

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Mandala of the Good Shepherd

by Jyoti Sahi (1971)

Fourth Sunday of Easter
26 April 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

26 APRIL 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | *Allein Gott in der Höh' sie Ehr*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBA



1. The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
3. Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With
5. You spread a ta - ble in my sight, Your
6. And so, through all the length of days Your



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
ran - somed soul he's lead - ing, And, where the ver - dant
yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
you, dear Lord, be - side me, Your rod and staff my
sav - ing grace be - stow - ing; And, oh, what trans - port
good - ness fails me nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I



I am his And he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - ing.
gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.
of de - light From your pure chal - ice flow - ing!
sing your praise With - in your house for - ev - er.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: Amen.

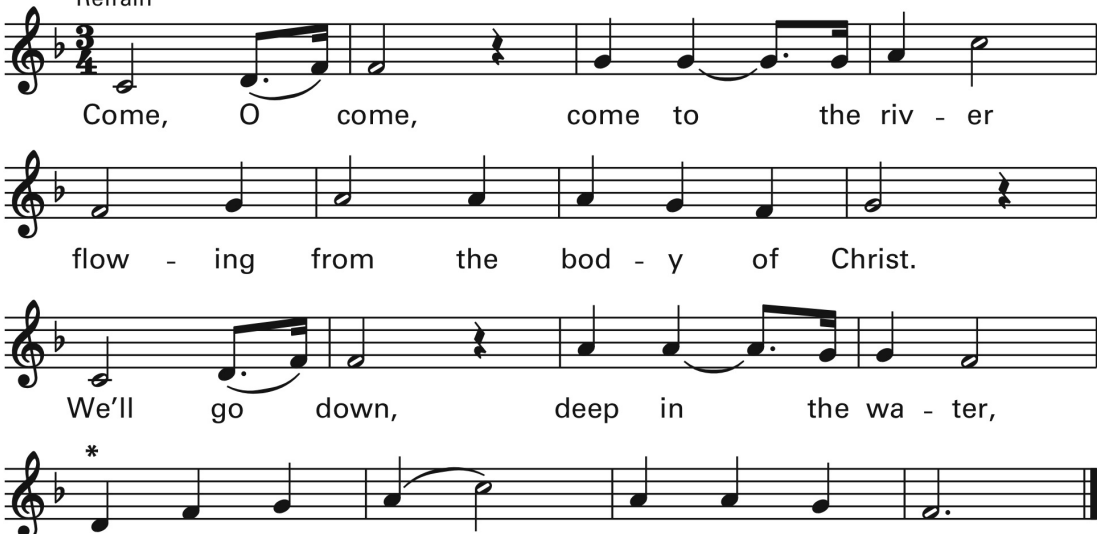
✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

SPRINKLING RITE | Come to the River

Bob Hurd

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.

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. 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

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
 sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you
 take a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer; you are



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.

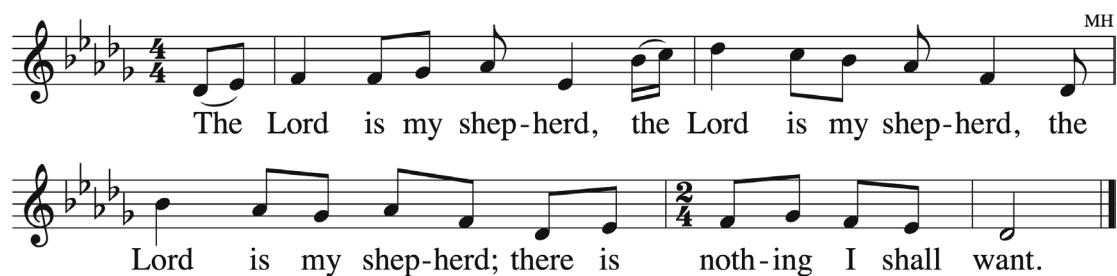
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd

Marty Haugen



The LORD is my shepherd;
 there is nothing I shall want.
 Fresh and green are the pastures
 where he gives me repose.
 Near restful waters he leads me;
 he revives my soul. *℟.*

