

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Appearance of Christ to His Disciples

Anthony van Dyck , c. 1625

## Second Sunday of Easter

27 April 2025

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

27 APRIL 2025

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | I Give You a New Commandment

Peter Nardone  
(b. 1965)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | O God, Beyond All Praising

THAXTED



1. O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
\*2. The flow'r of earth - ly splen-dor in time must sure - ly die,  
3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



And sing the love a - maz-ing that songs can - not re - pay;  
Its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
That we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



For we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
But hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown,  
And wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



At bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end.  
Though small in mor - tal stat - ure to heav-en's gar - den grown.  
We'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still,



We lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word;  
For Christ, the man from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
To mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



We hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
And we through him are giv - en the fin - al vic - to - ry!  
And make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**All: Amen.**

✠ The Lord be with you.  
**All: And with your spirit.**

## SPRINKLING RITE | You Will Draw Water Joyfully

Tony E. Alonso

### Refrain in English

*Cantor* *All / Todos*

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

### Estribillo en Español

*Cantor* *Todos / All*

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

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

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

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

## Refrain

The Refrain is written on four staves of music in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes.

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

The Verses are written on two staves of music. The first staff contains the first five lines of the verses, and the second staff contains the remaining five lines. The melody is consistent with the Refrain.

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

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.

to Refrain



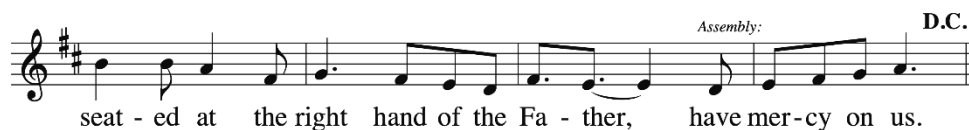
Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est,  
glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and on earth peace to peo - ple,  
peo - ple of good will. and on earth  
peace to peo - ple, peo - ple of good will.

## 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.

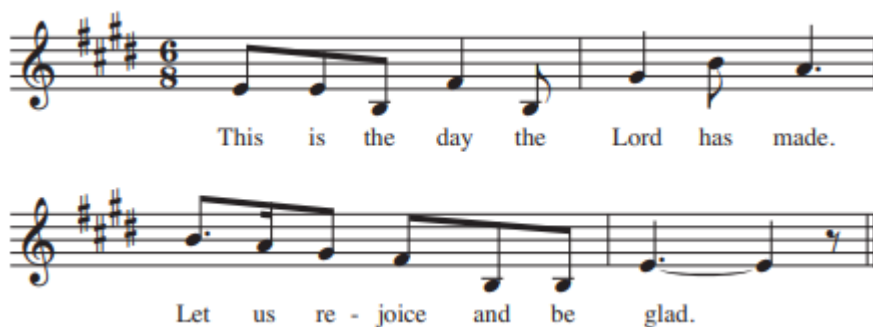
COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 5: 12-16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 118: This is the Day the Lord Has Made

Michael Balhoff and Gary Daigle



1. Give thanks to the Lord who is good, God's mercy endures forever.  
 Let the house of Israel say God's mercy endures forever.
2. My strength and courage is the Lord, God's mercy endures forever.  
 I shall live and never die. God's mercy endures forever.
3. The Lord's right hand has struck power, God's mercy endures forever.  
 Let the cry of victory sound God's mercy endures forever.
4. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.  
 By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

SECOND READING | Revelation 1: 9-11a, 12-13, 17-19



GOSPEL | John 20: 19-31

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!

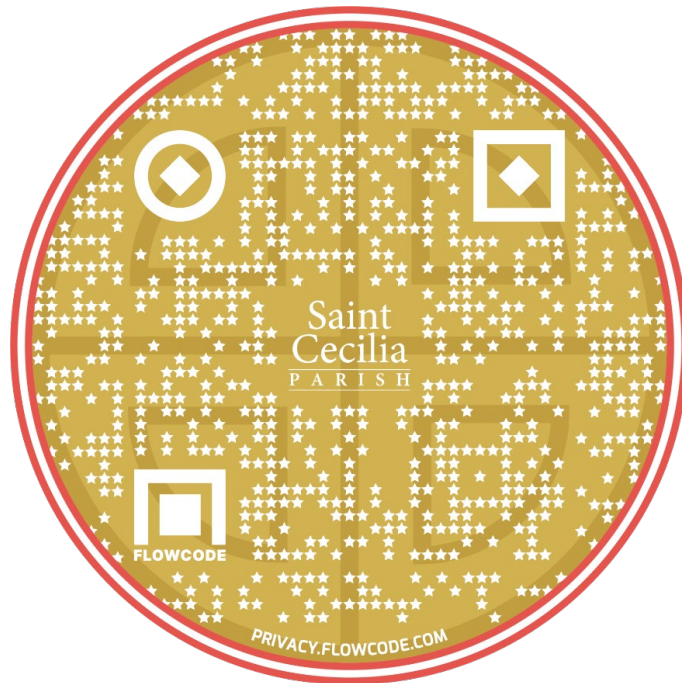
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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](http://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 | Lover of Us All

Dan Schutte

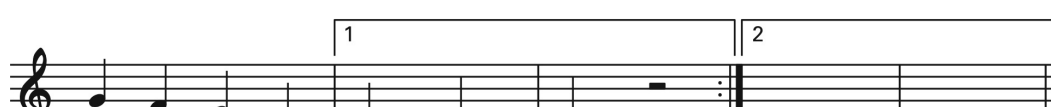
Refrain



With all the earth we sing your praise! We come  
With sun and moon we dance for joy! We are



to give you thanks, O lov - er of us all, and  
your work of art, the glo - ry of your hand, the




giv - er of our lov - ing. lov - ing.

