

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Lawyer

by Salvador Dalí (c.1978)

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10 May 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

10 MAY 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Come, Holy Ghost

LAMBILLOTTE



1. Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, And in our
2. O Com - fort - er, to thee we cry, Thou heav'n - ly
3. O Ho - ly Ghost, through thee a - lone Know we the
4. Praise we the Lord, Fa - ther and Son, And Ho - ly



hearts take up thy rest; Come with thy grace
gift of God most high, Thou fount of life,
Fa - ther and the Son; Be this our firm
Spir - it with them one; And may the Son



and heav'n - ly aid To fill the hearts which thou hast
and fire of love, And sweet a - noint - ing from a -
un - chang - ing creed, That thou dost from them both pro -
on us be - stow All gifts that from the Spir - it



made, To fill the hearts which thou hast made.
bove, And sweet a - noint - ing from a - bove.
ceed, That thou dost from them both pro - ceed.
flow, All gifts that from the Spir - it flow.

CALL TO WORSHIP

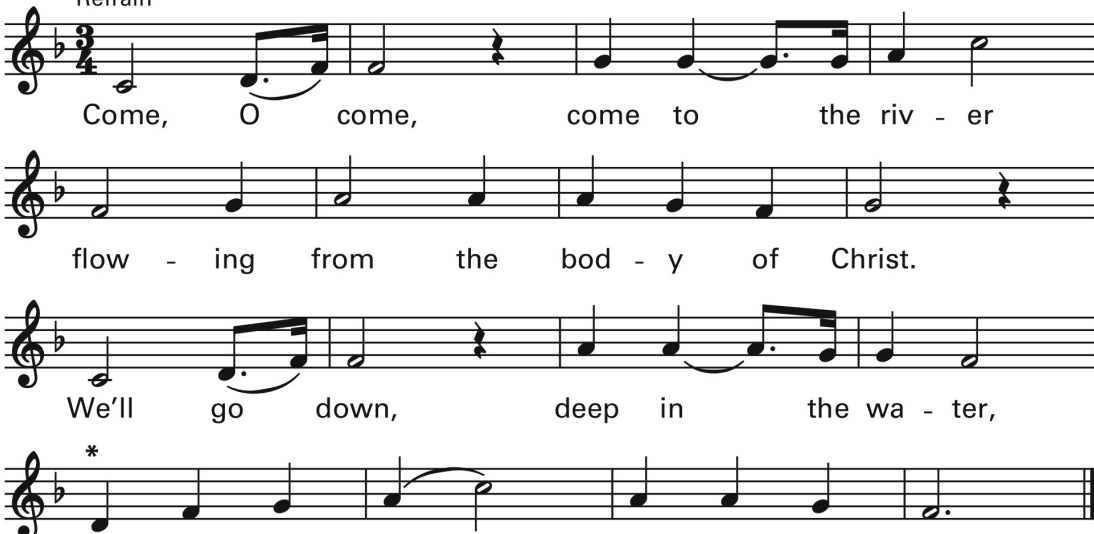
✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

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

SPRINKLING RITE | Come to the River

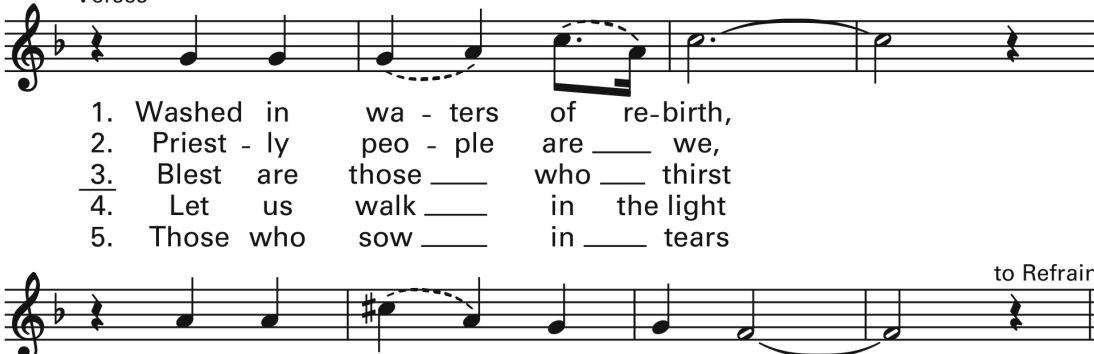
Bob Hurd

Refrain



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

Verses



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

to Refrain



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

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

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

2. Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of
 God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the
 sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you
 take a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer; you are



