

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Emmaus (triptych)

by Maximino Cerezo Barredo (2014)

Third Sunday of Easter
19 April 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

19 APRIL 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | *Adagio* from Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 65, No. 1

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | As the Bread of Life is Broken

THAXTED

Refrain



As the bread of life is bro - ken, the cup of love out - poured,

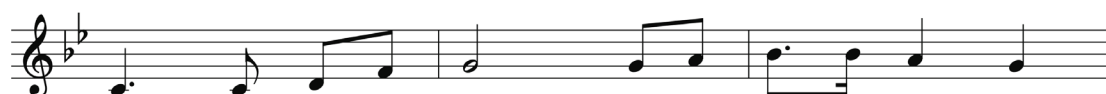


We are one in Christ, our Sav - ior, and sent to serve the Lord.

Verses



1. We, the man - y who are gath - ered, are u -
2. In the word of God pro - claimed here the good
3. In the bread of life here giv - en, we be -
4. Sent as bless - ing for God's peo - ple, to go



nit - ed now as one. In this joy - ful cel - e -
news of truth is heard. In the tell - ing of the
come what we re - ceive. In the cup of love here
forth in love and peace, In our wit - ness to God's



D.C.

bra - tion, we re - call what God has done.
sto - ries, we are o - pen to God's word.
of - fered, we af - firm what we be - lieve.
king - dom, may our char - i - ty in - crease.

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.

SPRINKLING RITE | You Will Draw Water

Tony E. Alonso

Refrain in English

Cantor *All / Todos*

You will draw wa - ter joy-ful-ly You will draw wa-ter
joy-ful-ly from the springs of sal - va - tion. from the
springs of sal - va - tion.

Estribillo en Español

Cantor *Todos / All*

Sa-ca - rán a - guas con a - le - grí - a Sa-ca -
rán a-guas con a le grí - a de las fuen-tes de sal - va -
ción. de las fuen-tes de sal - va - ción.

God indeed is my Savior; I am confident and fearless. My courage is the Lord, for God has been my Savior!

Proclaim God's name to the nations, tell the world of God's works.
Praise the Lord, all you people, how glorious is God's name!

Sing the wonders God works, make them known in every land.
O people of Zion, shout: The Holy one is among you.

GLORIA | Mass from Age to Age

Chris de Silva

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est,
glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and on earth peace to peo - ple,
peo - ple of good will. *To verses* and on earth
peace to peo - ple, peo - ple of good will.

Verse 1

1. We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Verse 2

Cantor:

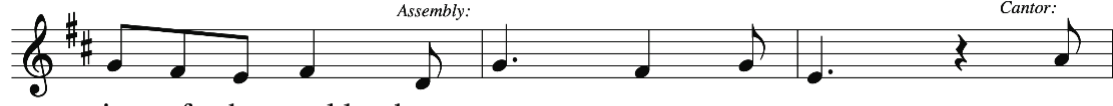


2. Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of



God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the

Assembly: *Cantor:*



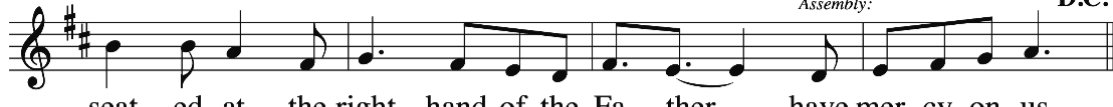
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you

Assembly: *Cantor:*



take a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer; you are

Assembly: *Cantor:* **D.C.**



seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer-cy on us.

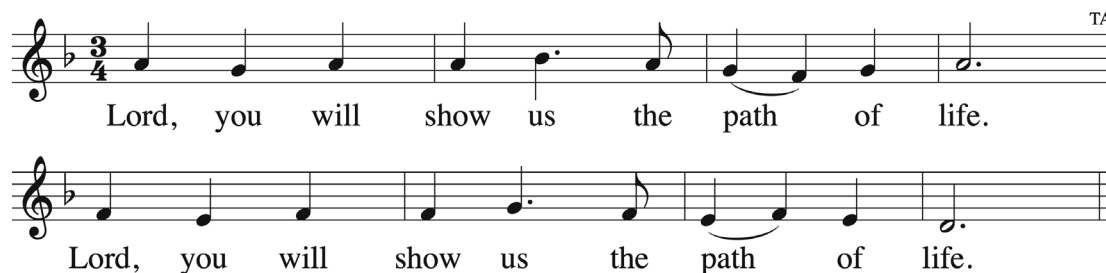
Verse 3

3. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 2: 14, 22-33



Preserve me, O God, for in you I take
refuge.

