

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Resurrection

Jyoti Sahi, c. 2007

The Resurrection of the Lord

20 April 2025

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

20 APRIL 2025

EASTER SUNDAY

PRELUDES | Easter Rejoicing

George Frederick Handel
(1685-1759)

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

Michael D. Costello
arranged by Todd Marchard

Easter Carillon

Robert J. Powell

The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba from Solomon, HWV 67

George Frederick Handel

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Jesus Christ is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN



1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um-phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n-ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal, as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise him, now his might con - fess, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest. Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

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* *Last time* 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: **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 10: 34a, 37-43

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re -
Or: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

joice and be glad; this is the day the Lord has
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

made, let us re - joice and be glad!
 ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's mercy endures for ever;
 Let the house of Israel say: "God's mercy endures for ever."
2. The hand of the Lord has struck with power, God's right hand is exalted,
 I shall not die, but live anew, declaring the works of the Lord.
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,
 the Lord of love and mercy has brought wonder to our eyes!

(Full translation is below)

Vi-cti-mae pa-scha-li-lau-des im-mo-lent Chri-sti-a-ni. A - gnus re-de-mit o-ves: Chri-stus in-no-cens Pa-tri
Mors et vi-ta du-el-lo con-fli-xe-re mi-ran-do:
re - con-ci - li - a - vit pec - ca - to - res. Dic no-bis Ma-ri-a, quid vi-di - sti in vi - a?
dux vi-tae mor-tu-us, re-gnat vi-vus. An-gel - i - cos te-stes, su - da-ri - um, et ve-stes.
Sep-ul-crum Chri-sti vi - ven - tis, et glo-ri-am vi-di re-sur-gen - tis: Sci-mus Chri-stum sur-re-xis-se
Sur-re - xit Chri-stus spes me - a: prae-ce-det su-os in Ga-li-lae - am.
a mor-tu-is ve-re: tu no-bis vi-ctor Rex, mi-se-re - re. A - men. Al-le-lu - ia.

To the Paschal Victim, Christians, offer a sacrifice of praise.

The Lamb redeemed the sheep. Christ, sinless, reconciled sinners to the Father.

Death and life were locked together in a unique struggle. Prince of Life, who died, now he reigns.

"Tell us, Mary, What did you see upon the way?"

"I saw the sepulchre of the now living Christ. I saw the glory of the Risen One.

I saw the angels, his witnesses, the shroud and the garments, too, which once had covered heads and limbs.

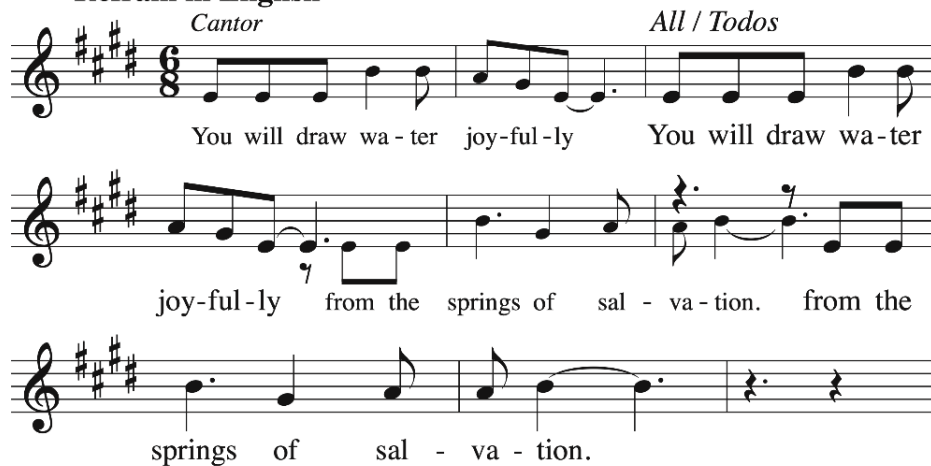
Christ, my Hope is risen; He will go before his own into Galilee."

We know that Christ is truly risen from the dead; O Victorious King, have mercy on us. Amen. Alleluia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Lent: Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

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*



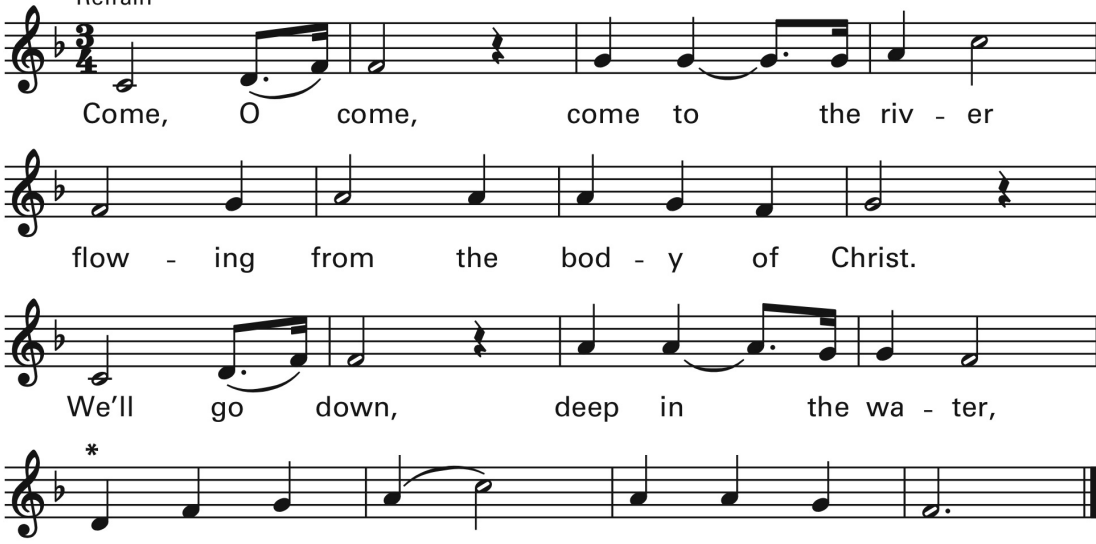
Sa - ca - rán a - guas con a - le - grí - a Sa - ca -
rán a - guas con a le grí - a de las fuen - tes de sal - va -
ción. de las fuen - tes de sal - va - ción.

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.

Refrain



Come, O come, come to the riv - er
 flow - ing from the bod - y of Christ.
 We'll go down, deep in the wa - ter,
 * but in the Lord we shall a - rise.

