

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Transfiguration Of Jesus (from Biblia Sacra)

by Salvador Dalí (c.1969)

**Second Sunday of Lent**  
1 March 2026

# Lent



## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

1 MARCH 2026

PRELUDE | Flute Sonata in B Minor, BWV 1030, No. 1, Andante.  
Jessica Lizak, *flute* and Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | How Good, Lord, to Be Here

SWABIA



1. How good, Lord, to be here! Your  
2. How good, Lord, to be here, Your  
3. Ful - fill - er of the past And  
4. Be - fore we taste of death, We  
5. How good, Lord, to be here! Yet



glo - ry fills the night; Your face and gar - ments,  
beau - ty to be - hold Where Mo - ses and E -  
hope of things to be, We hail your bod - y  
see your king - dom come; We long to hold the  
we may not re - main; But since you bid us



like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
li - jah stand, Your mes - sen - gers of old.  
glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.  
vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.  
leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

PENITENTIAL RITE

COLLECT

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Genesis 12: 1-4a

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 33: Lord, Let Your Mercy Be on Us

Marty Haugen



Lord, let your mer - cy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you,  
as we place our trust in you.

1. For the word of the Lord is faithful, and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.
2. Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. He is our help and our shield.  
May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

SECOND READING | 2 Timothy 1: 8b-10

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 | MATTHEW 17: 1-9

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!

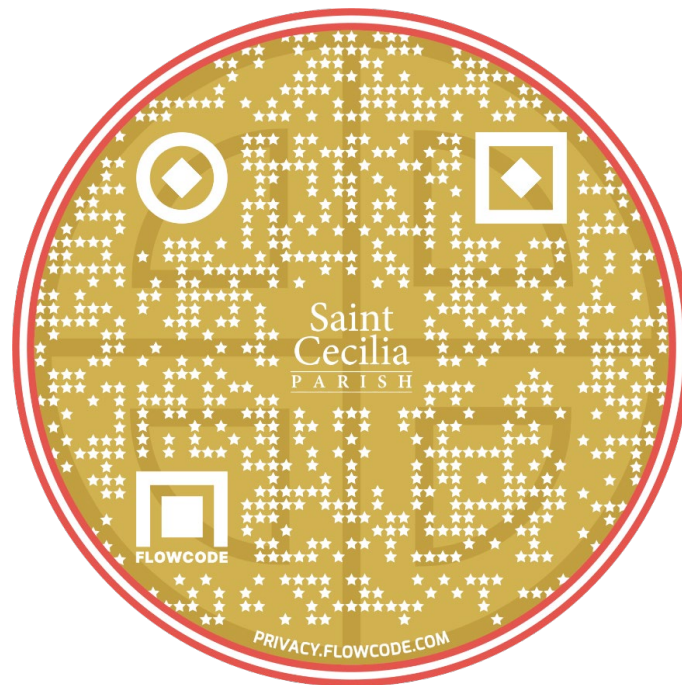
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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/stceciaboston](http://www.flowcode.com/page/stceciaboston).

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Transform Us

PICARDY



1. Trans - form us as you, trans - fig - ured,  
2. Trans - form us as you, trans - fig - ured,  
3. Trans - form us as you, trans - fig - ured,



Stood a - part on Ta - bor's height.  
Once spoke with those ho - ly ones.  
Would not stay with - in a shrine.



Lead us up our sa - cred moun - tains,  
We, sur - round - ed by the wit - ness  
Keep us from our great temp - ta - tion—



Search us with re - veal - ing light.  
Of those saints whose work is done,  
Time and truth we quick - ly bind.



Lift us from where we have fall - en,  
Live in this world as your Bod - y,  
Lead us down those dai - ly path - ways



Full of ques - tions, filled with fright.  
Cho - sen daugh - ters, cho - sen sons.  
Where our love is not con - fined.