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord."
O LORD, it is you who are my portion
and cup;
you yourself who secure my lot. *R.*

I will bless the LORD who gives me
counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the LORD before me always;
with him at my right hand, I shall
not be moved. *R.*

And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is
glad;

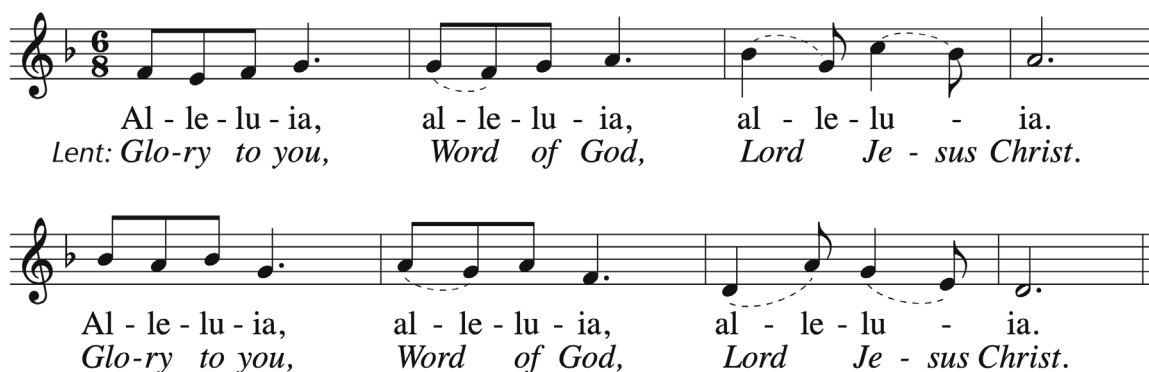
even my flesh shall rest in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to
Sheol,
nor let your holy one see
corruption. *R.*

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand, bliss forever. *R.*

SECOND READING | 1 Peter 1: 17-21

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso



GOSPEL | Luke 24: 13-35

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!

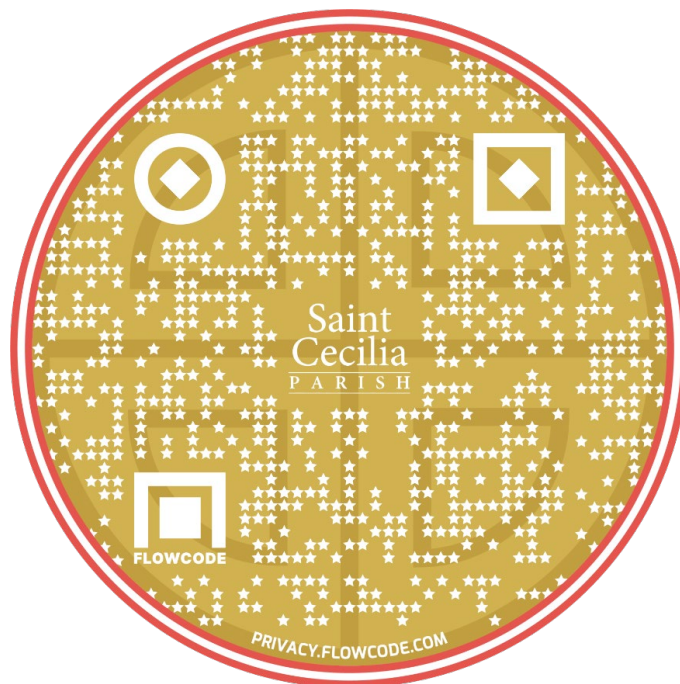
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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



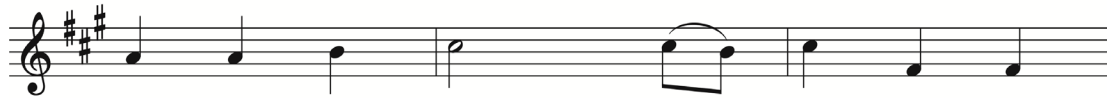
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | On the Journey to Emmaus

Marty Haugen



1. On the jour - ney to Em - ma - us with our
2. And our hearts burned with - in us as we
3. And that eve - ning at the ta - ble as he
4. On our jour - ney to Em - ma - us, in our



hearts cold as stone— The One who would
talked on the way, How all that was
blessed and broke bread, We saw it was
stor - ies and feast, With Je - sus we



save us had left us a - lone. Then a
prom - ised was ours on that day. So we
Je - sus a - ris'n from the dead; Though he
claim that the great - est is least: And his



stran - ger walks with us and, to our sur - prise, He
begged him, "Stay with us and grant us your word." We
van - ished be - fore us we knew he was near— The
words burn with - in us— let none be ig - nored— Who



o - pens our stor - ies and he o - pens our eyes.
wel - comed the stran - ger and we wel - comed the Lord.
life in our dy - ing and the hope in our fear.
wel - comes the stran - ger shall wel - come the Lord.

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.

