

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery

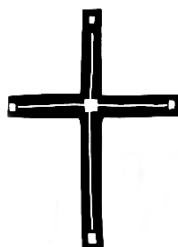
Hieronymus Bosch, c. 1575

Fifth Sunday of Lent

6 April 2025

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

6 APRIL 2025

PRELUDE | *Schmücke Dich, o liebe Seele*, Op. 122, No. 5
Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN



1. Lord, who through - out these for - ty days For
2. As you with Sa - tan did con - tend And
3. As you did hun - ger and did thirst, So
4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And
5. A - bide with us that, when this life Of



us did fast and pray, Teach us to o - ver -
did the vic - t'ry win, O give us strength in
teach us, gra - cious Lord, To die to self, and
through your Pas - sion - tide, For ev - er - more, in
suf - fer - ing is past, An East - er of un -



come our sins, And close by you to stay.
you to fight, In you to con - quer sin.
on - ly live By your most ho - ly word.
life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

PENITENTIAL RITE

COLLECT

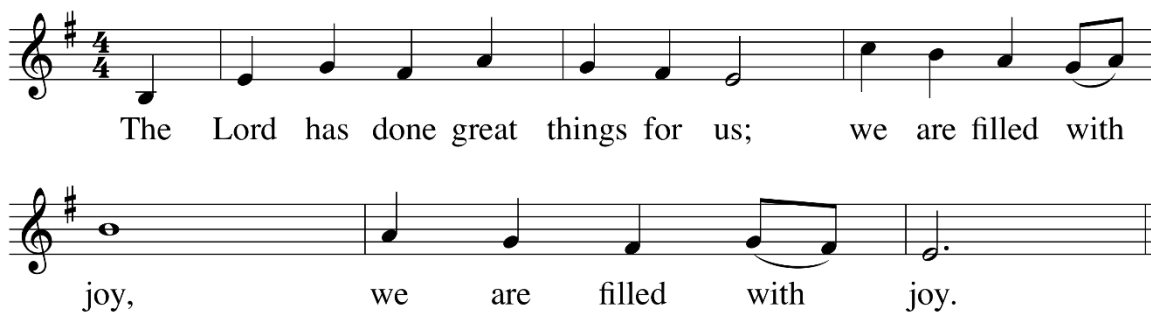
LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 43: 16-21

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 126: The Lord Has Done Great Things for Us

Tony Alonso

Refrain



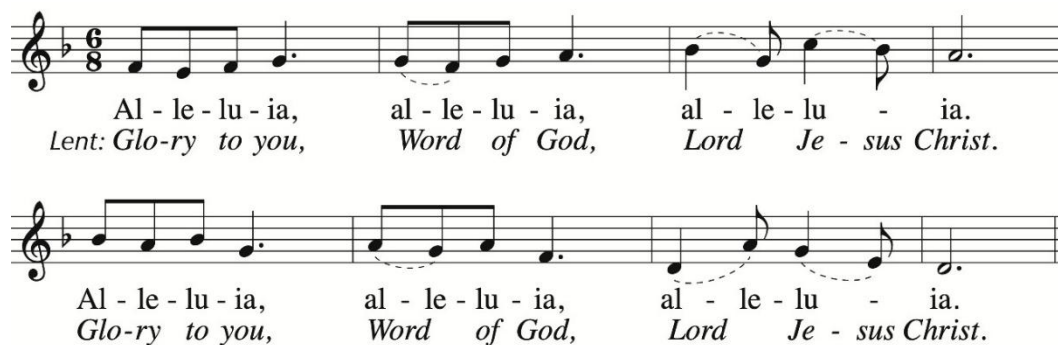
Verses

1. When the LORD brought back the exiles of Sion, we thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter; on our tongues, songs of joy.
2. Then the nations themselves said, "What great deeds the LORD worked for them!"
What great deeds the LORD worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.
3. Bring back our exiles, O LORD, as streams in the south.
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, bearing seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back with a song, bearing their sheaves.

SECOND READING | Philippians 3: 8-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony Alonso



GOSPEL | John 8: 1-11

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!

