

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Second Sunday of Lent

5 March 2023

Transfiguration by lamidi Fakeye

Saint Cecilia


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5 March 2023


THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: Amen.

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Genesis 12: 1-4a

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

Marty Haugen

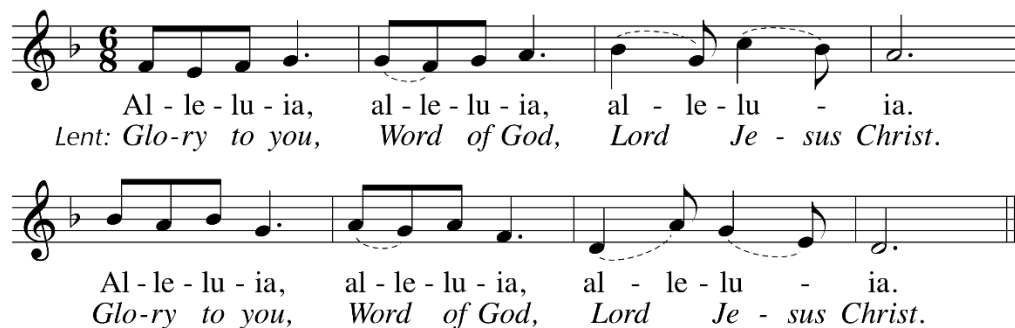


1. For the word of the Lord is faithful, and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.
2. Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.
3. Our soul 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



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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

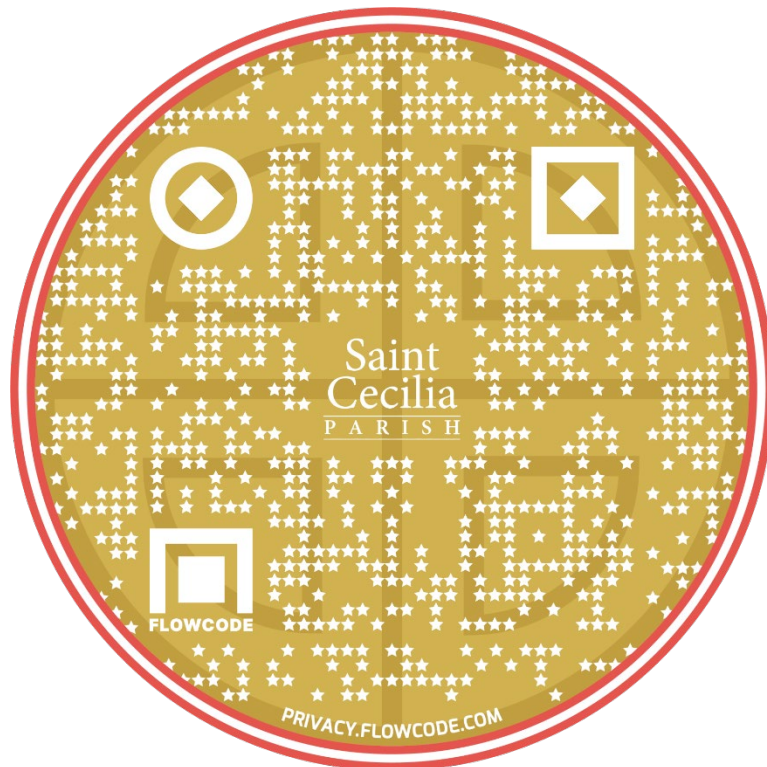
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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:

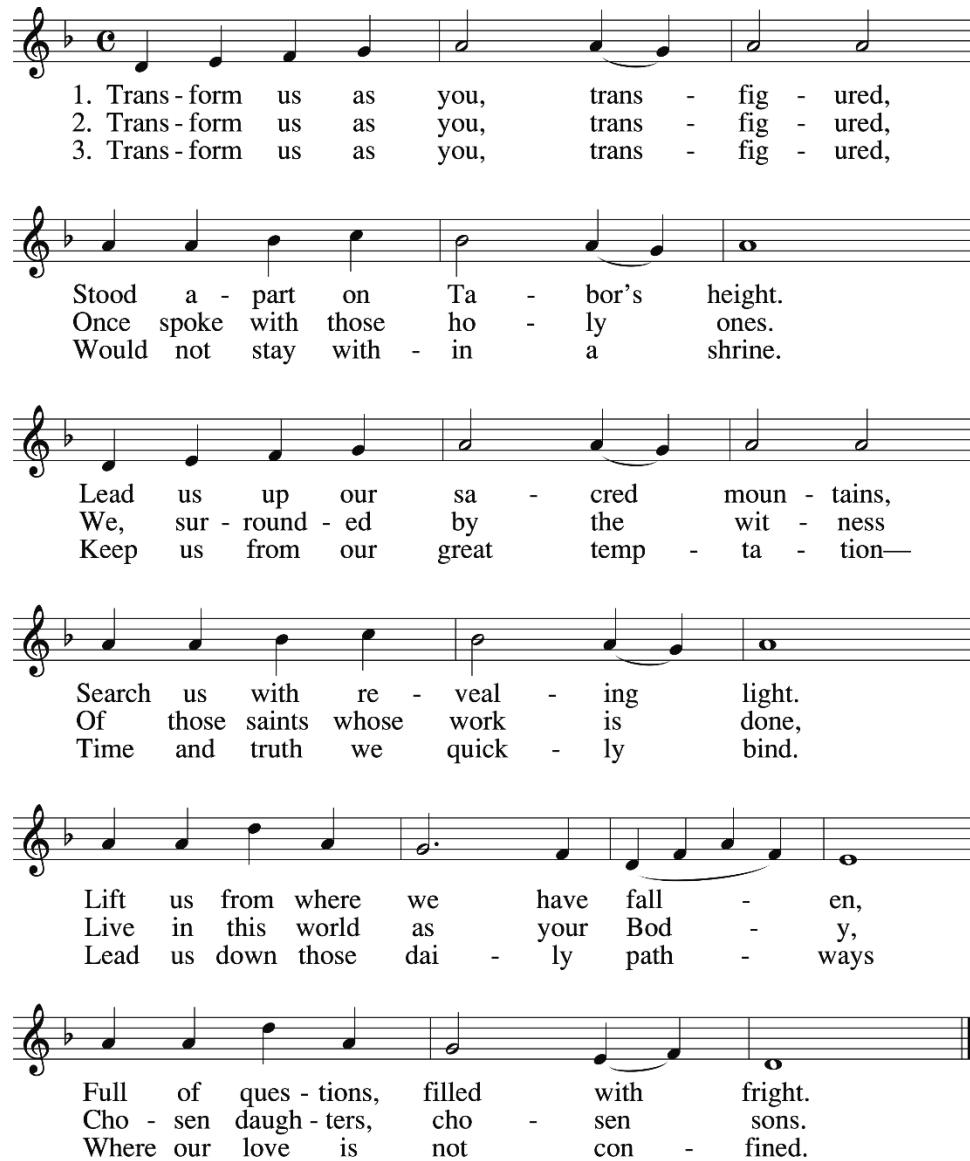
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

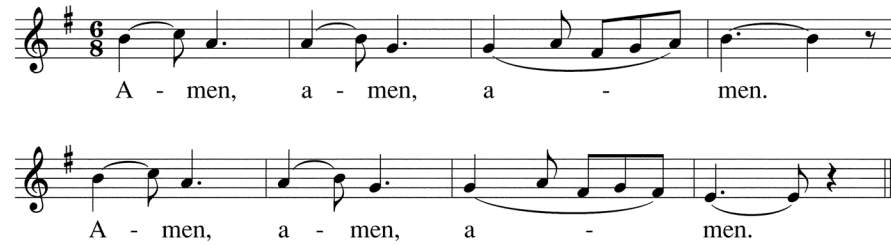
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

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

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -
fess your Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.

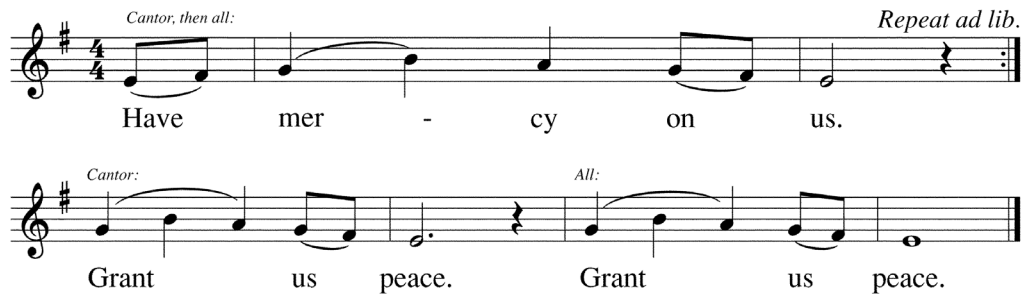


THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LAMB OF GOD | Mass of the Angels and Saints



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.