SANCTUS | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

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

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the

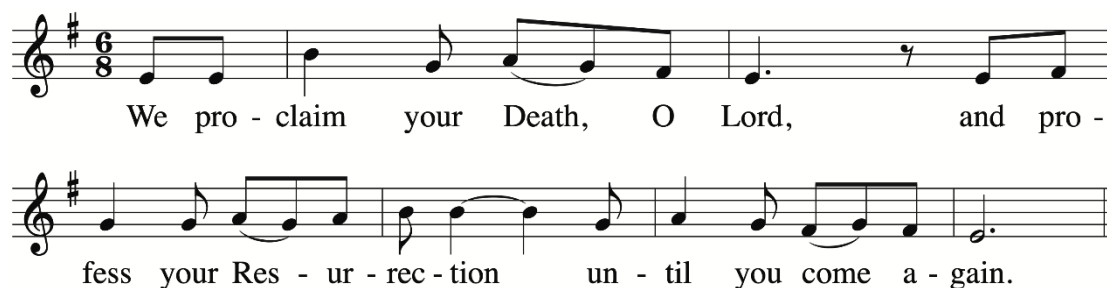
high - est, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -

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.



AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



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.

Cantor: Have mer - cy on us. *All:* Have mer - cy on us. *Repeat ad lib.*

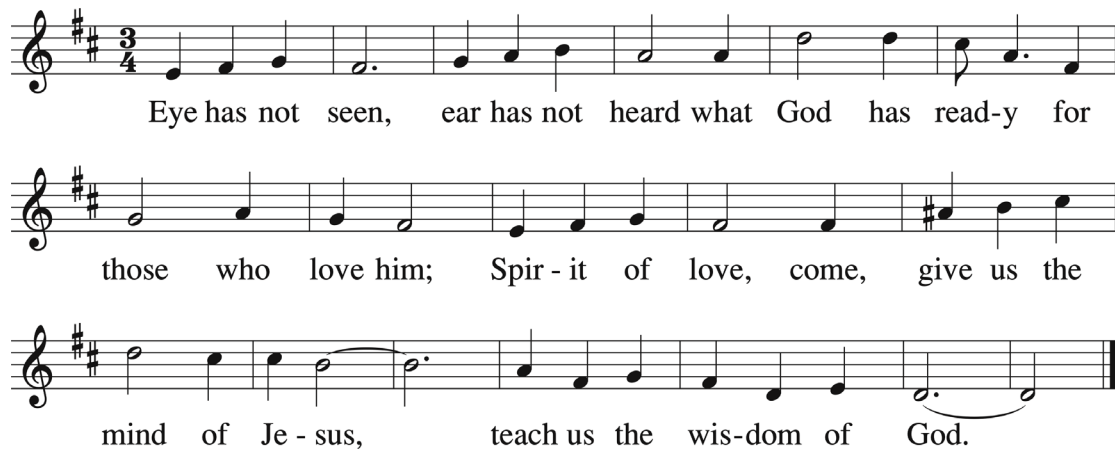
Cantor: Grant us peace. *All:* Grant us peace.

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:

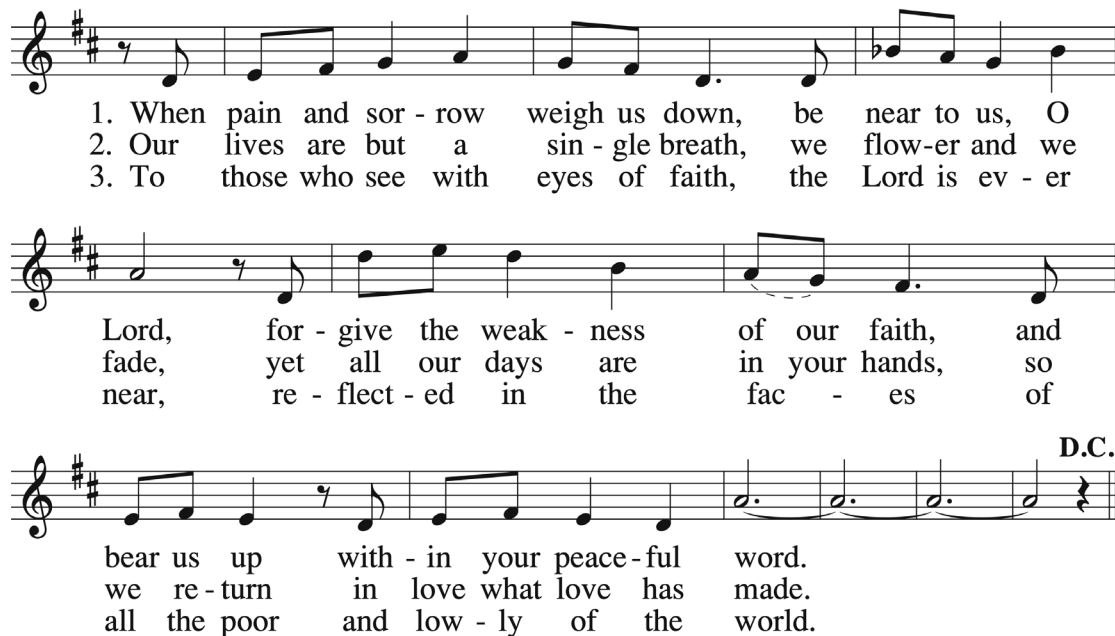
ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.



Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has read-y for
those who love him; Spir - it of love, come, give us the
mind of Je - sus, teach us the wis-dom of God.

Verses 1-3



1. When pain and sor - row weigh us down, be near to us, O
2. Our lives are but a sin - gle breath, we flow-er and we
3. To those who see with eyes of faith, the Lord is ev - er
Lord, for - give the weak - ness of our faith, and
fade, yet all our days are in your hands, so
near, re - flect - ed in the fac - es of
D.C.
bear us up with - in your peace-ful word.
we re - turn in love what love has made.
all the poor and low - ly of the world.

Verse 4



4. We sing a mys-t'ry from the past in halls where saints have
trod, yet ev - er new the mu - sic rings to
D.C.
Je - sus, Liv - ing Song of God.

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us.
 Stay with us; it soon is evening and night is falling.
 The darkness deepens; with us abide.
 In life and death, with us abide. – Luke 24: 29-32

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.

RECESSIONAL | God, We Praise You!

NETTLETON



1. God, we praise you! God, we bless you! God, we name you
2. True a - pos - tles, faith-ful proph - ets, Saints who set their
3. Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, Ev - er - last - ing
4. Christ, at God's right hand vic - to - rious, You will judge the



1. sov-'reign Lord! Might-y King whom an - gels wor - ship, Fa - ther,
2. world a - blaze, Mar-tyrs, once un-known, un - heed - ed, Join one
3. Son of God, Hum-ble was your vir - gin moth - er, Hard the
4. world you made; Lord, in mer - cy help your serv - ants For whose



- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. by your church a - dored: | All cre - a - tion shows your |
| 2. grow - in song of praise, | While your church on earth con - |
| 3. lone - ly path you trod: | By your cross is sin de - |
| 4. free - dom you have paid: | Raise us up from dust to |



1. glo - ry, Heav'n and earth draw near your throne, Sing - ing
2. fess - es One ma - jes - tic Trin - i - ty: Fa - ther,
3. feat - ed, Hell con - front - ed face to face, Heav - en
4. glo - ry, Guard us from all sin to - day; King en -



1. "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord of hosts and God a - lone!"
2. Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, God, our hope e - ter - nal - ly.
3. o - pened to be - liev - ers, Sin - ners jus - ti - fied by grace.
4. throned a - bove all prais - es, Save your peo - ple, God, we pray.

POSTLUDE | *Allegro Assai* from Sonata, Op. 65, No. 1
Brett Maguire, *organ*

Felix Mendelssohn

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.

HAPPY EASTER!

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, April 18 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, lector

Sunday, April 19 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Clare Gillis, lector

Sunday, April 19 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Jerry McElroy, Martha Miller, Bobbi Moran, lectors

Sunday, April 19 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon and homilist
Cynthia Wanner, Ritika Philip, lectors

Sunday, April 19 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Gina Filloramo, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 19 | 9:30 a.m.

David Kane, *1st Anniversary*
Samuel Callis Jr, *1st Anniversary*
Mary Mitchell, *Memorial*
Marguerite McIntyre, *Memorial*

Wednesday, April 22 | 8:00 a.m.

Raffaele Santoro, *Memorial*



Scan this code for
offertory giving:



TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:14, 22-33
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
1 Peter 2:20b-25
John 10:1-10

Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Amanda Conklin** and **Luke DeTrempe**, **Annie Spielberger**, **Christie Lambrew**, **Joseph Russo** and **Anna Nguyen**, **Lauren Buckley** and **Daniel Beyh**, **Connie** and **Michael Lueders**, **Armando** and **Helena Dias**, **Emily Capece** and **Sean Reddy**, **Ralph Estamboulieh**, **Patrick Connors**, **Paul Bruno**, **Peter Grua** and **Mary O'Connell**, and **Michael Ciccarello**. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

The Third Sunday of Easter

The Paschal Triduum was truly a time of grace and beauty for us at Saint Cecilia. We are now two weeks into the Great Fifty Days of rejoicing, culminating in the celebration of Pentecost on May 24. Each year on the Third Sunday of Easter, the Gospel proclaims a post-Resurrection appearance of Christ in which he shares a meal with his disciples. The Eucharistic theme is obvious. Let us rejoice and celebrate the fact that Christ is indeed made known to us in the scriptures and in the breaking of bread

130th Boston Marathon

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this week-end! On Patriots' Day Weekend, we always have a number of marathoners, both parishioners and visitors, with us for Sunday worship. In addition, our very own Fr. Peter Grover, OMV and Fr. John Predmore, SJ will also be running this year, with Fr. Predmore running for the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. If you would like to track them at BAA.com, Fr. Grover's bib number is 20337 and Fr. Predmore's bib number is 27765. Through our prayer, let us support and encourage all those who are running on Monday!