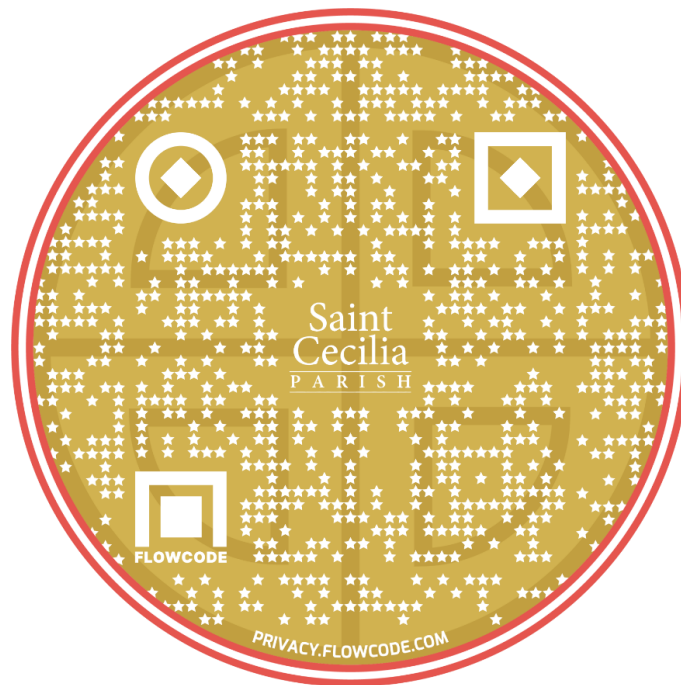
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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



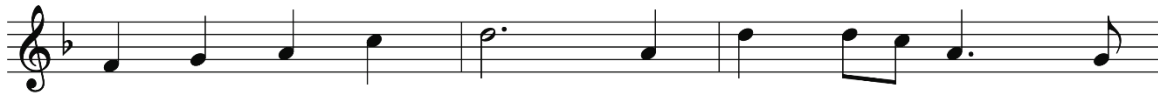
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Forgive Our Sins

DETROIT



1. "For - give our sins as we for - give," You
2. How can your par - don reach and bless The
3. In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The
4. Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And



taught us, Lord, to pray; But you a - lone can
un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
truth we dim - ly knew: How small are oth - ers'
bid re - sent - ment cease. Then, by your mer - cy



grant us grace To live the words we say.
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
debts to us, How great our debt to you!
rec - on - ciled, Our lives will spread your peace.

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 hosts.

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your

Cross and Res-ur-rec-tion you have set us free.

AMEN | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have" are written below the notes. Above the first measure, the text "Cantor or choir:" is written. Above the second measure, the text "All:" is written. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you". Above the first measure of this staff, the text "Cantor or choir:" is written. Above the second measure, the text "All:" is written. The third staff concludes the phrase with the lyrics "take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.".

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Loving Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

Refrain

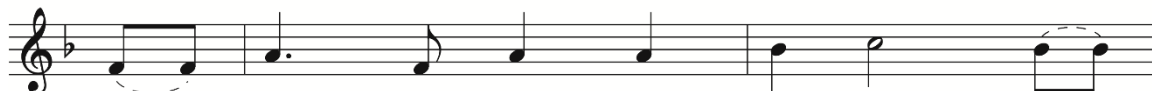


There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole;

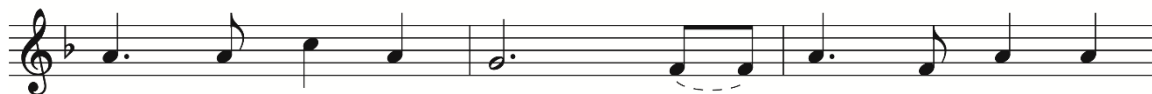


There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To heal the sin-sick soul.

Verses



1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And
 2. Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, For
 3. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you



think my work's in vain, But then the Ho - ly
 Je - sus is your friend; And if you lack for
 can - not pray like Paul, You can tell the love of



Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.
 knowl-edge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.
 Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!"

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that in Him the world might be saved.

This is a true saying and worthy of all to be received that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

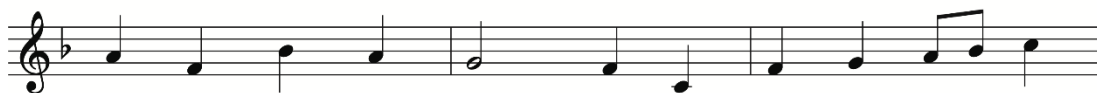
CONCLUDING RITES

RECESSIONAL | The Master Came to Bring Good News

ICH GLAUB AN GOTT



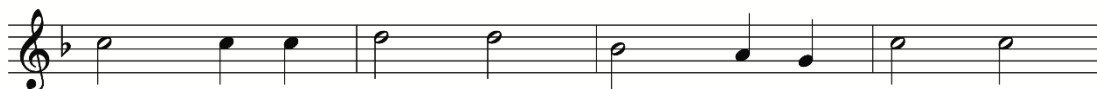
1. The Mas - ter came to bring good news, The
2. The Law's ful - filled through Je - sus Christ, The
3. To seek the sin - ners Je - sus came, To
4. For - give us, Lord, as we for - give And



news of love and free - dom, To heal the sick and
man who lived for oth - ers. The law of Christ is:
live a - mong the friend - less, To show them love that
seek to help each oth - er. For - give us, Lord, and



seek the poor, To build the peace - ful king - dom.
Serve in love Our sis - ters and our broth - ers.
they might share The king - dom that is end - less.
we shall live To pray and work to - geth - er.