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right - eous - ness shine on my path And
When we have run with pa - tience the race, We

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Refrain

Christ in me a - rise and dis - pel all the dark-ness.

Christ in me a - rise with your pow - er and your strength.

Christ in me pour out your bless - ing and heal-ing.

Christ in me a - rise and I shall rise with you.

The refrain consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and melodic. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff concludes the refrain with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Verses

1. Be now my vi - sion; o - pen these eyes,
2. Be now my foot - steps, lead - ing the way,

show - ing me all that I must see.
tak - ing me where I must go.

On - ward to the king - dom, you are the way. A -

rise in me and I shall rise with you. D.C.

The verses consist of four staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and melodic. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff concludes the verses with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Bridge

You know my heart and you know my ways, you who

formed me in my moth - er's womb. I live and move in

you, my whole be - ing thrives in you. D.C.

The bridge consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and melodic. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff concludes the bridge with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
Born of thy love, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

CONCLUDING RITES

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Amen.

✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.



1. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your
 2. Through fast - ing, prayer, and char - i - ty Your
 3. *Insert appropriate stanza.*
 4. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your



Church must jour - ney, Lord, Bap - tized in grace, in
 voice speaks deep with - in, Re - turn - ing us to
 Church must jour - ney still, Through cross and tomb to



grace re - newed By your most ho - ly word.
 ways of truth And turn - ing us from sin.
 East - er joy, In Spir - it - fire ful - filled.

Year A**Sundays I & II**

3. From desert to the mountaintop
 In Christ our way we see,
 So, tempered by temptation's might
 We might transfigured be.

Sunday III

3. For thirsting hearts let waters flow,
 Our fainting souls revive;
 And at the well your waters give
 Our everlasting life.

Sunday IV

3. We sit beside the road and plead,
 "Come, save us, David's son!"
 Now with your vision heal our eyes,
 The world's true Light alone.

Sunday V

3. Our graves split open, bring us back,
 Your promise to proclaim;
 To darkened tombs call out, "Arise!"
 And glorify your name.

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 4 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Pat Scofield, lector

Sunday, March 5 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Bob Mann, lector

Sunday, March 5 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Louisa Essmann, Natasha Bolton-Pierre,
and Ben DeWinter, lectors

Sunday, March 5 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Mark Richburg, Tanya Rybarczyk,
and Karen McMenamy, lectors

Sunday, March 5 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Julie Bogdanski, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 5 | 9:30 a.m.

Richard Donovan Madery, *1st Anniversary*
Ettore Bergamaschi, *10th Anniversary*
Hans Jurgen Glarner, *Memorial*
Kathryn Shirley-Davidson, *Memorial*
Ted Geist, *Memorial*
Irene Coffey, *Memorial*
Ellen O'Connor, *Memorial*

Sunday, March 5 | 11:30 a.m.

Fern McCue, *Memorial*

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

Charles Campion, *5th Anniversary*

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 12:1-4a

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Matthew 17:1-9

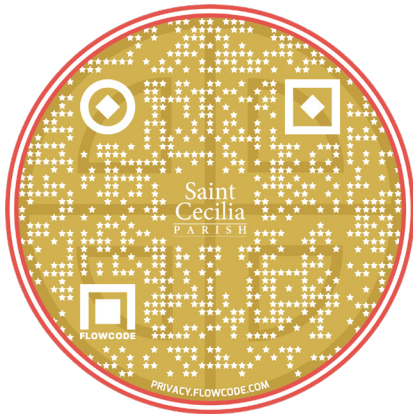
NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Exodus 17:3-7

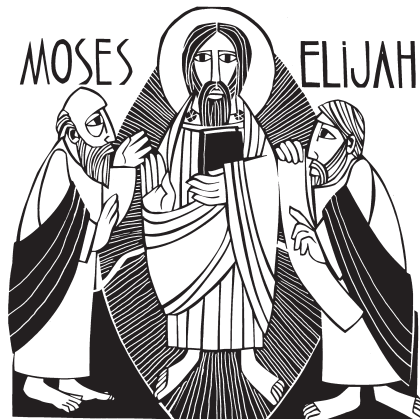
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