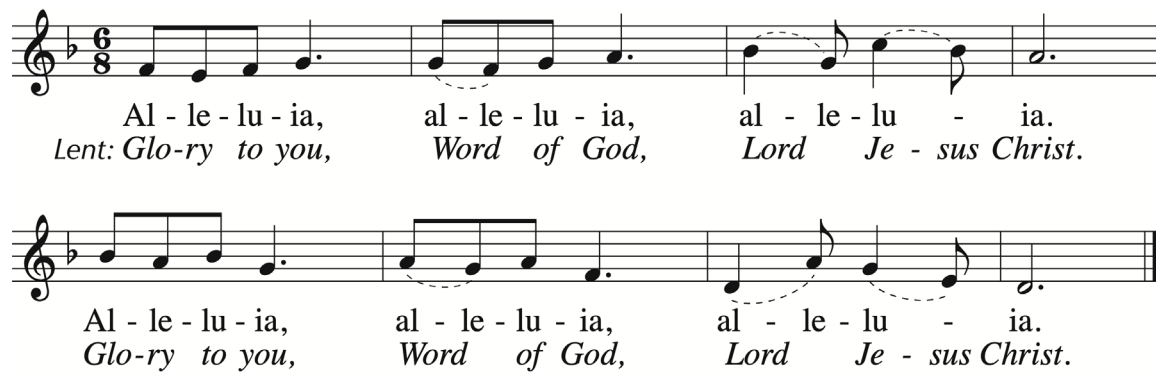
He guides me along the right path,
 for the sake of his name.
 Though I should walk in the valley of
 the shadow of death,
 no evil would I fear, for you are
 with me.

Your crook and your staff will give
 me comfort. *℟.*

You have prepared a table before me
 in the sight of my foes.
 My head you have anointed with oil;
 my cup is overflowing. *℟.*

Surely goodness and mercy shall
 follow me
 all the days of my life.
 In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
 for length of days unending. *℟.*

SECOND READING | 1 Peter 2:20b-25



GOSPEL | John 10: 1-10

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

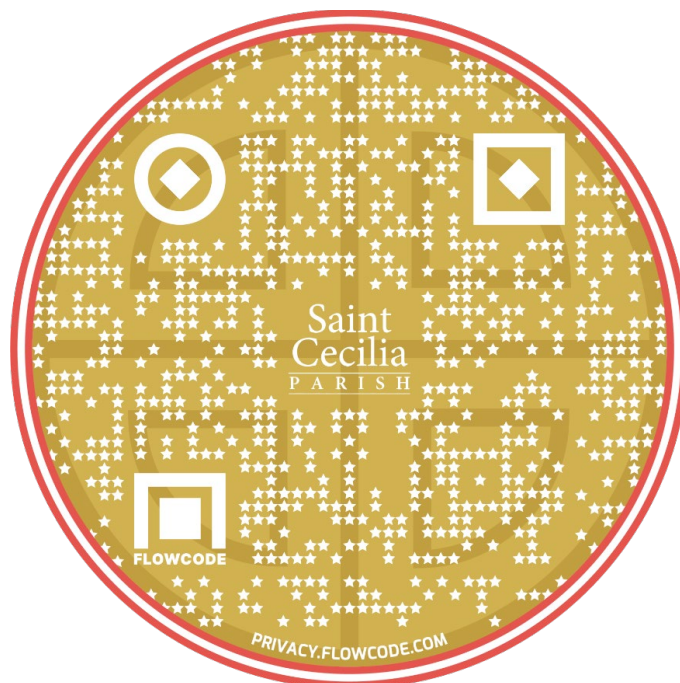
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

Using the Flowcode with the camera on your smartphone is as easy as Aim & Tap. Aim your camera at the Flowcode image and tap the notification banner when it appears on your phone's screen. You may need to zoom in a bit to focus on the code.

If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit www.flowcode.com/page/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 | My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION



1. My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; Most
2. When I walk through the shades of death, Your
3. The sure pro - vi - sions of my God At -



ho - ly is your name. In pas - tures green you
pres - ence is my stay. One word of your sup -
tend me all my days. O may your house be



make me feed Be - side the liv - ing stream.
port - ing breath Drives all my fears a - way.
my a - bode And all my work be praise!



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back When
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, Does
There would I find a set - tled rest, While



I for - sake your ways, And lead me, for your
still my ta - ble spread, My cup with bless - ings
oth - ers go and come; No more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, In paths of truth and grace.
o - ver - flows; Your oil a - noints my head.
or a guest, But like a child at home.