Verses 1-3



1. I am mak - er of moun-tains; I am God of the earth.  
2. As I know of your la - bor, so I watch while you sleep.  
3. If the night would sur-round you and the sun fall from sight,




to Refrain

1. Like a moth - er in la - bor I bring all to birth.  
2. Ev - er close at your call-ing so my love will be.  
3. yet my hand will pro-tect you; I will be your light.

Verses 4-6



4. Long be - fore there were mead-ows, or wa - ters on the shore,  
5. If you trav - el the heav-ens, or sail the far-thest shore,  
6. In the womb of my wis - dom, I fash-ioned ev - 'ry star,



to Refrain

4. I laughed and I loved you, so now and ev - er-more!  
5. I stand there be-side you, to guide you ev - er-more!  
6. I formed you in won - der, and loved you from a - far!

## 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 Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

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.





## THE LORD'S PRAYER

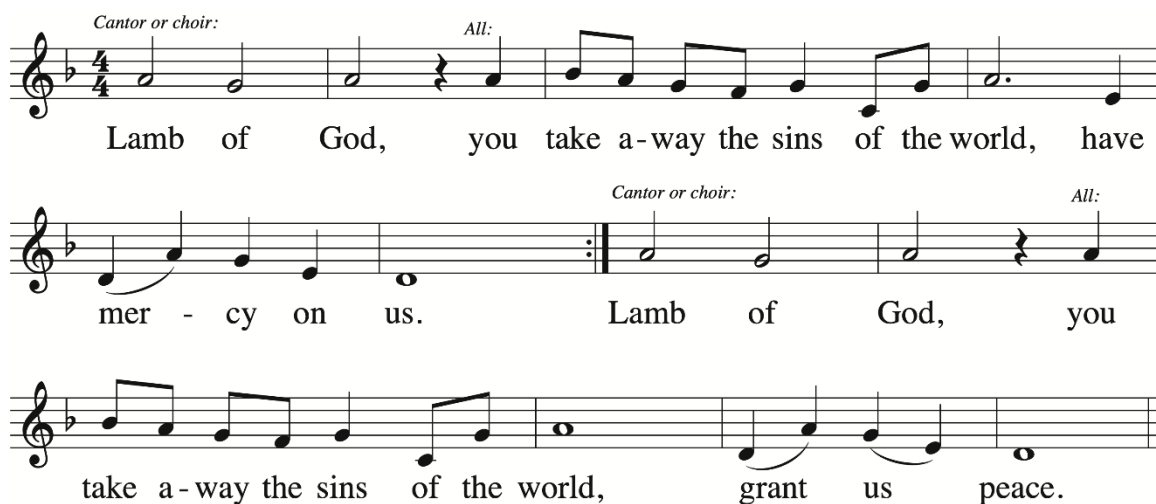
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the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



## 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

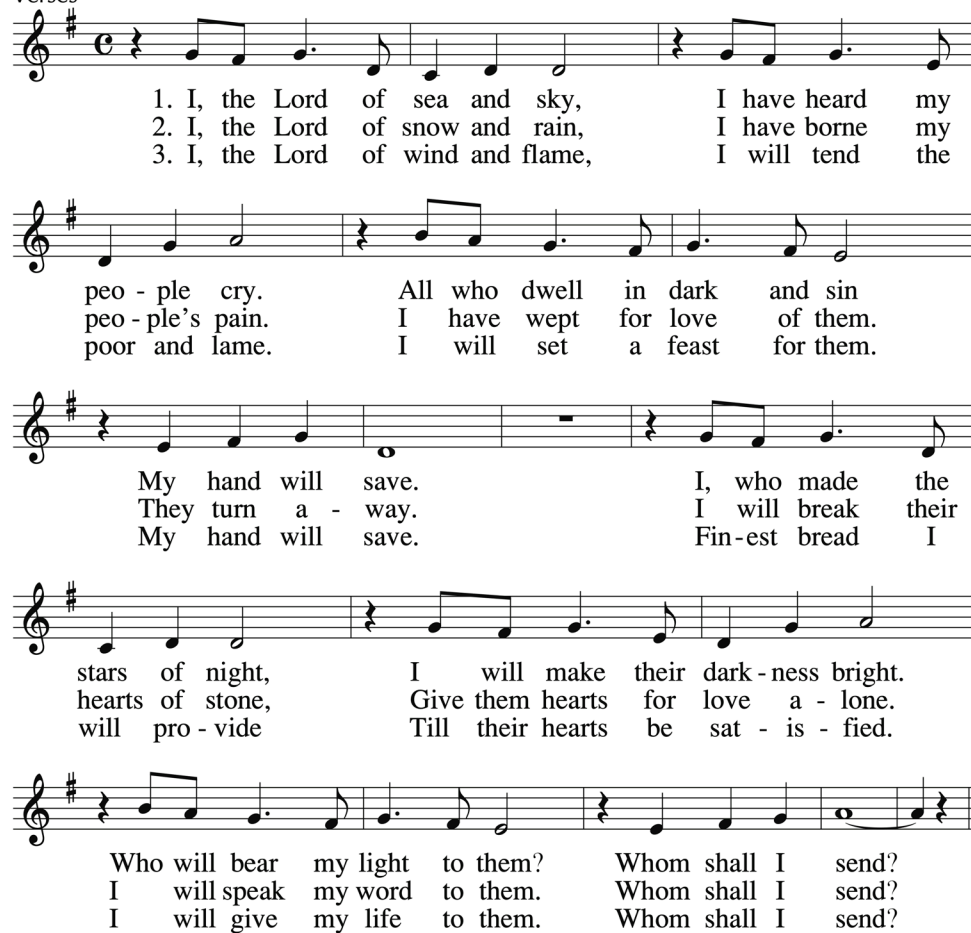
Loving Jesus,  
I believe that you  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.  
I love you above all things,