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Pray that God may grant those who have suffered abuse the courage to tell their story and seek healing. Pray also that bishops and other church leaders will promote justice and healing for survivors and that those who commit these crimes will be held accountable.

Catholic Appeal 2026

Our heartfelt thanks to all who have helped make our campaign a success so far—we have now reached 87% of our financial goal and 59% of our donor goal. There's still time to participate! To donate, head to bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you for your support!

Patriots' Day: Office Closed

Our parish offices will be closed on Monday, April 15 in observance of Patriots' Day.

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The Supper at Emmaus by Roy de Maistre (1958)

Photo: Methodist Modern Art Collection

ONE SUN, ONE EARTH, ONE PEOPLE:
A SACRED CELEBRATION OF CREATION

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19 | 1:30PM | EMBRACE MEMORIAL ON
BOSTON COMMON**

Boston Interfaith Climate Allies invites you to gather on Sunday April 19th 1:30pm at the Embrace Memorial on Boston Common and process to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on Tremont Street for a celebration of solidarity with the earth and its people. The guest speaker will be Bill McKibben, author, educator, and environmentalist, who is the founder of 350.org and Third Act. His 1989 book *The End of Nature* is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change. More information at bica.earth.

ANNA & SIMEON SENIORS

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 | 10AM | PARISH HALL

The next Anna and Simeon Seniors Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23rd. From 10:00 to 10:30 am there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:30 there will be time for prayer. All parish seniors are invited to participate.

COMPANY OF GRACE: KINDLE THE FIRE

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 | 7PM ET (6PM CT) VIA ZOOM

Ignatian Spirituality Project's annual "Company of Grace: Kindle the Fire" event is Thursday, April 23 @ 8pm. This virtual event features a fireside conversation with Christine Haley (Illinois' Chief Homelessness Officer) and Fr. Tim McCabe, SJ (Pope Francis Center, Detroit) about why tending to the spirit is critical in recovery from homelessness and addiction. ISP is a Jesuit ministry bringing the gift of Ignatian spirituality into recovery settings in Boston and 20+ cities. Attendance is free... come learn about us! Register at ispretreats.org/coq.



VIRTUS TRAINING:
PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | 2:30PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

VIRTUS is the umbrella term for a two-part training designed to keep children safe in the parish setting. The Archdiocese requires this two-part training of all volunteers and staff who have the potential for direct contact with children or the vulnerable due to their involvement in the parish. The first part, Protecting God's Children (or PGC), is a training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms that a child is being abused and how to talk with children about these issues. The second part is mandated reporter training. All parish staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to attend this one-time training. If you intend to volunteer in the future and haven't attended this training before, please join us. Please note that both parts will be covered in Sunday's session and the training will be approximately 3 hours, including videos and group discussion.

Help us by officially registering for this course at www.virtusonline.org/. Doing so will create a permanent record of your participation and completion of the training. If you can't register online, please join us anyway and come a few minutes early so you can be registered in the system. Thank you so much, and we look forward to seeing you!

SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | AFTER THE 9:30 MASS
CLASSROOM 3**

Each session reflects and discusses Father John's three questions while deepening our connection to Saint Cecilia and with fellow parishioners.

Small Groups Schedule:

- **In person:** Sunday, April 12 & 26 | After the 9:30 Mass | Classroom 3
- **Online:** Wednesday, April 15 & 29 | 8pm via Zoom

To register, please email the Parish Pastoral Council. Walk-ins always welcome!

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY: FINDING HOPE IN DARK TIMES

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | 1PM | CLASSROOM 1

If you are navigating anxiety, grief, depression, or simply feeling overwhelmed, you are not alone. Our Catholic Mental Health Group offers a compassionate and faith-filled space to reflect, share, and find hope together.

Christine M. Williams, PhD, will lead us this session as we explore how the principles of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) can resonate with the wisdom of our Catholic faith—helping us acknowledge our struggles with honesty while remaining rooted in hope, purpose, and God's loving presence. Together, we will reflect on how acceptance, mindful awareness, and living according to our deepest values can open a path toward healing and renewed strength.

For more information, please feel free to call reception (617-536-4548) to receive Michael Murphy, EdD, Kathy Sanders, MD, or Mary Wessel's email.

BHCHP'S MEDICINE THAT MATTERS GALA

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

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

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

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

APRIL 19 - 25

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality Group | 8:30am

MONDAY, APRIL 20

Patriots' Day | Parish Office Closed

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12pm | Comm. Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Anna & Simeon Seniors | 10:00am | Parish Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Confirmation Retreat | 9am-3pm | Parish Hall

HOME REMEDY: A Breakfast to Benefit Pine Street Inn



March 26, 2026



GBIO UPDATE:

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

The Saint Cecilia Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) team extends a sincere thank you to everyone who participated in our recent listening sessions. We are happy to announce that we exceeded our goal! Over the last several weeks, we hosted nine sessions and heard from **64** parishioners. Your stories and experiences are vital in shaping GBIO's next two-year advocacy campaign.