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

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: **Kerry Shortell** of Brookline, **Sarah and Matthew Liber** of Boston, **Ella Clark** of Boston, **Sydney Fonseca** of Boston, **Denise Kilderry** of Boston, the **DeLoureiro-Cotter Family** of Boston, **Kelly Correia** of Medford, the **Fischer Family** of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, **Walter Oliver** of Jamaica Plain, **Beth LeQuin** of Dove Canyon, California, **Hannah Davis** of Cambridge, **Jerry Gosselin** of Scarborough, Maine, **Amanda Karpacz** and **Alexander Furst** of Bellingham, Washington, the **Culley-Judge Family** of Saint Johns, Florida, and **Aidan Buss** of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Thank You for Your Generosity

In recent weeks, we have raised the following funds through special collections:

- Turkey/Syria: \$15,105
- Ash Wednesday for Catholic Charities: \$6,829
- The Church Around the World: \$2,934

Order a Little Black Book for Lent

Spend just six minutes a day in reflection to prepare for our celebration of Easter! Though we're sold out of these books, you can order your own directly from their website (littlebooks.org). They are available in paper (\$5) and ebook (\$4) formats. You can also get all the seasonal books on the Little Books app available for iOS and Android devices at littlebooks.org/app.

Lenten Wednesdays—Mass & Reconciliation

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

First Communion Class

We are pleased to have twenty-eight students in this year's First Communion class. They received the sacrament of reconciliation three weeks ago and beginning last Sunday, and until they receive First Communion on Mother's Day weekend, the students and their parents will be sitting together in the front of the church at the 9:30 Mass. The children are currently studying the parts of the Mass so that they can more fully participate in our liturgies. We ask all members of the Saint Cecilia community to pray that our First Communicants and all children in our Faith Formation program continue to experience God and Jesus Christ as real presences in their lives.

National Catholic Sisters Week

National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW) is an annual celebration that takes place from March 8 to 14. This is a week to honor women religious and to shine the spotlight on the lives and ministries of these incredible women by recognizing their contributions to the Church and to society. Our community is blessed to have two women religious in our midst: **Sr. Ann Marie Cook, SNDdeN**, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and **Sr. Mary Ann Hinsdale, IHM**, a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Say a prayer for them and for all women religious—they are the heroes of the Church!

High School Confirmation Retreat

This weekend our high students preparing for confirmation are on their retreat pondering the idea of the Church as the "Body of Christ." From there, inspired by St. Teresa of Avila they will reflect on what it might look like to be the eyes, ears, mouth, hands, and feet of Christ on earth. We pray for these confirmation candidates in a special way this weekend; may they always feel that they are welcome and belong to their Church as members of the Body of Christ.

First Anniversary of the War in Ukraine

It has been a year since the first explosions rocked Ukraine and we pray that God grants peace and protection to the people of Ukraine. Give them strength and courage to defend what is good, right, and holy. Please keep them safe from harm and provide for all their needs, both temporal and spiritual.





RITE OF ELECTION

Last Sunday, our three catechumens officially became members of the Elect. Throughout the world, catechumens signed the Book of the Elect and began the final stage of their journey to the Easter sacraments. Here are members of our happy Elect and their sponsors following the Rite of Election at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

TAKE THIS SURVEY & HELP A COLLEGE STUDENT WITH HER STUDIES!



"Hello, my name is Katie Sklarosky and I am an undergraduate Political Science and Theology student at Providence College. This survey is part of a study I am conducting for my Political Science thesis. The purpose of the study is to survey Catholic parishioners and priests within the Archdiocese of Boston on certain relevant social issues. The entire survey should take between five and ten minutes to complete, and your responses are entirely anonymous and will remain so after the study is complete. I greatly appreciate your participation should you choose to take my survey. Thank you, and may God bless you during this holy season of Lent."

If you're interesting in lending a moment of your time, you can take this anonymous, parishioner survey by scanning the QR code above or visiting this link: https://providence.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6YjMo8q3H6uSEAK

TRIDUUM & EASTER CHOIR

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

CAN YOU HELP OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS?

Help Our Confirmation Class Collect Items for Our Neighbors in Need

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



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



HELP HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WELCOME FAMILIES TO THEIR NEW HOMES!

Here's Habitat Greater Boston's Amazon Wish List of items that will make

moving into a new Habitat home even more special for local families! Your generosity makes a significant impact on the lives of these families.