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.

# COMMUNION | Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte

## Verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my  
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my  
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin  
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them.  
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them.

My hand will save. I, who made the  
 They turn a - way. I will break their  
 My hand will save. Fin-est bread I

stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
 hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

## Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

**Refrain**

This is how all will know that you are my dis -  
ci - ples: if you have love for one an -  
oth - er, if you have love for one an - oth - er.  
All will know that you are my dis - ci - ples.

**Verses** (*sung with choir*)

This is how, this is how, this is how,  
so all will know what you have done for me.

**D.C.**

## Refrain

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the

Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the

good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

## Verses

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.  
2. Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me.  
3. Wor - ship the Lord, all you peo - ple.

Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;  
To - geth - er let us all praise God's name.  
You'll want for noth - ing if you ask.

my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord  
I called the Lord who an - swered me;  
7 Taste and see that the Lord is good;

for God has been so good to me.  
from all my trou - bles I was set free.  
in God we need put all our trust.

D.C.

## 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 | Lead Me, Guide Me

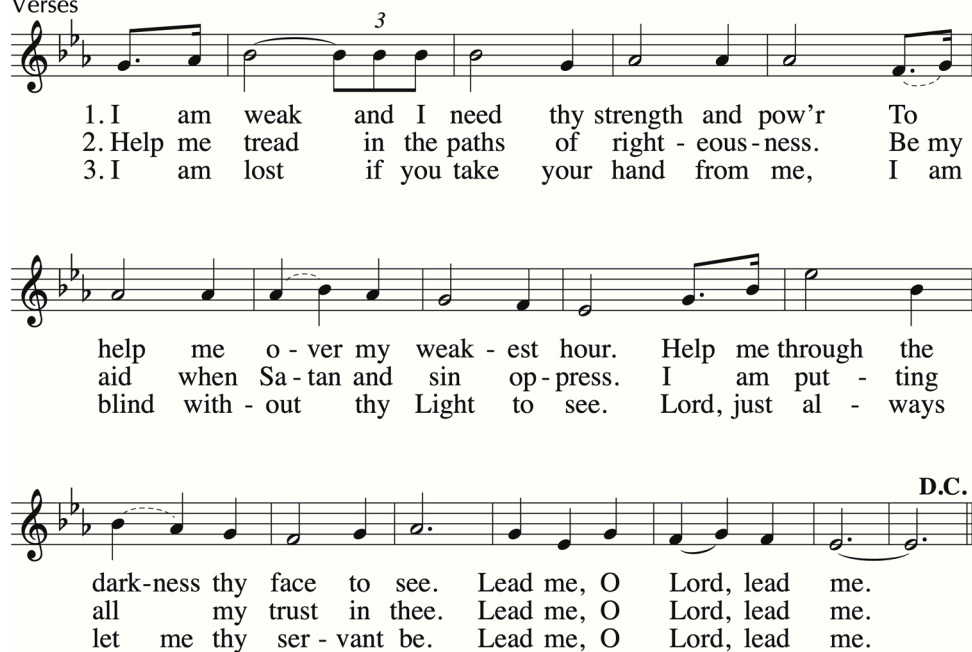
Doris M. Akers

### Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you  
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each  
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

### Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r To  
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness. Be my  
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am  
help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the  
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting  
blind with - out thy Light to see. Lord, just al - ways  
dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

POSTLUDE | Prelude in D Major  
Brett Maguire, *organ*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

*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](mailto: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.



# POPE FRANCIS

JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO

DECEMBER 17, 1936 – APRIL 21, 2025



With great sadness Saint Cecilia Parish mourns the death of Pope Francis. From the very beginning of his pontificate, our Holy Father joyfully proclaimed the Gospel of God's merciful love, inviting the Church and the world to receive that mercy and to become its witnesses through personal accompaniment. He reminded the Church of the importance of listening and dialogue and for three years led us through a global process of synodality. In his personal care for the poor, the vulnerable, and those on the margins and peripheries of society, Francis embodied the Gospel imperative to identify with and to serve the least of Christ's brothers and sisters, and through his teaching and action on integral ecology, he testified to the ways that we are called to care for humanity's common home.

