

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Resurrection

by Jyoti Sahi (2007)

The Resurrection of the Lord

5 April 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

5 APRIL 2026

EASTER SUNDAY

PRELUDES | Worthy is the Lamb and Amen from Messiah, HWV57

George Frederick Handel
(1685-1759)

Prelude to Te Deum

Marc-Antoine Charpentier
(c. 1643-1704)

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

George Frederick Handel

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Jesus Christ is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN



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



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



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



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: Amen.

✘ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

GLORIA | Mass from Age to Age

Chris de Silva

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

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

Cantor:



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



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

Assembly: *Cantor:*



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

Assembly: *Cantor:*



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

Assembly: **D.C.**



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

Verse 3

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

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 10: 34a, 37-43

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

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

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

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

(Full translation is below)

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

To the Paschal Victim, Christians, offer a sacrifice of praise.
The Lamb redeemed the sheep. Christ, sinless, reconciled sinners to the Father.
Death and life were locked together in a unique struggle. Prince of Life, who died, now he reigns.
“Tell us, Mary, What did you see upon the way?”
“I saw the sepulchre of the now living Christ. I saw the glory of the Risen One.
I saw the angels, his witnesses, the shroud and the garments, too, which once had covered heads and limbs.
Christ, my Hope is risen; He will go before his own into Galilee.”
We know that Christ is truly risen from the dead; O Victorious King, have mercy on us. Amen. Alleluia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

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

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

GOSPEL | John 20: 1-9

HOMILY

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Refrain in English

Cantor *All / Todos*

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

Estribillo en Español

Cantor *Todos / All*

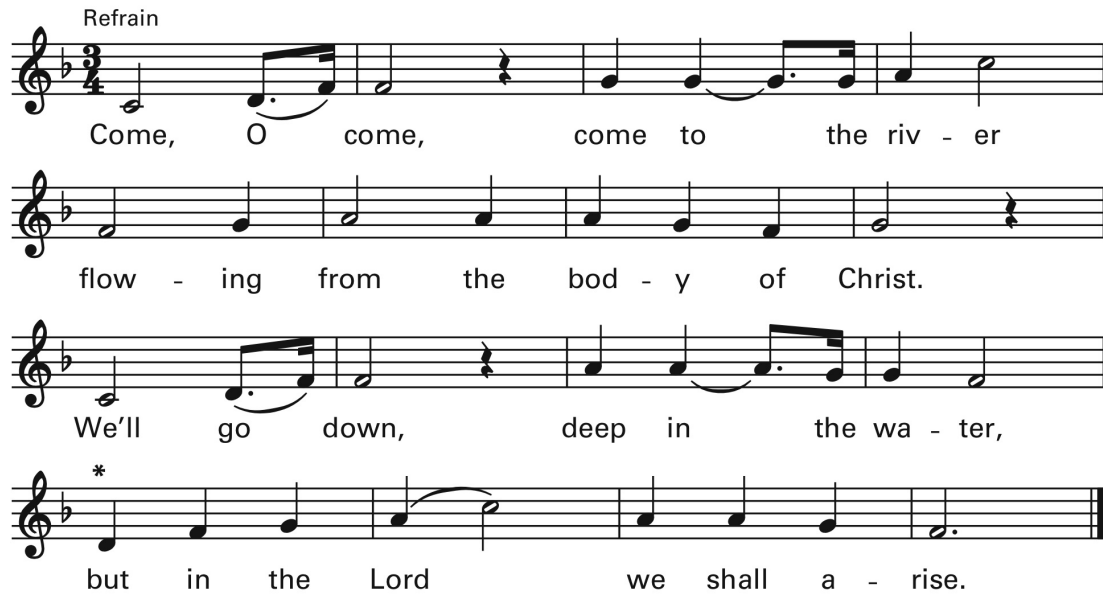
Sa - ca - rán a - guas con a - le - grí - a Sa - ca -
 rán a - guas con a le grí - a de las fuen - tes de sal - va -
 ción. de las fuen - tes de sal - va - ción.