Fa - ther, for - give us! Through Je - sus hear us!



As we for - give one an - oth - er!

POSTLUDE | Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux from Veni Creator
Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Nicolas de Grigny
(1602-1673)

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.



Saint Cecilia
P A R I S H

HOLY WEEK 2025

PALM SUNDAY ~ 12 & 13 April

Mass of the Lord's Passion

Saturday | 5:00 p.m.

Sunday | 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., & 6:00 p.m.

[9:30 Mass will be in person & YouTube livestreamed]

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY ~ 17 April

7:30 p.m. | **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

[In person & YouTube livestreamed]

GOOD FRIDAY ~ 18 April

3:00 p.m. | **Stations of the Cross**

[In person and YouTube livestreamed]

7:30 p.m. | **Commemoration of the Lord's Passion**

[In person and YouTube livestreamed]

HOLY SATURDAY ~ 19 April

8:00 p.m. | **The Great Vigil of Easter**

[In person and YouTube livestreamed]

EASTER SUNDAY ~ 20 April

8:00, 9:30, & 11:45 a.m. | **Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord**

[9:30 Mass will be in person and YouTube livestreamed]

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, April 5 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, lector

Sunday, April 6 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Jim Dougherty, lector

Sunday, April 6 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Karen McMenamy, Cathy Anderson,
Letitia Howland, lectors

Sunday, April 6 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Maggie Giles, Pat Scofield, Nikko Mendoza,
lectors

Sunday, April 6 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Gina Filloramo, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 6 | 8:00 a.m.

John and Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

Sunday, April 6 | 9:30 a.m.

Susanne Coyne, *10th Anniversary*
The Rev. Philip Read, *Memorial*
Elise Mamone, *Memorial*
Fred Calandrino, *Memorial*
H. Prescott Bagley II, *Memorial*

Wednesday, April 9 | 8:00 a.m.

Robert "Bobby" Curran, *Memorial*

Friday, April 11 | 8:00 a.m.

Scott Sherman, *Memorial*

Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11

Ezekiel 37:12-14*
Romans 8:8-11*
John 11:1-45*

PALM SUNDAY READINGS

Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Luke 22:14—23:56

*Readings for 11:30 A.M. Mass only

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, Fred Tufts, Baby Eloise Josephine Mason, Kevin J. Owens, So Kwai Sim, and Andrea Surette.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Sharon Nelson** of Prior Lake, MN, **Mike and Marilyn Baumer** of Dayton, OH, **Frances Colantonio** of Kennebunk, ME, and **Erin and Brendan Kavanagh, Arlene Curran** and **Peter Devlin, Jillian Mullany and John Calhoun, Jonathan Martin and Aline Miller, and Hannah Putney**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

The Third Scrutiny

This week at the 11:30 a.m. liturgy we will celebrate the third scrutiny of our Elect. Just as Christ raised Lazarus from the dead, we pray that he will dispel any darkness from our Elect, and draw **Mariam, Anna, Stephanie, Jennifer, Gina, Matthew, and Thomas** closer to his great love and light. Please pray for our Elect on their continued journey toward receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Easter Flowers - Last Chance!

We invite you to remember your loved ones by donating towards our Easter flowers. First, submit the names of your loved ones using this form: forms.gle/wvLUQzK1Pieg2LG86. Then, use the following donation link: www.osvhub.com/st-ceciliaboston/giving/funds/2025-easter-flowers. Envelopes will also be available in the narthex for people who would like to print the names of their loved ones. The names of those remembered will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Palm Sunday (April 13) will be the last opportunity to donate.

Lenten Wednesdays — Mass & Reconciliation

On all the Wednesday evenings of Lent (March 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9, and 16) 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.



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KNITTING & CROCHET MINISTRY

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 | 9 - 12 PM | PARISH HALL

The Knitting & Crochet Ministry will meet on Sunday, April 6th from 9:30-12:00 in the church cafe. The ministry will be working on baby blankets using the "Off the Hook Yarn" donated by Ocean State Job Lot. We will complete the baby blanket and present them to the SCYA group for their "April Showers Bring May Flowers Event".

For more information on the Knitting and Crochet Ministry, please call reception and ask for Ann Marie Turo's contact information.