Verses



1. Washed in wa - ters of re-birth,
 2. Priest - ly peo - ple are ____ we,
 3. Blest are those ____ who ____ thirst
 4. Let us walk ____ in the light
 5. Those who sow ____ in ____ tears

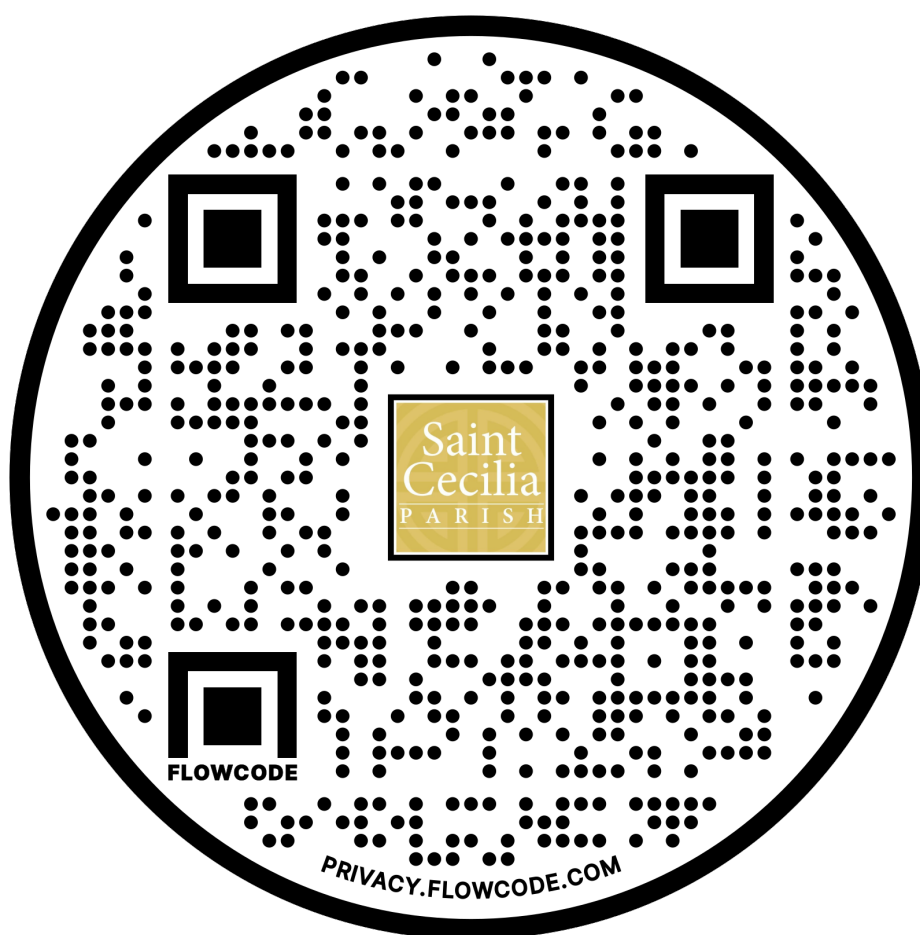
to Refrain

1. we have put on Christ Je - sus.
 2. sealed and sent by the Spir - it.
 3. for the reign of God's jus - tice.
 4. of God's ho - ly prom - ise.
 5. reap the har - vest re - joic - ing.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Today's collection will benefit Clergy Trust which provides programs and support to care for the health and well-being of all active and senior diocesan priests in good standing. By supporting this collection, you are helping to ensure that our active priests receive the care they need to continue their important work and our senior priests have support and access to quality care. This collection is a critical source of funding for the Trust and your generosity is greatly appreciated. On behalf of Father John and the priests of the Archdiocese who benefit from the support of Clergy Trust, thank you so much for your continued support and generosity. To donate online visit:

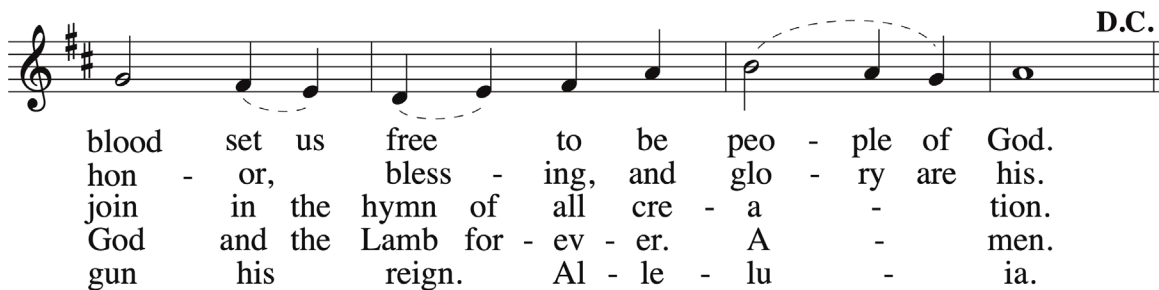
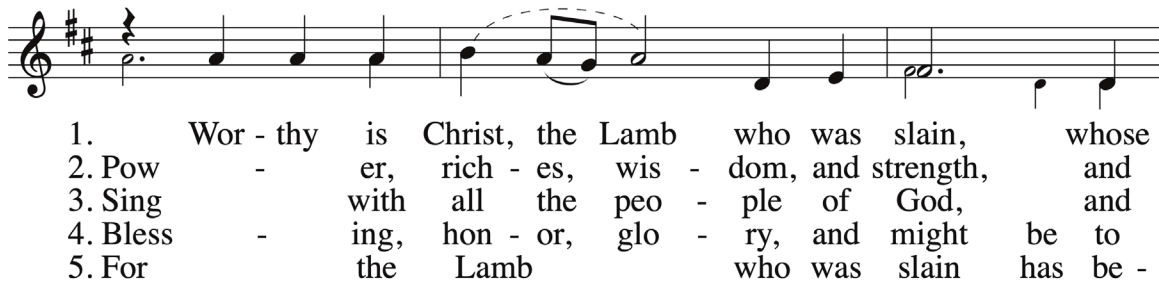
<https://clergytrust.org/easter/> or <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/easter-2025-clergy-trust>.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | This is the Feast of Victory

FESTIVAL CANTICLE



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 on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into three lines of music. The first line is labeled 'Cantor or choir:' and the second line is labeled 'All:'. The third line is also labeled 'All:'. The lyrics are: '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.'

Cantor or choir:
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have
All:
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
All:
take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

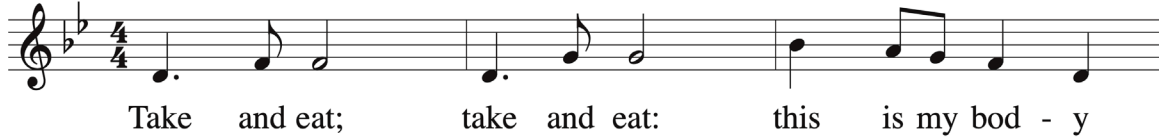
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.

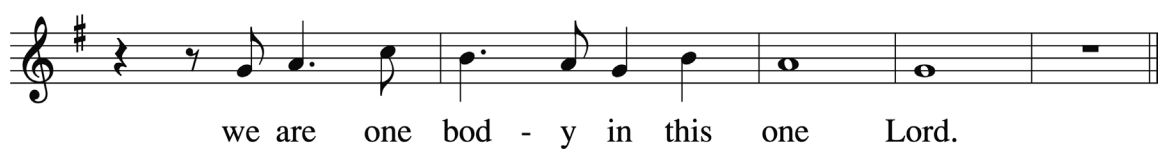
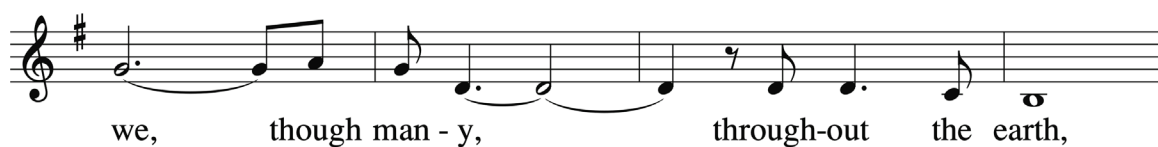
Refrain



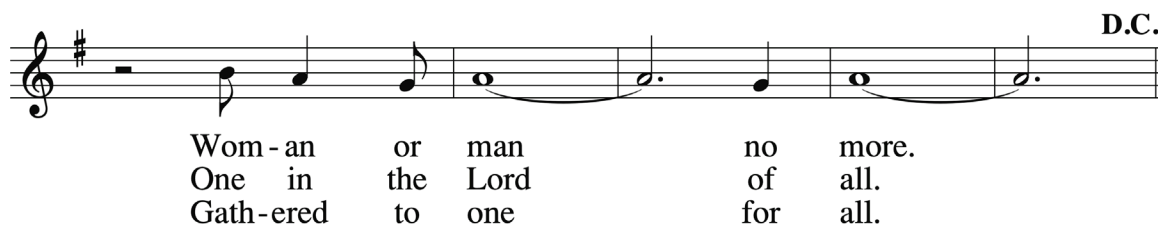
I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
 You are my flock: you know the shep-herd's voice;
 You are God's dwell - ing place, on me you rest;
 I am the morn - ing star that nev - er sets;
 I am the bride-groom, this my wed - ding song;



I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
 You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.
 Lift up your face, in you my light will shine.
 You are my bride, come to the mar - riage feast.