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

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

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

Refrain



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

Verses



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

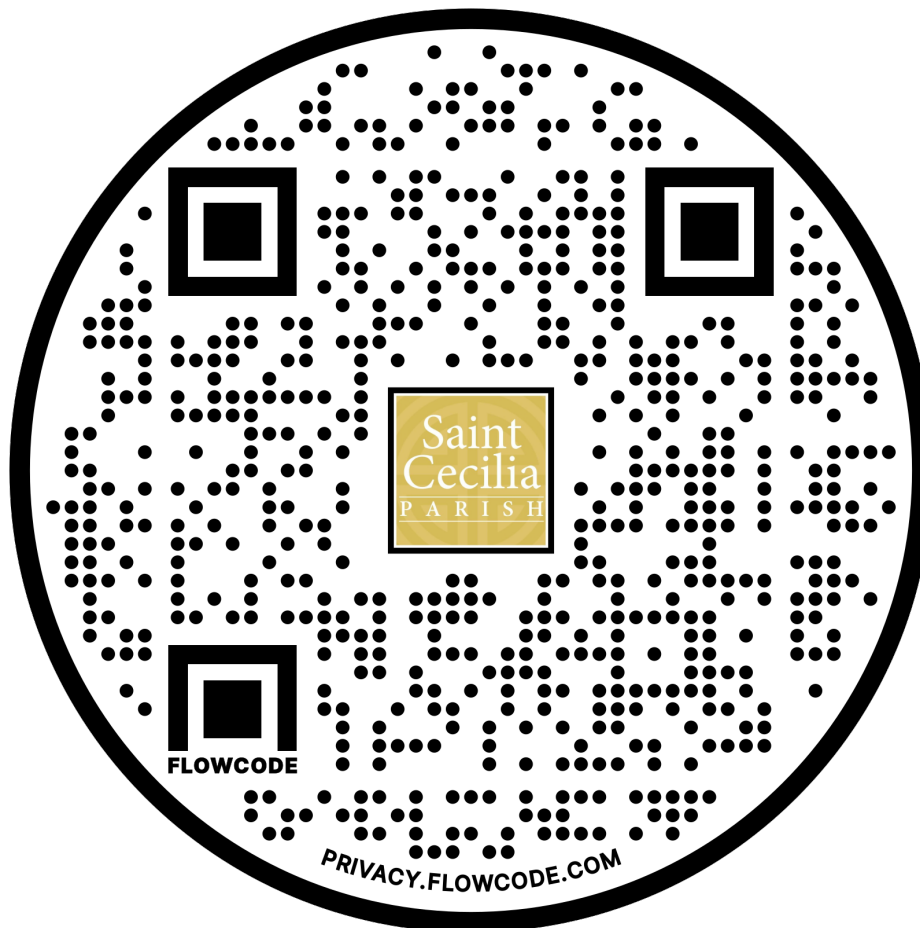
to Refrain

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

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

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



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Refrain / Estribillo



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till
Al - cen la cruz, em - ble - ma de su a - mor; que el




all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.
mun-do al fin co - noz - ca al Sal - va - dor.

Verses / Estrofas



1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, Our
2. Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign, The
3. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied Bears
4. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, Your
1. Va - mos, cris - tia - nos, tras nues - tro Se - ñor; El
2. Ba - jo es - te sig - no de su gran po - der El
3. Ca - da cre - yen - te del que en cruz mu - rió En
4. Cuan - do te al - za - ron glo - rio - so en la cruz, A -



D.C.

King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
hosts of God in con - quering ranks com - bine.
on the brow the seal of him who died.
death has bought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
rey vic - to - rio - so, Cris - to, Hi - jo de Dios.
pue - blo de Dios a - van - za sin te - mer.
su fren - te lle - va el sig - no en que ven - ció.
llí pro - me - tis - te lle - var - nos a la luz.

5. So shall our song of triumph ever be: 5. *Himnos de gloria alcemos sin cesar;*
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Al rey vencedor que en cruz supo triunfar.*

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



Two staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the lyrics: "We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -". The second staff contains the lyrics: "fess your Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain." The melody is simple and melismatic, with long notes and ties.

AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



Two staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the lyrics: "A - men, a - men, a - men." The second staff contains the lyrics: "A - men, a - men, a - men." The melody is simple and melismatic, with long notes and ties.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

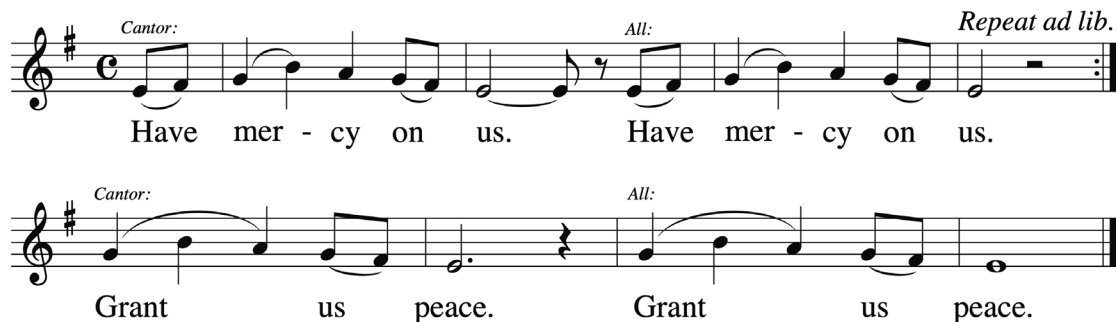
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom,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

Steven R. Janco



Two staves of music in G major and common time. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Have mer - cy on us. Have mer - cy on us." The second staff contains the lyrics: "Grant us peace. Grant us peace." The melody is simple and melismatic, with long notes and ties. The first staff is marked with "Cantor:" and "All:" above the notes, and "Repeat ad lib." above the final measure. The second staff is marked with "Cantor:" and "All:" above the notes.