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

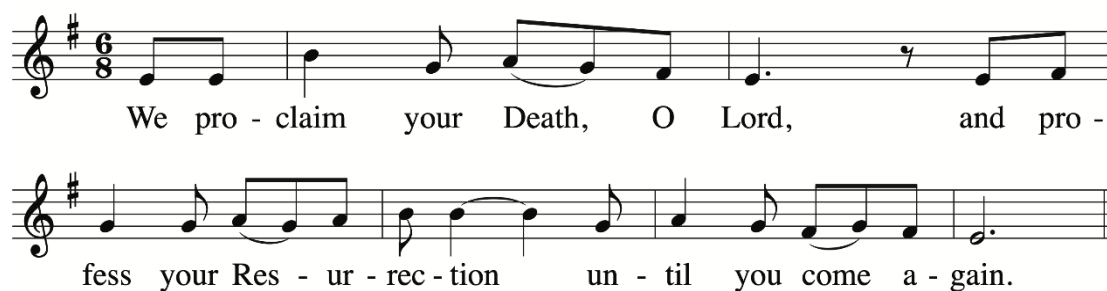
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -

san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

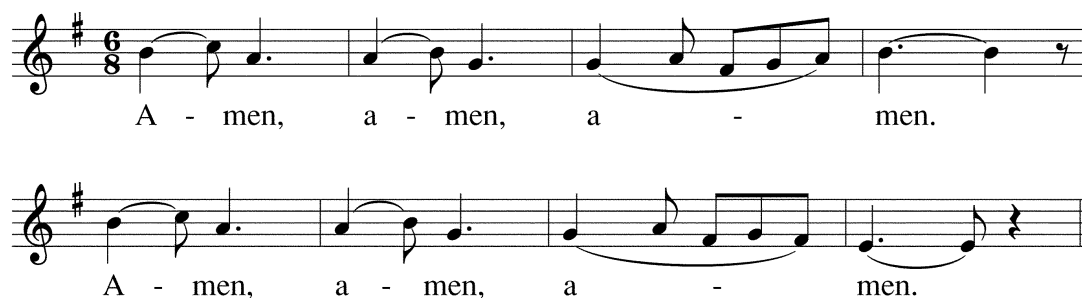
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



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.*

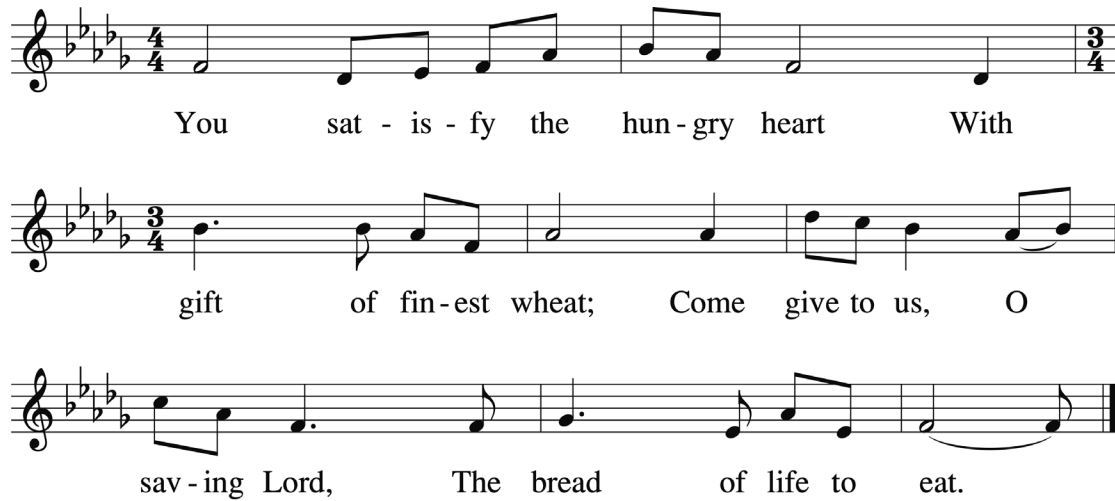
Cantor: Grant us peace. *All:* Grant us peace.