All items on this list are reasonably priced under \$75: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/38KJ36TTTSL8Y?ref=wl_share

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CONCERT!

Come hear a short concert by the Brandeis Chamber Singers and conductor Robert Duff at 1:00 p.m. on March 12! The repertoire includes sacred and secular works by Brahms, Rheinberger, Forrest, LaBarr, Marquette, Levente Gyöngyösi, and a premiere of "Fabliau of Florida" by Eric Chasalow.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Lent 2023

Liturgy of the Hours

LAUDS

JOIN US FOR MORNING PRAYER

Saturday, March 4 at 9:00 am

Saturday, April 1 at 9:00 am

Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 am

Holy Thursday & the Conclusion of Lent

VESPERS

JOIN US FOR EVENING PRAYER

Monday, March 20 at 6:00 pm

Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Join us live on the Saint Cecilia Facebook page or via Zoom.

Email sc.hoursandtalze@gmail.com for details.

Liturgies last approximately half an hour.

IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

Your most important work may be after you retire!

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

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

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

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

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

Here is the Catholic Charities' Amazon Wish List:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VUJISQ0QS3P9?ref_=wl_share

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

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

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



The Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) partners with social service agencies to care for the spiritual needs of people recovering from homelessness and substance use addiction. In 20+ cities across the U.S., Canada, and Ireland, volunteers provide

spiritual reflections and overnight retreat experiences for thousands of people on the journey of recovery. ISP programs invite people to share their own sacred stories, deepen their spiritual journey, and ultimately find renewed hope, meaning, and purpose for their journey ahead.

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

PIZZA AND PANDEMIC

Where has God been during the pandemic?

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY CAMPUS EVENTS/WEBINARS

Praying with Sweetgrass: Becoming Naturalized to Place

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

Thursday, March 9, 2023 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Virtual Event | Registration Required | Free of charge

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

Mercy in the Old Testament: The Fruit of the Womb

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

Thursday, March 16, 2023 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Boston College - Brighton Campus, 117 Lake Street, Boston | Theology and Ministry Library, Auditorium - Room 113 | Registration Required | Free of charge

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

ONLINE COURSES

Black Catholic Spirituality

March 8 – April 4, 2023 | 4-Week Online Course
 Registration Required | \$30.00

The Gospel of John

March 8 – April 11, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course
 Registration Required | \$60.00

The Psalms: Prayers for All Times

March 8 – April 11, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course
 Registration Required | \$60.00

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

BLACK HISTORY DOESN'T START AND END IN FEBRUARY

LEARN MORE ABOUT BLACK HISTORY

As you may know, February is Black History Month—an annual celebration of the achievements of African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. As we enter into March, we want to emphasize that *Black history doesn't start and end in February*. Here are some resources compiled by members of our Race Equity Team (RET) for Black History Month and we will continue sharing information and resources from their team throughout the Lenten and Easter season.

Beyond providing articles and books to read, we also encourage you to support local, Black-owned businesses including restaurants, hair salons, barbershops, and gyms.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

- [*White Fragility*](#) by Robin DiAngelo
- [*The Warmth of Other Suns*](#) by Isabel Wilkerson
- *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson
- [*Between the World and Me*](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- [*How to be an Anti-Racist*](#) by Ibram X. Kendi
- [*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*](#) by Michelle Alexander
- [*A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege*](#) by Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M.

ARTICLE RECOMMENDATIONS

2018 Boston Globe Spotlight Series:

- [*Boston. Racism. Image. Reality.*](#)
- [*That was no typo: The median net worth of black Bostonians really is \\$8*](#)

SUPPORT LOCAL, BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES

Supporting local Black-owned businesses is not only a way to promote economic growth and sustainability within our community, but it is also in keeping with the mission of the Church. As Catholics, we are called to stand in solidarity with our marginalized brothers and sisters who are oppressed and excluded from the fullness of life. Catholic Social Teaching emphasizes the importance of upholding the common good and promoting the life and dignity of all individuals, particularly those who are most vulnerable. Black-owned businesses are often overlooked and under-resourced*, but when we support them, we are helping to create a more just and equitable society and are doing our part to promote justice, equality, and human dignity for all people. Additionally, Catholic Social Teaching emphasizes the principle of subsidiarity, which holds that decisions and actions should happen at the most local level possible. Supporting local Black-owned businesses aligns with this principle by promoting self-determination and autonomy within the Black community. All around, it's a win-win situation!