COMMUNITY SERVINGS' LIFESAVER EVENT

On Wednesday, April 9, Community Servings will hold its annual LifeSaver fundraiser. LifeSaver begins with an elaborate cocktail reception at Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse Galleria in the Back Bay after which guests transition to 50 of Greater Boston's finest restaurants for a multi-course dinner for ten guests.

Tickets for the cocktail reception and dinner are \$500 each. Each dinner ticket provides 16 weeks of free, medically-tailored meals for a neighbor in need. Or you can purchase a ticket just for the elegant cocktail reception for \$250. For more information, or to purchase a ticket: www.servings.org/lifesaver/.

FFF COFFEE HOUR: FEATURING KATHLEEN HIRSCH ON "WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE"

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 | 4PM EST VIA ZOOM

Do you keep a journal? Have you tried your hand at poetry, or ventured into a weekend writing class? How many of us have attended retreats in which we've put our thoughts and prayers on paper, and left thinking, "If only I could do this more often!" Join us, along with author and newly published poet, Kathleen Hirsch, as she discusses the practice of writing as an essential tool for spiritual growth. Hirsch will share her decades-long personal practices, and describe the many ways in which we can use writing to draw us closer to the bedrock of inner truth, grow nearer to God's presence in the world, and to heal. She will read from her new book of poems, *Mending Prayer Rugs*, a collection that celebrates the healing and prophetic work that ordinary women and men perform in faith, even in the darkest of times, and offer writing prompts for those that wish to participate.

Kathleen Hirsch was an award-winning journalist before turning to literary non-fiction and poetry. Her work took her into homeless shelters and prisons, churches, art studios, and libraries, to capture the depth and range of modern women's experience. She teaches in the Philosophy Department at Boston College and facilitates the Contemplative Writers Group at Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington, MA, where she is a spiritual director.

If you have not yet registered for the online coffee hour, please use this link: bit.ly/45pDVRa.



SIMEON & ANNA SENIORS

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 | 10AM | PARISH HALL

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

PIZZA SUNDAY

Join us this Sunday after the 6pm Mass for some pizza and fellowship in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to join!

LAUDATO SI' GOALS

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 | 1PM | PARISH HALL

Each month, Saint Cecilia will focus on a different goal from the Laudato Si' Action Platform as part of the effort to create a Parish Climate Action Plan. The goals include: responding to the cry of the Earth and that of the poor; ecological economics; adopting sustainable lifestyles; ecological education; ecological spirituality; and building community resilience and empowerment.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

This goal envisages a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighborhood ecosystems.

Saint Cecilia is part of the Boston Catholic Climate Movement which is working with the Archdiocese of Boston to get more parishes involved in Care for Creation, and part of the Boston Interfaith Climate Allies, a collaborative of Back Bay churches.

The Saint Cecilia Climate Justice group will meet on Sunday, April 6, at 1:00p.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend!

CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

**SUNDAY, APRIL 13 | 7:00 P.M. |
NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY - WILLIAMS HALL**

The fourth Boston concert of Music for Food's 15th season will highlight works by Poulenc, Schoenberg, and Tully. Admission is free with a suggested donation (\$40/adult, \$15/student); no tickets or RSVPs are necessary. All proceeds will go to support Women's Lunch Place.



COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

APRIL 3 - 9

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Communion Circle | 4pm | Hale House

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom

Third Scrutiny of the Elect | 11:30am Mass

Bereavement Group | 1pm | Community Room

Climate Justice Meeting | 1pm | Parish Hall

Faith in Films: *Thistle* | 1:30pm | Community Room

FFF Coffee Hour | 4pm via Zoom

Pizza Sunday | After 6pm Mass | Parish Hall

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Returning Citizens | 5:30pm | Parish Hall

SCYA Women's Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

OCIA | 6:30pm | Parish Hall

SCYA Holy Hour | 7pm | Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Lenten Mass + Reconciliation | 6pm

Bereavement Group | 6pm via Zoom

Faith in Films: *House Calls to the Homeless*

7pm | Parish Hall

A REMINDER TO PARENTS

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



BHCHP'S MEDICINE THAT MATTERS GALA

MAY 8, 2025 | RECEPTION AT 5:30PM; DINNER & PROGRAM AT 6:30PM | OMNI BOSTON SEAPORT HOTEL

As Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) honors their 40th anniversary, the Saint Cecilia community is invited to attend our Medicine that Matters Gala on May 8, 2025 at the Omni Boston Seaport Hotel. The gala will be honoring the legacy and impact of two transformational individuals who have helped advance BHCHP's mission in countless ways over the decades: Saint Cecilia parishioner Jean C. Tempel and the late Jack Connors, Jr.