## 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.

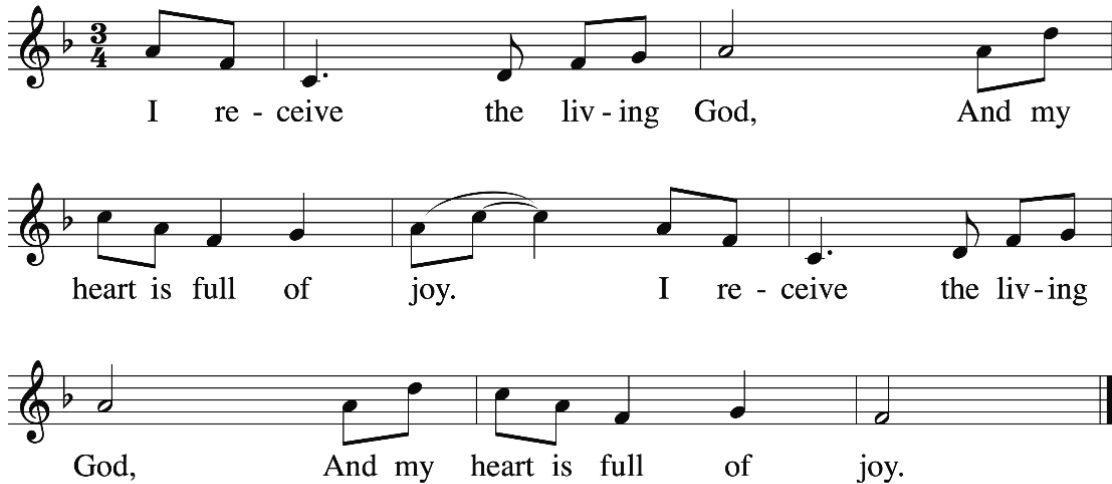
AMEN | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

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

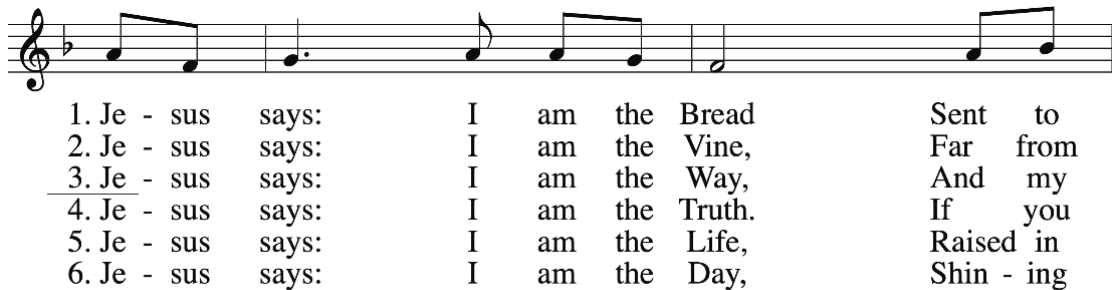


Refrain

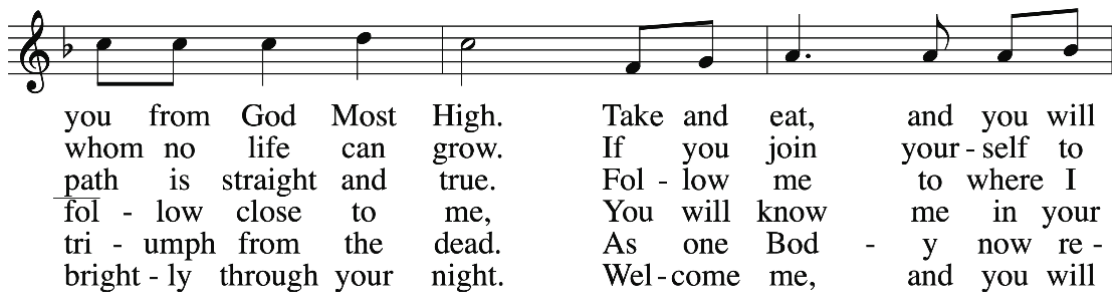


I re - ceive the liv - ing God, And my  
heart is full of joy. I re - ceive the liv - ing  
God, And my heart is full of joy.

Verses

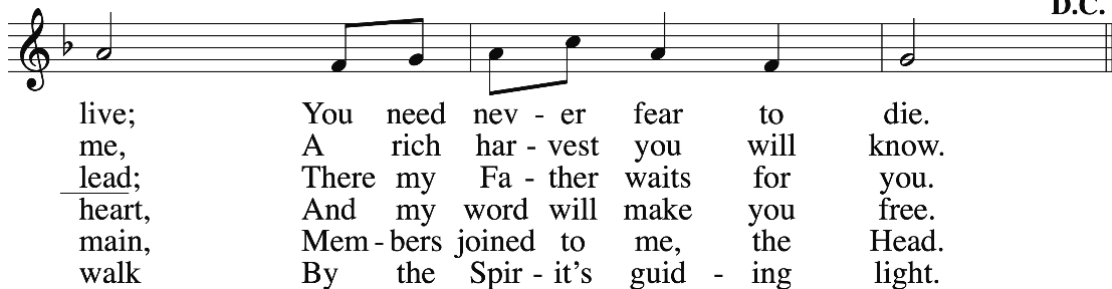


1. Je - sus says: I am the Bread Sent to  
2. Je - sus says: I am the Vine, Far from  
3. Je - sus says: I am the Way, And my  
4. Je - sus says: I am the Truth. If you  
5. Je - sus says: I am the Life, Raised in  
6. Je - sus says: I am the Day, Shin - ing



you from God Most High. Take and eat, and you will  
whom no life can grow. If you join your - self to  
path is straight and true. Fol - low me to where I  
fol - low close to me, You will know me in your  
tri - umph from the dead. As one Bod - y now re -  
bright - ly through your night. Wel - come me, and you will