Verses



D.C.

Verses / Estrofas



1. _____ I am the Bread of life. You who
 2. The bread that _____ I will give is my
 3. Un - less _____ you _____ eat of the
 4. _____ I am the Res - ur - rec - tion, _____
 5. _____ Yes, Lord, _____ we be - lieve that _____

1. _____ Yo soy el Pan de Vi - da. A mí
 2. El pan que _____ yo da - ré es mi
 3. _____ Si us - te - des no co - men la _____
 4. Yo soy la _____ Re - su - rrec - ción, _____
 5. _____ Sí, Se - ñor, cre - e - mos que _____



come to me shall not hun - ger; _____ and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, _____ and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man _____ and _____
 I _____ am the life. _____ If you be -
 you _____ are the Christ, _____ the _____

ven - gan: _____ no ten - drán ham - bre. _____ En mí
 car - ne, la vi - da del mun - do. _____ Los que
 car - ne del Hi - jo del Hom - bre, _____ y no
 Yo _____ soy la Vi - da. _____ Si en
 tú e - res _____ el Me - sí - as, _____ el _____



lieve in me shall not thirst. _____ No one can come to
 eat _____ of this bread, _____ you shall _____ live for
 drink _____ of his blood, _____ and drink _____ of his
 lieve _____ in _____ me, _____ e - ven _____ though you
 Son _____ of _____ God, _____ Who _____ has _____

cre - an: _____ no ten - drán sed. _____ Na - die _____ vie - ne a
 co - men _____ de es - te pan _____ vi - vi - rán por
 be - ben _____ de su san - gre, no be - ben _____ de su
 mí us - te - des cre - en, _____ aun - que _____ ha - yan
 Hi - jo de Dios, _____ que has ve - ni - do al

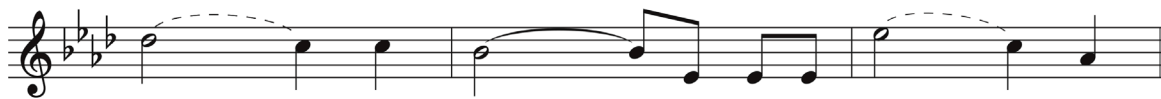


me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons.
ev - er, you shall live for ev - er.
blood, you shall not have life with - in you.
die, you shall live for ev - er.
come in - to the world.
mí si mi Pa - dre no lo a - tra - e.
siem - pre, vi - vi - rán por siem - pre.
san - gre, no po - drán te - ner mi vi - da.
muer - to, vi - vi - rán por siem - pre.
mun - do pa - ra re - di - mir - nos.

Refrain / Estribillo



And I will raise you up, and I will
Yo los re - su - ci - ta - ré, Yo los re -



raise you up, and I will raise you
su - ci - ta - ré, Yo los re - su - ci - ta -



up on the last day.
ré en el dí - a fi - nal.

Refrain

*Pan de Vi - da, cuer-po del Se - ñor,
cup of bless - ing, blood of Christ the Lord.
At this ta - ble the last shall be first, **po -
der es ser - vir, por-que Dios es a - mor.

Verses

1. We are the dwell-ing of God,
***2. Us - te - des me lla - man "Se - ñor", me in -
3. There is no Jew or Greek,
fra - gile and wound-ed and weak. We are the
cli - no_a la - var - les los pies. Ha - gan lo
there is no slave or free; there is no
bod - y of Christ, called to be the com -
mis - mo, hu - mil - des, sir - vién do - se
wom-an or man; on - ly heirs of the
pas - sion of God. D.C.
u - nos a o - tros.
prom - ise of God.

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.

EASTER SOLEMN DISMISSAL

CHANT

Deacon/Priest

Go in peace, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

All

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

RECESSIONAL | Sing with All the Saints in Glory

ODE TO JOY

1. Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, Sing the res - ur -
 2. O what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing All that eye has
 3. Life e - ter - nal! heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who
 1. Can - ten con glo - rio - sos fie - les Him - nos de re -
 2. ¡Oh! qué glo - ria tan ex - cel - sa, Im - po - si - ble
 3. Vi - da e - ter - na, ex - cla - ma el cie - lo; Vi - ve Cris - to

rec - tion song! Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,
 yet per - ceived! Ho - liest hearts, for a - ges plead - ing,
 once was dead. Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es!
 su - rrec - ción. Muer - te y due - lo, tris - te his - to - ria,
 con - ce - bir. Los más pu - ros co - ra - zo - nes
 que mu - rió. ¡Gri - ten, vo - ces in - mor - ta - les!

To the for - mer days be - long. All a - round the
 Nev - er that full joy con - ceived. God has prom - ised,
 Child of God, lift up your head! Pa - tri - archs from
 Pe - nas del pa - sa - do son. Nu - bes ne - gras
 No es - pe - ra - ron re - ci - bir. Dios pro - me - te,
 Al - cen ros - tros ha - cia Dios. Los pa - triar - cas



clouds are break-ing, Soon the storms of time shall cease; In God's
Christ pre-pares it, There on high our wel-come waits. Ev - 'ry
dis - tant a - ges, Saints all long-ing for their heav'n, Proph-ets,
se di - si - pan, La tor - men - ta ce - sa ya. Des - per -
Cris - to o - fre - ce El ban - que - te ce - les - tial. Pa - ra
del pa - sa - do, Los que es-pe - ran ce - le - brar, To - dos



like - ness we a - wak - en, Know-ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
hum - ble spir - it shares it; Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
psalm-ists, seers, and sag - es, All a - wait the glo - ry giv'n.
tan - do en su i - ma - gen, Dios la e - ter - na paz nos da.
to - dos los hu - mil - des, Vi - da en Cris - to es e - ter - nal.
sa - bios y pro - fe - tas Glo - ria an - he - lan sin ce - sar.

4. Life eternal! O what wonders
Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amid earth's closing thunders,
Saints shall stand before the throne!
Oh, to enter that bright portal,
See that glowing firmament,
Know, with you, O God immortal,
Jesus Christ whom you have sent!

4. ¡Vida eterna! ¡Gozo eterno!
Fieles cantan a una voz.
Cesan truenos y nos vemos
Frente al trono tuyo, Dios.
Y al pasar por tus portales,
Brilla el cielo con fulgor.
Celebramos tu venida
En tu Hijo, el Salvador.

POSTLUDE | Toccata in F Major from Organ Symphony No. 5, Op. 42

Charles-Marie Widor
(1844-1937)

Brett Maguire, *organ*

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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.