Individual tickets are \$500 – details can be found at www.bhchp.org/events/2025-gala/. Your support of the work of Dr. Jim O'Connell and BHCHP staff will help provide the highest quality health care to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Greater Boston. Thank you for all you do for BHCHP patients throughout the year! For questions or sponsorship opportunities, please call reception and ask for Linda Wood O'Connor's email.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES INN: FAMILIES

Catholic Charities Inn continues to welcome new residents experiencing homelessness each month, both immigrants and longtime Massachusetts residents. And, in some cases, there have been babies born while their families have been living at the Inn.

We are looking to provide much-needed items to the infants and children at Catholic Charities Inn. You can get detailed information about their Amazon Wish List at: www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3D73H6OCOQH4K.

We are unable to accept donated items at Saint Cecilia at this time. If you would like your donation to be acknowledged, please provide your name and address in the "Gift Message" when checking out. Thank you for your generosity.



FAITH IN FILMS

Leading up to **An Evening with My Friends**, we will be screening three documentaries in the parish hall featuring our guests.



WEDNESDAY APRIL 2ND | 7pm

G-Dog

A film about Fr. Greg Boyle and Homeboy Industries (92 min)



SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH | 1:30pm

Thistle: Stories of Hope and Healing from the Women of Thistle Farms

A film about Thistle Farms and Rev. Becca Stevens (93 min)



WEDNESDAY APRIL 9TH | 7pm

Give Me a Shot of Anything: House Calls to the Homeless

A film about Dr. Jim O'Connell and his extraordinary team as they care for Boston's unhoused community (92 min)

PRAY AND PLAY - WATERTOWN

APRIL 12 | 3PM | CASEY (W.O. JAMES P.) PARK

On April 12th at 3pm, we'll be meeting up to Pray and Play at Casey (W.O. James P.) Park in Watertown. As a reminder, Pray and Play is a gathering for children who enjoy a good playground and their parents who want to upgrade their playground chitchat. We'll have playground time, snacks, and prayerful discussion for parents. We hope you can make it!

Don't forget to sign up at the link below so that we know you're coming, have enough snacks, and can share any last-minute details (like rain cancellations).

Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/r/0JduTsUGxt>

JESUS AND THE WOMAN TAKEN

BY KATHLEEN PETERSON



Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. "So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him.

John 8:5-9

ALL CHILDREN ARE SACRED AT EPIPHANY SCHOOL

BY DONNA FRISCHKNECHT JACKSON

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Education launched an Equity Summit Series encouraging educators to address classroom inequalities COVID-19 brought to the surface and to reimagine what a just education could be beyond the pandemic.

At the time, the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said, “This is our moment as leaders to transform our education systems, so they are truly serving all of our nation’s students.”

Two decades before “inclusion,” “equity” and, even “COVID,” became words that would define a people and place, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts was having its moment of educational transformation — reimagining how to serve children in and around Boston.

In 1998, a group of educators, activists and philanthropists came together and set what the Rev. John H. Finley IV called an “audacious goal” to create an independent Episcopal school that would put the needs of disadvantaged children first. Together, they founded the Epiphany School, where its guiding belief would be that “every child is sacred,” said Finley.

Finley has served as Epiphany’s head of school since its beginning with a scattering of classrooms housed in several churches of the diocese until enough money was raised for its own building in 2001. Today, Epiphany has a sprawling campus in Dorchester that welcomes some 60 early learners, 90 middle school students and dozens of graduates every day in its graduate support center. In the early learning center, Epiphany starts partnering with families before babies are born. In the middle school, students are admitted through a lottery and referral-based admissions process open to children from economically disadvantaged families and children who have been abused and neglected, and most come from Boston’s neighboring communities of Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Hyde Park.

In addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, students and their families are provided with what



Image: Epiphany School | Facebook

The Rev. John Finley IV sits in on a class at Epiphany School.

Finley calls “wrap-around” service. These include dental and medical care, housing assistance for families and three meals for the students, featuring produce from Epiphany’s onsite garden. Funding for Epiphany’s vision is made possible mainly through gifts from individuals. In the school’s 2022 annual report, almost \$5 million was given by private donors, followed by support from foundations, companies and churches.

“Our food program is a central component of our

model,” said Finley.

Uncovering children’s potential

Epiphany recognized early on that for any child to have a chance, they must have support systems in place that go beyond the classroom. That is why parents play an integral role in the school. Epiphany instructors and counselors meet regularly with parents in their homes. Parents are also expected to volunteer weekly at the school for at least two hours.