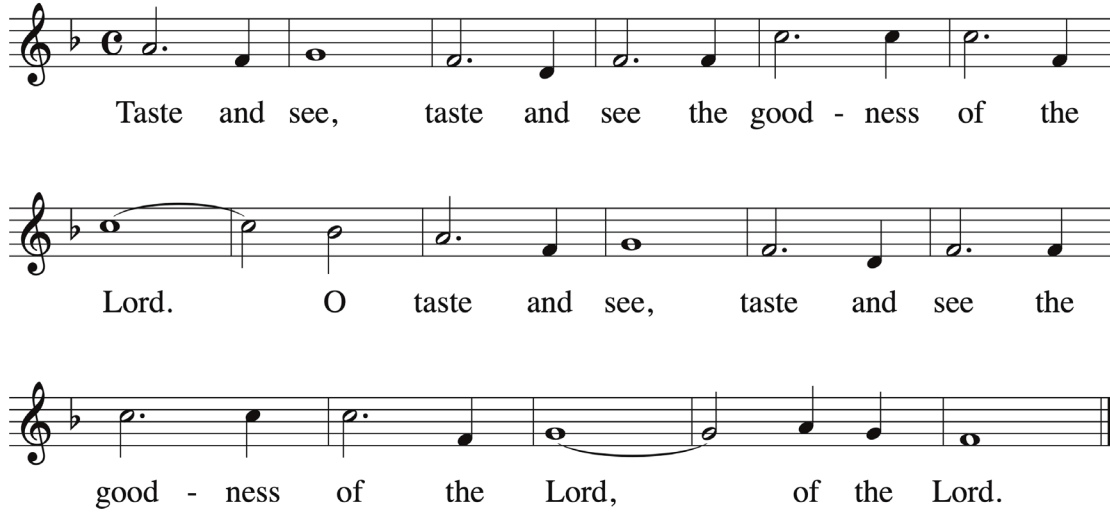
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

Refrain



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;
 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.**

Refrain



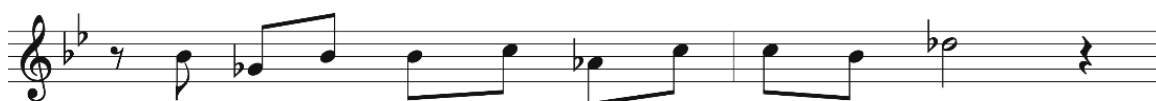
Take and eat; take and eat: this is my bod - y



giv-en up for you. Take and drink; take and drink:



this is my blood giv - en up for you.



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



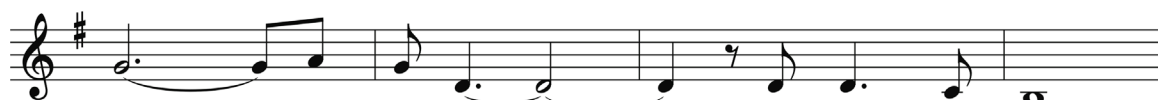
I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
 You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.
 Lift up your face, in you my light will shine.
 You are my bride, come to the mar - riage feast.



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all,



one cup of bless - ing which we bless. And

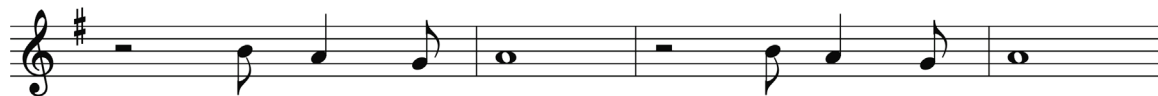


we, though man - y, through-out the earth,



we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

Verses



1. Gen - tile	or Jew,	Ser - vant	or free,
2. Man - y	the gifts,	Man - y	the works,
3. Grain for	the fields,	Scat-tered	and grown,



Wom - an	or man	no more.
One in	the Lord	of all.
Gath-ered	to one	for all.

D.C.

Refrain

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

Verses

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

CONCLUDING RITES

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

EASTER SOLEMN DISMISSAL

CHANT

Assembly:



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

RECESSIONAL | Sing with All the Saints in Glory

ODE TO JOY



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



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



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



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



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

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

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

POSTLUDE | *Marche Triomphale*

Brett Maguire, *organ*, Andrew Sorg and Chloe Swindler, *trumpets*,
Virginia Morales, *french horn*, Phil Hyman and Wes Hopper, *trombones*,
and Thomas Schmidt, *timpani*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert
(1877-1933)

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For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia,
please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDuff@stceciliaboston.org.

HAPPY EASTER!

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children’s faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus’ teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids (“Irish working out girls”) and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings. Our church building resides on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket and Massachusetts tribal nations.

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci’s *The Last Supper*, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius’ life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We’ve been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God’s love makes all things new.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, April 4 | 7:30 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon and homilist
Maryann Hinsdale, Vivica D'Souza, Elli St George, Moira Macdonald, Tom O'Brien, Julie DesAutels, Christina Dominique-Pierre, Uma Staehler, Letitia Howland, lectors

Sunday, April 5 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Dede Simon and Bobbi Moran, lectors

Sunday, April 5 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, concelebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Karen McMenamy, Theresa Chaklos, Rosaria Salerno, lectors

Sunday, April 5 | 11:45 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Clare Gillis and Maggie Giles, lectors



EASTER

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VIGIL READINGS

Genesis 1:1—2:2, Genesis 22:1-18,
Exodus 14:15—15:1, Isaiah 55:1-11,
Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4, Ezekiel 36:16-
17a, 18-28, Romans 6:3-11,
Matthew 28:1-10

EASTER SUNDAY READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
John 20:1-9

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Hello everyone!