D.C.



live; You need nev - er fear to die.  
me, A rich har - vest you will know.  
lead; There my Fa - ther waits for you.  
heart, And my word will make you free.  
main, Mem - bers joined to me, the Head.  
walk By the Spir - it's guid - ing light.

7. Jesus says: I am the Love  
Which can bind you close to me.  
Those who know this gift I bring  
Will find true community.
8. Jesus says: I am the Peace  
Which the world cannot bestow.  
Learn to love and live in me,  
And in you my Reign will grow.
9. Jesus says: I am the Lamb,  
And my death set sinners free.  
Those who drink the cup I drink  
Must take up this work with me.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee

Jean Berger  
(1909-2002)

The eyes of all wait upon thee;  
and thou givest them their meat in due season.  
Thou openest thine hand,  
and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. (*Psalms 145*)

## CONCLUDING RITE

RECESSIONAL | Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

OLD ONE HUNDREDTH



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



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



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



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

POSTLUDE | Flute Sonata in B Minor, BWV 1030, No. 3, 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](mailto:RDuff@stceciliaboston.org).

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

# WELCOME!

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children’s faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus’ teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids (“Irish working out girls”) and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings. Our church building resides on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket and Massachusetts tribal nations.

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci’s The Last Supper, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius’ life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We’ve been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God’s love makes all things new.

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, February 28 | 5:00 p.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Catherine Horsley, lector

**Sunday, March 1 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant  
Dede Simon, lector

**Sunday, March 1 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon  
Nikko Mendoza, Clare Gillis, Elli St George, lectors

**Sunday, March 1 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon  
Kate McGillicuddy, Tim McGillicuddy, Virgen Palermo,  
lectors

**Sunday, March 1 | 6:00 p.m.**

Rev. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant  
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, homilist  
Maggie Giles, lector

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Sunday, March 1 | 9:30 a.m.**

Virginia Grinley, *1st Anniversary*  
Cleide Alves, *Memorial*  
Jennifer Cabral, *Memorial*  
James McDonough, *Memorial*

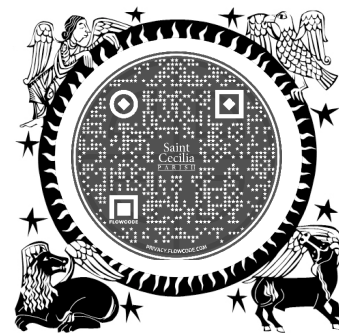
**Sunday, March 1 | 11:30 a.m.**

Alphones Ferent Jr., *9th Anniversary*  
Philomena Pichulo, *Memorial*

**Wednesday, March 4 | 8:00 a.m.**

Joseph Sansivero, *1st Anniversary*

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Thank you for your generous  
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## TODAY'S READINGS

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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT READINGS

Exodus 17:3-7  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
John 4:5-42



# 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: Emma Grant, Olivia Farley, Katherine and Fred Warburg, Claire and John Mazzocco, and Nora Markey and Sam Knoblauch. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

## Our Elect and Candidates

Please keep our Elect and Candidates in your prayer during this period of "Purification and Enlightenment," as they intensify their preparations to receive the Easter sacraments.

## Lenten Wednesdays — Mass & Reconciliation

On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent (February 25; March 4, 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. If you're seeking spiritual accompaniment or would like to explore your prayer life, we invite you to connect with him. To schedule a meeting, please call reception at (617) 536-4548.