What We Heard

The most common social and economic concerns shared by our community centered on:

- Immigration
- Housing Stability
- Mental Health

These priorities have been shared with the broader GBIO network to help determine our collective focus for the upcoming campaign.

Building Interfaith Connections

Our core leadership team recently enjoyed a wonderful evening of hospitality and dialogue during Shabbat at Temple Israel of Boston. We look forward to reciprocating by hosting our new friends here at Saint Cecilia very soon!

Upcoming Opportunities & Next Steps

- **April Hospitality Tables**
Visit us after liturgies later this month to learn more, share your story, or schedule a one-on-one.
- **GBIO Delegate Assembly (April 21)**
GBIO will meet to review findings from all member congregations and identify the most pressing justice issues.
- **Parish-Wide Meeting (May)**
Stay tuned for the date and time of our May hybrid meeting (in-person and livestreamed). We will share what we learned from the parish, insights from the Delegates Assembly, and our next steps.

Get Involved

As St. Paul reminds us, "There are different forms of service, but the same Lord." Whether you join a session, share information with a friend, or offer your prayers, your gift matters.

Contact Us

To get involved or learn more, please email the GBIO team.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 | 6PM | PARISH HALL

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

SPACE TO SHARE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 | 6PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

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

To learn more, please send an email to the Rainbow Ministry.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

SATURDAY, MAY 16 | 9:30AM | PARISH HALL

The Women's Ministry breakfast is a time set aside for faith, fellowship, and encouragement. Each month, women of all ages and stages of life gather around the table to share a simple meal, deepen their relationship with Christ, and build meaningful connections through prayer, reflection, and discussion.

All are welcome to this new ministry as we seek a range of ideas to grow spiritually as individuals and to serve our greater community. From 9:30 to 10:00 am there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:00 there will be a discussion on Mother Mary.

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



‘ENOUGH OF WAR!’:

FULL TEXT OF POPE LEO’S PRAYER FOR PEACE

BY POPE LEO XIV



Photo: Vatican Media

Pope Leo XIV presides over a prayer vigil in St. Peter's Basilica on Saturday, April 11, 2026.

Editor's note: Pope Leo XIV delivered this homily during a prayer vigil for peace on the evening of April 11.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Your prayer is an expression of that faith which, according to the words of Jesus, moves mountains (cf. *Mt 17:20*). Thank you for accepting this invitation to gather here at the tomb of Saint Peter and in so many other places around the world to pray for peace. War divides; hope unites. Arrogance tramples upon others; love lifts up. Idolatry blinds us; the living God enlightens. My dearest friends, all it takes is a little faith, a mere “crumb” of faith, in order to face this dramatic hour in history together—as humanity and alongside humanity. Prayer is not a refuge in which to hide from our responsibilities, nor an anesthetic to numb the pain provoked by so much injustice. Rather, it is the most selfless, universal and transformative response to death: we are a people who are already risen! Within each of us, within every human being, the interior Teacher teaches peace, urges us toward encounter and inspires us to make

supplication. Let us rise from the rubble! Nothing can confine us to a predetermined fate, not even in this world where there never seem to be enough graves, for people continue to crucify one another and eliminate life, with no regard to justice and mercy.

In the context of the 2003 Iraq war crisis, Saint John Paul II, a tireless advocate for peace, said with deep emotion: “I belong to that generation that lived through World War II and, thanks be to God, survived it. I have the duty to say to all young people, to those who are younger than I, who have not had this experience: “No more war” as [Saint] Paul VI said during his first visit to the United Nations. We must do everything possible. We know well that peace is not possible at any price. But we all know how great is this responsibility” (*Angelus*, 16 March 2003). I make his appeal my own this evening, relevant as it is today.

Prayer teaches us how to act. In prayer, our limited human

possibilities are joined to the infinite possibilities of God. Thoughts, words and deeds then break the demonic cycle of evil and are placed at the service of the Kingdom of God. A Kingdom in which there is no sword, no drone, no vengeance, no trivialization of evil, no unjust profit, but only dignity, understanding and forgiveness. It is here that we find a bulwark against that delusion of omnipotence that surrounds us and is becoming increasingly unpredictable and aggressive. The balance within the human family has been severely destabilized. Even the holy Name of God, the God of life, is being dragged into discourses of death. A world of brothers and sisters with one heavenly Father vanishes, as in a nightmare, giving way to a reality populated by enemies. We are met by threats, rather than the invitation to listen and to come together. Brothers and sisters, those who pray are aware of their own limitations; they do not kill or threaten with death. Instead, death enslaves those who have turned their backs on the living God, turning themselves and their own power into a mute, blind and deaf idol (cf. *Ps* 115:4–8), to which they sacrifice every value, demanding that the whole world bend its knee.