Verse 3

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

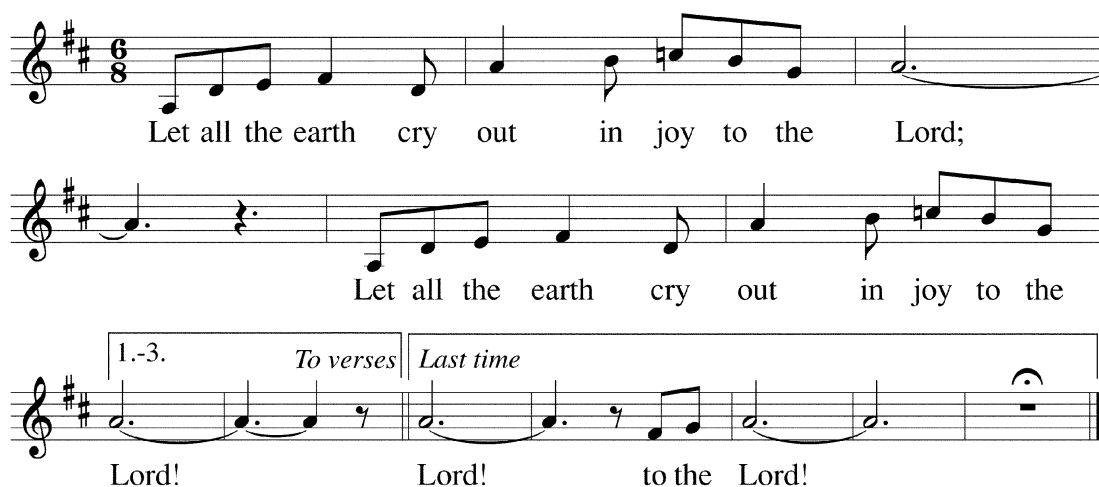
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 66: Let All the Earth

Marty Haugen



1. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name.
 O render glorious praise. Say to God, "How awesome your deeds!"
2. "Before you all the earth shall bow down, shall sing to you, sing to your name!"
 Come and see the works of God: awesome his deeds among the children of men.
3. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.
 Let our joy, then, be in him; he rules forever by his might.
4. Come and hear, all who fear God; I will tell what he did for my soul.
 Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer, nor withhold from me his merciful love.

Al - le - lu - ia,
Lent: Glo-ry to you,

al - le - lu - ia,
Word of God,

al - le - lu - ia.
Lord Je - sus Christ.

Al - le - lu - ia,
Glo-ry to you,

al - le - lu - ia,
Word of God,

al - le - lu - ia.
Lord Je - sus Christ.

GOSPEL | John 14: 15-21

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

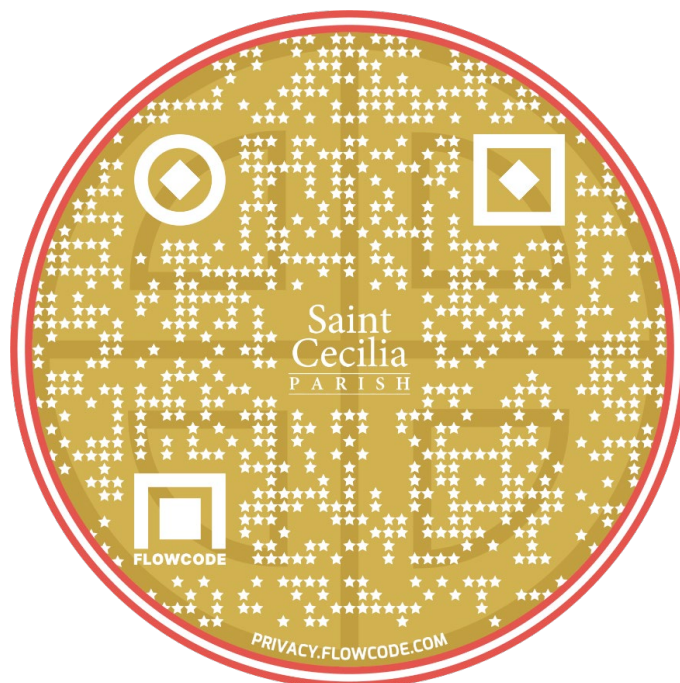
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | No Greater Love

Michael Joncas

Refrain

There is no great-er love, says the Lord, than to
lay down your life for a friend; there is no great-er love,
no great-er love, than to lay down your life for a friend.