*African Americans make up more than 13% of the U.S. population but only own 7% of the businesses. The answer to this question will vary depending on whom you ask, but most agree that racism, discrimination, and predatory lending are all factors because many aspiring Black business owners have been unfairly turned down by banks when applying for small business loans. On average, big banks approve around 60% of loans applied for by white small-business owners, 50% by Latinx small-business owners, and 29% by Black small-business owners. Another factor is that there is a lack of economic and business resources in African American communities. This leads to a lack of education on how to properly start and manage a successful business.

RESTAURANTS

- [*Next Step Soul Food Cafe*](#)
- [*Cesaria*](#)
- [*One Family Diner*](#)
- [*Darryl's Corner Bar & Kitchen*](#)
- [*Larry J's BBQ*](#)
- [*Soleil*](#)
- [*Tawakal*](#)
- [*Murl's Kitchen*](#)
- [*Auntie Vie's*](#)
- [*HUE*](#)

HAIR SALONS/ BARBERSHOPS:

- [*Stylistik*](#)
- [*Perfect 10*](#)
- [*Liz's Hair Care*](#)
- [*Peaches*](#)
- [*Society Barbershop*](#)

GYMS:

- [*Faith-Full-Fit*](#)
- [*ReVamp*](#)
- [*Meld Fitness & Wellness*](#)
- [*Fit4Life*](#)



SHOULD CATHOLIC WOMEN GIVE UP FASTING FOR LENT?

BY JESSICA COBLENTZ

When Lent arrives each year, I find myself in conversations about fasting with other Catholic women. We exchange plans for our seasonal food abstinence—small meals and no meat on Fridays, often accompanied by a fast from sweets, or alcohol, or snacking between meals.

Then, inevitably, someone voices what many of us have privately considered: "Hopefully this will help me lose another few pounds."

Such admissions are often accompanied by some self-deprecating acknowledgement that weight loss is not supposed to be the goal of our seasonal penance. Nevertheless, sympathetic nods and similar confessions arise in response. Year after year, these conversations evince a tension between our perceptions of what fasting ought to be and our experience of it as Catholic women in the contemporary United States.

These conversations inspired my search for resources aimed at helping Catholic women fast in a setting where we face relentless pressures to conform to society's young, white, able-bodied, effortless, slender ideal.

What I found, however, are commentaries on fasting that oversimplify women's experiences and set up requirements for fasting that are unattainable for many, if not most. No wonder we experience this tension.

In response this year, I urge Catholics to share more realistic portraits of women's experiences and a more inclusive description of this Lenten practice.

Popular Catholic writers teach that a singular focus on God motivates fasting, while more superficial, worldly aspirations drive dieting. Emphasizing these contrasting motives, commentators position fasting and dieting as

mutually exclusive: One must dispense with body hatred in order to fast.

We see this in Matthew Kelly's bestselling *Rediscover Catholicism*, where he emphasizes "how different the reasons for fasting are from the reasons for dieting." He explains, "We do not fast to impress other people. We fast to cultivate the inner life," whereas dieting "is devoid of the strongest motives and reasons."

Charles Murphy draws a similar distinction in *The Spirituality of Fasting*, where he describes fasting as "focused on God and not ourselves" while "sharply delineating it from dieting and medically supervised fasts" that focus "only on the body." For many, Murphy bemoans, "dieting has replaced fasting."

A problem with these messages is that they often instruct Catholics to eschew social pressures as if this were easy. Yet, if the experience of my friends and me is any indication, separating one's desire for greater communion with God from one's engrained wish to conform to society's body ideals is more complicated than these commentaries suggest.

Women are not helpless victims of society's messages, but decades of research on women's body image attest to the fact that we are profoundly shaped by the culture. A *Glamour* magazine study found that 97% of women reported to having negative thoughts about their bodies each day. On average, they had 13 of these thoughts daily.

Mary DeTurris Poust's treatment of fasting in *Cravings* is exceptional for its attention women's struggles against society's pervasive body demands. However, when she advises that "fasting requires an underpinning of prayer to prevent it from morphing into a diet designed to make us

more appealing by worldly standards," she communicates the troubling message that the motives of fasting and dieting are mutually exclusive.

This calls into question whether women who struggle with habitual disdain for their bodies can fast at all. If we accept that these motives are mutually exclusive, then every Catholic woman who longs to meet society's beauty demands through food abstinence is disqualified from fasting—at least until divine intervention untethers her from society's body demands, as DeTurre Poust suggests.