## Catholic Appeal 2026

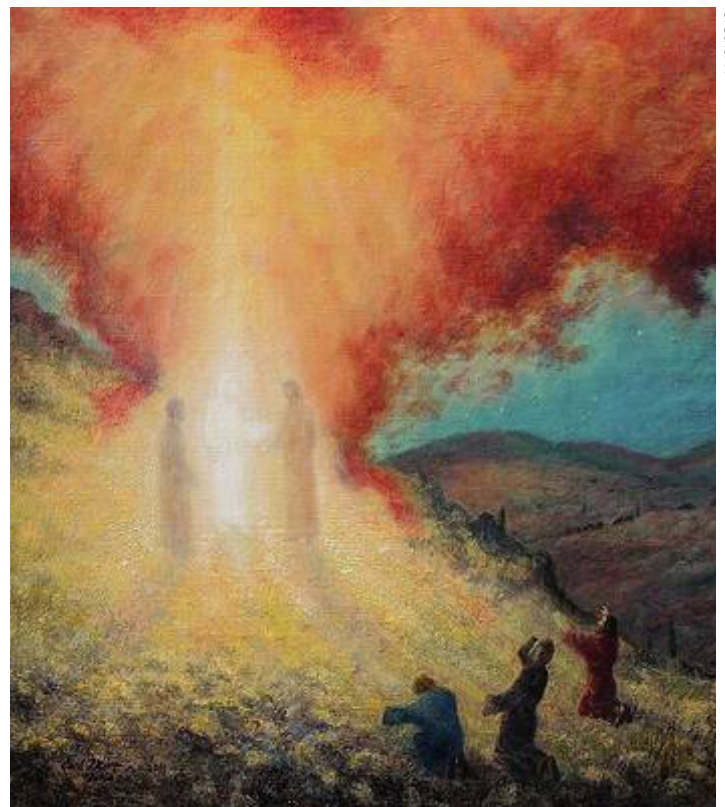
Once a year, Catholics in the Archdiocese of Boston are asked to join together to support their parish and the wider Church by contributing to the Catholic Appeal. The Appeal is a primary means by which we do our part to support our parishes, schools, and communities. Please help us launch our parish campaign by making an online donation at [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org).

## Support of the Church around the World

This week's second collection will support the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world where there are insufficient resources for evangelization and formation. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe and three important national Catholic missions: The Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Your generosity to this collection will help fund the spiritual, educational, and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world. To donate, head to: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/support-of-the-church-around-the-world-2026>.

## Black History Month

Although Black History Month has come to a close, our work does not stop once March begins. Continue to open your heart and mind. Be willing to be challenged and be transformed. Our strength lies in coming together and uplifting all of our community members, no matter who they are or where they come from.



Credit: X

*The Transfiguration of Christ by Earl Mott*

## 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:** February 25, 2026, 7:00 PM (EST)  
And on March 4, 11, 18, 25, & April 1
- **Zoom Link:** <https://bchigh.zoom.us/j/86986460260?pwd=89ugakXLWXzrbqapmvG1JlxpHfeJtP.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 869 8646 0260 | **Passcode:** 674764

## WEEKLY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

**SATURDAYS | FEBRUARY 21 & 28;  
MARCH 7, 14, 21, & 28 | 9AM | COMMUNITY ROOM**

Matthew's Gospel tells us that right after Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, he was led by the Spirit into the desert where he fasted for forty days and forty nights. 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. Kate is a four-time New York Times bestselling author, award-winning podcast host, and professor of religious history at Duke University. 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.

## SIT & KNIT

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1 | 9:30AM - 12PM | PARISH HALL**

There will be a Sit & Knit scheduled for Sunday, March 1, 2026 9:30am-12:00pm located in the Cafe. Come on down and see what projects we are working on.

## KNITTING MINISTRY MEETING

**MONDAY, MARCH 2 | 3:30PM VIA ZOOM**

The Knitting & Crochet Ministry meets monthly via Zoom. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. We will be discussing the completion of blanket square project, the blanket's future raffle, baby blanket donations, and teaching knitting to the Saint Cecilia community.

## FAR FLUNG FLOCK COFFEE HOUR: SR. JULIA UPTON, RSM

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1 | 4PM ET VIA ZOOM**

The FFF is pleased to welcome Sister Julia Upton, Provost Emerita and Distinguished Professor of Theology at St. John's University, New York to the online coffee hour on March 1st. Dr Upton is an esteemed author and proud member of the FFF. As a participant in Societas Liturgica, an international society for liturgical study and renewal, Sr. Julia has been studying online worship and faith sharing. She will share and discuss "Learning from the Distanced Church" with us. Please join the conversation!

## PIZZA AFTER 6PM MASS

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1 | AFTER 6PM MASS**

Join us in the parish hall for pizza, fellowship, and connection after the 6pm Mass!

## BEREAVEMENT GROUP

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 | 6PM VIA ZOOM**

When a loved one dies, everything changes. At Saint Cecilia, we believe no one should walk alone in grief and loneliness. Wherever you are in your grief, you're welcome here. No pressure. No timeline. Just an open, steady invitation to join a supportive community. Please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email for the Zoom link.



