

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Good Shepherd

Henry Ossawa Tanner, c. 1922

Fourth Sunday of Easter
11 May 2025

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

11 MAY 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | *O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde gross*, BWV 622

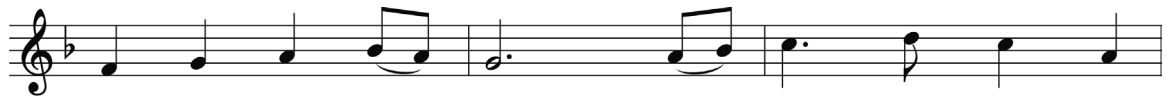
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | All Are Welcome

Marty Haugen



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
3. Let us build a house where love is found In
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
serve and teach, And live the Word they've
taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, Rock of
new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness And as
meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, Is re -
known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger Bear the
Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, Prayers of



faith and vault of grace; Here the
sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
vealed in time and space; As we
im - age of God's face; Let us
faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us:
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



All are wel-come, all are wel-come, all are wel-come



in this place.

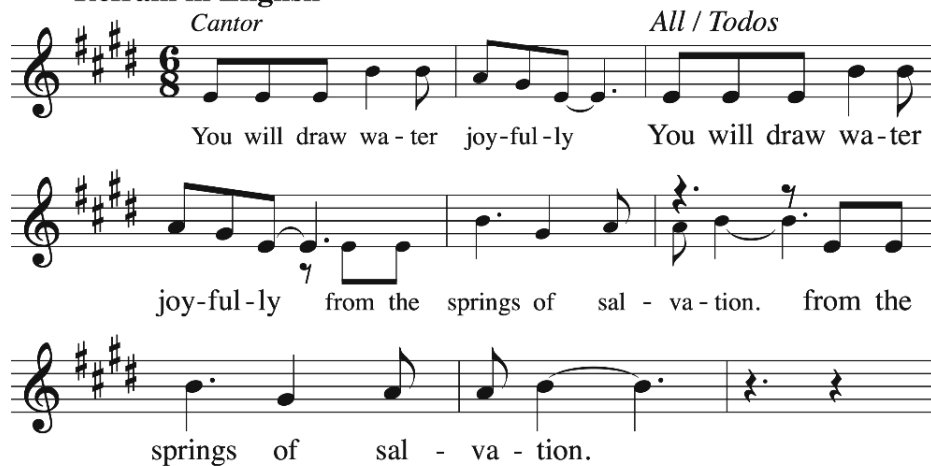
CALL TO WORSHIP

✠ 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.

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*



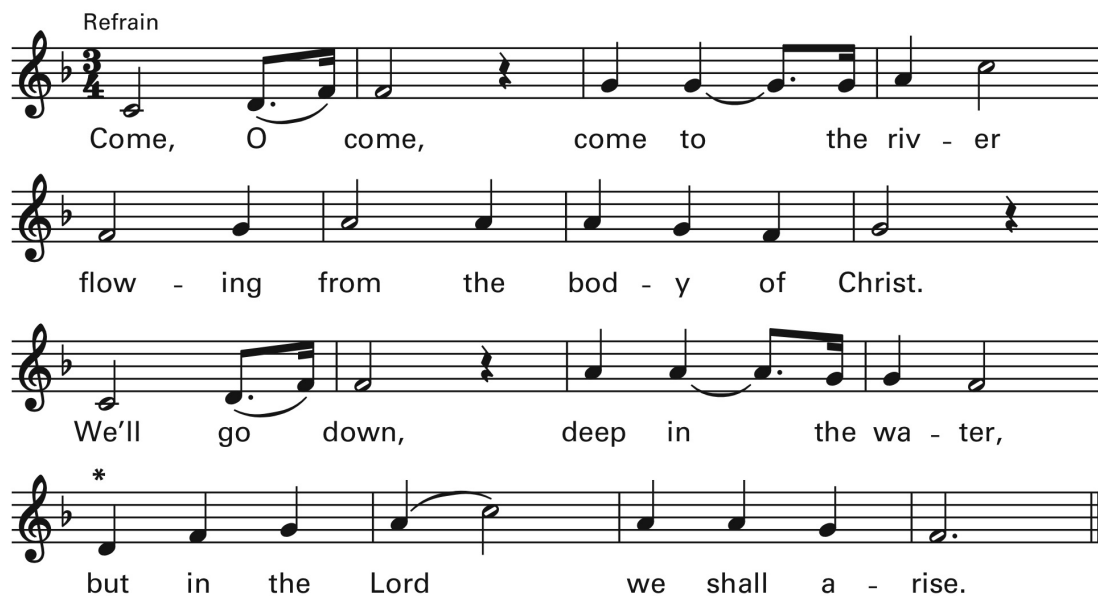
Sa - ca - rán a - guas con a - le - grí - a Sa - ca -
rán a - guas con a le grí - a de las fuen - tes de sal - va -
ción. de las fuen - tes de sal - va - ción.