Verse 1

1. As the Fa-ther has loved me, so I have loved you.
Live on in my love. You will live in my love if you
keep my com-mands, ev-en as I have kept my Fa-ther's.

Verse 2

2. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and
your joy may be com-plete. Love one an-oth-er as
I have loved you: This is my com-mand.

Verse 3

3. You are my friends if you keep my com-mands; no long-er slaves but

friends to me. All I heard from my Fa - ther,

I have made known to you: Now I call you friends. **D.C.**

Verse 4

4. It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you, chose

you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must en - dure, so

you will re - ceive all you ask the Fa - ther in my name. **D.C.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.



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

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

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

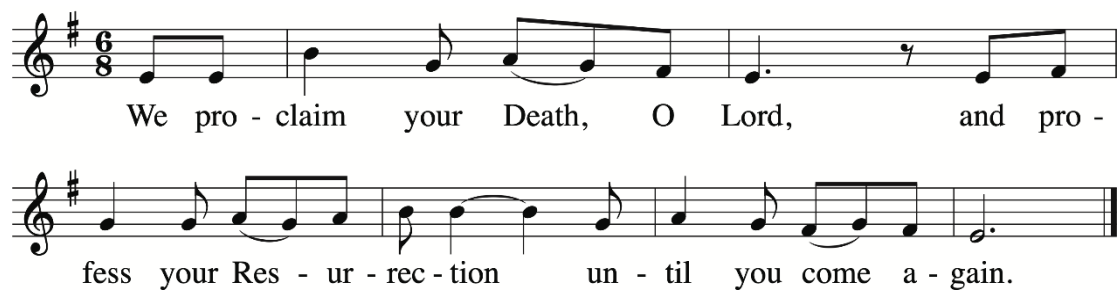
high - est, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -

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.



We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -

fess your Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.



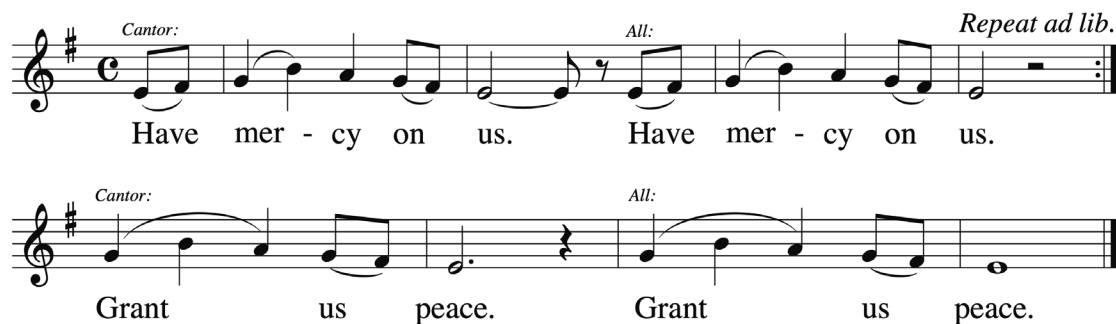
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



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 | Be Not Afraid

Bob Dufford

1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you
shall not die of thirst. You shall wan-der far in
safe-ty though you do not know the way. You shall
speak your words in for-eign lands and all will un-der -
stand. You shall see the face of God and live.

§ Refrain
Be not a-fraid. I go be-fore you al-ways.
Come, fol-low me, and I will give you rest.

Verse 2

2. If you pass through rag - ing wa - ters in the
 sea, you shall not drown. If you walk a - mid the burn - ing flames,
 you shall not be harmed. If you stand be - fore the
 pow'r of hell and death is at your side,
 know that I am with you through it all. **D.S.**

Verse 3

3. Bless - ed are your poor, for the king - dom shall be
 theirs. Blest are you that weep and mourn, for
 one day you shall laugh. And if wick - ed tongues in -
 sult and hate you all be - cause of me,
 bless - ed, bless - ed are you! **D.S.**

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.

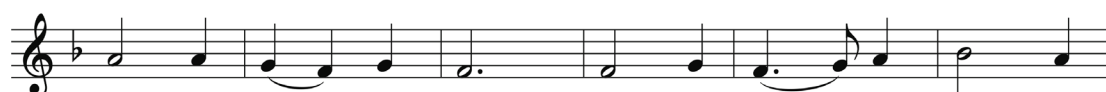
All: Amen.