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.



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart With
 gift of fin - est wheat; Come give to us, O
 sav - ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

Verses



1. As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They
 2. With joy - ful lips we sing to you Our
 3. Is not the cup we bless and share The
 4. The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, No
 5. You give your - self to us, O Lord; Then

know and heed his voice; So when you call your
 praise and grat - i - tude, That you should count us
 blood of Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
 mor - tal tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
 self - less let us be, To serve each oth - er

D.C.

fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in your name In truth and char - i - ty.

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 | There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE



1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy Like the wide - ness
2. For the love of God is broad - er Than the meas - ures
3. Trou - bled souls, why will you scat - ter Like a crowd of



of the sea; There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice
of the mind; And the heart of the E - ter - nal
fright - ened sheep? Fool - ish hearts, why will you wan - der



Which is more than lib - er - ty. There is plen - ti -
Is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were
From a love so true and deep? There is wel - come



ful re - demp - tion In the blood that has been shed;
but more faith - ful, We should rest up - on God's word;
for the sin - ner, And more grac - es for the good;



There is joy for all the mem - bers
And our lives would be thanks - giv - ing
There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior,



In the sor - rows of the Head.
For the good - ness of our Lord.
There is heal - ing in his blood.

POSTLUDE | *In Dir ist Freude*, BWV 615
Brett Maguire, *organ*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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 25 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Dede Simon, lector

Sunday, April 26 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Maggie Giles, lector

Sunday, April 26 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Ron Coyne, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Erin Young, Laura Melle, Peter Haley, lectors

Sunday, April 26 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Ron Coyne, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Virgen Palermo, Karen McMenamy, lectors

Sunday, April 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Nikko Mendoza, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 25 | 5:00 p.m.

Mary Botosh, *2nd Anniversary*
The Abate Family, *Memorial*

Sunday, April 26 | 8:00 a.m.

Jane Dibert, *Memorial*

Sunday, April 26 | 9:30 a.m.

Sue Charbonneau, *4th Anniversary*
Dottie L'Abbe, *16th Anniversary*
Michael Foley, *Memorial*
Christopher Scarcella, *Memorial*
Frank Schifano, *Memorial*
Roxanne King, *Memorial*
Timothy Easterly, *Memorial*

Sunday, April 26 | 11:30 a.m.

Catherine Mootos, *3rd Anniversary*
Michael Stockman, *9th Anniversary*

Sunday, April 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Elaine Morrison, *Memorial*

Wednesday, April 29 | 8:00 a.m.

Timothy Easterly, *Memorial*
The Maciora Family, *Memorial*

Friday, May 1 | 8:00 a.m.

Brian Patrick Judge, *1st Anniversary*

Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 6:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Margaret and Kevin Keeler, Mary Bea Halloran, Anne and Joseph Grilli, and Intiya Ambrogio-Isaza and Nicholas Ambrogio.** If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

130th Boston Marathon

Congratulations to all who ran on Monday, including our very own Fr. Peter Grover, OMV and Fr. John Predmore, SJ! Fr. Grover's official time was 3 hours and 33 minutes and Fr. Predmore finished at 8:30pm after raising \$33,1846 for Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program.

Good Shepherd Sunday

Let us pray in a special way for the members of our parish who are catechists in our children's faith formation program. May the Lord continue to guide them as they partner with parents to help nurture the spiritual formation of the children they shepherd.

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Hospitality Tables

Visit the Saint Cecilia GBIO team table during coffee hospitality this Sunday (4/26) to learn more about the organization, share your story, or schedule a one-on-one with a team member.

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 89% of our financial goal and 65% of our donor goal. There's still time to participate! To donate, head to bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you for your support!

IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN TABLE OF CONTENTS

This Week's Liturgies.....	3
Prayers and Occasions.....	4
Coming Up At Saint Cecilia	6
GBIO Team Update	7
Mandala of the Good Shepard.....	8
Parish Pastoral Council Elections.....	9
Let's Not Be Sheepish About Abundance By Michael K. Marsh.....	10
Parish Resources.....	12



*The floral arrangement in front of
the altar is given for the glory
of God and in loving memory
of **Mary Botosh** by her husband
Charlie Botosh.*





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.

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

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 or 617-733-5850.