There are, of course, circumstances in which individuals should be disqualified from fasting. The U.S. bishops advise that individuals with poor health should not take up this discipline, an exemption that presumably applies to those with dangerous eating disorders.

But most Catholic women who struggle with society's body demands are not in this situation. The message that fasting requires pure motives disqualifies the scores of healthy Catholic women who negotiate these social pressures every day.

This Lent is an opportunity for Catholics to share a different message about fasting, one that reflects realistic accounts of women's experiences and a more inclusive portrait of the practice.

To start, talk about fasting should be grounded in a clear-eyed account of Catholic women's lived experiences. In a society where women are immersed in messages that exhort them to conform to an unrealistic standard of beauty, desires to attain it are unfortunately commonplace. It is time we listen to women and acknowledge that these desires frequently coexist with a Catholic's desire to deepen communion with God through fasting.

Admitting this, Catholics need not conclude that fasting for God and dieting for beauty are one and the same. Catholic writers are right that distinct motives define fasting and dieting, but they are misguided to insist that these motives are mutually exclusive. We can communicate that fasting is a discipline distinctly motivated by the church's collective striving toward deeper communion with God while also affirming that Catholics need not be free of all other motivations in order to participate. God's grace can work in us, even when we come as we are.

Yet Catholics should not acquiesce to oppressive beauty standards. Lent is an opportunity for us to start conversations about society's body demands. The sexist, racist, ableist and consumeristic realities of society's unrealistic ideal require

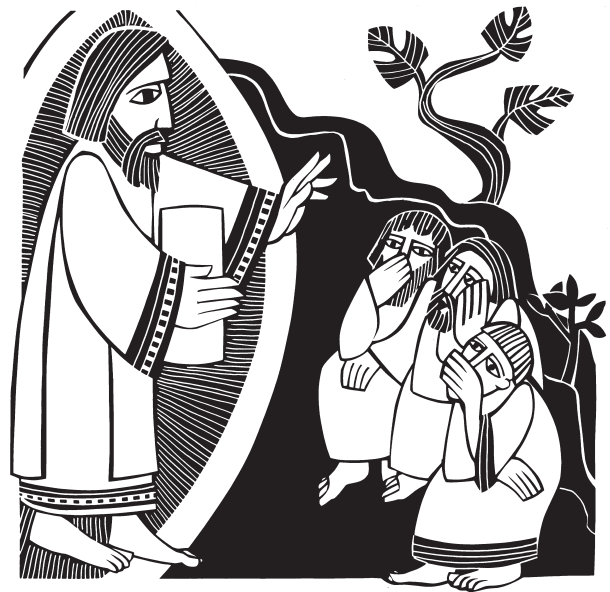
extended analysis and the response of collective action. Yet few Catholic communities organize to address them. Why not start now?

To counteract harmful beauty demands, Lisa Isherwood suggests in her book *The Fat Jesus* that Christian communities follow Jesus's example by engaging in "celebratory eating." Perhaps Catholic communities could enhance Lenten fish fries with education about society's detrimental body ideal and with a celebration of appetites — the very appetites that Catholic women are told to suppress for the sake of becoming something they are not.

Local communities should also reflect on Christianity's complicity in perpetuating the body standards that permeate society. For instance, we should note the images in our local parish bulletins, websites and even worship spaces. Do they feature individuals who embody society's prevailing beauty ideal in shape, size, class and color? We should diversify these images to celebrate all bodies, especially those typically underappreciated.

Catholics can also host seasonal book clubs exploring one of a number of excellent books on Christianity and body image, such as Isherwood's *The Fat Jesus* or Michelle Mary Lelwica's *Shameful Bodies*. Such gatherings might occasion insightful reflection on the social dynamics of body hatred, personal experiences of fasting, and ideally, some lasting social action.

~ Jessica Coblenz is a Catholic theologian on the faculty at St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana.



"RISE, AND DO NOT BE AFRAID."

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

Assisting Clergy

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

Audiovisual Support

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

Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.
* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at ohastie@stceciliaboston.org.

Marriage

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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

Care of the Sick

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They also provide consultation and support to anyone in the parish who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Lois Flaherty (loisflaherty@gmail.com), 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 or concerns.

The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full text of the policy is also available in the narthex and Parish Office, as well as on our website.

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

Building Accessibility

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

Parking

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

Joining Our Community

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