RECESSIONAL | Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

HYFRYDOL



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, Here on
4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, You the



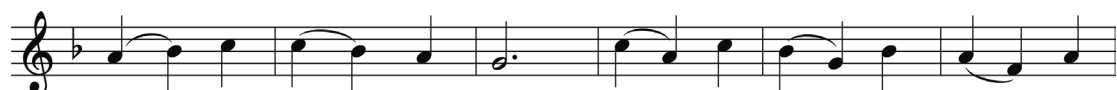
scep - ter, his the throne. Al - le - lu - ia! His the
left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
Lord of lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
sin - ful Flee to you from day to day.
Mar - y, Earth your foot - stool, heav'n your throne.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him When the
In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, Earth's re -
You with - in the veil have en - tered, Robed in



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of ev - 'ry
for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for - get his
deem - er, plead for me, Where the songs of all the
flesh, our great high priest; Here on earth both priest and



na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."
prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

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

Felix Mendelssohn

Music in this worship aid is printed with permission under Onelicense.net #A700-137.

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

HAPPY EASTER!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, May 9 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Christine Dominique-Pierre, lector

Sunday, May 10 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Dede Simon, lector

Sunday, May 10 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Rosaria Salerno, Mary Ann Hinsdale, IHM, Jen Kowieski,
lectors

Sunday, May 10 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Kelly McClintock, Zachary Boutin, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 9 | 5:00 p.m.

J. Arthur Corcoran, *Memorial*

Sunday, May 10 | 8:00 a.m.

John and Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

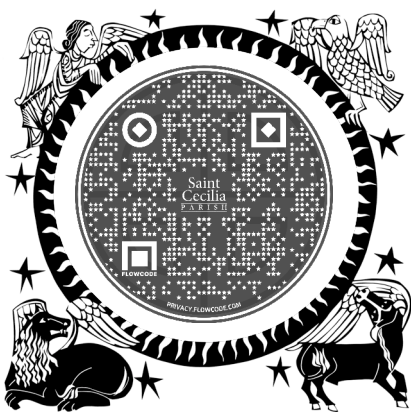
Sunday, May 10 | 9:30 a.m.

Estelle Unni, *6th Anniversary*
Margaret Cunnane, *Memorial*
Josephine Moitoso, *Memorial*
Ellie Kinnaly, *Memorial*
Isabelle Plante, *Memorial*

Sunday, May 10 | 11:30 a.m.

Wanda Rogowski, *Month's Mind*
Richard Howland, *11th Anniversary*

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Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!



TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Anne Geoghegan** and **Slater Anderson**, **Christopher Huynh**, **Emily Huynh**, **Evan Prochniak**, **Bonita Walsh**, **Haley Kampert**, **Henry** and **Cyrene Donnellan**, **Arturo Ochoa**, **Michael Stover**, **David Nagle**, and **Grace Healey**. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

First Holy Communion—Welcome to the Table!

This Saturday morning, we joyfully welcome 27 of our young parishioners to the Table of the Eucharist for the first time. We give thanks for these children, and for the families and catechists who have helped prepare them for this special moment. May God continue to bless them as they grow more deeply in the life of the Church and in their relationship with Jesus. Let us keep them in our prayer.

Mother's Day

What a beautiful day we have to honor our mothers, those who are with us, those who have gone before us, those who have given us life, and those who have shown us the nurturing and supportive love of a mother along the way. We remember in prayer those for whom this day is particularly sad—all mothers who live in desperate circumstances, especially those who are victims of warfare, poverty, and disease. We remember our mothers and we bring God's presence into these relationships on this Mother's Day.

Ascension Thursday

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is observed on Thursday, May 14. Ascension Thursday is a holy day of obligation and we will celebrate the liturgy at eight o'clock in the morning. The Mass will not be livestreamed.

Confirmation

Next Sunday afternoon, Bishop Cristiano Barbosa will be with us to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation. Pray for both our high school and adult confirmation candidates who are now in their final days of preparation before receiving the sacrament. May their hearts be open, their faith be strengthened, and their spirits be receptive as they complete their Christian initiation and receive the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

A Fond Farewell and Pancake Breakfast

With grateful hearts, we'll mark Deacon Christopher's final Sunday with us before his ordination to the priesthood with a parish pancake breakfast on Sunday, May 17, following the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies. This is also a good time to celebrate the beginning of the final week of the Easter season. So come hungry and help us offer our thanks and prayers for Deacon Christopher as he prepares for this next step in his ministry. Whether you come for the pancakes, the people, or the celebration, there's a place for you at the table.