SIT & KNIT

SUNDAY, MAY 3 | 9AM - 12PM | PARISH HALL

The next Sit & Knit is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2026 from 9:00-12:00. The group will be working on finishing the finger knit blankets, and the Bunny Project for next year.



Also, during this time, Linda Durant will be offering a "Learn to Knit" session. The cost is \$25.00 (cash or check) which includes pattern, yarn, needles and instruction. The Group will be working on a cowl for one of our local charities, and to work towards future projects for the Knitting & Crochet Ministry. Parishioners serious about learning to knit for our local charities this is a great opportunity!

FAR FLUNG FLOCK COFFEE HOUR: CHAMPIONS OF LOVE

SUNDAY, MAY 3 | 4PM EST VIA ZOOM

Join us on Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 p.m. for a conversation with Brenda Bancel and Emma Dickinson, who will speak about the *Champions of Love Foundation*. This inspiring organization views love as our greatest untapped resource. As Brenda often says, "Love is not just a feeling; it is a courageous action that has the power to ease suffering and transform our communities." While their foundation supports visionary leaders like Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ, Rev. Liz Walker, and Fr. John Unni, their mission is for everyone. Join us for what is sure to be a vibrant conversation on how we can all find ways to consciously spread love in our daily lives.

If you have not attended a virtual coffee hour before, please email the Far Flung Flock and request the Zoom link.

KNITTING & CROCHET MINISTRY MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 4 | 3:30PM VIA ZOOM

The next ministry Zoom meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2026 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. In this meeting, we will:

- Welcome New Members
- Discuss current projects on our needles
- Plan new projects and the needs of our community
- Show and tell of completed projects
- And much more!

For more information about the Knitting & Crochet Ministry, please email the ministry.

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

APRIL 26 - 30

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 8:30am via Zoom

Small Group Connections

After the 9:30 Mass | Parish Hall

Mental Health Ministry | 1pm | Classroom 1

VIRTUS Training | 2:30pm | Comm. Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12pm | Comm. Room

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Small Group Connections | 8pm via Zoom

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 7:30pm via Zoom

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

TUESDAY, MAY 5 | 7PM - 8PM | SANCTUARY

All parishioners, regardless of age, are invited to join in praise and worship, led by the Young Adult Ministry, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. In the month dedicated to our Blessed Mother, we will honor Mary as she leads us closer to Jesus. Through music, reflection, and the Rosary, we will pray the Sorrowful Mysteries and encounter her maternal care, trusting more deeply in the goodness of God. Please enter from the side door on Saint Cecilia Street and ring the bell to be let in.

Can't join us in person? We'll be live-streaming our worship service over Zoom. Register to receive a Zoom link each month here: www.tinyurl.com/stc-night-of-worship.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 | 6PM VIA ZOOM

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

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 (April 26)**
Visit us after liturgies to learn more, share your story, or schedule a one-on-one.
- **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, email the team at gbio@stceciliaboston.org.

SPACE TO SHARE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 | 6:30PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

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

To learn more, please email 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.

THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP

**SUNDAY, MAY 17 | AFTER THE 11:30AM MASS
CLASSROOM 1**

The next meeting for the support group will be on the third Sunday of May, the 17th. This group meets monthly and any parishioner working in healthcare is welcome to attend whenever you can after the 11:30am Mass. The meeting starts around 1pm and goes for one hour. This group enjoys getting to know each other from the many perspectives of the diverse workforce. We are here to share the burden of this work while offering support to maintain our spiritual values as we go about our daily work. All are welcome!

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

A REQUEST FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

For over 100 years, Sunset Point Camp in Hull has provided a dream vacation at the seashore to over 40,000 low-income, at-risk children aged 6-13 from Greater Boston without regard for their race, nationality, or religious affiliation. Nearly 450 city-based boys and girls travel to Hull, Massachusetts each summer for a one or two week overnight camp experience letting them enjoy the fresh air, learn new talents, receive academic summer support and simply have fun.

Sunset Point Camp is operated by our friends at Catholic Charities. They have mentioned to us that they always need donations of the following items for the kids at the camp:

- Sunblock (we have been told the higher the SPF number, the better)
- Bug spray
- Flip flops (boys/girls ages 6-15)

So the next time you are shopping or on Amazon.com, please consider picking up some of the items above and dropping them in the plastic bin identified for this purpose in the narthex. Thank you!