Enough of the idolatry of self and money! Enough of the display of power! Enough of war! True strength is shown in serving life. With evangelical simplicity, Saint John XXIII once wrote: “The benefits of peace will be felt everywhere, by individuals, by families, by nations, by the whole human race.” And echoing the incisive words of Pius XII, he added: “Nothing is lost by peace; everything may be lost by war” (Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris*, 116).

Let us, therefore, unite the moral and spiritual strength of the millions and billions of men and women, young and old, who today choose to believe in peace, caring for the wounds and repairing the damage left behind by the madness of war. I receive countless letters from children in areas of conflict. In reading them, one perceives, through the lens of innocence, all the horror and inhumanity of actions that some adults boast of with pride. Let us listen to the voices of children!

Dear brothers and sisters, there are certainly binding responsibilities that fall to the leaders of nations. To them we cry out: Stop! It is time for peace! Sit at the table of dialogue and mediation, not at the table where rearmament is planned and deadly actions are decided! Yet there is a no less significant responsibility that falls to all of us—men and women from all over the world. We are an immense multitude that rejects war not only in word, but also in deed. Prayer calls us to leave behind whatever violence remains in our hearts and minds. Let us turn to a Kingdom of peace that is built up day by day—in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and civil and religious communities. A Kingdom that counters polemics and resignation through friendship and a culture of encounter. Let us believe once again in love, moderation and good politics. We must form ourselves and get personally involved, each following our own calling. Everyone has a place in the mosaic of peace!

The Rosary, like other ancient forms of prayer, has united us this evening in its steady rhythm built on repetition. Peace gains ground in the same way: word by word, deed by deed,

just as a rock is hollowed out drop by drop, or fabric woven stitch by stitch. These are the slow rhythms of life, a sign of God’s patience. We must not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the pace of a world that does not know what it is chasing. Rather, we must return to serving the rhythm of life, the harmony of creation and healing its wounds. As Pope Francis taught us, “There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter” (Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*, 225). There is, indeed, “an ‘architecture’ of peace, to which different institutions of society contribute, each according to its own area of expertise, but there is also an ‘art’ of peace that involves us all” (*ibid.*, 231).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us return home having made a commitment to pray without ceasing and without growing weary, a commitment to a profound conversion of heart. The Church is a great people at the service of reconciliation and peace. She advances without hesitation, even when rejecting the logic of war may lead to misunderstanding and scorn. She proclaims the Gospel of peace and instills obedience to God rather than any human authority, especially when the inherent dignity of other human beings is threatened by continuous violations of international law. “Throughout the world, it is to be hoped that every community become a ‘house of peace,’ where one learns how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced and forgiveness is cherished. Now more than ever, we must show that peace is not a utopia” (*Message for the LIX World Day of Peace*, 1 January 2026).

Brothers and sisters of every language, people and nation: we are one family that weeps, hopes and rises again. “No more war, a journey with no return; no more war, a vicious cycle of grief and violence;” (Saint John Paul II, *Prayer for Peace*, 2 February 1991).

Dear friends, peace be with you all! It is the peace of the Risen Christ, the fruit of his sacrifice of love on the cross. For this reason, we raise our prayer to him:

*Lord Jesus,
you conquered death without weapons or violence:
you shattered its power with the strength of peace.
Grant us your peace,
as you did to the women filled with doubt on Easter morning,
as you did to the disciples who were hiding in fear.
Send forth your Spirit,
the breath that gives life and reconciles,
that turns adversaries and enemies into brothers and sisters.
Inspire in us to trust in Mary, your mother,
who stood at the foot of your cross with a broken heart,
firm in the faith that you would rise again.
May the madness of war cease
and the Earth be cared for and cultivated by those who still
know how to bring forth, protect and love life.
Hear us, Lord of life!*



Published in America Magazine on April 11, 2026.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN IN THESE TIMES?

BY KELLY BROWN DOUGLAS



Photo: Art UK

The Supper at Emmaus by Ceri Giraldu Richards (1958)

Editor's Note: Though written over a year ago, the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas addresses challenges that remain deeply relevant for us today. As we reflect on her words, we find a clear resonance with the Church's social teaching. In a world that remains fractured, we are called to act against injustice by advocating for the marginalized and upholding the sacred humanity of others.

I cannot count the times that I have been asked what it means for us to be Christian in times like these. Ours is

a time when far too many of God's children are subjected to conditions that foster death, not life. It's a time when racism, xenophobia, White Christian nationalism, and other forms of bigotry are increasing across the globe. Hate crimes are on the rise in the United States as racial, ethnic, cultural, and political polarization festers; while African Americans remain the most frequent victims, crimes against transgender people and Jewish people have increased dramatically since 2022. And in the richest country in the world, 11 percent of the population is trapped in poverty, with its comorbidities of inadequate

housing, health care, employment, food, education, and even recreational opportunities. It is clear that we are living in a kairos time.