*Eternal rest grant unto Francis, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, April 26 | 5:00 p.m.**

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Maggie Giles, lector

**Sunday, April 27 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant  
Esteban Vanegas, lectors

**Sunday, April 27 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Rev. Greg Boyle, SJ, homilist  
Jen Kowieski, Cathy Anderson, Karen McMenamy,  
lectors

**Sunday, April 27 | 6:00 p.m.**

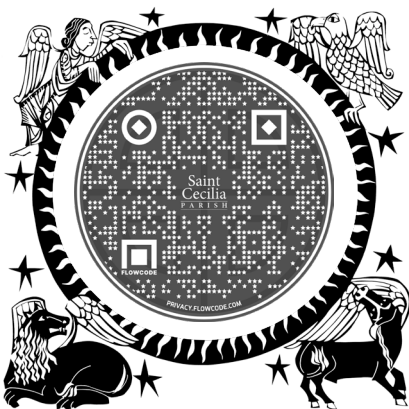
Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant  
Kevin Dumas, lector

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Sunday, April 27 | 9:30 a.m.**

Danny Donahoe, *Month's Mind*  
Jane Sullivan, *2nd Anniversary*  
Sue Charbonneau, *2nd Anniversary*  
Michael Stockman, *8th Anniversary*  
Dottie L'Abbe, *15th Anniversary*  
Joseph Sansivero, *Memorial*  
Leo Bousquet, *Memorial*

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Thank you for your generous  
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!



The flowers in front of the  
altar are given for the greater  
glory of God and in loving  
memory of Mary Botosh by  
her husband Charlie.

# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

## Our Deceased

The Church throughout the world mourns the death of **Pope Francis** who died on Easter Monday, April 21. Pope Francis served the Church as a Jesuit for 67 years, a priest for 55 years, a cardinal for 24 years, and as the Bishop of Rome and Successor to Saint Peter for 12 years. Most of all, he served the world as a faithful Christian, sharing God's loving mercy to all, especially those who are poor or struggling. We are grateful for the gift of his papacy and pray that God will grant him mercy and eternal rest.

## 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, Andrea Surette, and Maureen McLaughlin.**

## Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Ellen Versprille** of Franklin, **Richard Sullivan** of Quincy, **Patrick and Elizabeth Kennedy** of Cambridge, **Sebastián Apodaca** and **Caitlin Burke** of Cambridge, and **Jillian Haywood, Andrei Sipos, and Joseph Lally**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

## April 27: Mass Time Change & Coffee Hospitality

Please note that there will be **NO 11:30AM MASS THIS 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. Also, there will be no Coffee Hospitality in the Parish Hall as we would like our dedicated volunteers to enjoy the festivities

## 129th 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 27 minutes and Fr. Predmore finished at 7:30pm after raising \$24,152 for Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program.

## Take Home a Little White Book for Easter

In the narthex we have little white books for the fifty days of Eastertide. Take one home and spend just six minutes a day in reflection. This is a great way to celebrate this time of great rejoicing!

## Our Paschal Candle

Our beautiful Paschal candle was made in New Hampshire

by Martin Marklin, the godson of Monsignor Martin Hellreigel, a leading American liturgical reformer of the mid-twentieth century and one of the only movers of the liturgical reform who was actually a pastor! Monsignor Hellreigel was influential in promoting the restoration of the Easter Vigil and the participation of the assembly in the chants of the Mass. We are grateful that he inspired his namesake to such a noble profession. The Paschal candle burns next to the ambo throughout the fifty days of Easter, and is thereafter kindled for baptisms and funeral Masses. Take a moment before or after Mass to admire the beauty of the candle up close—it is truly a work of art.

## Our Neophytes and Fully Initiated

At the Easter Vigil, we celebrated the initiation of ten new Christians in the Easter waters. **Mariam Fneiche, Anna Gray Stephanie Loving Lewellen, Jennifer Liang, Gina Miranda, Matthew Patton, Thomas van der Burg, Tina Marie Suglia, Corey Suglia, and Olivia Suglia** professed their faith in Christ and were baptized, confirmed, and welcomed to the Eucharistic table for the first time. They are now known as "neophytes," from the Greek word for "newly planted." During these fifty days of Easter, it is our task to nurture their faith and to help them feel welcome and supported. Please keep them in your prayer as they begin the period known as "mystagogia." Mystagogia is an ancient Greek word meaning, "education in the mysteries." Christian believers in the first century used the word mystagogia to describe the period of continuing spiritual instruction following the celebration of the initiation rites.

We are also called to support those who were received into the full communion of the Catholic Church: **Cameron Lee Beath, Allyn Haynes, Denise Huff, and Jessica Jeffers** were confirmed and welcomed to the table of the Lord. Already baptized in the Catholic Church, **Maricarmen Elizabeth Rodriguez Garcia, George Martinez, Miranda Miller, and Sydney Mullin** were confirmed and received Eucharist for the first time. **Robert Cline** received the sacrament of confirmation at this year's Easter Vigil.

## Welcome, Friends!

At this Sunday's 9:30 liturgy, we extend a warm welcome to our guests from Thursday evening's event: **Rev. Gregory Boyle, SJ; Dr. Argrow "Kit" Evans-Ford; Rev. John H. Finley IV; Mr. Bob Goff** [with us on Thursday but not Sunday]; **Dr. James J. O'Connell; Rev. Richard Rohr, OFM; Rev. Becca Stevens; and Rev. Liz Walker.** We are blessed to share worship with these honored guests this Sunday.



## IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN

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FFF COFFEE HOUR:  
DIGITAL & PRINT MEDIA  
COORDINATOR ANASTASSIA  
KOLCHANOV

**SUNDAY, MAY 4 | 4PM EST VIA ZOOM**

How does a beautifully written, informative and engaging bulletin become a reality? Join the St Cecilia online coffee hour next Sunday to get a firsthand look at communication and digital media preparation with our guest, Anastassia Kolchanov.

Originally from New York, Anastassia moved to the Boston area last year. She is passionate about using design and communication to nourish and strengthen communities. She is also an artist and a filmmaker, with three short films under her belt.

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

**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 the Knitting Ministry at their parish email.

## LET LIFE GROW: SCYA DONATION DRIVE & FELLOWSHIP EVENT

**DONATION DRIVE: MAY 3 - 25 | EVENT: MAY 13**

Please join St. Cecilia's Young Adults as we "Let Life Grow" this May. During this season of growth and new life, SCYA is holding a donation drive and fellowship event to celebrate the newest lives and their families.

From **May 3- May 25** we will be collecting baby, child, and new mother items for three Boston-area pregnancy help centers. The list of items are below and you can drop them off **before or after weekend mass during the month of May**.

On **May 13 at 6 pm**, we will be hosting a reception at St. Cecilia's with a paper flower bouquet craft and prayer time for the families these organizations serve. Please email SCYA at their parish email with the subject line **May 13** if you are interested in attending. Thank you in advance!

For **Pregnancy Help** we are collecting spring/summer items, including onesies (sizes: newborn; 0-3; 3-6; 6-9 months), sleep n plays (Sizes: Newborn; 0-3; 3-6; 6-9 months), outfits (sizes: newborn; 0-3; 3-6; 6-9 months), receiving blankets, crib blankets, hooded towels, diaper bags, baby wash/baby lotion, desitin, bottles (4oz/8oz), pacifiers, socks, thermometers, hairbrushes, nail clippers, and toys (no plastic eyes-safe for newborns). **All new items, please.**

For **St. Mary's Center for Women and Children** in Dorchester we are collecting size twin/twin xl comforters, sheets, pillows, and towels.

You can also support St. Mary's via their Amazon Wish List: [www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3Q43UXD47BKCP/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3Q43UXD47BKCP/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

For **Your Options** we are collecting diapers for the older children sizes 5-7, boys and girls clothing from 0 to 18 months. and 18 months - 2T, and lightweight coats and jackets.



## ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?

Are you an adult Catholic who has been baptized and received first Communion, but was never confirmed? If so, perhaps this is the right time. We will be offering a retreat at Saint Cecilia on Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for adults who wish to prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. Participants will be confirmed at Saint Cecilia on Sunday, June 1st at 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information or would like to register for this retreat, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.



## HELP OUR FRIENDS AT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

Mother's Day cards will be sold this weekend in the Saint Cecilia narthex. 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."

Next week is the last 6:00pm Mass until September. Please join us after Mass for pizza and fellowship!

## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN: VIRTUS TRAINING

**MAY 4 | 2PM | COMMUNITY ROOM**

VIRTUS is the umbrella term for a twopart 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 a mandated reporter training. All parish staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to attend this onetime 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. Please register by May 4th at [www.virtusonline.org/](http://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.



## 29TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE 2025

### SAINT CECILIA & FRIENDS WALKING TEAM TABLE MAY 4

Founded in 1996 by a Boston mother who transformed her grief into action following the murder of her teenage son, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute is committed to breaking cycles of violence and fostering healing through survivor empowerment, youth investment, and the support of communities impacted by trauma, grief, and loss. The annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a powerful symbol of hope and resilience in Boston, bringing together thousands of people committed to creating more peaceful communities. On Mother's Day, this 3.2-mile route will begin and end at Dorchester's Town Field Park, and once again, Saint Cecilia will have a walking team to support the Institute's mission. Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000, and, as an incentive, we're pleased to announce that the parish has committed to matching up to \$2,500 in combined donations.

On Sunday, May 4, there will be a Saint Cecilia & Friends Walking Team table in the parish hall following the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies. Stop by to learn more about the LD Brown Peace Institute, make a donation in support of their mission, or learn more about joining our Walking Team. Your contribution, combined with contributions from other parishioners, can create a lasting legacy of peace for our children, families, and community.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- 1. Make a donation:** Support the Institute's mission and help us reach our parish goal.
- 2. Join our parish team:** Walk with us as part of the Saint Cecilia & Friends Walking Team.

To learn more, make a donation, or join our parish team, visit [www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/stcecilia](http://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/stcecilia)



## 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/](http://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](mailto:loconnor@bhchp.org).

## 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 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!

To reserve tickets: [events.blo.org/noahs-flood](http://events.blo.org/noahs-flood)

## JOIN THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – HELP SHAPE OUR PARISH'S FUTURE

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As members of St. Cecilia's Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), we have the privilege of serving our vibrant and faith-filled community. You may know us from Sunday Mass, Faith Formation classes, parish ministries, or sharing coffee and treats after church. We are deeply committed to the life of our parish, and we are excited to invite two new members to join us on the council.