Even though we're two weeks into spring according to the calendar, we await spring's warm temps, not just to tease us like last week, but to be with us as we come more and more into the light and warmth of the season. And boy, do we need more light and warmth on every level!

The celebration of Holy Week beginning last Sunday with Palm Sunday and the Lord's Passion is a reminder that darkness and death NEVER have the last word for Christians. Light and life do!! Easter Sunday is what speaks to us enduringly, not Good Friday. Fall and winter always emerge into spring and summer...and spring and summer lie fallow for the fall and winter to come...but there is always an emergence, springtime and resurrection, a new beginning...new light and new life. This brings us all HOPE.

We need hope today...hope that the fall and winter of things will get better, lighter and brighter. We need hope today...hope that reminds us that the darkness never has the last word. We need hope today...hope that tells us there is life after death, there is "light in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it." (John 1:5) That is the Christmas message. That is the Easter message. It is the Easter reality. Not bunnies and baskets and outfits and chocolates (as delicious and delightful as they are) ...but Jesus Christ Risen from the dead. THIS is what gives us hope!

With so much war and destruction in the world right now; with so much division in the country; with so much volatility and instability and daily disruption, we need hope. What is your hope? What GIVES you hope? What keeps you and me afloat in these days? There has always been tumult and war and injustice...but what gives us hope? What helps us to carry on with perspective? What do we pass on to our kids and the next generations to help them to have HOPE amid heaviness and darkness?

Jesus reminds us that He is "the Way, the Truth and the Life." (John 14:6) When we look at how He was, what He did, how He testified to what is true, how He "went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil" (Acts 10:34) we have an example of how to be and a way of being to pass onto our kids and future gens.

When we take care of each other, when we are moved by compassion and not judgement; when we advocate for and speak up for each other; when we speak the truth and defend what's true and speak truth to power when it goes astray...these are things to model for our kids and the next generation. When we don't invoke God for the destruction of others, when we uphold the dignity of every person as we try to navigate the complex issues of our day, when we respectfully and civilly talk about these things with our kids and each other around the table at home, or the table at mass, we bring light, healing and goodness. These are the very things Jesus did according to Saint Peter in today's Acts of the Apostles. When we listen to and contemplate the words of the successor to Saint Peter today, Pope Leo, when he reminds us, "Brothers and sisters, this is our God: Jesus, King of Peace, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war," we spread hope.

When we look at the issues of immigration and enforcement (in all their complexity) Pope Leo says, "we have to look for ways of treating people humanely, treating people with the dignity that they have." There are so many opportunities for doing good and healing all those oppressed, first, by starting to look at what we believe and what we don't. Second, to pray for a deeper understanding of what it is to follow Jesus and to be called Catholic and Christian. So much of what we see now is

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

antithetical to the ways of Jesus and to the gospel. Believing in Him, being an Easter people, we believe that we are people of the light, people of hope, people who try to “go about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil” in whatever form he takes...as individuals, structures, systems, attitudes, policies and mindsets. Today reminds us that it’s not just about the secular expressions of Easter, it’s about challenging us to look at what we truly believe as resurrection people, and to know what that belief propels us to do and how to be in these times as people of hope.

On this Easter Sunday, as we hear of the stone removed from the tomb and the Risen Jesus making good on His promise, let us look clearly at the stones that keep us dead and in the darkness of the tomb. Let’s roll them away and come into the light, life and truth of the resurrection as a people ready and continuing “to do good and heal all those oppressed” in these complex and complicated times. These are not easy times. These are not easy things, but I want us to think of them in light of what we celebrate this week: that the suffering and death of Jesus is the prototype of so many suffering people today; and the resurrection of Jesus is the hope that we have for them and for ourselves along the way ...and after the last breath. I know, heavy but hopeful...

Praying for a happy Easter for us all. Praying for all those suffering in the world right now. Praying for an end to war and for all those in the military defending us and all who are victims of war.

Be the light in someone’s darkness. Be a resurrection person. Be a person of hope in your own unique and God-given way by doing good and healing those who are oppressed.

Happy Easter.

Fr. John

Fr. John



Photo: Wikicommon

The Resurrection by Matthias Grünewald (c.1515)

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Good Friday Collection

The Good Friday collection supports the sacred places and the educational, charitable, and peace-seeking ministries of the Church in the Holy Land. You can make donations using the following link: www.osvhub.com/stceciaboston/giving/funds/good-friday-2026-holy-land.

Parking Information

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

Easter Collection

At all of our Easter Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. To donate, visit www.osvhub.com/stceciaboston/giving/funds/easter-2026-clergy-trust.

Mass Time Change & Coffee Hospitality

Please note there will be no 6:00pm Mass on Easter. There will also be no Coffee Hospitality in the Parish Hall.

Catholic Appeal 2026

Please enter into solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need and spread hope by making a gift today. Thank you to those who have already responded generously to Father John’s invitation to contribute. Our parish has now reached 72% of our financial goal and 49% of our donor goal. Together, we are on our way to greater success. To donate, head to bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you for your support!