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## SAINT CECILIA PARISH

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### ANNA & SIMEON SENIORS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5 | 10AM | PARISH HALL**

The next Anna and Simeon Seniors Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5th. 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.

### WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

**A MORNING OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND COMPASSION**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | 10:00 AM | PARISH HALL**

In honor of International Women's Day (March 8), join us for a women's breakfast as we gather around the table to pray, connect, and reflect on how Christ calls us to care for one another. This morning will introduce a shared vision of women helping women—especially our sisters at Women's Lunch Place and similar area programs. Together, we'll listen, learn, and explore simple, meaningful ways to respond to the needs of one another with mercy, dignity, and hope.

For more information, please reach out to Ann Faldetta or Mary Wessel at her parish email.

### A CONCERT BY THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY GLEE CLUB

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | 7:30PM | SAINT CECILIA CHURCH**

We are honored to host the United States Naval Academy Glee Club for a concert at Saint Cecilia on Saturday, March 7. The program of choral works will include sea shanties, patriotic selections, classical repertoire, and contemporary selections from the club's specialty ensembles—barbershop quartet, women's ensemble, and men's a cappella. The USNA Glee Club has achieved national prominence as one of America's premier choral ensembles, and has performed extensively throughout the United States and abroad. This concert is free and open to the public.

### 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.

## COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

**FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 5**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

Weekly Lenten Devotional | 9am | Comm. Room

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom

Sit & Knit | 9:30am - 12pm | Parish Hall

FFF Coffee Hour | 4pm ET via Zoom

Pizza after the 6pm Mass

**MONDAY, MARCH 2**

Knitting Ministry Meeting | 3:30pm via Zoom

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3**

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12pm | Comm. Room

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4**

Mass + Reconciliation | 6pm

Bereavement Group | 6pm via Zoom

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5**

Anna & Simeon Seniors | 10am | Parish Hall

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

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

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/>.

### DOCTORS AGAINST GENOCIDE 2026 CALENDARS

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8 | AFTER SUNDAY MASSES**

Doctors Against Genocide wants to thank all of you at Saint Cecilia's for your warm welcome and interest in our work. Thank you for helping to keep the voices of Gaza alive, in a time when mainstream media has moved on.

Martha Miller will be here once again with Doctors Against Genocide 2026 calendars, t-shirts, and water bottles available to purchase.

## SPACE TO SHARE

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 | 6:30PM  
COMMUNITY ROOM**

Space to Share is a place for LGBTQ+ parishioners to speak freely about the challenges and joys of being LGBTQ+ and Catholic (or whatever else is on our minds). Whether it's your first visit or you're a biweekly regular, we'd love to have you join us!

## DORCHESTER'S 17TH ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BRUNCH

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14 | 9:30AM – 12PM  
SAINT MARGARET CHURCH (800 COLUMBIA ROAD,  
DORCHESTER, MA)**

Join us for Dorchester's 17th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Brunch. This year, Congressman Stephen F. Lynch, General President Edward A. Kelly from the International Association of Fire Fighters, and WORK Inc. will be inducted into Dorchester's Hall of Fame. All proceeds from the brunch will go to the Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry.

For more information, please call reception to receive Pattie Brett's contact information.

## 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=DmMokLXRpjw2gEes0bcJWVttwJa6qx.1>



## KNIT-A-LONG FOR ADULTS: NECK WARMERS FOR CHARITY

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

We need you! The Saint Cecilia Knitting & Crochet Ministry strives to serve others with handmade acts of love. Through the simple yet meaningful work of knitting and crocheting, we create 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 send an email to 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. In one review, American historian, author, scholar, and ordained Episcopal priest, Lauren Winner writes,

"The message of *Falling Upward* is straightforward and bracing: the spiritual life is not static. You will come to a crisis in your life, and after the crisis, if you are open to it, you will enter a space of spiritual refreshment, peace, and compassion that you could not have imagined before."

## SAINT CECILIA PARISH

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.

### KEEPING THE SHELVES STOCKED AT DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

#### HELP OUR NEIGHBORS STRUGGLING WITH FOOD INSECURITY

Whether you are present in person for Sunday Mass or watch the livestream, it's hard not to smile when children from the parish bring forward food donations during the Offertory that will support the Catholic Charities' Yawkey Center Food Pantry and the Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry—both in Dorchester.