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends,

As I sit today to write this letter, the world is in a place we have not seen for a while. It has certainly happened before but, right now, we are experiencing wars and injustice, destruction and oppression. The level of disruption is unprecedented, at least in my lifetime, and we are all looking for something to root and ground us. We are hoping for something to stabilize us. And I am so happy that we are together here today, and even if we are in another place, I am so grateful that we have our faith, a faith that roots and grounds us in the midst of chaos and uncertainty.

Jesus clearly says he will be with us till the end of the days. The very fact of resurrection itself brings us hope. To know and believe that someone rises from the dead is a VERY hopeful belief! This belief gives me courage and strength to persevere and to hope that from every good Friday there comes an Easter Sunday. From every dark day comes a day of light, goodness and love. We must move through chaos, disruption and darkness into the light and joy of Jesus's resurrection! This happens literally after our last breath, and it happens psychologically and emotionally; it happens relationally and spiritually. We have so much for which to be thankful...let us focus on these things! Let us not let darkness, chaos and confusion reign. Let us believe with grateful hearts that our faith propels us always to hope and to see new possibilities and the new life that can come forth from death all around us.

This weekend we are especially mindful of the people throughout the world who are suffering...all over the world, especially those places that do not make the news. We think of the people of Gaza...and the Palestinians who are being displaced and bombed as we speak. When does the killing end? When does retaliation and retribution stop? When does the concept of forgiveness, whatever that means, begin to take root? What is the natural end for vengeance? It doesn't and is therefore antithetical to our belief in resurrection period. This Holy Week and Easter, we also think of and pray for the people who are suffering in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Haiti, Myanmar, the Dominican Republic and all over. We think of places like Sudan, who are out of the news cycle right now. We think of people in our own country who are hurting and suffering with deep cuts being made to the economy. We think of people who are affected by government efficiency without taking into account the human toll and the dignity of each and every human person as we try to become more efficient. However, with all this chaos, comes the message of Jesus: "See, I make all things new." He brings new out of old, that he brings life from death. We celebrate the Resurrection today. We celebrate it each Sunday, and we go forward as a people in this hope!

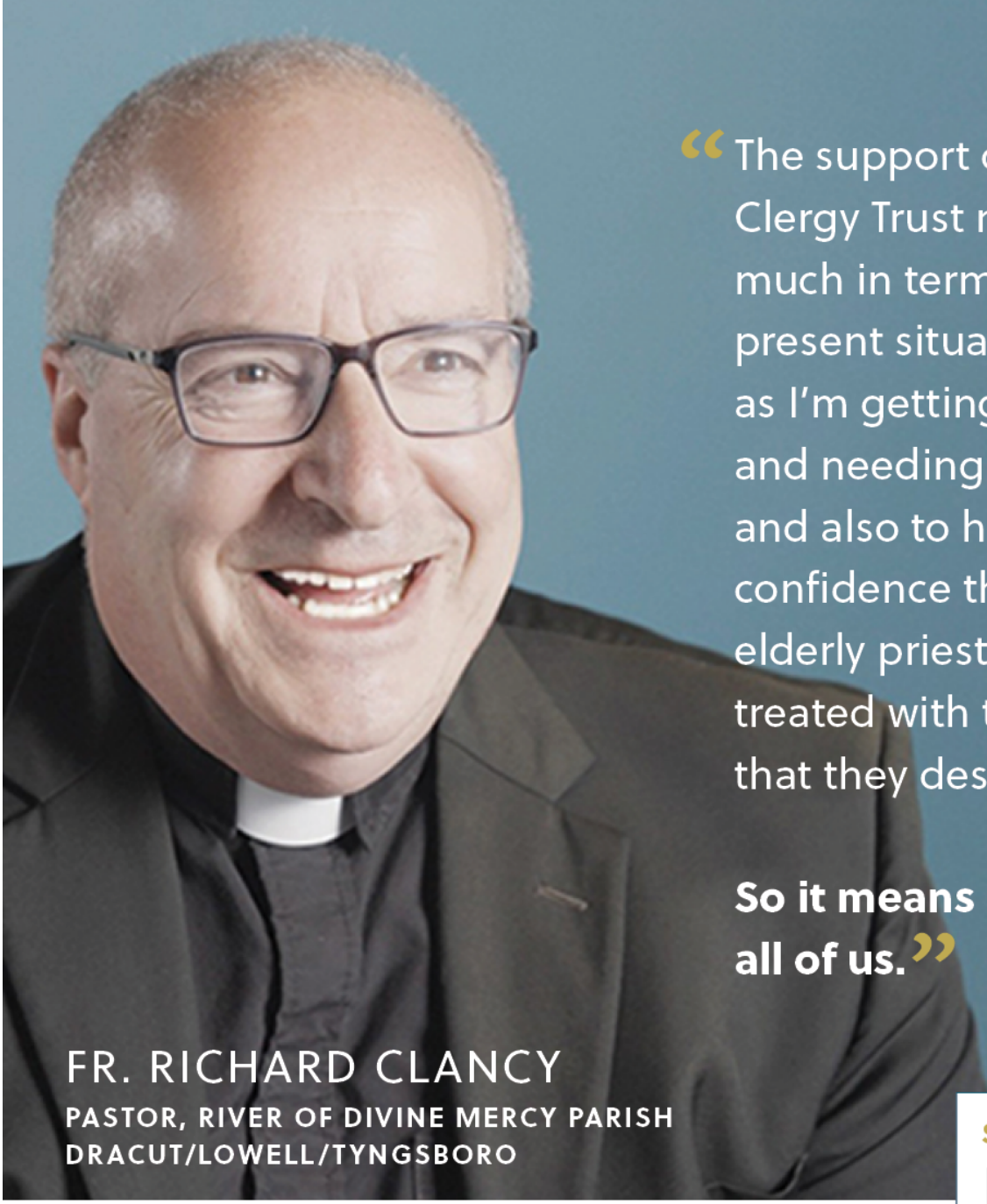
Speaking of hopeful, please join us this upcoming week with some of the great spiritual teachers of our day coming together here at Saint Cecilia at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evening for a wonderful group conversation. Also, the Sunday after Easter, April 27th we will be gathering together for liturgy at 9:30am. **There is no 11:30am Mass that day.** We have closed off the streets, brought in food trucks, and we'll be celebrating with our friends and their books, their wares and their very generous presence here with us that day! If you can't join in person for any of these, please join with us via the livestream on Thursday evening and Sunday morning. We all need hope, and these friends are "hope personified," if you ask me!

Lastly, I want to thank all of you as parishioners and supporters. I want to thank you as viewers and Far Flung Flockers joining each week via the livestream. Additionally, I cannot thank the staff here at Saint Cecilia enough. You guys have done such great work in preparing for these weeks, but you do such great work throughout the year! There has been so much on scene and behind the scenes that has gone into making this week and next so successful, and it's because of you. I am truly grateful. I am also so grateful to all the volunteers and ministers of the parish who because of our baptismal call to "go, help others and live out the Gospel," have brought Jesus to so many. Thank you for your generous and giving spirits! And finally, thank you who are reading this letter. Thanks for being part of this community. Whether it's your first time here or your gazillionth, you are what makes Saint Cecilia Parish what it is: a great conduit for the Holy Spirit to do its thing!!!

God bless you and Happy Easter!