“We walk alongside families, getting to know them, their children and then tailoring their educational plan,” said Finley, adding that it’s a model that has sustained Epiphany for 25 years and has inspired similar educational models nationwide.

Success though doesn’t come easy. Former students Steeve Joazard and Emily Centeio both agree that while their time at Epiphany was a blessing — it was also a challenge.

Joazard, a 2004 graduate, admits that middle school was a “difficult transition” for him. “I was drowning,” he said.

Epiphany teachers, though, saw how the tween was engaged in reading and nurtured that interest. In college, though, Joazard took a different route: computers. One day, while staring at the screen not feeling very excited, he remembered his time at Epiphany and realized what really gave me joy. Joazard now teaches writing and literature at Epiphany.

“I’ve been here five years. It’s an amazing feeling to give back to a school which gave me such an opportunity to live up to my potential,” he said. As for his teaching style? “It’s a combination of several teachers who inspired me, and some of whom I now work alongside,” he added.

Centeio, who graduated in 2002, came to Epiphany after being “bored” in other schools. “Everything was just too easy for me, but at Epiphany, they put together a learning plan that would challenge and push me,” she said. “It even included algebra!”

As her brain worked on puzzling formulas, Centeio began seeing more than just a solution to an equation emerge. She saw something even more gratifying. “I had the shocking revelation that maybe I am really special,” she said.

Once a quiet student, Centeio credits Epiphany with

helping her advocate for others. Her voice is now heard clearly at Epiphany as she, like Joazard, works at the school. After a stint teaching — in which Epiphany helped train and fund her education in its Teaching Fellows program, providing aid and housing for future teachers — she has found her calling in counseling students.

Both Centeio and Joazard muse that they never thought they would return to Epiphany, but here they are — and they are not the only students turned employees. Over the last 25 years, 57 students have come back to raise up the next generation.

According to Centeio, the Rev. Jennifer Daly, Epiphany’s chaplain and one of the founding members of the school, has been on record telling the students that they will be back. And she, too, has also returned to the school that holds a special place in her heart.

“After 13 years, I left to start a charter school, but I soon found myself back at Epiphany. What’s happening here is transformational,” said Daly.

There is also a spirit of gratitude deeply embedded in the ethos of Epiphany. Daly recently caught a divine glimpse of that gratitude during a weekly worship service held in the school’s chapel. After delivering her homily, Daly watched students and faculty celebrate the Eucharist. She noticed how intentional each person was in taking the elements. Everyone seemed to be in a holy space. Nothing was rushed.

“I was in tears at how earnestly everyone was participating,” she said.

Expanding the vision

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, [former] bishop of Massachusetts, who has witnessed Epiphany’s quarter-century transformation, says its growth and fruitful ministry can only be the mark of the Holy Spirit — as well as lots of hard work and dedication.

“The school has thrived because it represents not only the provision of good education, but an affirmation, nurturing and equipping of the whole person to grow into their God-given potential as a child of God,” said Gates.

Growing into one’s God-given potential is now starting before middle school at Epiphany.

In 2016, the school opened a 17,000-square-foot early learning center, providing full scholarships

full-day childcare and educational instruction for children from infancy to preschool. According to the National Education Association, children involved in early education programs are less likely to repeat a grade and more likely to graduate high school.

Last year, Epiphany's early learning center took another transformational step in making the world more equitable by funding the future education of every child in the center with a \$3,000 investment in Massachusetts' college saving plan.

"Our intent is that by time each child is ready for kindergarten, their parents are in a position to support their success," said Finley, adding that the center also offers vocational, financial and mental health resources for the parents and caregivers of the infants and toddlers.

For Centeio, whose 3-year-old son attends the early learning center, she couldn't be more grateful for Epiphany in her life.

"This has been a place where I was given the freedom to grow and given the support to go where the Spirit was leading me. Now my son is being given a chance even earlier to flourish," she said.

It's not just the students and their families whose lives are changed. Even the head of school, Finley himself, has grown thanks to the very children he has been called to serve.

"My most proud moments over the past 25 years have been when I have been the most uncomfortable, allowing myself to be present to the children and observe and learn from them," he said.

It seems Epiphany School is living up to the name its founders chose so many years ago. On church calendars, the Feast of the Epiphany, observed Jan. 6, celebrates Christ being made known in the world.

"Epiphany is how we manifest our faith out to others," said Finley. And Epiphany, the school, is doing just that.



Originally published in Episcopal News Service on April 10, 2023.

The Rev. John H. Finley IV is an Episcopal priest as well as the co-founder and head of Epiphany School. Finley has helped launch 19 other schools across the country inspired by Epiphany's example.



Father John Unni presents...