Photo: ArtWay

Jesus, the Good Shepherd by P. Solomon Raj

MANDALA OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

BY JYOTI SAHI



Jyoti Sahi's mandalas are rooted in the artistic and spiritual context of Indian culture with overt Christian themes. He intends the mandalas to be used as aids to meditation.

Sahi writes, "The visual structure of the Mandala helps in narrating a story or parable. Like a frame it constitutes a series of images that describe a movement in time, which itself is understood as cyclical."

When reflecting upon *The Mandala of the Good Shepherd*, Sahi muses, "The Shepherd is himself the door of the sheepfold. This door can be related to the eye of the Sun. In fact in ancient religious symbolism, the Sun is also thought of as a shepherd, and the clouds in the heavens are his woolly sheep. The number ninety nine, is eleven times nine. The Twelfth part (like the final hour which makes up the Day) is the Lord, carrying back the missing sheep."

- Jyoti Art Ashram, 2007 & 2011, Global Worship

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This year, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) election will be held on the weekend of **May 30/31**. There are three seats to be filled, each for a 3-year term. This is an exciting time for our parish and serving on the Parish Pastoral Council is a significant way of contributing to our vibrancy and growth. Please take the time to vote, and if you feel inspired, consider running for one of the open seats.

Who is eligible to run for membership on the Parish Council?

1. You must be a registered member of our community and at least eighteen years old. You can register by visiting our website at www.stceciliaboston.org or by filling out a paper registration form in the narthex.
2. You should already be an active participant in the life of the parish.

What is the level of commitment and responsibility?

Meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. In addition to monthly meetings, members are expected to volunteer to lead or assist with occasional parish initiatives or activities. It is also expected that council members will participate in a variety of parish events and programs and be visible representatives of the parish community.

How can I become a candidate?

Please prepare a brief statement (no longer than 150 words) that tells us about yourself and why you are interested in serving the parish as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. Your statement should include the following:

- *What Saint Cecilia Parish means to you.*
- *How long have you been a registered parishioner?*
- *What ministry/ministries are you involved in?*
- *What Mass do we typically see you at?*

This statement can be sent to Scott MacDonald at his parish email address and will be included in the bulletins for May 17, 24, and 31.

A headshot is also required.

Elections will be held on the weekend of May 30/31. If you cannot be present that weekend, you may also submit your vote via e-mail at info@stceciliaboston.org until 1:00 p.m.(ET) on Sunday, May 31.

Schedule

May 8 | Statements and headshots due to Scott MacDonald by noon (ET)

May 17, 24, & 31 | Biographies, platform statements, and headshots published in the parish bulletin

May 31 | Absentee ballots due no later than 1:00 p.m.(ET) via e-mail

May 30/31 | Election

**Completed materials or any questions can be sent
to Scott MacDonald at his parish email address.**

LET'S NOT BE SHEEPISH ABOUT ABUNDANCE

BY MICHAEL K. MARSH



Photo: Gsimonov / Wikimedia

Mosaic of the Good Shepherd in the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Ravenna, Italy

I have a riddle for you from today's gospel (John 10:1-10). When is a sheepfold not a sheepfold, a gate not a gate, a thief and a bandit not a thief and a bandit, a shepherd not a shepherd, a sheep not a sheep, and a gatekeeper not a gatekeeper?

When they are a figure of speech. That's how Jesus is using them in today's gospel. And if we read today's gospel as if it means what it says we will be just like the Pharisees to whom Jesus is speaking. "They did not understand what he was saying to them."

Taken literally the text makes no sense. The rational, logical, intellectual mind cannot understand a figure of speech. A figure of speech asks us to think, see, and listen differently. It points and opens to something beyond itself. What if the figure of speech Jesus uses is a window on our

lives and an invitation to the abundant life? What is it showing us? offering us? asking of us?

Abundant Life

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," Jesus says. What comes to mind when you hear that? What does abundance mean and look like for you? When I read the gospels it's pretty clear that abundance for Jesus is about a quality of life and not a quantity of stuff.