Fr. John

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS EASTER

A portrait of Fr. Richard Clancy, a middle-aged man with glasses, smiling. He is wearing a black clerical shirt with a white collar and a dark suit jacket. The background is a solid blue color.

“The support of the Clergy Trust means so much in terms of my present situation, and as I’m getting older and needing it more... and also to have the confidence that our elderly priests are treated with the dignity that they deserve.

So it means a lot to all of us.”

FR. RICHARD CLANCY
PASTOR, RIVER OF DIVINE MERCY PARISH
DRACUT/LOWELL/TYNGSBORO



clergytrust healthier priests.
stronger communities.

LEARN MORE AT [CLERGYTRUST.ORG](https://clergytrust.org)

SCAN TO GIVE



OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, April 19 | 8:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Moir Macdonald, Kate Vasinda, Letitia Howland,
Karen McMenemy, Esteban Vanegas, Chika
Offurum, Uma Staehler, lectors

Sunday, April 20 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Tom Skorupa, Maggie Giles, lectors

Sunday, April 20 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, Mike Lake, Natasha Bolton-Pierre,
lectors

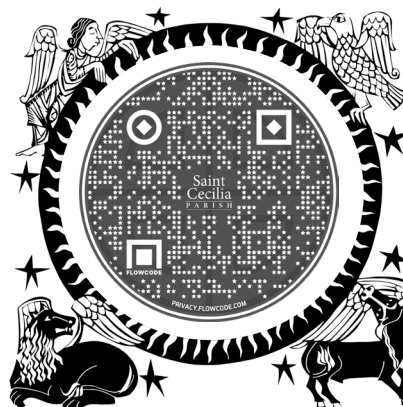
Sunday, April 20 | 11:45 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Uma Staehler, Karen McMenemy, Chika Offurum,
lectors



EASTER

Scan this code for
offertory giving:



VIGIL READINGS

Genesis 1:1—2:2, Genesis 22:1-18,
Exodus 14:15—15:1, Isaiah 54:5-14,
Isaiah 55:1-11, Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4,
Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28
Romans 6:3-11, Luke 24:1-12

EASTER SUNDAY READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Kate Eggelston died on April 10. Pray for her eternal repose as well as for the consolation of her husband, Alan and their daughter, Hillary. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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: **Rebecca Gernon** of Overland Park, KS, and **Meagan Kolkman** and **Emerson Lotzia, Elisha and Jeff Cicirelli, Nicole Caiati, and Patrick Scannell**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Easter Collection

At all of our Easter Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. To donate, visit www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/easter-2025-clergy-trust

Parking Information

On Holy Saturday, there should be no cars parked directly in front of the church on Belvidere Street. Thank you!

Mass Time Change & Coffee Hospitality

Please note there will be no 6:00pm Mass on Easter. Also, there will be no Coffee Hospitality in the Parish Hall on Easter Sunday (4/20) as well as the following weekend (4/27) during the Parish Celebration as we would like our dedicated volunteers to enjoy the festivities.

April 27th Mass Time Change

Please note that there will be **NO 11:30AM MASS ON SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH** as we come together for Saint Cecilia's Sunday Celebration. The 8:00am, 9:30am, and 6:00pm liturgies will be held as usual.



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HELP WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

One of the major fundraisers for our friends at the day shelter is their Mother's Day card sale. The Women's Lunch Place on Newbury Street currently provides services to more than 250 women and their children each day. Each \$25 card provides a week of lunch for a guest at the agency's shelter and advocacy center.

A guest at Women's Lunch Place created the artwork that adorns the card below. Sis is alone in Boston without family or an outside support system. When asked what the shelter and advocacy center means to her, she said:.

"Women's Lunch Place is a welcoming community. They provide me with safety, nutrition, showers, clothing, advocacy... even a therapist. WLP helps me survive."



KNITTING AND CROCHET MINISTRY

MAY 4, 2025 | 9AM-12:30PM | PARISH HALL

The next "Sit & Knit" is scheduled for Sunday May 4, 2025 9:30-12:00 location in the church cafe. Please bring your "Off the Hook" baby blanket. The completed blankets will be collected on this date and given to the St. Cecilia Young Adults for their baby shower event in June. For more information please contact reception for the ministry's email.

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA PRESENTS A FREE COMMUNITY OPERA:

BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S "NOAH'S FLOOD"

**SATURDAY, MAY 3 | 2P.M. |
BOSTON SYMPHONY HALL**

Noah's Flood is based on a 15th-century play recounting the story of one family's resilience in the face of an earth-shattering storm. Composer Benjamin Britten wrote this

A PRAYER SERVICE OF
Hope and Healing
FOR BOSTON'S LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Monday, April 28, 2025
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Shrine
100 Arch Street
Boston, MA

Social to follow at The Merchant Kitchen & Drinks
Welcoming anyone, no matter where
you are in your faith or spirituality.

GREATER BOSTON
LGBTQIA
CATHOLIC COLLECTIVE

Outreach
Building Community for LGBTQ Catholics

Scan to
RSVP

SUNDAY, APRIL 27
After the 9:30 Mass

**SAINT CECILIA
SUNDAY
CELEBRATION**

at SAINT
CECILIA CHURCH

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.

Following Mass, we will spill out onto a tented St. Cecilia Street for a celebration with food trucks, family activities, and fellowship.

Please note that the 11:30 Mass will be suspended that day so that 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!

opera just a few years after experiencing a devastating flood in his own coastal town. Nearly 70 years later, climate resilience has taken an even greater spotlight.

Under the baton of David Angus and the direction of Dayron Miles and in collaboration with Boston Children's Chorus, Boston String Academy, Back Bay Ringers, VOICES Boston, Boston Recorder Orchestra, Community Music Center of Boston, Boston Symphony Orchestra, New England Conservatory Preparatory School — and more — hundreds of Boston area youth alongside BLO artists will come together to bring you a timely, tour-de-force event.

Noah's Flood is made possible by BLO supporters who are invested in building the next generation of opera lovers in Boston. Join BLO in its first community opera uniting Boston through music, collaboration, and fun — a perfect outing for the whole family! The performance will take place at Boston Symphony Hall on May 3, 2025 at 2pm.

To reserve tickets: events.blo.org/noahs-flood



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 contact Linda Wood-O'Connor at loconnor@bhchp.org.

THREE WOMEN (EASTER SUNDAY)



BY ROMARE BEARDEN
(C.1979)





Easter Flowers



Donald Abell
Geraldine Abell
Emma and Herand Abrahamyan
The Abruzzi Family
John and Maureen Ahern
A. Harry Almquist
Elsie and Tony Andrade
Mary Anzivino
Cora Arnold
Carol Ascrizzi
Midiam Astacio
Carol (Mom, Nana) Austin
Catherine Aylward
Prescott Bagley
Nicole Bairos Heck
Maria Barbosa
Mr. and Mrs. Vasco Barbosa
Romania Barclay
Mary Barry
Rita Bartucca
Bruno Bartucca
John A. Bassick
Lillian M. Bassick
Fr. Richard Bertrand, S.J.
Julius and Eleanore Bienkowski
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bigeard
The Birds Family
Mary Botosh
Betty and Charles Botosh Sr.
Nancy Boutin
Michael & Ann Bowles
Virginia Boyer
Ralph Boyer
Mary Bradley
John Brait
Jack Brent
Mary Bresnahan
Joe Bresnahan
Angelina Brigalli
The Brooks Family
Francisco Bucasus
Abruzzi and Bufalini Families

