looking for something to eat or a donation. While we do sometimes give out small amounts of money, we prefer to offer people a gift card to a local supermarket, CVS, Dunkin' Donuts, or fast food establishment. You have always responded generously to our appeal for gift cards, but once again, we are in need of having our supply replenished. If you are interested in helping out in this way, simply purchase a gift card to a staff person. While all gift cards are appreciated, at this point in time, gift cards to Star Market, Shaw's, and CVS would be most helpful. We are very appreciative of your assistance as we attempt to offer aid to our struggling brothers and sisters. Thank you!

Catholic Appeal Updated

Because of your generous support, we have reached 21% of our monetary goal and 34% of our donor goal. Thank you for responding in faith, hope, and charity by making a gift to this year's Catholic Appeal. We are stronger together and your generous participation is greatly appreciated! You can donate here: https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate1/



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 <u>charlestowncatholic.org</u>.



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 (<u>www.womenslunchplace.org</u>), Y2Y Youth Shelter in Harvard Square (<u>www.Y2YNetwork.</u> org), and the Families in Transition at the Huntington YMCA.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

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

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: <u>https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education/featured-events.html</u>

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: <u>https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/centers/</u> boisi-center/events.html

ONLINE COURSES

Mapping Your Inner Landscape April 10–May 14 | 5-Week Online Course Registration Required | \$60.00

The Psalms: Prayers for All Times April 10–May 14 | 5-Week Online Course Registration Required | \$60.00

Learn more: <u>https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/</u> crossroads/course-schedule.html#tab-march

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 18 | 7:00-9:00 p.m. | Zoom

Learn more: https://www.saintsusanna.org/adult_faith_formation.html

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



CONCERT TO BENEFIT Women's lunch place

"Music for Food" is a musician-led initiative to fight hunger in our local communities. Music for Food's concerts have already raised funds to create more than 1.5 million meals! Music for Food's 14th season concludes at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 7 in New England Conservatory's Brown Hall. This special concert will be curated by 11-time Grammy nominee Marc-André Hamelin and features Richard Strauss' melodrama Enoch Arden. Marc-André will be joined by world-renowned actor, playwright, and pianist Hershey Felder for this once-in-a-lifetime performance.

As with all Music for Food concerts, admission is free with a suggested donation (\$40/adult, \$15/student), no tickets or RSVPs are necessary, and ALL proceeds will go to Women's Lunch Place, which is celebrating its 41st anniversary of providing needed resources to vulnerable women in Boston.



THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA March 17 - March 24

Sunday, March 17 Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom Third Scrutiny of the Elect, 11:30 a.m. Mass

Monday, March 18 SCYA Women's Group, 7:30 p.m. | Zoom

Tuesday, March 19 Evening Prayer, 6:00 p.m. | Zoom RCIA, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20

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 Susan Balis House, 3:30 p.m.

> Thursday, March 21 Wisdom Group, 7:30 p.m. | Zoom

Friday, March 22

SCYA Traveling Station of the Cross Saint Ignatius of Loyola Church 28 Commonwealth Ave, Chestnut Hill, MA

Sunday, March 24

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom Young Families Ministry Gathering, Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass, Family Flex Center





The day after my first holy Communion, I begged my father to go to 6 a.m. Mass with me. Bleary-eyed but eager, I sat with my father in the polished oak pews, illuminated by the morning sun creeping through the stained glass windows. I was determined to receive Communion again, having convinced myself that I would forget how by the time next Sunday came around. Even though I was the youngest person in the pews by at least five decades that morning, I loved the sense of belonging that the church provided.

That sense of belonging continued as my family and I journeyed to the same smoky, incense-filled chapel every Sunday. Across uneven sidewalks, we would walk one block from our home on the corner down to the church. Some days, particularly in the winter months, the walk was a pilgrimage, trudging through the frigid elements to reach the warmth of Immaculate Conception Church.

In the years following my First Communion, my interest in participating in the Mass continued. I watched my peers neighbors and classmates—don their small white robes each Sunday with a growing curiosity. I longed to join them in their roles as altar servers. Finally, shortly after the first day of the fourth grade, I carefully printed my name in black Sharpie on the sheet tacked to the parish bulletin board. Among flyers for vacation Bible school and calls for soup kitchen volunteers was my next step in furthering my relationship with the church community: the signup sheet for after-school altar server training. I was going to become an altar girl.