THURSDAY, APRIL 24
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.


AN EVENING WITH MY FRIENDS

at SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SUNDAY CELEBRATION!

Mark your calendars for a Second Sunday of Easter event with community, food, and fun. On Sunday, April 27, several of our guests from Thursday night's *An Evening with My Friends* event will be with us at the 9:30 Mass, extending the friendship and inspiration from Thursday evening into our Sunday worship. After Mass, we'll spill out onto a tented St. Cecilia Street for a celebration with food trucks, family activities, and fellowship.

Please note that we'll be suspending the 11:30 Mass that day so we can all come together at 9:30. The 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. liturgies will be held as usual. We look forward to sharing this special day with you!

A photograph of a city skyline at night, with various skyscrapers and buildings illuminated by lights. The sky is dark, and the lights from the buildings create a vibrant scene.

DR. JIM O'CONNELL ON CARING FOR THE HOMELESS IN BOSTON

BY ALISA M. LIBBY



Image: Jim O'Connell / Boston University

Dr. Jim O'Connell and a member of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program's Street Team speak to a patient in Boston.

"A mile from here, people are experiencing the same health disparities as they have in Third World countries," said Dr. James O'Connell, founder and president of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

"It's the end result of weaknesses across our sectors. We will only solve it when people say that this is a problem we all have. We need to look at it from an architecture, city planning, and public health point of view," he said.

Dr. O'Connell's work to address the needs of the homeless population in Boston began soon after receiving his medical degree from Harvard University and completing his residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). He noted that after finishing his residency and working in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at MGH, he was confident that he could handle anything.

Then he went to work at a clinic in the Pine Street Inn homeless shelter. "It was sheer chaos," he recalled. "I was paralyzed, because I had control over nothing and didn't

understand anything.”

Dr. O'Connell realized that the training he had received at MGH was ineffective for addressing the needs of homeless people. “I was trained to have 15 minute appointments [with each patient], get to the point quickly, and move on. But you won't get any homeless person to share anything in 15 minutes; you have to take time,” he said.

And so began a new, unexpected era of his medical education, directed by the staff at the shelter.

“Everything I tell you today, I learned from nurses and social workers,” he said. “For the first two months [at the clinic], they made me soak the patients' feet. That was how they taught me to be quiet and respectful. I was at their feet — it was a definite power flip, and certainly altered my ego.”

From that perspective, he said, “I watched the nurses work their magic.” He noted how the nurses would say their patient's names gently, and use great patience to administer care.

“There was one man I had seen in the emergency room at MGH,” he recalled. “He had been brought in by the police, and was considered treatment resistant. At the clinic, I soaked his feet for a month. [One day] he said, ‘I thought you were a doctor?’ He was the first person [at the shelter clinic] to acknowledge that I was a doctor! Then he asked for help to sleep. A month later, he was taking all of the medications that he had been resisting over the past 20 years.”

Providing Medical Care to the Homeless

In 1985, O'Connell was the founding physician of a program to support the people experiencing homelessness in Boston. The program received funding through a four-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trust.

“We needed to have homeless people on the advisory board, to tell us how they wanted to be served,” he said. “That board was the best thing that ever happened to us.”

The board emphasized the importance of continuity of care for the homeless community. They also made a distinction between social justice and charity work. “When they had the chance to set up their own healthcare system, they wanted it to be based on social

justice,” he said.

Specifically, they didn't want to rely on the labor of volunteers who could leave at any time, as can happen with a charity-based program. “After we had paid our dues, then we could bring in volunteers,” recalled O'Connell.

In addition to his full-time clinical work with homeless individuals in the program, O'Connell also established the nation's first medical respite program in the Lemuel Shattuck Shelter, and later worked with MGH to design a digital medical record system for the homeless. In addition to his own publications, his work at BHCHP is the subject of New York Times Best Seller, *Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People* by Tracy Kidder (Random House, 2023).

Honoring the Wishes of Homeless Patients

As featured in the book, O'Connell recalled his interaction with Santo, a man with a loud laugh who came to the shelter clinic with a unique complaint. “He said, ‘I can't swallow vodka anymore.’ As I talked to him, I learned that he hadn't been able to eat for weeks, but it was when he couldn't get the vodka down that he had to go to the doctor.”

Santo was later diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Ultimately, O'Connell was faced with finding a safe place for Santo to die.

“I spent a weekend visiting nursing homes and finding him a place for hospice. I thought I had done something good. Then I came back to the Pine Street Inn two days later and heard his laugh,” he said. O'Connell found Santo in the shelter, sitting with all of his friends, laughing, and pouring vodka into his feeding tube. When he questioned him about hospice, Santo shared his perspective.