The PPC is a collaborative group that works closely with Father John to help guide our Parish forward. We listen, reflect, and offer ideas and feedback to help nurture our welcoming community grounded in the love and teachings of Gospel. Together, we plan, pray, and provide feedback to help St. Cecilia continue to grow.

We believe that every voice in our parish matters, and the diversity of our parish is one of our greatest strengths. If you feel called to serve and share your gifts in this way, we encourage you to consider running for a seat on the PPC.

Key Dates:

- Materials Due: **Monday, May 5**
- Election Date: **Sunday, June 1**

More information about how to submit your candidacy will be included in the Bulletin next week. If you have any questions, please contact Scott McDonald at his parish email.

We are excited to welcome new voices to the council and to continue growing together in faith.

Warm regards,

Jennifer Crumlish, Greg Drake, Olivia Hastie, Andre Jones, Peter Lin-Marcus,  
Uma Staehler, Sabrena Tufts

*The Members of the Parish Pastoral Council*



# 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

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## SAINT CECILIA PARISH

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

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## SAINT CECILIA PARISH

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Marilyn Murphy  
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  
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  
Grace Romasanta  
Angelo and Margaret Roppolo  
Edgar & Josephine Roy  
Ted Rubin  
Ben Rudavsky  
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  
Kathleen Taylor  
Peggy and Ralph Testarmata  
Virgil Teti  
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  
Hasttys "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



# POPE FRANCIS KEPT THE FAITH FOR THE POOREST AMONG US

BY KEVIN CULLIN



Image: Tomaz Silva/Agência Brasil | Wikimedia Commons

Pope Francis hugs a patient during his visit to Hospital São Francisco na Providência de Deus on July 25th, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

It was ironic, and somehow appropriate, that one of Pope Francis' last audiences was with Vice President JD Vance. communities safe from those who have committed violent or serious crimes while in the country or prior to arrival."

Vance, a relatively recent but zealous convert to Roman Catholicism, and the pontiff exchanged pleasantries at the Vatican on Easter Sunday, less than 24 hours before the pope died.

If it was all sweetness and light on Easter morning, it wasn't in February, when Pope Francis made clear his opposition to the Trump administration's mass deportation efforts.

In a letter to US Catholic bishops, the pope said he recognized "the right of a nation to defend itself and keep

"That said," the pope added, "the act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness."

And the pope appeared to take a direct shot at Vance, who had defended the administration's mass deportations by referencing "ordo amoris," a medieval Catholic teaching that



Vance defined in a tweet: “You love your family, and then you love your neighbor, and then you love your community, and then you love your fellow citizens of your own country. And then after that, you can focus and prioritize the rest of the world.”

The pope, who is generally considered a more nuanced scholar of Catholic theology than JD Vance, disputed that definition as far too narrow.

“The true *ordo amoris* that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the ‘Good Samaritan’, that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception,” the pope wrote.

These days, if a Good Samaritan stopped to help some poor immigrant lying wounded by the side of the road, he might have his personal information entered into some unaccountable federal database.

Pope Francis reminded the US bishops that Jesus Christ left his native region, took “refuge in a society and a culture foreign to his own,” and “chose to live the drama of immigration.”

The pope quoted from Pope Pius XII’s Apostolic Constitution on the Care of Migrants, which he called the Magna Carta of the Catholic Church’s view on migration:

“The family of Nazareth in exile, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, emigrants in Egypt and refugees there to escape the wrath of an ungodly king, are the model, the example and the consolation of emigrants and pilgrims of every age and country, of all refugees of every condition who, beset by persecution or necessity, are forced to leave their homeland, beloved family and dear friends for foreign lands.”

After meeting with Vance, the pope made his last public appearance at St. Peter’s Square. Too frail to speak, he had Archbishop Diego Ravelli read his Easter message, praying for a peaceful resolution to many conflicts in the world, and reiterating his support for the most vulnerable, a message that seemed at least partially inspired by his opposition to what is going on in the United States.

“How much contempt is stirred up at times towards the vulnerable, the marginalized, and migrants,” the pope wrote.

“I appeal to those in positions of political responsibility in our world not to yield to the logic of fear which only leads to isolation from others, but rather to use the

resources available to help the needy, to fight hunger and to encourage initiatives that promote development. These are the ‘weapons’ of peace; weapons that build the future, instead of sowing seeds of death.”

Pope Francis had his critics. Some will say he did too little, or too much, to bring women into more influential positions in the church; that he did too much, or too little, to embrace and humanize the LGBTQ community; that he didn’t do enough to repair the damage done to the church in the wake of the coverup of sexual abuse of minors by priests.

But his papacy will be remembered for never wavering on the dignity of the poor, of migrants who, like Jesus, live the drama of immigration.

For ordinary priests, those who work with immigrants and the poor every day, Pope Francis was a righteous, inspirational leader.

Those like Father Richard “Doc” Conway, the Dorchester priest who has spent most of his life helping people in Boston whose first language isn’t English, people who came here looking for a better life, like the Irish and the Italians did more than a century before.

Doc Conway admired the way Pope Francis spoke the Gospel because it was speaking truth to power.