William Bunt
Dorothy Potter Bunt
Glenn Calmus
Ann Campo
Maria Cristina Campo de Paez
Martha Lucia Cano de Paez
Beverly and Vincent Capodilupo
John Alan Cates
Kam Ping Chan
Pui K Chan
Catherine Charland
Earl Charland
Michael W. Chenette
Chiock Yee Cheong
Borys and Olga Chermak
Michael and Mary Nee Cleveland
John Coghlan
Barbara and Ross Colcord
Ann Coleman
Margaret and James Collins
Margaret Collins
James Collins
Maria Cone
Gerry and Charlotte Conklin
Mickey and Joe Contilli
Maurice and Marjorie Cornier
Neal Correia
Denis & Pauline Cote
Francis and Madeline Cotton
Deirdre Mary Coyle
Robert Crawford
Wilfred Crotty
Regina Crotty
Michael Crotty
Brenda Johnston Cuneo
Daniel and Jeanne Curley
Daniel T Curley
Mark Czystochowa
Elaine Daglio
Mr & Mrs Saheed W. Dahar
Atty. Victor & Mrs. Eleanor Dahar
Sean Dalton

Jean Dapra
Richard Dapra
John & Betty Davis
Rachael De Fusco
Bernard De Fusco Sr.
Madeline and Tom DeFalco
Nick Demetreadis
Rosalina Denardo
Mr & Mrs Philip F. Dennehy
Norma DeRobinson
Paul DeSabato
Mary and Cosmo DeVelis
Kathy Devin
Alfred and Eileen DeVito
Olga and Jim DiBona
Marjorie and Frank DiGennaro
Agnes H. Dillon
James T. Dillon Sr.
Phillip & Anne Dinkel
Richard Dion
Alice and Walter Doherty
Daniel DoSouto
Susan Doughty
John Drexelius
Joan Drexelius
Joe Drexelius
The Drinans and Gannons
The Drinnan Family
Arthur F. Dunnett
R. Margaret Dunnett
Arthur F. Dunnett
Alice Egan
Stephen Ellis
Billy Emery
John and Irene Faldetta
Mary and Peter Famiglietti
Tony, Ann, and John Farinelli
John Fasano
Mary Fazio
Philip and Marie Ferraro
Dora Ferritto
Thomas Ferritto

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Walter Fletcher	Albert Hodge	Peter Maguire
Michael & Delia Flynn	Fr. Gerry Hogan	Paul Maguire
Dorothy Williams Flynn	Ellen Hogan	Brendan T. Maguire
Arthur Edward Flynn Jr.	Carol Howland	Joel Maksymowicz
Niles Ford	Richard Howland	Dick (Grampy) Mallon
Nora Frank	Sean Hughes	Bridie and Gerald Maloney
Francis J. Fugliese	Sadie Isiminger	James and Mary Manley
Henry & Eileen Gabel	Marion Jesse	Louis & Anita Martino
Eddie and Annie Gamble	Marion Jesse	Manuel Matos
The Gannon Family	Charly Johnson	Ana Matta
Don Garaventi	Philip Johnston	Carmen Matta
Bill Gardner	Ellen Jordan	Natibidad Matta
Michael Garvey	Julian Jose Bautista	Judy Matteson
Edward Geremia	John and Margaret Joyce	Stephen Matteson
Anne and George Gianerelis	Maria Julien	Art McBain
Bill & Anne Giles	Linda Kelleher	William J. McCarron
Eugenia Goncalves	Ethel Kennedy	Patrick and Margaret McDonagh
Father Dan Graham	John Kiley	Anne McDonough
Peter Grant	Brig. Gen. Leo A. Kiley (retired)	Patrick McDonough
Stanley Greenwood	Barbara Klug	William and Pearl McKiernan
Cortez Greer	Catherine Kneut	Robert McKiernan
Peter Griffin	Joseph and Cecilia Kurta	William McKiernan Jr.
Viola Griffin	Rene, Dottie, and Bill L'Abbe	Bill McLaughlin
James J. Griffin	Thelma Doris Lahme	Jim McLaughlin
Lucy B. Griffin	Paul Leo Lahme	Larry McMenamy
Mary Griffin	William Paul Lahme	Joan and Robert Meloni
Michell Griffin	Brenda Marie Lahme Cone Gebler	Monika Menasche
Rev Msgr William F. Groden	Jack Lally	Peter Menasche
Meaghan Grotz	Richard Larue	Joe Michalski
Janet Guevara	James S Le Quin	Frank Miller
Victor Guevara	Alice M Le Quin	Dorothy Miller
Pearl Guevara	Mickey Leahy	Kathleen Modeste
Fr Peter Gyves	Larry Leahy	Kevin Modeste
Lou Haigh	Neil Leonard	Mary Mohart
Per and Mary Hall	Yuan Li	John Mohart
Mr. and Mrs. Granderson Hall	Kenny Liebling	Jeff Monroe
Mary Hallinan	Claire and Joseph Lippolt	Mr & Mrs Henry C. Mooney Sr.
Molly Hancock	Esther Lipski	Henry Moore
Maureen Hanley	John Lopes	Catherine Mootos
Brian Hare	Ilda Lopes	William and Delores Mootos
Rose Hart	Augusto Lopes	George Morales
Louise Hartnett	Father Bill Lugger	Teresa and Bernard Morelli
Charles and Nancy Heaslip	Lorraine Lyons	Irene Morillo
Jillian Heaslip	Barbara and John MacDonald	Paul Morris
Nicole Bairos Heck	Phyllis MacDonald	Francis X. and Margaret Morse
Helen and Charlotte Henderson	John and Angelina Machado	John B. Morse
Jay Higgins	Kenneth MacNeil	Grace Mulligan
Betty Higgins	Barbara and Fred Maglero	Dan Mullin
John & Dorothea Hines	Ilda Maguire	Marilyn Murphy

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Edwin Murphy
Elizabeth Murphy
Robert (Bob) Murphy
Edward Murphy
Victorino Navarrete Marcelino
Ivan Nazario
James Nealis
Dorothy Nelson
Sr. Jeannette Normandin, SSA
Thomas and Kathryn Norton
Daniel & Kathleen O'Brien
Marisol Liliana O'Brien
Tara O'Brien Quinn
Jerry O'Connor
John O'Connor
Theresa O'Connor
Paul O'Connor
Sarah O'Donnell
William O'Donnell
Kay Whalen O'Halloran
Patricia Oakes
Mary and C. Anthony Olivieri
Maria Olivieri Hakansson
Rigoberto Ortiz Amezcua
Placido Paez C
Cristobal Paez L
Elena Paez L
Frank Paglia
Francis & Ann Paglia
Palmina and Joseph Pandolfo
Carmela and Anthony Pandolfo
Regina Pasternack
Edward Pasternack
Beatrice Pasternack
Rudolf Pasternack
Alfred Pereira
Madeline Pereira
Silvana Pereira
Suzanne Powell Pickard
Phyllis, John & Jack Pirani
Tia Eva J. Pires
Isabelle Plante
Gifford Potter
Donald Potter
Julia Powell
Mary Louise Powell
Helen and Peter Power
James Power
Paul Power
Milton Putnam