Nowhere in the gospel does Jesus help people win the lottery, get more stuff, or have more power and control. He does, however, command love, demonstrate compassion, care for the needs of others, offer mercy and forgiveness, heal lives, mend relationships, give peace, teach nonviolence, live with integrity and wholeheartedness.

Maybe abundance isn't something we acquire or possess. Maybe it's a way of living and being. It's not about a quantity but neither is about being in want. It's a fullness of life, like a cup running over. That running over isn't excess, it's abundance.

The abundant life compounds and enhances our lives and the lives of others. It refuses to add to the pain of the world. It is life running over to life, love running over to love, joy running over to joy, hope running over to hope, courage running over to courage, peace running over to peace, generosity running over to generosity, beauty running over to beauty, forgiveness running over to forgiveness, dignity running over to dignity, gratitude running over to gratitude. Isn't that what we see in the life of Jesus? And isn't that the life you want for others and yourself?

Where and in what ways is the running over life happening for you today? And if it's not, why isn't it? In what ways is your life abundant and where is it less than abundant? Please don't answer those questions as either an accomplishment or as a judgment. Let them be diagnostic, information about your life and what is and is not happening. Follow the questions and let them shepherd you to an abundant life of green pastures and still waters.

A Thief And A Bandit

When it comes to having life, and having it abundantly, the greatest threat are thieves and bandits. And we all have them. Jesus warns that they come "only to steal, kill, and destroy." They are predators of abundance. They don't steal our stuff. They take our life.

We've all had times when we felt impoverished and less than overflowing. Something was missing but it wasn't the kind of thing you could buy or acquire. We were feeling and living less than whole.

For me work, busyness, and exhaustion are often bandits in my life. Sometimes grief and sorrow have stolen my life. And then there's fear about the future and what will or will not happen; and the guilt, regrets, and disappointments of the past. Sometimes the question of whether I am enough is a thief that robs me of peace. The need to be productive and accomplished are repeat offenders in my life.

I've begun to see that when I keep score, measure outcomes, and quantify my life, my thieves and bandits have shown.

What about you? Who or what are the thieves and bandits in your life today? In what ways is your life being stolen? What have you lost? What are your thieves and bandits teaching and showing you about yourself?

The abundant life is a matter of the heart and the heart is the sheepfold of abundance. That means we must guard our heart against the thieves and bandits of an abundant life.

The Gate And The Gatekeeper

Jesus says that he is the gate. Gates open and close. Gates

keep sheep in, and thieves and bandits out. Gates close to death and open to life. Jesus is the gate that encloses and protects what is of value. And he is the gate that opens to pastures of abundance, still waters of abundance, tables of abundance, cups of abundance.

What if Jesus is asking us to do the same? What would that look like in your life today?

We are the keeper and guardian of our heart, the sheepfold of abundance. Guarding our heart means staying awake, being watchful, and remaining diligent. Awareness of and reflection on what is happening within and outside us are the gatekeeper's key. Depending on who or what is at the gate we either open our heart or keep it closed. Sometimes we need to open the gate and sometimes we need to keep the gate of our life closed.

Who or what stands at your gates today? Who or what are the people, opportunities, possibilities, and choices that seek entry into your life? What thieves and bandits stand outside your gates? The gates in our life are threshold places, times of discernment, moments of transition, and decisions to be made.

What is nourishing and enlarging your life or the life of another? What is devouring and consuming your life? To whom or what do you need to open? And to whom or what do you need to close?

Don't Be Sheepish

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," Jesus says. He does not, however, give specific answers or instructions about what that means. Instead he offers a figure of speech in which abundance is revealed, through which we see ourselves, and by which we take responsibility for our lives.

- What is life abundant offering you today?
- What are you learning from your thieves and bandits?
- What is one gate you need to open?
- What is one gate you need to close?

Let's not be sheepish about living the abundant life.



Originally published in Michael K. Marsh's blog Interrupting the Silence on May 1, 2023.

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Marsh is the rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Uvalde, Texas—a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. He has served there since 2005. Fr. Mike is also the owner and author of the blog, Interrupting the Silence (www.interruptingthesilence.com) a place for spiritual reflection, guidance, and growth, offering practical spirituality grounded in the contemplative tradition. We are always grateful to him for his gospel reflections and sermons.

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.

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

Baptism for Infants

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

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.

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.