On Wednesday afternoons, my sister and I eagerly participated in the training. The small cohort of trainees (my sister and I and our next-door neighbor) anxiously shadowed the older altar boys, now our fellow acolytes, for two weeks. Soon, serving at the Sunday Masses became the centerpiece of my week.

Once I mastered ringing the bells during the consecration and passing around the collection basket, my responsibilities increased. During the entirety of a confirmation service, I was tasked with holding the bishop's miter while my sister held the crosier. We sat in the first pew with perfect posture and questioned what this pointed hat and crooked staff had to do with God. My sister giggled at the older kids getting smudged with oil, their shiny foreheads passing by us in the pews.

Walking down the center aisle, my sister and I would sync our steps and tip our heads forward in reverence as our dirty sneakers peeked out from under our bleached robes. Each week we rotated who would carry the processional cross. My small, sweaty hands clenched the polished, metallic brass of the staff. As we came out of the church, we would sneak smiles to the elderly women who dotted the edges of the pews as they waved at us with their little gloved hands and offered nods that said, "Good job up there." We altar girls would stand framing the doorway like small guards as parishioners left the church and shook hands with the priest. People thanked the priest for a wonderful homily, for the spiritual guidance or for a Mass that did not surpass 50 minutes. I was mesmerized by how grateful these people were and how their lives seemed to be transformed by this Sunday ritual.

Though I became an altar girl in 2010, the notion of the altar boy still prevailed at my parish. Aside from me and my sister, there was only one other young girl who was an acolyte. I was proud to be one of three altar girls, but my pride was undermined by the uneasy feeling that I was being compared to the altar boys. They often had more experience, which seemed to give them confidence while serving. The boys were chosen for what felt like the best tasks, whether serving right beside the bishop during a confirmation or lighting the paschal candle before a baptism. Compared with my Sunday morning nerves as we prepared in the sacristy, the boys seemed so certain that their place was on the altar, while I sometimes felt undervalued in my role as an altar girl.

At the end of each Sunday service, I hoped that my standing by the doorway of the church might mean that the other girls coming out could see that their place was not just in the pews, but on the altar too.

Ahead of this year's synod, where laywomen have the right to vote on specific proposals for the first time in history, I find myself reflecting on how much serving on the altar has formed my experience as a woman in the church.

Being an altar girl taught me that the altar and the sacraments were not reserved for men alone, but that I have the right to participate in Mass in my own way. Now as I arrive at Mass, I'm struck with the familiar sense of belonging and

pride I felt as a young girl who just wanted to be a part of that Sunday celebration. I know the excitement of getting to ring bells in front of the congregation or the nervousness that comes with having to wash the priest's hands before Communion. I know the hopefulness of being a woman serving the altar and being involved in the church.

Knowing that women will participate in the synod instills within me that same sense of pride. While our scales of involvement are vastly different—altar serving at my community church and engaging doctrine under the pontifical secret are not quite comparable in scope—the meaning behind our actions remains the same.

From serving as an acolyte in 2010 to watching women take an active part in the synod in 2023, this momentum—albeit, gradual—of inclusion only deepens my belief that the church is for everyone. While conversations at the synod will engage diverse ideologies, they will also integrate women into those conversations more fully, working toward greater gender equality within an institution that has historically marginalized women.

I still carry the pride I felt as an altar girl as I file into the pews today. As we approach the synod on synodality with women entering the global stage, I am reminded that the church is something that all people can partake in, a community that we give ourselves to, and that gives itself back to us. Our church is just that: *ours*.

~ Christine Lenahan is a Joseph A. O'Hare, S.J., Fellow at America. As a 2023 graduate of Boston College, she will pursue a J.D. from Boston College Law School in Fall 2024.



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 email address.

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.



Our 2024 High School Confirmation retreat was a blast—thank you to everyone who helped out!

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115 Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781 E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org /// Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

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

Assisting Clergy

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

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music tcesario@stceciliaboston.org Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist Brett Maguire, Parish Organist bmaguire@stceciliaboston.org Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show mdeery@stceciliaboston.org Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer gedwards@stceciliaboston.org Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer vizumchensky@berklee.edu

Reception

reception@stceciliaboston.org

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 lowgluten 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 cgannon@stceciliaboston.org.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche (maria. roche15@gmail.com), Letitia Howland (l_howland@hotmail.com), or Erin Young (erin.t.young@gmail.com) 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.