Marjorie Putnam
Eileen Quinn
Timothy Quinn
Gert Ray
David Reed
Rene
Shirley and Sheldon Rich
Frances and Joseph Rinaldi
Angelica Rivera de Zayas
Giuseppina and Carmelo Roccuzzo
Grace Romasanta
Angelo and Margaret Roppolo
Edgar & Josephine Roy
Ted Rubin
Ben Rudavsky
Mary and Raif Saati
The Deceased Members of the
Salerno Family
Joe Sansivero
Domenic and Frances Schiarizzi
Domenic Schiarizzi
Frances Schiarizzi
Domenic Schiarizzi
Frances Schiarizzi
Stephanie Scott
JoAnn Serpico
George and Sophia Sgourakes
Elizabeth Shatswell
John Shatswell
Peter Shatswell
Susan Shaughnessy
Christina Mary Sherrah-Davies
Evan Sherrah-Davies
Vladimir Shklyarov
Ariel Silvaggio
Tony Silvaggio
William (Dody) Sinyard
Janice and Rubin Slotnick
Janice Slotnick
Rubin Slotnick
Jose Miguel Souto
Janet Stank
Dorothy Starzyk
William Starzyk, Jr.
Mary and Melvin States
Elaine Stritch
Adelaide Sullivan
Arnold Sullivan
Robert Sullivan
Walter and Mary Sullivan

Blanche & Francis Surette
Susan R. Szum
John and Ruth Szum
Lucio Taranco
Alexa Tayebi
Kathleen Taylor
Sue and Mike Toomey
Francis Tremel
Nadine and John Troppy
Rita M. Turo
Michael A. Turo
Frank and Estelle Unni
D. Joseph Unni
Bob Van Nostrand
Gregg Van Nostrand
Brian Van Nostrand
Louis Venditti
Margaret Venditti
Andrew J. Veneto Sr.
Angie and Frank Verderane
Mal Versage
Anne Volk
Elizabeth Volk
Anne Walley
Marie A. Walley
Marie J. Walley
John Walsh
Rose Mary Walsh
Margaret Walsh
Catherine Walsh
Kathy Walsh
Ratmond Willett
Frank Williams
Margaret Williams
John Williams
Daniel Winterson
Kathy Wirtz
Mr & Mrs Emlen (Veronica) Wistar
Hastys "Nellie" Wowk
Laura Yetman
Robert Yobaccio
Anthony Zankowski
Dolores Zankowski
John Zankowski
Frank and Camilla Zankowski
Denise Zankowski Winter
Gerardo M. Zayas Figueroa
Alma V. Zayas Rivera
Alfredo Zayas Ventura
John Z. Zekas

A YOUNG COMEDIAN'S COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP WITH CATHOLICISM

BY KEARA SULLIVAN

A big part of being a child is being dragged against your will to various locations. You're dragged to piano practice; you're dragged to Christmas parties at the home of family friends; you're dragged to your Great Aunt Miriam's house where everything is covered in plastic and it smells weird. But the worst part of these involuntary outings is that you, the child, are forced to pretend you're happy to be there. Right before your parents shove you over the threshold of Great Aunt Miriam's house, they tell you to "be nice and behave" or else there will be "no American Idol tonight."

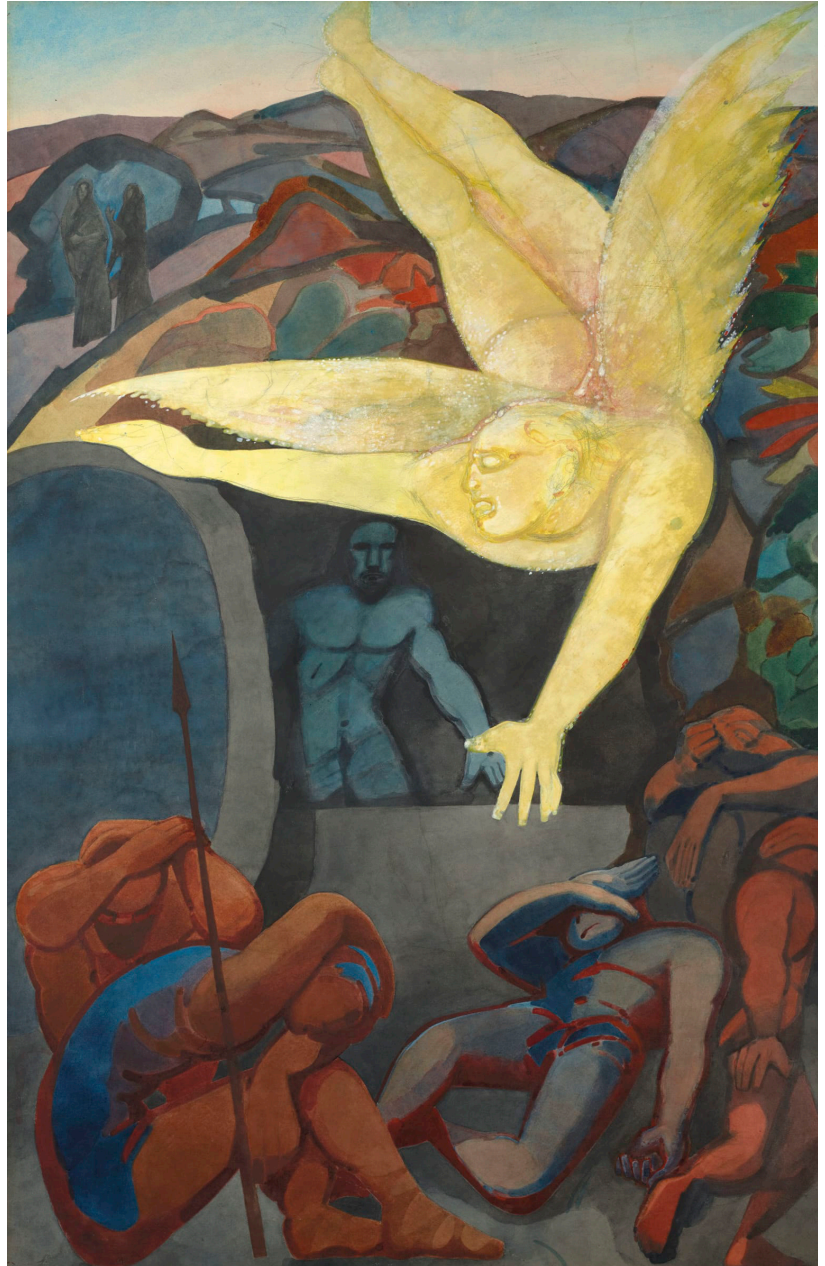
But Catholic Mass was different. The beauty of being there as a child was that I didn't have to pretend I was having a good time. That's not what Mass was about. Everyone in the church, from the altar boys to the organ player, wore faces so grim they looked like Simon Cowell.

During one particularly tedious Mass I attended as a 7-year-old, I leaned over to my father and whispered, "I don't want to be here." Without missing a beat, my father pointed to the wooden crucifix and asked, "Do you think he wants to be here?"

And yet I came to hold a begrudging respect for Catholicism and its church. Little did I know, this was merely the beginning of my lifelong, on-again off-again, relationship with the world's largest sect of Christianity.

Growing up Catholic

Growing up, I never considered being Catholic a large part of my identity. It was a part of my life, sure, but it was off to the side. It was never my center. I attended public school five days a week and faith formation classes once a week: Sunday mornings from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Besides the required holidays, my family attended Mass sporadically, based largely on whether or not my



Resurrection by Edward Burra (c.1948 - 1950)

Image: waterman.co.uk

father thought it had been “too long since we went to church.”