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OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS



Adella



Anderson



Benjamin



Camille



Eleanor



Enda



Evan



Evie



Grant



Jack



Jackson



Josephine



Kelsey



Liam



Liam



Lillian



Maeve



Mira



Neha



Owen



Patrick



Rory



Sara



Skye



Sloane



Tallie



Tara



30 YEARS STRONG: 30TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

SUNDAY, MAY 10 | 9AM
TOWN FIELD PARK, DORCHESTER

JOIN SAINT CECILIA IN SUPPORTING THE LOUIS D. BROWN PEACE INSTITUTE

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a beloved Boston tradition celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. It is a powerful day to remember and honor loved ones, support survivors of homicide, and commit to building a more peaceful world. Funds raised provide critical services, advocacy, and healing for families impacted by murder, grief, and loss.

On Mother's Day, May 10, our Saint Cecilia team will walk the 3.1-mile route starting at Town Field Park in Dorchester, and we invite you and your friends and family to join us for this meaningful community event.

- **When:** Sunday, May 10. Walk kicks off at 9:00 a.m.
- **Where:** Town Field Park, Dorchester.
- **Our Goal:** We aim to raise \$10,000, and the parish will generously match up to \$3,000 in total donations.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

1. **Walk With Us:** Join the Saint Cecilia Walking Team. This is a wonderful activity for parishioners of all ages.
2. **Donate:** Support our goal by contributing through our Team Page.

To learn more, donate, or sign up, visit: www.tinyurl.com/stcecilia2026.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC? OCIA INFORMATION SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 | 6PM VIA ZOOM

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring becoming Catholic or is a baptized Catholic who would like to complete your Christian initiation by reception of the sacraments of reconciliation, confirmation, and Eucharist, perhaps this is the time to learn more about the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA, formerly known as RCIA).

OCIA is a communal process of discernment and support where participants share their stories, witness to their faith, and help one another grow in their love of God and the Church. OCIA includes study, faith sharing, and prayer, marked by liturgical rites and accompanied by the support of the parish community. If you are interested in learning more, please join us for an introductory Zoom meeting on Wednesday, May 20, at 6:00 p.m. For more information or to obtain the Zoom link, please email Mary Wessel at her parish email.

SPACE TO SHARE

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

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

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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

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

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

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

THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

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

HELP THE WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

AVAILABLE AFTER WEEKEND LITURGIES | NARTHEX

One of the major fundraisers for our friends at the day shelter is their Mother's Day card sale. The Women's Lunch Place on Newbury Street currently provides services to more than 250 women and their children each day.

Each \$35 card supports the nutritious meals program at the shelter, including breakfast, lunch, and take away meals six days a week. As is always the case, a guest at Women's Lunch Place created the artwork that adorns this card.



Because the cards are blank on the inside, they can be used for more than just Mother's Day – birthdays, graduations, or thank you notes.

Mother's Day cards will be sold in the narthex after weekend liturgies. For more information, please contact Mark Lippolt.

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA MAY 9 - 14

SATURDAY, MAY 9

First Communion

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 8:30am via Zoom
Small Group Connections | After the 9:30am Mass
Parish Hall

TUESDAY, MAY 12

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12pm | Comm. Room

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

OCIA Info Session | 6pm via Zoom
Space to Share | 6:30pm | Comm. Room
Small Group Connections | 8pm via Zoom

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 7:30pm via Zoom

MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, MAY 21 | 8PM VIA ZOOM

Looking for a way to connect with other married couples, build friendships, and join in fun, meaningful conversations and activities? Join other married couples from St. Cecilia Parish who are looking to join in fellowship and conversation! Come join for our initial meeting via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83716667956>) on Thursday, May 21st at 8:00 PM. Newly married to veteran couples, all are welcome!

RAINBOW MINISTRY MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 29 | SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Open to everyone (LGBTQ and straight allies alike!) Mark your calendars! Rainbow Ministry is organizing a pre-Pride Month movie night to take place on Friday, May 29. Details are being finalized but mark your calendar. To stay up to date, email the Rainbow Ministry.

SAINT DYMPHNA



May 30th is the Feast Day of Saint Dymphna, patron saint of those suffering from mental afflictions.