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!

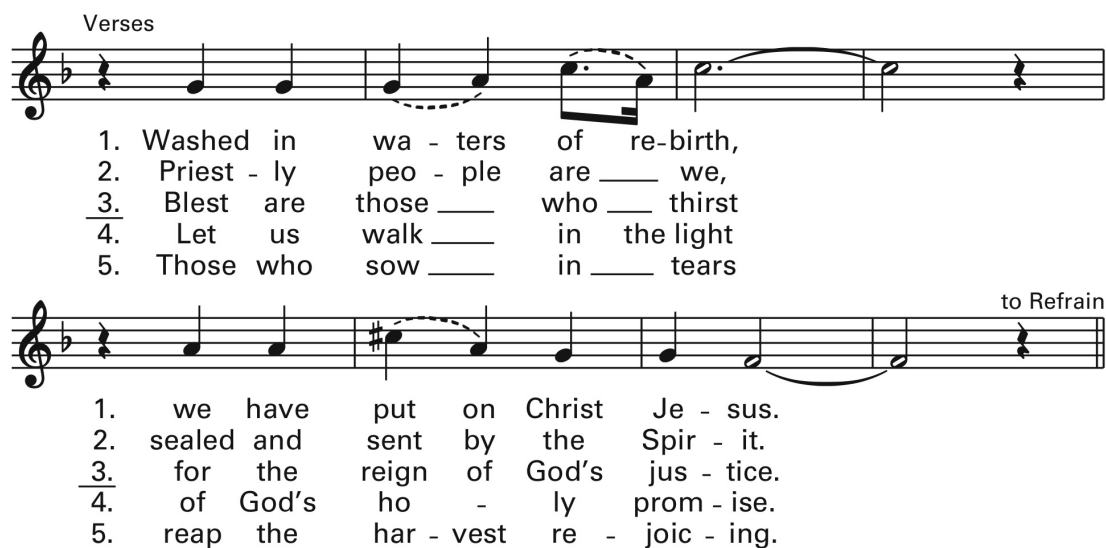
Sing the wonders God works, make them known in every land.
O people of Zion, shout: The Holy one is among you.

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.

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.

To verses *Last time*

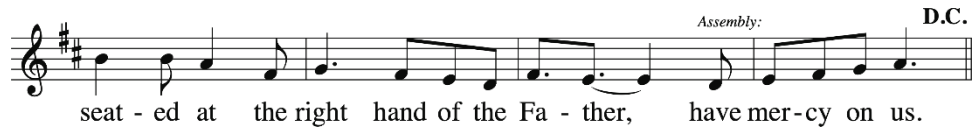
Verse 1

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

Cantor: *Cantor:* *Assembly:* *Cantor:*



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 13: 14, 43-52

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 100: We Are His People

Tony E. Alonso



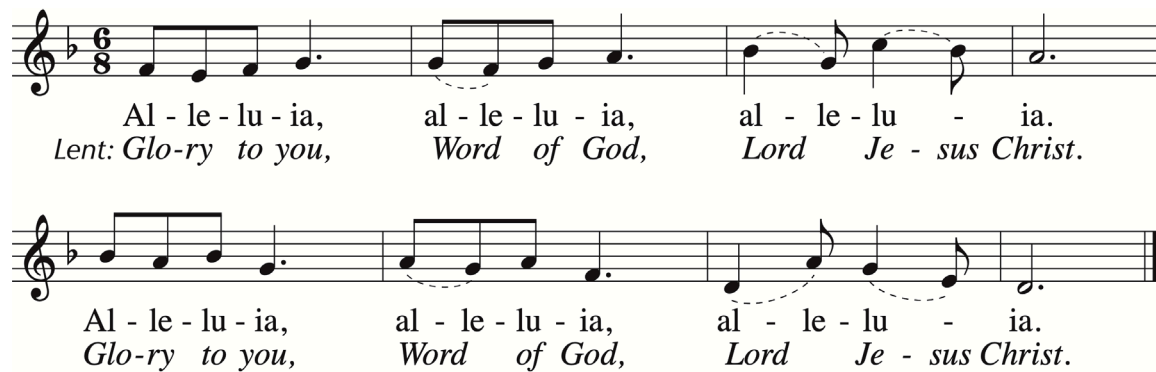
Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. *R.*

Know that he, the LORD, is God.
He made us; we belong to him.