Items we like to donate to these pantries include:

- Canned tuna fish
- Peanut butter
- Boxed macaroni & cheese
- Cooking oil
- Boxed pasta
- Canned chicken breast
- Tomato sauce

If you attend Mass at Saint Cecilia you can deposit donated food in the baskets located in the narthex. If you prefer to order online, please have your donations shipped to:

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

In addition there are envelopes on a table in the narthex if you wish to send a check to Catholic Charities. Please make your check payable to "Catholic Charities Boston" and write "Food Pantry" on the memo line.

Please note: We cannot accept donations of baked goods, produce, or anything perishable.

Food pantries nationwide are reporting record-high demand as food insecurity rises, driven by food and housing inflation and the end of pandemic-era SNAP benefits. Your donations each week make a difference in the lives of our neighbors struggling to put food on the table. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



# Camp Fatima

Catholic Overnight Camp for Boys  
Gilmanton Iron Works, NH



• Build leadership skills  
• Guide and mentor others  
• Model the Catholic Faith

Apply Today



www.bfcamp.com

## Hiring Counselors

June 20th - August 8th

## SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS

**IN PERSON:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
After the 9:30 Mass  
Classroom 3

**ONLINE:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays  
8pm EST  
via Zoom



Join the Parish Pastoral Council for prayerful conversation inspired by Sunday's Gospel in person and online. To sign up, please email the PPC at [ppc@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:ppc@stceciliaboston.org). Walk-ins are always welcome!

# THANK YOU FROM BOSTON HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS PROGRAM



Dear Saint Cecilia parishioners,

What do the three Magi and Dr. Seuss' Horton (who hears a Who) have in common? They knew deep in their hearts that "a person's a person, no matter how small," and they faithfully showed up with gifts that were both symbolic and real, thoughtful and kind—without the expectation of attention or fanfare. They listened, they heard, and they acted. Their journeys required planning, effort, compassion, and persistence.

Their stories are your church's story.

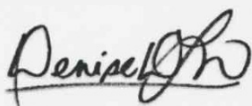
Under your careful stewardship for so many years, your parishioners have been unfailingly wise, kind, creative, and generous supporters of our BHCHP "community"—meeting our patients in thoughtful, practical, useful, and comforting ways at their times of great need.

Just like the gift of one of the Wise Men, your collective acts of generosity continue to bring home the gold. You too heard and answered the call: your Christmas collection drive this year was, once again, beyond our dreams. That makes the parish of Saint Cecilia exceptional to us.

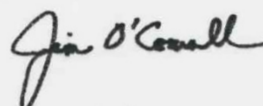
For over twenty years, your church has supported the work of BHCHP...year 'round.' What you and your parishioners collected with this year's Christmas drive is nothing short of "an embarrassment of riches." Countless warm coats, winter boots, underwear are already helping our patients face the elements of winter in greater comfort. However, hardly a "one and done" partner, Saint Cecilia's has recognized that the hardships that accompany homelessness—deprivation, poverty, food insecurity, poor physical care—have no season. That you remember us and whom we serve with so many acts of tangible support tells us you consistently see and remember us, our mission, our work. You also know the importance of partnerships—the 'village' it takes to care for many. Thank you!

Ancient, timeless scripture and today's realities remind of the enduring presence of poverty. Then and now, we are reminded of our shared responsibility to address the hardships that so many face with our own acts of generosity and compassion. You continue to help us meet persistent challenges with consistent care. We—our staff and patients—are deeply grateful for your joining us on this important journey and for reminding those in our care that they are not alone in this world.

Sincerely,



Denise De Las Nueces, MD, MPH  
Interim CEO & Chief Medical Officer



Jim O'Connell, MD  
Founding Physician & President

# SERMON ON THE TRANSFIGURATION AND HOW SEMINARY IS LIKE HOGWARTS

BY NADIA BOLZ WEBER



Credit: denisemaylor.com.au

*Transfiguration by John Coburn (1979)*

**M**y friends joke about how useless a Masters of Divinity is outside the church. How having a degree from seminary is basically like having a degree from Hogwarts. Knowing all about the magic is just not that useful outside the “wizarding world”.

This was confirmed for me this week as I prepared a sermon for this, the Feast of the Transfiguration since most of the Western world only associates Transfiguration with Professor McGonagal. Again, Hogwarts is more useful than seminary.

The popularity of the Harry Potter books is totally understandable. Since, as Charles Taylor says, we now seem to live in a world without magic. The history of humanity was full of magic – throughout the ages the

transcendent and mysterious was woven all around the mundane and certain. Until a few hundred years ago that is, with the dawn of the Enlightenment. When we discovered the scientific method we no longer needed superstition and the supernatural because we had human reason. We now could look from our little sliver of history back to all the millennia that went before us and sneer at their ignorance and superstition.