Image: Kelly Latimore/Icons.com

The Resurrection by Kelly Latimore

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SAINT CECILIA PARISH

RAINBOW MINISTRY GAME NIGHT

TUESDAY, APRIL 7 | 7PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

Join the Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry for game night! Bring your favorite game and enjoy a night of fun, snacks, and fellowship! All are welcome. Please email the ministry if you have any questions or wish to inform us of dietary restrictions.

SPACE TO SHARE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 | 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!

ANNA & SIMEON SENIORS

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 | 10AM | PARISH HALL

The next Anna and Simeon Seniors Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9th. From 10:00 to 10:30 am there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:30 there will be time for prayer. All parish seniors are invited to participate.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11 | PARISH HALL
9:30AM - COFFEE AND CONNECTION
10AM - GROUP DISCUSSION**

The Saint Cecilia Women's Ministry will meet for its first session on Saturday, April 11. April's topic is Mary Magdalene: the Apostle to the Apostles. Women of all ages and stages are welcome to join us for faith, fellowship, and encouragement. Through prayer, conversation, and reflection, we seek to support and uplift one another as sisters in Christ.

FAR FLUNG FLOCK COFFEE HOUR: "WALKING FOR PEACE & HOPE"

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 | 4PM ET VIA ZOOM

In 1994, a Boston mother turned her unimaginable grief into a legacy of healing after the murder of her son in the crossfire of a shootout. That legacy became the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, an organization dedicated to breaking cycles of violence and supporting those affected by trauma. We invite you to join us for an informative conversation with Jeanne Bruno, Kathleen Doyle, and Gregory Drake—

the coordinators of our parish Mother's Day Walk for Peace team. They will share personal stories of what inspires them to walk each year, and you can learn how to participate in the May 10 walk, either here in Boston or in your own area.

First time joining us? We'd love to have you! Please email the ministry by 2:00 p.m. (EDT) on Sunday, April 12 to receive the Zoom link.

VIRTUS TRAINING: PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 | 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 12 | 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!

CONCERT TO BENEFIT
WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 | 7PM - 9PM
NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY - BROWN HALL
(290 HUNTINGTON AVENUE, BOSTON)

A wonderful group of professional classical musicians will be performing by Beethoven, Schumann, and Messiaen. Admission is free with a suggested donation (\$40/adult, \$15/student); no tickets or RSVPs are necessary. All proceeds will go to support Women's Lunch Place. For more information, head to www.musicforfood.net/boston.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP: EASTER EDITION

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 | 7PM | SANCTUARY

Come and worship the risen Lord with song and adoration! 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. This month we will be celebrating the Resurrection with music, and praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. 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 for the link using the following link: www.tinyurl.com/stc-night-of-worship.

SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 | 7PM | BOSTON COLLEGE
WALSH HALL FUNCTION ROOM, 150 ST. THOMAS MORE
RD., BOSTON, MA 02135

Join America Media for a faith-filled discussion with President & Editor in Chief, Fr. Sam Sawyer, SJ, and Associate Editor, Molly Cahill, on how Jesuit education shaped their vocations and continues to guide their work in America's media ministry. Light refreshments will be served at 6:30pm and programming will begin at 7pm.

Parking is available in the Commonwealth Avenue Garage on 40 St. Thomas More Rd. Walsh Hall is also accessible by the MBTA Green Line (B) Boston College stop. If you have any questions, please call reception at (617) 536-4548 to receive Jackson Goodman's contact information.

Kindly RSVP using the link below:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebR8FsnGM5JMy9EpcTWmamVxnf_m-D3ljs027cQT8xSjOVg/viewform.

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

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

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

COMPANY OF GRACE: KINDLE THE FIRE

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

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

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY:
FINDING HOPE IN DARK TIMES

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH | 1PM | CLASSROOM 1

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

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

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

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Generous parishioners have donated a supply of children's books that can be found in a box in the narthex. Please feel free to borrow these during one of our liturgies.

ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 9AM TO 3PM

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. The retreat will focus on the sacraments, moral theology, and Catholic Social Teaching. Participants may be confirmed at Saint Cecilia on Sunday, May 17th at 3:00 PM. If you would like more information or would like to register for this retreat, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

BHCHP'S MEDICINE THAT MATTERS GALA

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

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

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



COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

APRIL 3 - 8

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Stations of the Cross | 3pm

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion | 7:30pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Easter Vigil | 7:30pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

8am, 8:30am, & 11:45am

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12pm | Comm. Room

Rainbow Ministry Game Night | 7pm | Comm. Room

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Space to Share | 6:30pm | Comm. Room



Join Christians and people of all faiths on Good Friday in prayer and protest in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors. Through the Stations of the Cross, we will lament the violence against our immigrant neighbors, join in song as one community of faith, and hear again God's call to loose the bonds of injustice and set every captive free (Isaiah 58:6). To sign up, RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/goodfriday2026>