“Pope Francis understood his job,” he said. “If you’re not speaking out and not getting people mad at you, you’re probably not doing your job. If you ignore injustice, if you ignore hatred, you’re not doing your job. You have to speak for Jesus.”

Shortly before noon on Monday, Doc Conway apologized for cutting our conversation short.

“I have to say Mass in 15 minutes,” he said.

And then he was gone, to St. Ambrose Church in Dorchester, where most of the masses are said in Vietnamese, to do God’s work and to pray for the repose of the soul of a pope who did that work every day.



*Originally published in The Boston Globe on April 21, 2025.*

*Kevin Cullen is a Globe columnist.*

# POPE FRANCIS NEVER STOPPED BEING A JESUIT

BY JAMES MARTIN, S.J.



Image: CNS photo/Paul Haring

Father Adolfo Nicolas, the 30th Superior General of the Society of Jesus, and Pope Francis, in Rome on Jan. 3, 2014.

In 2005, a few days before the conclave that elected Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as pope, I was having breakfast in my Jesuit community. At the table was a Jesuit who had retired after working in Rome for many years. On that day, The New York Times ran a story that included a list of the papal “electors,” the cardinals who would soon travel to Rome to elect a pope.

After one name were the initials “S.J.,” which meant this cardinal was a Jesuit. But the name was unfamiliar to me. So I said, innocently, “Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio from Argentina?”

My fellow Jesuit’s face darkened and he said, “Oh, he would be terrible!”

He explained that Cardinal Bergoglio had been a Jesuit provincial (that is, regional superior) at a young age and was so divisive that he had virtually split the Argentine Province into two camps: pro-Bergoglio and anti-Bergoglio. “Ter-

rible!” he said again. A few days later, Cardinal Ratzinger was elected and took the name Pope Benedict XVI. I forgot about Jorge Mario Bergoglio.

[Pope Francis, trailblazing Jesuit with a heart for the poor, dies at 88]

Several years later, I was helping a news program during the next conclave, when the white smoke flowed up from the Sistine Chapel. Shortly afterward the camerlengo announced the name of the next pope: Jorge Mario Bergoglio. All I could remember was my friend’s comment: “Terrible!” Some Jesuit friends assumed that the newly elected pope was a disgruntled “former Jesuit” who would be intent on reforming the Society of Jesus. (In terms of church law, when a Jesuit is named bishop he is “released” from his religious vows, but nearly every bishop—or cardinal—in this situation considers himself still to be a Jesuit.)

The man who took the name Francis was probably more

aware than anyone of his checkered reputation in the Society of Jesus when he gave his first interview to a group of Jesuit magazines, including *America*, during the summer after he was elected. Speaking to Antonio Spadaro, S.J., editor of *La Civiltà Cattolica*, he said about his time as provincial: "I was only 36 years old. That was crazy. I had to deal with difficult situations, and I made my decisions abruptly and by myself."

His lasting affinity for the Jesuits, however, was telegraphed earlier. A few days after his election, Francis made a special trip to visit the Jesuit superior general, Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., in the Jesuit Curia, or headquarters, in Rome. The photo of the two embracing at the entranceway of the curia was shared among Jesuits around the world. (So was the video of Andrea, the curia's friendly doorkeeper, who told how flustered he was when the pope rang up.) A few days later the new pope's papal seal was released with the seal of the Society of Jesus in its center. So it was clear: He's still a Jesuit.

His Jesuit identity (to use a word usually used for Jesuit ministries) has been evident throughout his papacy. It also meant that many times when he spoke or acted, Jesuits around the world would say, "Ah, yes," while others might have said, "What does he mean?"

In fact, many of his critics failed to understand just how much of a Jesuit he was, which contributed to their misunderstanding of his words and deeds. Let's consider three ways he was a Jesuit.

### 1. Language

Francis often spoke in the language of Jesuit—or, more broadly, Ignatian—spirituality. Now, Jesuits are often (fairly) accused of acting as if St. Ignatius Loyola, our founder, invented things like prayer and discernment, but it's also fair to say that there are certain practices that Ignatius and the early Jesuits stressed that have become hallmarks of our spirituality.

The first is the way of prayer often called "Ignatian contemplation," which encourages the person praying to imagine themselves in a Gospel scene. Francis used this in homilies over and over.

In his first Easter homily as pope, he used the key word "imagine" to help place the congregation in the scene, or "compose the place," as St. Ignatius might say. "We can imagine their feelings as they make their way to the tomb," said Francis of the women on Easter Sunday, "a certain sadness, sorrow that Jesus had left them, he had died, his life had come to an end. Life would now go on as before." Again, this is not solely a Jesuit practice, but it is a hallmark of our spirituality.

Francis used the same technique in his famous meditation in St. Peter's Square during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 when he asked us to imagine ourselves in the boat with Jesus, on the Sea of Galilee during the storm. And in his meetings with the poor, Francis would, in a sense, ask us to imagine ourselves as someone else: a migrant, a refugee, a homeless person. His Jesuit imagination was key not only to his preaching but his invitation for Catholics to identify with someone "on the peripheries," as he liked to say.