It seemed in Western thought that we had arrived. There was finally nothing that Newtonian physics and basic chemistry could not explain. We had what humanity always needed and that was answers.

Incidentally this was when Biblical fundamentalism came about as well. Since science was the most reliable way of

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## SAINT CECILIA PARISH

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knowing truth then everything in the Bible also must be scientific fact.

For quite some time after we discovered science we lived in what was called the age of progress. We looked only forward and never back. That which was old was suspect. And we could improve our world and our lives through our own reason and cleverness.

I get this. But I also get that my own reason and cleverness only gets me so far in life. I need a story bigger than the story of me. I need a reality bigger than the one I can understand. I need some transfiguration.

So in our Gospel story for today, Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John...his clothes bleached blindingly white and suddenly he's talking to Elijah and Moses – and for those of you not keeping track... those guys had been dead for centuries—well, Moses had been, but Elijah kind of never died but was taken into heaven on a fiery chariot—but that's its own freaky Bible story.

It feels magical, this story of Jesus transfigured on a mountain talking to Moses and Elijah. It's as though time ceased to be a neat, straight line pulled taut with the present in its appropriate distance from the past and the future. Instead it's like on the Mount of Transfiguration that the line of time was all crumpled up with past present and future all touching for a moment.

Then a cloud overcomes them and God says this is my beloved Son...listen to him.

It's all kind of hard to comprehend.

So Peter says it's good to be here....he didn't know what else to say ... he was terrified.

In the face of the holy and unexplainable what else is there for us to do?

That's the thing about God. The more we know, the less we know. The more God reveals God's self to us, the less certainty we have.

So it is good for us to be here. Not so that we can get answers. Answers are too easy and sometimes can bring with them a blinding arrogance . . . meaning that certainty can sometime obscure mystery. Easy answers are easy. What takes time is to have the story of Christ lived out in a community of saints and sinners transfigure you slowly like water forming a rock. It is good to be here.

I want to be a people who are re-enchanted. Not ignorant. Not gullible. Not superstitious. But re-enchanted. I want some magic, don't you? Why else would you be here? I mean anyone who's been here more than once has surely caught on that this isn't a place you come to learn how to be a better person. We don't do a whole lot of moral instruction. But what you do get is to hear stories of miracles and healings and forgiveness and we get to remember one night a couple millennia ago when Jesus had his last meal and we get to gather around a table to share that same meal and remember the promise that God is with us. And for a moment the past present and future are all tangled up and Newtonian physics doesn't explain any of it.

That is not to say that science and religion are so very separate. Because while we came here and touch the mystery of God at the same time we get to celebrate the miracle of modern anesthesia and the magic of Bob's successful brain surgery this week. And if there is anything in this world that is worthy to be enchanted by is it not how we now know that in Julie Miller's womb is a boy child of God and in Maria Ashley's womb is a girl child of God. We live in a world worthy of being enchanted by. The crazy thing about being part of a religion that is so unapologetically physical is that mystery and grace is found in things like bread and water and wine. And I know for myself, I'm somehow much more comforted by mystery than by certainty.

I want to be speechless and a little terrified and to not know what else to do but say it's good to be here and listen to Jesus.

You deserve some magic. And while you could dress up and go to Harry Potter's Wizzarding World at Universal Studios in Orlando and feel enchanted for the cost of an \$85 ticket. There is something about this story—this story of heaven touching earth on a mountain 2000 years ago which promises something no other story can. There's something about this table around which we gather every week that promises to be true in a way that myth and legend and fairy tale never can. This thing...this Jesus thing is real. The Gospel is real. Heaven touching earth is real. The Body and Blood of Christ is real. And only this kind of realness can re-enchant the world again and again. It is good for us to be here.



*Originally published in Patheos on March 5, 2012.*

*The Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran Pastor, founder of House for All Sinners & Saints in Denver, CO and the author of three NYT bestselling memoirs.*

# THE SACRED GAZE:

LOVING AND SEEING OURSELVES  
AS GOD LOVES AND SEES US

✧ with Father John Predmore, SJ ✧

March 14 | 9am - 3pm | Parish Hall

## DETAILS

- Requested contribution is \$25.
- ✧ • Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.
- Each individual attending the retreat must submit a completed registration form –this includes couples. ✧
- ✧ • The retreat is over halfway to capacity, sign up today!