Easter Flowers



Steven Abendroth
Emma & Herand Abrahamyan
Robert Abrahamyan
Abruzzi Family
Maria Otilia Aguiar
Maria Aguiar
Antonio Aguiar
John & Maureen Ahern
Cleide Alves
Michael Amrich
Kelly Anderson
Elsie & Tony Andrade
Cora Arnold
John Arsenault
Anonymous, in honor of "the gift
of life" through organ donation
Carol Ascrizzi
Catherine Aylward
H. Prescott Bagley
H. Prescott Bagley II
Edna May Barber
Maria Barbosa
Mr. & Mrs. Vasco Barbosa
Nathalie Belanger
Charles & Betty Lou Benhayon
Valerie Berry
Fr. Richard Bertrand, S.J.
Mr. & Mrs. Claude Bigeard
Nancy Bolick-Cortez
Edward Booth
Mary Botosh
Charles & Betty Botosh
Virginia Boyer
Ralph Boyer
John Brait
Jack Brent
Angelina Brigalli
Brooks Family
Miriam Brown
Eileen Browning
Francisco Bucasus
Bufalini Family
Burda Family

Marjorie & Howard Camden
Maria Cristina Campo de Paez
Blandina Campos
Adelino Campos
Robert Cancalosi
Martha Cano de Paez
Beverly & Vincent Capodilupo
William & Catherine Carroll
Bill & Marilyn Carroll
Bob Carroll
Katherine E. Cassell
Cecere Family
Earl Charland
Catherine Charland
Chiock Yee Cheong
C.Y. Cheong
Ernest F. Coleman
Joan Coleman
Ann Coleman
Margaret & James Collins
Shirley Condella
Maria Cone
Gerry & Charlotte Conklin
Dan Conroy
Mickey & Joe Contilli
Maurice & Marjorie Cornier
Saturno Correia
Maria da Concecao Correia
Dorothy Corriveau
Raymond Corriveau
Ines Costa
Gina Costeira
Dr. John Vincent Coyle
Deirdre Mary Coyle
Susanne E. Coyne
Barbara Craig
Robert Crawford
Mary Crean Vachon
Daniel & Jeanne Curley
Daniel Thomas Curley
Mark Czestochowa
Cyril J. D'Souza
Peter D'Souza

Charlotte D'Souza
Hector D'Souza
Irene D'Souza
Mr. & Mrs. Saheed Dahar Sr.
Atty & Mrs. Victor Dahar Sr.
Sean Dalton
John & Betty Davis
Grace De Gasperi
Raul De Gasperi
Luis De Gasperi
Arsenia De Gasperi
Norma De Robinson
Donald DeBlieux
Madeline & Tom DeFalco
Nick Demitradis
Roselina Denardo
John Z. Dennehy
Mary Dennehy Anzivino
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Dennehy Sr.
Kathy Devin
Olga & Jim DiBona
Marie Diegnan
DiGiulio Family
James T. Dillon
Agnes Dillon
Susan Dillon
Linda DiStefano
Daniel Do Souto
Daniel Do Souto
Alice & Walter Doherty
Alida Dommermuth
John Drexelius
Joan Drexelius
Joe Drexelius
Julie Dsilva
Robert Dsilva
Arthur F. Dunnett
R. Margaret Dunnett
Bernard J. Dwyer
David Lee Ebert
Anthony Edwards
Doris Elders
Stephen Ellis

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Ruth Ann Ellis
Billy Emery
Mr. & Mrs. Philip F. Dennehy Sr.
Faccadio Family
John & Irene Faldetta
Mary & Peter Famiglietti
Franchi & Mancini Families
Nicholas Fatse
Mary Fazio
Phil & Marie Ferraro
John Fikkert
Mariano Finestra
Gerry Finnegan
Walter Fletcher
Lois Francavilla
Nora Frank
Henry & Eileen Gabel
Bernard & Doris Gallagher
Tom & Helen Gallagher
Don Garaventi
Michael Garvey
Brenda Lahme Gebler
Judy & Willard Gelwick
Edward Geremia
Paul B. Gilbert
Richard Gilbert
Anne & Bill Giles
Alfred Glockner, Jr.
Bertha Gomes
Eugenia Goncalves
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Goodman Sr.
Tayra Grazian
Dino Grazian
Carol Green
Stanley Greenwood
Stanley Greenwood Jr.
Viola Griffin
Peter Griffin
Rev. Msgr. Michael F. Groden
Meaghan Grotz
Felipe Gutierrez
Maria Olivieri Hakansson
Mr. & Mrs. Granderson Hall
John Hannigan
Brian Hare
Rose Hart
Charles & Nancy Heaslip
Jillian Heaslip
Jean Henry
John & Dorothea Hinex