My father, a practicing Catholic, and my mother, a devout atheist, are linked by their distaste for the institutional elements of the Catholic Church and their willingness to criticize them. For my father, no nit is too small to pick when it comes to the Catholic Church. I witnessed this, firsthand, the last time I attended Mass with him. The moment the priest ended his Christmas sermon, my father turned to me and stated, “Six minutes, 44 seconds. He could get it under six.” I looked down and in his lap sat his iPhone, stopwatch app open. Yes, he had timed the sermon.

It’s not just local priests with lengthy rhetoric who should fear my father. He’ll go after the big brass just as well! My father believes both in God and in the incompetence of the church hierarchy. He is, however, a fan of Pope Francis and his “message of mercy, protecting the environment, and being open and welcoming to the gay community.” My dad once sent me an email in which he asserted, “A true Irish Catholic should be fighting the bishops every step of the way and helping Francis.”

My father’s aversion toward Catholic authority makes sense considering his religious upbringing. My Gramere was an Irish immigrant from Omagh, Northern Ireland, where she grew up as one of 10 children. She was a strict, no-nonsense, Irish Catholic woman. My father had to say his prayers every morning, oftentimes in front of his classmates who picked him up on their way to school. My grandparents then sent my father to an all-boys Catholic boarding school in Rome, Italy. If you received detention there, you spent your weekend building the school’s newest stone wall.

By comparison, I think I received a much more well-rounded Catholic education. My parents had me attend weekly Catholic education classes, yet encouraged me to question and even outright challenge the church’s teachings. As expected, I inherited my father’s Irish penchant for rebellion and became the devil’s advocate of my class. I would ask questions such as, “Why can’t women be priests?” or “Why are all of the apostles men?”

But despite my frequent class disruptions, I was still on board with Catholicism as a whole. I believed in God, I believed in Jesus Christ, I believed in heaven and hell. I believed in all these things in the most literal sense. And I liked believing in them.

Asking Questions

To my atheist mother’s credit, she never rained on our

Catholic parade; she let us believe in the things we were taught. When I turned 10 years old, I started asking about her religious views. One thing to know about my mother is that when asked a direct question, she can be a very direct woman.

I have a flashbulb memory of me lying next to my mom in her bed, which I preferred since it had a puffy duvet. I don’t know how it came up, but I asked her if she believed in heaven. She offered a one word reply, “No.”

“Why not?” I asked.

“I think heaven is a place people made up because they’re too scared to die,” she replied.

“But then what do you think happens to us after we die?”

“Nothing.”

“Are you scared to die?”

“No,” she laughed, “It happens to everyone. It’s natural.”

I’m not sure what rattled me more, the fact that my mother appeared completely unafraid of eternal oblivion or the fact that her reasoning behind not believing in heaven actually made sense to me. I began questioning my faith in bigger ways. The more I thought about it, the more I started to swing in my mother’s direction.

By the time I was 13 years old, I had disavowed religion as a whole, a rite of passage for anyone raised Catholic. I no longer found satisfaction in challenging the church’s teachings; instead, I found what I felt was a rather righteous anger. When you keep asking the same questions and keep getting the same underdeveloped answers, you become extremely frustrated. And I was tired of being angry. And I didn’t believe in God anymore. And I didn’t believe in heaven or hell. And I didn’t want to be Catholic.

And so, in my final year of religious education, I told my dad that I didn’t want to be confirmed.

My dad actually took the news pretty well. At the very least, I think he was impressed with how seriously I was taking religion. When I told him that I didn’t believe in God, he simply replied, “Everyone has their own spiritual journey” and swiveled his office chair around to continue watching “Rudy.” When my dad broke the news to Sister Roberta, the nun in charge of the school, she simply replied, “Well... maybe she’ll come around.” Even though I had adamantly sworn off the church, the lifelong Catholics knew it wouldn’t be the end for me and this very sticky religion.

Seeing the Beauty

The first chink in my atheist armor occurred when my family bravely crossed the Atlantic to attend my dad's 50th high school reunion in Rome. My dad's old school chum, Arturo, had scheduled our tour of the eternal city down to the minute. For a group of 65-year-old men, they sure could handle themselves on a walking tour.

By day six of our Roman holiday, I had become pretty used to seeing beautiful, awe-inspiring things. But what I wasn't used to was the feeling I got whenever we visited a church. I specifically remember St. Peter's Basilica. Everywhere I turned was beautiful and gold and filled with light. I looked up at the ceiling and it looked like heaven. I felt so small—the good kind of small—the kind that makes you feel connected to all the other small humans, even the ones that came before you. I remember thinking that I wasn't just beholding beauty, I was beholding goodness.

I didn't think the angels I saw on the ceiling that day were literally real, but the feeling I had when I looked at them was. And no amount of logical reasoning could make me deny that. Even still, I chalked my momentary brush with the divine as a logical side effect of viewing beautiful architecture. I was still an adamant atheist.

But identifying as an atheist doesn't necessarily preclude you from also identifying as Irish Catholic. When you're raised within a specific ethnic-religious subgroup, it is nearly impossible to detach yourself from that culture. If you brought up Great Britain in front of my Gramere, who grew up Catholic in the Protestant-controlled North, she would pull out her iconic phrase, "800 years of British oppression over the Irish!"

My atheism phase continued until the Easter of my freshman year of college. It was the first religious holiday I wouldn't be spending with my family. At long last, I wouldn't be forced to attend Easter Mass. I had finally wriggled my way out of Catholicism's iron grip.

Or so I thought.

An Easter Epiphany

As Easter neared, I started to feel extremely uneasy at the thought of not attending Mass. I don't know how to explain it other than saying it just felt wrong—the kind of wrong you feel in the pit of your stomach. I mean, what else would I do with that Sunday? My dad was also sweetening the pot by offering a \$50 Easter brunch stipend to those of his children who attended Mass and sent picture proof in the family group chat.

As I walked to the church in my pink pastel dress, I told

myself that I was only going to Mass for the money. After all, who among us would turn down a free brunch?

I arrived at Mass 15 minutes early and managed to secure myself a seat behind a large pole that obstructed about half of the altar. By the time the Mass started, the church had become standing room only.

Though I wasn't sitting in a grand cathedral or ancient chapel, that same sense of smallness washed over me again. I thought I didn't believe in the prayers I was reciting, but when I said the words in unison with the congregation I felt something. Was it faith? I'm not sure if that's the right word. I'm not sure the feeling actually has a word.

There is a theory within the ecological community that the redwood trees are actually one, single organism. From the human perspective, each tree seems to be its own individual entity. But when you look beneath the soil, you see that the trees on the edge of the Redwood Forest are feeding nutrients to the trees in the center through their intricately connected root system.

Sitting in church that day, I felt like a redwood tree, like I was connected to something larger and more important than myself, something beautiful and fundamentally good.

I'm in my mid-20s now, and since that day I haven't identified as atheist. Not because I have certainty about the existence of God, but because I am certain I believe in his message: that we aren't here on earth for ourselves; we are here for one other. And that the way we love each other connects us and creates something more, something divine. In 1 Cor 13:13, the passage that you may recognize from every wedding ever, the text reads, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." If I believe in one thing, it is this.



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Keara Sullivan is a stand-up comedian and writer based in Brooklyn, N.Y.



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

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 (maria.roche15@gmail.com), Letitia Howland (L_howland@hotmail.com), Erin Young (erin.t.young@gmail.com), or Kathy Sanders (sanderno2010@gmail.com) if you have any questions. The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

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.