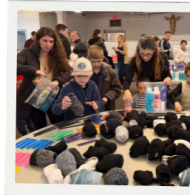
Saint Dymphna is well known as a patron of people living with mental illness. She was a 7th century Irish princess who fled from her father, who seems to have had mental illness, and she settled in Geel, Belgium, where she cared for people with mental illnesses.

Saint Cecilia's Mental Health Ministry is open to parishioners who are struggling with their mental health through the lens of Scripture and faith.

Feel free to stop by one of our support groups this month:

- The Healthcare Workforce Spiritual Support Group will meet on Sunday, May 17th.
- The Monthly Mental Health Support Group will meet on Sunday, May 31st.

To get on the distribution list, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.



CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEER PARTNERS

SAINT CECILIA PARISH



THANK YOU FOR MAKING AN IMPACT
AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES BOSTON THIS YEAR!

WELCOME TO THE TABLE!

Last Sunday, six young members of our community received the Eucharist for the first time! We hold them in prayer as they continue to grow in the love of Jesus.



MENTAL HEALTH DROP-IN GROUP

SUNDAY, MAY 31 | 1PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

The mental health ministry at Saint Cecilia exists to offer positive support and spiritual accompaniment for those who struggle with mental health issues in their lives or in the lives of loved ones. For more information, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

VOLUNTEER ESOL TEACHERS & ASSISTANTS NEEDED (SUMMER 2026)

BEGINNING JULY 6 | IN-PERSON + VIRTUAL

A Faith That Does Justice is seeking volunteer ESOL Teachers and Assistants for an 8-week session beginning July 6, 2026. Serve adult learners at all levels through virtual classes and in-person classes in Boston.

Classes meet two mornings or two evenings per week (two-hour classes). We provide curriculum, textbooks, training/orientation, and classroom support. Teaching experience is welcome but not required, and strong English fluency is especially helpful.



Apply by scanning the QR code or by visiting bit.ly/4rsCOWf.

Learn more at faith-justice.org/volunteer-opportunit/esol.

A REQUEST FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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

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

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

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

Thank you!

FAITH IN ACTION: IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS NEW ENGLAND

NOW INTERVIEWING FOR SEPTEMBER PLACEMENTS



Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) New England, a yearlong volunteer opportunity for women and men 50 years of age and better, is seeking service corps members for the upcoming (September to June) year. IVC service corps members give one

or two full days/week of service and commit to a monthly spiritual reflection program in the Jesuit tradition.

IVC works with nonprofits in the Boston/Worcester/Providence areas that address problems of homelessness, education, immigration and more.

Get info and application by contacting regional director Dave Hinchey at newengland@ivcusa.org, or check out the IVC New England website at www.ivcusa.org/newengland.

SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS

IN PERSON:
5/10, 5/24, 6/7, & 6/21
After the 9:30 Mass
Classroom 3

ONLINE:
5/13, 5/27, 6/10, & 6/24
8pm EST
via Zoom



Join the Parish Pastoral Council for prayerful conversation inspired by Sunday's Gospel in person and online. To sign up, please email the PPC at ppc@stceciliaboston.org. Walk-ins are always welcome!

I CAN'T GET NO

BY NADIA BOLZ-WEBER

"[Jesus said] If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

My friend Phil used to tell a story about how he was broke and needed to buy a car but he only had \$500 to spend. Then one day he found one – he found a \$500 car on Craig's list and on the phone the seller indicated that it was a blue Toyota - banged up but in working condition. . . and my friend Phil joked, oh, it's blue? I was really wanting a *red* one."

Lord, give me a **RED** \$500 car and I will be satisfied.

I've found myself spending a lot of time daydreaming about, well . . . everything. Walking the Camino again. Finally moving out of my apartment and into a house. "Getting into shape" (which is just code for somehow managing to not be 52 - like doing whatever has to be done to be 40 again), checking out airfare to "exciting" places, buying clothes on line that I just have to return because they are clothes that would have fit me when I was 40. There's nothing particularly wrong with any of these things (except the time travel body idea), it's just that it all keeps me from enjoying my **ACTUAL** life.

I mention this because I've been thinking about the connection between acceptance and satisfaction.

See, in John chapter 14 Jesus is trying desperately to tell his disciples in about 600 ways that the Father has sent him, that if they want to see the heart of the Father they need look no further than to him, that he and the Father are one. To which Philip replies "Lord, just show us the Father and we will be satisfied"

Will you though, Philip? Will you be satisfied?