“He told me, ‘I appreciate all you've done, but I didn't know anyone there. I don't want to die there. I want to die with my friends.’”

After that, they arranged end of life care for Santo at the shelter. “I had never thought to ask him what he wanted,” said O'Connell. “I have since learned that I have to listen to what people want.”

Serving the Homeless through Mobile Units

That listening and lack of judgment are key to O'Connell's success in providing medical care to this often overlooked community. He started working in the BHCHP Mobile Unit to offer care to the homeless who wouldn't come to the shelter, even when they needed medical attention.

"Tonight in Boston, 95% of the people who are homeless will be in a shelter," said O'Connell. "The folks who are outside are a distinct subgroup of the homeless population. They are choosing not to be in an 800-bed shelter."

Due in many cases to psychiatric issues and paranoia, these people feel that staying outside is the only option for them. While the initial idea was to create a medical van, the people they visited requested food and blankets. Providing these resources built trust between the staff in the van and the homeless community. The van began daytime routes as well, which led to yet another realization.

"Eighty percent of [what we do in the clinic] could be done on a park bench or at a McDonalds," said O'Connell. "We learned we could do a lot of stuff with someone who resisted going to the hospital."

With a little privacy, they met with homeless people where they were already comfortable and spending most of their time: be it the park, a Burger King, or in South Station. The staff monitored heart issues, administered blood tests, and checked weight, reaching people who had been written off as resisting care and treatment.

"They weren't treatment resistant," said O'Connell, "just resistant to the way we treated them."

The van was especially useful when COVID-19 hit. While 75% of the homeless population in shelters contracted the virus, the people on the streets mostly avoided infection. When the vaccine was released, the van visited the park where many homeless people spent their time.

"They all accepted the vaccine," said O'Connell. "They had seen people get sick. Also, they were being offered the shot by people they had known for a long time. If we had told them to go to the clinic to get the shot, they probably wouldn't have done it."

Delivering Healthcare is a 'Team Effort'

Without the van, they may never have connected with Michael, who wouldn't visit the shelter but often sought out the van for the sandwiches. O'Connell described Michael's overlapping traumas, noting that the "lack of care and too much trauma as children," is common among people living on the streets. When Michael needed chemotherapy and radiation for metastatic prostate cancer, O'Connell knew that providing treatment alone wasn't enough, as shelters are closed during the day.

"If you're on chemo and your days are spent walking around outside, it's almost impossible to tolerate," said O'Connell.

The BHCHP Medical Respite program offers a place for people to stay if they aren't sick enough to stay in the hospital but have no other place to go. Michael stayed there throughout his cancer treatment.

"I visited him that evening," recalled O'Connell. "He was smiling, because he had a bed, nurses, staff, three meals a day, and a TV. He said to me: 'Doc, it doesn't get any better than this.'...[Michael] was able to find great joy out of small things in life. We have so much, but we don't often find joy in it."

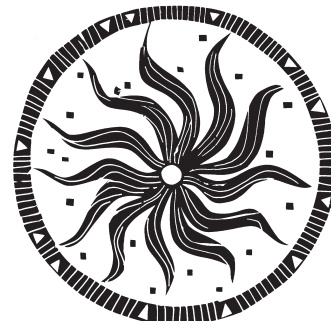
Once his treatment was over, Michael stayed at the Stacy Kirkpatrick House, another "step-down facility," helping patients transition between their hospital stay and returning to the shelter. There, a visit from therapy dogs revealed that Michael loved animals. When the staff were able to find him a place to live, he stopped at an animal shelter to adopt a cat. Years later, when Michael's cancer returned, he refused to go to the hospital because he wouldn't leave his cat alone. A physician took the cat in so that Michael could enter the hospital for pain medication the week before he died.

"Taking care of Michael was a 38-year journey," said O'Connell. "It took an adapted healthcare system to take care of him. It was a team effort. That is what I mean by bringing everyone together — doctors, nurses, social workers — to fix this problem."



Originally published by The London Center for Community Engagement and Social Justice's Leadership In Social Justice Series at Simmons University on December 5th, 2025.

Dr. Jim O'Connell is the president of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.



PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Seven days a week, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Carly-Anne Gannon, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
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 and 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

Schedule for Liturgy

Lenten Mass & Reconciliation | Wed 6:00 p.m. (March 12- April 16)
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

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.

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.

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 Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Carly-Anne Gannon.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, 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 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. We invite individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.

Please note:

According to online safety guidelines released by the Archdiocese of Boston, we have removed email addresses from our online parish bulletin to avoid the danger of potential phishing scams. If you need a staff member's email address or 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.