A kairos time is a right or opportune time. It is a decisive moment in history with the potential for far-reaching impact. It is often a chaotic time, a time of crisis. Yet it is a time in which God is fully present, providing an opening, a way to God's future. In their 1985 Kairos Document, South African clergy and theologians called it a "moment of grace and opportunity, the favourable time in which God issues a challenge to decisive action." But it is also "a dangerous time, because if this opportunity is missed, and allowed to pass by, the loss for the Church [and the wider society] will be immeasurable."

"What does it mean to be Christian in this time?" is thus an urgent question. Yet the answer is simple: we have a cross at the center of our faith, and we need to start acting like it.

The cross demands that we join in God's eternal mission to create a loving and just world. "God is always seeking to create a world and a society where all are loved, where justice is done, and where the God-given equality of us all is honored in our relationships, in our social arrangements, and in law," says Michael Curry, former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. This divine mission must become our human mission. We are, therefore, called by the cross into a human/divine partnership to cultivate a world and society where the sacredness of all God's creation is respected and where all people—without exception—can live freely and fully into the abundance of life that God promises.

As pioneering liberation theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez aptly put it, the cross necessitates "forward-directed action" that "penetrate[s] the present reality . . . driving history toward a more just future." Essentially, to be a Christian in this our time means to act decisively to repair the breach between our unjust present and God's just future by creating spaces of freedom, equity, and empathy for those who have been denied them.

God is not neutral when it comes to injustice. God enters history on the side of the marginalized and oppressed, in their struggle to live free of unjust social, cultural, and political realities. It is when those who are on the underside of justice begin to experience justice that we know we are at least on the arc that bends toward the justice of God. Thus, while we are not called to engage in partisan politics, to do the work of the cross is to be partisan when it comes to the values of God. These are values that promote justice and thereby preserve, cherish, respect, and enhance the sacred dignity and worth of every single human being. They are values that free people to live into the fullness of their sacred humanity, as opposed to values that betray the sacred humanity of us all. Moreover, if the cross means anything to us, these values cannot simply be rhetorical—they must come alive in the decisions and choices we make in our social/political living.

There is no getting around it: the mission of God that is

defined by the cross means that we must be politically engaged. The cross dictates that we make real, in the messiness of our everyday living, the values that reflect the justice God wants for God's people. And we have a model for that: a crucified savior.

When Jesus, reading from Isaiah, said he came "to bring good news to the poor . . . to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free," he meant it (Luke 4:18–19). And while he did not endorse any particular political party of his day, he was political as he embodied perfectly the values and mission of God. In so doing, he not only affirmed and restored life to those who suffered most from the perils of injustice but also stood firmly against the principalities and powers that were an affront to the very justice of God. Jesus "was never party political," says former archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. "No wing of politics—left or right—can claim God as being on its side. But Jesus was highly political. He told the rich that, unlike the poor who were blessed, they would face woes. He criticised the King as a fox. He spoke harsh words to leaders of the nations when they were uncaring of the needy. He did this because God cares for those in need and expects those who claim to act in his name to do the same."

It is clear that Jesus was not crucified for neutrality and silence regarding the injustice of his day. He was crucified because he spoke against that which was an affront to the values of God, even as he manifested that which reflected God's just future. As the mission of God defined Jesus' life, so it should be for those of us with a cross at the center of our faith.

To be a Christian in times like these means what it should mean at any time. For there is no time that is not a kairos time, no time when God is not fully present and providing a way to God's future. Thus there is no time when we are not called, like Jesus, to bear the cross, to be committed to making real the justice of God that is freedom from all that prevents us from being a society where the humanity of each and every human being is honored and respected. In this and in all times, to be a Christian is to act like a people with a cross at the center of our faith.



Originally published in the February 2025 issue of The Christian Century.

The Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas is an Episcopal priest who currently serves as the Canon Theologian at the Washington National Cathedral and Anglican Communion Canon at Newcastle Cathedral in Newcastle, England. She is considered a leader in the field of womanist theology, racial reconciliation, social justice, and sexuality and the Black church.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

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

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, Deacon
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development
Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities Operations & Events
Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

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

Music Ministry

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

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show
Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer
Ben Worthley, Audio Engineer

Schedule for Liturgy

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

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.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Pastoral Director of Operations, Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien.

Building Accessibility

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

Baptism for Infants

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

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

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

This is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation. For more information, contact Mary Wessel in the Parish Office.

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

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

Please note:

According to online safety guidelines released by the Archdiocese of Boston, we have removed email addresses from our online parish bulletin to avoid the danger of potential phishing scams. If you need a staff member's email address or a ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists will be happy to share the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online.