Sam Hingston
Sandra & Fritz Hoffman
Fr. Gerry Hogan
Leah & Thoma Holton
Carol Howland
Richard Howland
Charles Huebner
Suzan Lawlor Huebner
Zsuzsa Huebner
Sean Hughes
Linda Hyde
Delfo Iacchetti
Sadie Isiminger
Floyd R. Jacobs
Margaret & John Joyce
Maria Julien
John Kiley
Nadia & Joseph Kiley
Brig. Gen. Leo A. Kiley (Ret.)
Reverend Elizabeth Ann King
Susan Klosek
Catherine Kneut
Dieter Koerppen
Joseph & Cecilia Kurta
Deceased members of the
Kurta & Masiewicz families
Thelma Doris Lahme
Paul Leo Lahme
William Paul Lahme
Jack Lally
Richard Larue
LaSala - Romeo - Gilbert Family
Julie Lawler
Bill Lawless
Joan Lena
Paul Lena
Neil Leonard
Kenny Liebling
Carmen Peter Lombardo
Ilda F. Lopes
Augusto Lopes
F. Beirne Lovely, Jr.
Dorothy & Beirne Lovely, Sr.
Lorraine Lyons
Dorothy Marie Mac Gillivrary
Maria Luisa Macchi Finestra
John & Angelina Machado
Joseph G. & Mary A. Maciora
Mary G. Maciora
Gerald & Bridie Maloney

Leonora Mamaluy
Martin & Eleanora Manaday
Leonard Mariani
Raphael Mariani
Adele (Rina) Mariani
Louis & Anita Martino
Fred and Josephine Mason
Manuel Matos
Ana Matta
Carmen Matta
Natibidad Matta
Judy Matteson
Stephen Matteson
William John McCarron
Patrick & Margaret McDonagh
Professor James McGhee
Kathleen McGhee
Charles & Lena McGhee
William McKiernan
Pearl M. McKiernan
Robert F. McKiernan
William P. McKiernan Jr.
William P. McKiernan Sr.
Malcolm McKinnon
Malcolm McKinnon
Bill McLaughlin
Jim McLaughlin
Joan & Robert Meloni
Monika Menasche
Peter Menasche
Stephen Mendoza
Mary Mitchell
Rev. William F. Modlin
Jeff Monroe
Chick Mooney
Helen Moore
George Morales
Teresa Morelli
Bernard Morelli
Gilma Morera Ruiz
Irene Morillo
Margarita Morocho
Tom Morrissey
John B. Morse
Francis X. & Margaret Morse
John & Kathleen Mullen
Teresa Murdock
Edwin Murphy
Elizabeth Murphy
Edward Murphy

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Robert Murphy
Anne Marie Murphy
Ivan Nazario
James A. Nealis
Bethlehem "Mimi" Negussu
Cleveland and Dorothy Nelson
Giuseppe Nigro
Sr. Jeannette Normandin, SSA
Thomas & Kathryn Norton
Marisol O'Brien
Daniel & Kathleen O'Brien
Sarah O'Donnell
William O'Donnell
Jerry O'Connor
Patricia Oakes
Mary C. & Anthony Olivieri
Placido Paez C.
Cristobal Paez L.
Elena Paez L.
Francis R. Paglia, Jr.
Francis & Ann Paglia, Sr.
Anthony & Carmela Pandolfo
Joseph and Palmina Pandolfo
Regina D. Pasternack
Edward R. Pasternack
Beatrice M. Pasternack
Rudolf Pasternack
Alfredo Pereira
Madelena Pereira
Silvana Pereira
David Perna
Suzanne Powell Pickard
Sales Pinheiro
Tia Eva J. Pires
Isabelle Plante
Potter & Bunt Families
Julia Powell
Mary Louise Powell
Jim Price
Sadie Price
Milton Putnam
Marjorie Putnam
Barbara Radtke
Nicole Marie Raposo
David Reed
Grace Rett
Frances & Joseph Rinaldi
Amelia Robinson
Carmelo & Giuseppina Rocuzzo
Grace Romasanta

Christine & John Romeo
Damon Root
Edgar & Josephine Roy
Raif & Mary Saati
Michael Sabato
Ray Santiago
Raffaele Santoro
Barbara Santoro
Jean Santoro
Angela Santoro
Mary Anne Santoro
Michael R. Scanlon Sr.
Domenic Schiarizzi
Frances Schiarizzi
Robert L. Schmitt
Mary T. Schmitt
Trevor Sesskin
George & Sophia Sgourakes
Susan Shaughnessy
Philip Slotnick
Matt Smith
Ellen Solomita
Judith Ann Solovieff
George Sontag
Myrtle Sontag
Kathleen Sontag Panko
Jose Miguel Souto
Jose Miguel Souto
Tim Stancell-Condron
Janet Stank
Dorothy Starzyk
William Starzyk, Jr.
Mary and Melvin States
Adelaide Sullivan
Arnold Sullivan
Mary & Walter Sullivan
Blanche Surette
Francis Surette
Paul Surette
Alexa Tayebi
Kathleen M. Taylor
Rudy & Helen Tetrault
Jared "Jay" Thomas
Paul Tibbetts
Susan Tibbetts
Paul Tibbetts Jr.
Irene Tomaino
Frank Tomaino
Anthony Tomaino
Theresa Tomaino