### 2. Poverty

As the first member of a religious order to be elected pope since 1831, Francis was also the first pope since then to have taken a vow of poverty. (Diocesan priests make a promise of obedience to their bishop, and a promise of celibacy and aim to live simply, but do not take a vow of poverty.) Much was made, for example, of his not wearing the traditional papal red shoes, being driven in a small Fiat and not living in the Apostolic Palace but in the relatively simple Casa Santa Marta, a guest house. But his commitment to poverty was more than a commitment to personal poverty. It was also his commitment to those who live in poverty, which he stated shortly after his election: "How I want a church that is poor and for the poor."

All modern popes have emphasized the church's closeness to the poor and its advocacy for them, based on the Gospel and on the traditions of Catholic social teaching. So Francis was building on the legacy of his predecessors. But Francis made this a hallmark of his ministry from the very beginning. His first trip out of Rome was to the island of Lampedusa, where he celebrated a Mass on a fishing boat that served as a vessel for migrants and had been made into an altar. Solidarity with the poor was a consistent theme of his papacy.

But there was another emphasis on the poor, perhaps subtler, that went largely unnoticed

In the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, which formed Francis as they have formed countless Jesuits, there is a strange prayer: the retreatant is asked to pray for the desire to follow "Christ poor." This is not simply an invitation to live simply, or poorly; it is also a desire to place oneself with Christ who suffers insults, out of a desire to be close to him. So an outgrowth of this emphasis on Jesuit poverty is the willingness to suffer insults, which we saw frequently, as Francis was insulted as almost no modern pope has been—including by cardinals, archbishops and bishops, even former close associates. He rarely responded. Throughout his papacy, Francis embraced this more mysterious and less understood form of "poverty" as well.

### 3. Discernment

At the heart of many differences between Pope Francis and his critics was not only a misunderstanding of discernment but an underappreciation of the action of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Perhaps the biggest pushback to his papacy from within the church occurred in this arena. The Synod on Synodality (in addition to other synods, like the Synod on the Family) was fiercely criticized because this exercise in “discernment” (a favorite Jesuit word that connotes a particular style of prayerful decision-making) was seen as throwing open the door to “anything goes.” In effect, the argument went, why do we need discernment when we have all the rules we need? Why discuss controversial topics when church teaching is clear? Besides, isn’t discernment just an excuse to talk forever?

As a Jesuit, Francis knew otherwise. Discernment, as described in the *Spiritual Exercises*, trusts not only that the Holy Spirit wants us to make good decisions, but that the Spirit will help us make good decisions. The Synod, in effect, was a living out of that conviction: that the Holy Spirit will guide us.

Discernment also trusts that the Holy Spirit is at work in the individual and can work through anyone. And it is here, when you dig down, past the political, social, ecclesiological, theological and even spiritual differences, where his detractors did not understand Francis. As a former novice director, spiritual director and provincial superior, Francis had a great reverence for the work of the Holy Spirit in the individual and in the individual conscience, because he had seen it. It is impossible to accompany people as a spiritual director and not come away with a reverence for the mysterious, strange and even challenging activity of the Holy Spirit in every person. So why would one not want to listen to the voice of the Spirit among the people of God? So what seemed to detractors as “anything goes” was in reality reverence for the Spirit.

This also touches upon issues of conscience. Two areas in which Francis experienced severe pushback were both related to conscience matters. The first was his insistence in “*Amoris Laetitia*” (in a footnote) that divorced and remarried Catholics could consult their pastors and then their consciences about receiving Communion. This caused a great uproar and in some places outrage. Respect for conscience is a constitutive part of Catholic teaching, as is reverencing the Spirit there. “Conscience is the most secret core and sanctuary of a man. There he is alone with God, Whose voice echoes in his depths,” wrote the bishops of the Second Vatican Council in “*Gaudium et Spes*.”

But if you listened to Francis’ critics, you would have

thought he had made a bargain with the devil.

Likewise for his five most famous words, “Who am I to judge?” This was initially a question referring to the experience of gay priests, which he subsequently expanded to all gay people. Again, it was trusting a person’s conscience. And again, it infuriated some people.

An important part of discernment of course is listening. How could you possibly discern where the Holy Spirit is at work if you don’t listen? And so Francis over the course of his papacy listened to groups that sometimes felt that they had no voice in the church. Perhaps most surprisingly, as Outreach reported, he met regularly with transgender Catholics from around the world. Listening means listening especially to those people whose voices are not often heard.

On a personal note, during the times that I met with Francis one-on-one (in addition to a translator or two) it was easy to speak to him in the “language” of a Jesuit. I knew that I could talk freely not only about broad topics like the *Spiritual Exercises*, discernment and Ignatian contemplation, but also knew that if I mentioned my annual eight-day retreat, my provincial or my tertianship he knew exactly what I meant. He once asked me how my latest retreat had gone and when I was recounting it to him, I felt that I was speaking more to a Jesuit spiritual director than to a pope.

Overall, Francis entered the papacy as a Jesuit, governed as one and died as one. To understand him was to remember that he was a Jesuit. And to misunderstand him was to forget he was one.



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# 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](http://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](mailto:maria.roche15@gmail.com)), Letitia Howland ([L\\_howland@hotmail.com](mailto:L_howland@hotmail.com)), Erin Young ([erin.t.young@gmail.com](mailto:erin.t.young@gmail.com)), or Kathy Sanders ([sanderno2010@gmail.com](mailto: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.