Scan the code to register or head to:  
[www.stceciliaboston.org/lent-retreat/](http://www.stceciliaboston.org/lent-retreat/)

# THE TREASURES OF MEMORY: A REFLECTION ON TRUTH-TELLING

BY MOST REVEREND DANIEL E. GARCIA &  
MOST REVEREND ROY E. CAMPBELL, JR

*“The power of memory is great, very great, my God.”*  
- St. Augustine

*“An honest look at the past makes plain the need for restitution wherever possible - makes evident the justice of restoration and redistribution.”*  
- U.S. Catholic Bishops, Brothers and Sisters to Us (1979)

As shepherds of the Church, entrusted with the care of souls and the proclamation of the Gospel, we care deeply for our people, their joys and sorrows, and the stories they carry. This is especially important in our efforts to witness to the dignity of every person, which requires acknowledging the times in our nation’s history when racism has prevented that dignity from being realized. This reflection is about the sacred task of remembering. We must recommit ourselves to the sacred task of remembering—especially the stories of those whose voices have long been unheard. Sacred Scripture and Tradition offer a way forward for helping us understand why telling our stories is central to the Gospel mandate.

We must continue to tell those aspects of our national history—particularly those that recount the suffering of enslaved Africans, Indigenous people, and other ethnic groups which have been marginalized. For Catholics, the telling and sharing of history is how we share experiences of God, community, and culture. “The memory of the dark chapters of America’s history, involving the practice of slavery and other situations of social discrimination, must awaken a sincere desire for conversion leading to reconciliation and communion” (Ecclesia in America, n. 58). We have witnessed that when the truth is withheld or not told, then there are no opportunities for true authentic reconciliation and healing to occur. Museums, monuments, sculptures, and works of art—whether expressed through prose, poetry, or performance—may stir memories that are difficult to bear— yet they are not meant to assign blame to those who were not responsible for past injustices. Rather, they invite us to renew our commitment to authentic justice, reconciliation, and



Photo: USCCB | Youtube

*Sr. Thea Bowman addresses the the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1989.*

healing. In remembering, we do not remain bound by the past; instead, we learn from it, allowing it to shape who we are today—whether because of it or in spite of it—so that we may walk forward together with hope and honor.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops affirmed the dignity of truth telling, and the consequences when the truth is ignored in *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, stating: “When this truth is ignored, the consequence is prejudice and fear of the other, and—all too often—hatred.”

Let us therefore remember: the true treasure that lies in the collective experiences of God’s people. The Catholic tradition honors the inherent dignity of every person and the sacred stories of every people. We must tell the whole story—even when it is uncomfortable—because only the truth can set us free (John 8:32).

Truth-telling is not an act of division—it is an act of liberation. In his reflection on *Dilexit nos*, Bishop Joseph N. Perry wrote: “When we have the courage to name and acknowledge past wrongs, we open the door for reparations. We see signs of hope where communities regularly recognize the harm of racism and collectively enter into prayer and conversation.” Within the Black Catholic community, this sacred duty to remember is a form of spiritual resistance—a refusal to let injustice have the final word. “Blacks and other minorities still remain absent from many aspects of Catholic life and are only meagerly represented on the decision-making level. Inner-city schools continue to disappear and Black vocational recruitment lacks sufficient support... Racism, at once subtle and mased, still festers within our Church as within our society”(What We Have Seen and Heard).

The Church is not immune to difficult moments in history. We must face with humility and sorrow the wounds inflicted within our own ecclesial communities. In the South, many Black Catholics endured segregation within their parishes—relegated to separate seating, delayed access to Holy Communion, and treated as second-class members of the Body of Christ. These practices sowed division and contradicted the very heart of the Gospel. Yet even in pain, these stories bear witness to the resilience of faith and the enduring hope of unity.

In her 1989 address to the United States Bishops, Sr. Thea Bowman offered a moving and prophetic reflection on what it means to be both Black and Catholic—Black Catholics do not approach the Church as outsiders seeking acceptance, but as faithful witnesses offering gifts formed through struggle, resilience, culture, and deep trust in God. Her words remind us that to honor Black history is to honor the lived faith, spiritual wisdom, and enduring hope that have sustained the people of God across generations—often in the midst of suffering and exclusion.

Let us be faithful stewards of memory. Let us be courageous witnesses to truth. And above all, let us pray without ceasing.



*Originally published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in February of 2026.*

*Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia is the Bishop of Austin and the Chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion of Racial Justice and Reconciliation. Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr. is the Auxiliary Bishop of Washington and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on African American Affairs.*

## ASH WEDNESDAY AT SAINT CECILIA



# 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](http://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.