Grace Tomaino
Mil Tomaino
Sue & Mike Toomey
Nadine & John Troppy
Rita M. Turo
Michael A. Turo
Claire Tutein
Eliseo Umipeg
Claudine Bouchard Underwood
Frank & Estelle Unni
D. Joseph Unni
Lawrence Vachon
Jude Vachon
Bob VanNostrand
Brian VanNostrand
Carla Vaughn
Louis & Margaret Venditti
Andrew J. Veneto Sr.
Angie & Frank Verderane
Mal Versage
Maria Lurdes Viveros
Antonio Viveros
Michael Walker
Sr. Clare Walsh, MSSH
Anne Kohut Wengryn
Michael Wengryn
Peter Wheatley
Robert M. Wheatley
Wheatley Family
Frank Williams
Kate Winslow
Daniel Winterson
Deceased members of the
Woodworth & Grzybinski
Families
Robert Yobaccio
Anthony & Dolores Zankowski
John A. Zankowski
Denise Zankowski-Winter
Zankowski Family
Mr & Mrs. John Zekas
Dianne Zimmerman
Maria Eugenia Zubizarreta
Enrique Zubizarreta



EASTER 2026

BY JOAN CHITTISTER, OSB

With Open Hearts by Trish Williams



The old news about Easter is that it is about resurrection. The new news may be that it is not so much about the resurrection of Jesus as it is about our own. Unfortunately, we so often miss it. Jesus, you see, is already gone from one tomb. The only question now is whether or not we are willing to abandon our own, leave the old trappings behind and live in the light of Jesus, the Christ, whom the religious establishment persecuted and politicians condemned. It is the greatest question of them all in a world that

practices religion as an act of private devotion and sees law and government as an arm of God.

The resurrection to which Easter calls us—our own—requires that we prepare to find God where God is by opening ourselves to the world around us with a listening ear. This means that we must be prepared to be surprised by God in strange places, in ways we never thought we'd see and through the words of those we never thought we'd hear.

We must allow others—even those whom we have till now refused to consider—to open our hearts to things we do not want to hear. We must release the voice of God in everyone, everywhere. It means putting down the social phobias that protect us from one another. It requires that we clean out from our vocabulary our contempt for “liberals,” our frustration for “radicals” and our disdain for “conservatives.” It presumes that we will reach out to all others—to the gays and the immigrants and the Blacks, to the strangers, the prisoners and the poor—in order to divine what visions to see with them, what cries to cry for them, what stones to move from the front of their graves.

That will, of course, involve listening to women for a change, seeing angels where strangers are, emptying tombs, contending with Pharisees and walking to Emmaus with strangers crying, “Hosanna” all the way.

Easter is not simply a day of celebration: It is, as well, a day of decision. What is really to be decided is whether or not we ourselves will rise from the deadening grip of this world's burnt-out systems to the light-giving time of God's coming again, this time in us.

Then the Easter Alleluia is true: God is surely “with us.”



A UNIVERSAL MESSAGE

BY RICHARD ROHR, OFM

The Brazilian writer and journalist Fernando Sabino wrote, “In the end, everything will be all right. If it's not all right, it's not the end.” That's what today is all about: “Everything will be okay in the end.”

The message of Easter is not primarily a message about Jesus' body, although we've been taught to limit it to this one-time “miracle.” We've been educated to expect a lone, risen Jesus saying, “I rose from the dead; look at me!” I'm afraid that's why many people, even Christians, don't really seem to get too excited about Easter. If the message doesn't somehow include us, humans don't tend to be that interested in theology. Let me share what I think the real message is: Every message about Jesus is a message about all of us, about humanity. Sadly, the Western church that most of us were raised in emphasized the individual resurrection of Jesus. It was a miracle that we could neither prove nor experience, but that we just dared to boldly believe.

But there's a great secret, at least for Western Christians, hidden in the other half of the universal church. In the Eastern Orthodox Church—in places like Syria, Turkey, Greece, and Egypt—Easter is not usually painted with a solitary Jesus rising from the dead. He's always surrounded by crowds of people—both haloed and unhaloed. In fact, in traditional icons, he's pulling people out of Hades. Hades isn't the same as hell, although we put the two words together, and so we grew up reciting in the creed that “Jesus descended into hell.”

Instead, Hades is simply the place of the dead. There's no punishment or judgment involved. It's just where a soul waits for God. But we neglected that interpretation. The Eastern Church was probably much closer to the truth that the resurrection is a message about humanity and all creation. It's a message about history. It's a corporate message, and it includes you and me and everyone else. If that isn't true, it's no wonder that we basically lost interest.

Today is the feast of hope, direction, purpose, meaning, and community. We're all in this together. The cynicism and negativity that our country and many other countries have descended into show a clear example of what happens when people do not have hope. If it's all hopeless, we individually lose hope too. Easter is an announcement of a common hope. When we sing in the Easter hymn that Christ destroyed death, that means the death of all of us. It's not just about Jesus; God promises to all, “Life is not ended, it merely changes,” as we say in the funeral liturgy. That's what happened in Jesus, and that's what will happen in us. In the end, everything will be all right. History is set on an inherently positive and hopeful tangent.



SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS EASTER

Your support for the Clergy Trust parish collections provides for the health, wellness, and retirement needs of our active and senior priests. Thank you for your generosity to this collection and for helping us care for those who care for us.



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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

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, Deacon

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities Operations & Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Ben Worthley, Audio Engineer

Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.

Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

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.

Faith Formation for Children

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

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.

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 (VIRTUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, Erin Young, or Kathy Sanders if you have any questions. The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our 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.