Jesus was *literally* standing right in front of him, in that present moment, and he was too in his head to be satisfied by that. I love Philip for this.

It makes me wonder, in what ways do I assume my own satisfaction is somewhere else – in a future time, in a different situation, with different people – and how does this keep me from experiencing the gift of what happens to already be in front of me.

Meaning, if I cannot find satisfaction in anything I *already* have then why in the world do I think I could find satisfaction in anything I *don't* already have? Meaning,



Apostle Saint Philip by El Greco (c.1610-1614)

maybe satisfaction is only possible, not by getting exactly everything I imagine would bring me satisfaction, but by first accepting the parts of life I can't change. Accepting the parts of **myself** that I can't change. Accepting **the people** I can't change. (Which, if you are keeping score at home, the number of people I can't change = **ALL** the people)

Now, I have to state the obvious here – I'm not suggesting people should be satisfied in abusive relationships or accept toxic situations or continue in unhealthy lives or cease growing in life and work. Acceptance doesn't mean resignation. Acceptance is just an honest acknowledgment of actual reality.

Philip couldn't accept the idea that Jesus was all he spiritually

needed because he thought he already knew what God was supposed to look like and how God was supposed to act and what he got instead was Jesus of Nazareth.

But we're all in that same boat, in a way.

It's like Jesus is saying "what more can I tell you? What more can I do for you? What more can I show you? Everything you need has already been given to you."

And then I'm all like:

"But Lord, I don't want you, I want a *map* to you and I will be satisfied"

"But Lord, increase my income and I will be satisfied"

"But Lord show me the Father and I will be satisfied."

But will I? *Will* I be satisfied?

Back to my daydreaming habit: I think that avoidance of the present moment is what keeps me from satisfaction.

Because how in the world can I actually experience anything I have now as being *good* if I live in the resentment or, even worse, the nostalgia of the past or if I live in the escapist hope or fear of the future. Like the old guys in AA meetings say, when you have one foot in the past and one foot in the future, you're just pissing on the present.

We're just missing out on the sacrament of the present moment, **which is exactly where God is to be found.**

This is why the I AM statements in John's Gospel are so amazing. Jesus said, I AM the way the truth and the life. Not I *was* the way, or at some point I *will be* the way. No. There is an I am-ness to the Lord. Which means **now**.

I need the I Am-ness of God.

The right here-ness of God.

The right now-ness of God.

Because it's not like God is hiding somewhere in our preferred future- like God is waiting for all the ideal circumstances to line up for us – like she is hiding in the future when we meet our husband and then she will finally jump out of the bushes and make all our dreams come true, or when we finally have a baby, or the moment when everyone in our lives finally starts acting the way we think they should.

You may never marry, you may never have a child, and for sure people will never magically act the way you think they should.

But God is not to be found in eventualities.

God is to be found in actual reality.

THIS is the day that the Lord hath made.

THIS is the body that the Lord hath made.

THESE are the people that the Lord hath made.

Let us rejoice and be as glad as is realistically possible in all of it.

Because now, right now, is when God is saying *be still and know that I AM God*. Right now, as sirens wail, and coffee brews, and the dog still sleep, and my eyeliner from yesterday is smeared under my lids because I didn't wash my face last night. Right now.

Be still and know that I am God.

Take a deep breath.

There are no red \$500 cars to be found. Yet everything you need has already been given to you.



Originally published in Nadia Bolz-Weber's blog The Corners on January 18, 2022.

The Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran Pastor, founder of House for All Sinners & Saints in Denver, CO and the author of three NYT bestselling memoirs.



THE ADVOCATE

BY MICHAEL K. MARSH



Credit: Art UK

A Visit to the Lawyer by J. Marten (19th century)

Editor's Note: This sermon was written in May of 2020 during the height of the pandemic.

Many of you know that I practiced law before going to seminary. For fifteen years I advocated before judges and juries on behalf of my clients. I stood beside my clients interceding, presenting evidence, and arguing for rulings and verdicts in their favor.

I wonder if that's how we often understand the Advocate Jesus speaks of in today's gospel (John 14:15-21). That's how I saw it for a long time. Maybe that is now or has been your understanding too. This advocate would stand with us before God and try to persuade God to forgive, love, accept. This advocate would intercede on our behalf,

plead our case, and seek a favorable judgment.

But maybe we've misunderstood. Maybe we've gotten it backwards. What if the Advocate's role is not to change God's mind but to change our minds about ourselves and each other?

That we need an Advocate to change God's mind about us just doesn't fit a God "who so loved the world." It's contrary to Jesus saying that he came not to condemn the world but to save, heal, and transform it (John 3:17). "I came," he says, "that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:9).

And it sure doesn't seem to reflect the Jesus portrayed by the gospel writers: a Jesus who chose the poor, the broken, the

sinful; a Jesus who healed and transformed lives; a Jesus who excluded no one; a Jesus who assures us there is a room for us in his Father's house; a Jesus characterized by love, forgiveness, and welcome. And if that's who Jesus is then that's who the Father is too. "Whoever has seen me," Jesus says, "has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

So, what if the Advocate's role is the opposite of what we often think it is? What if the Advocate doesn't represent us before God, but represents God before us? After all, Jesus said, "The Advocate ... will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I said to you" (John 14:26).

"Do not let your hearts be troubled." "I am the bread of life." "I am the good shepherd." "I am the light of the world." "Do not be afraid." "My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you." "I am with you always, to the end of the age." "Love your neighbor as your self." "Love your enemy." "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged." "I desire mercy not sacrifice." Forgive "not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." "Take up your cross and follow me."

We all need an Advocate. We all need to be reminded, especially when the future is uncertain, life has been turned upside down, and we're afraid or overwhelmed. We need to be reminded when we're angry or frustrated. We need to be reminded when we are sad and grieving. We need to be reminded when we're busy, successful, and self-sufficient. We need to be reminded when we're lost and don't know the way. We need to be reminded when we feel like an orphan – alone and lonely, on our own, having to look out and fend for ourselves.

None of us get through life alone. We need God's advocacy and reminding. If you want to know where reminding and advocacy are needed, look for places of pain, diminished life, or disconnection. Look for those places in your own life and in the lives of others.

"I will not leave you as orphans," Jesus says. "I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate."

This Advocate does not, however, just remind us of what Jesus said, Google can do that. And the Advocate is not some formless, invisible, "eternal essence floating high above the earth" (Caputo, *On Religion*, 99). It is a life lived in and with the spirit of God. This Advocate insists we give existence to Jesus' words and life in our lives through our thoughts, words, and actions. The Advocate is felt as "the rumblings and restlessness of our heart" insisting, calling, luring, and soliciting our response "in the concrete conditions of life" (Ibid.) The Advocate shows up every time you and I embody God's life and spirit.

We are the ones being sent. We are the ones who make

God's life present and tangible. We are the ones who give flesh to Jesus' words. You and I are the Advocate filled with the spirit of God.

Have you ever thought of yourself as God's Advocate? Have you ever thought of yourself as the one who gives existence to God's insistence for your own life or the life of another? And what if each one of us started living like that? What might this advocacy look like in your life?

Advocacy always looks like love and affirms life. When your heart breaks for the pain of the world, when you reach out in compassion, when you weep over another's loss you are the Advocate in that moment. When you offer or seek forgiveness, when you refuse to judge, when mercy rather than condemnation is your way, you are God's Advocate. When another encourages and stands beside you, says exactly what you need to hear, or shows up at just the right time you are experiencing God's advocacy. When someone listens to your life, celebrates your joys, or cries over your losses, the Advocate is with you. When you love or are loved the Advocate is there. When another speaks a truth or offers guidance that helps you change your life she or he is advocating on your behalf. When you speak words of hope, hold another's needs and concerns as important as you own, or pray for another you are their Advocate. Advocates sit at the bedside of another. They care for the sick and dying. They console the bereaved.

And in the last couple of months advocacy looks like social distancing and wearing masks. It's heard every time someone asks, "Are you ok? Do you need anything?" Essential workers are advocates for life; and the meals, recognition, and words of gratitude we offer them are our advocacy of love.

Wherever there is love, there is the Advocate. Wherever there is life and more life, there is the Advocate. Life and love are the advocacy of God.

Look around. Look at the concrete conditions of your life, relationships, and world. Look for the places of pain, diminished life, or disconnection. What advocacy is being asked of you?



Originally published in Michael K. Marsh's blog Interrupting the Silence on May 17, 2020.

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

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

Hours | Seven days a week, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, Deacon

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities Operations & Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Schedule for Liturgy

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

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

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Father Jim Shaughnessy, SJ is available by appointment for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To schedule an appointment, please call the Parish Office.

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

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 Pastoral Director of Operations, Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, or Erin Young if you have any questions. The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

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

Please note:

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