We are his people, the sheep of his
flock. *R.*

Indeed, how good is the LORD,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. *R.*

SECOND READING | Revelation 7: 9, 14b-17



GOSPEL | John 10: 27-30

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

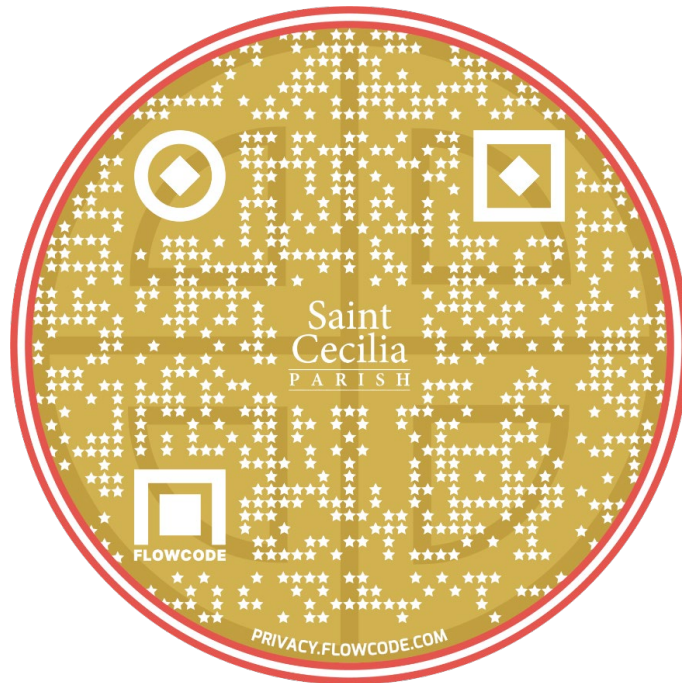
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLOMBA



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



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



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✕ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✕ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✕ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

SANCTUS | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

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

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

san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your

Cross and Res-ur-rec-tion you have set us free.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

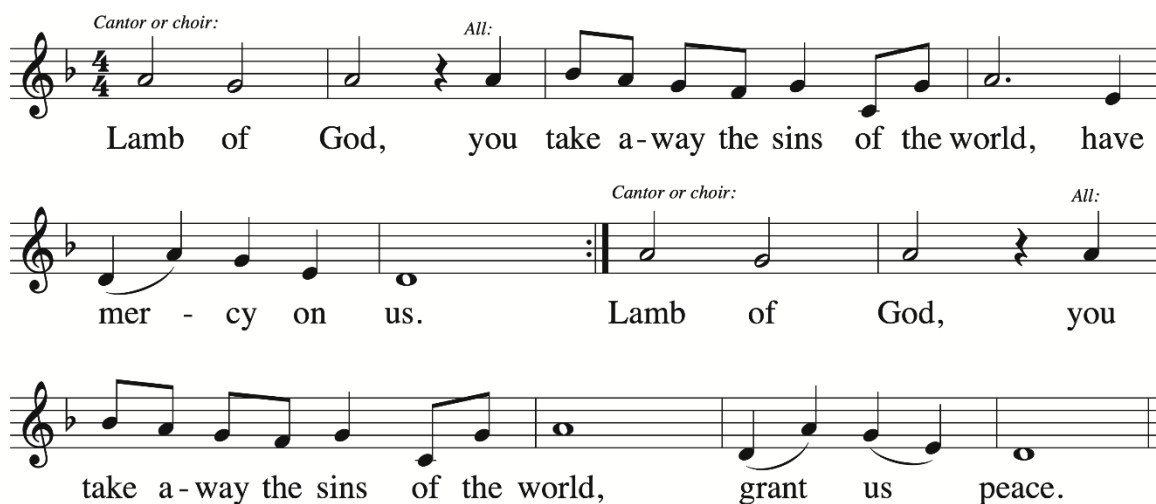
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,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

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

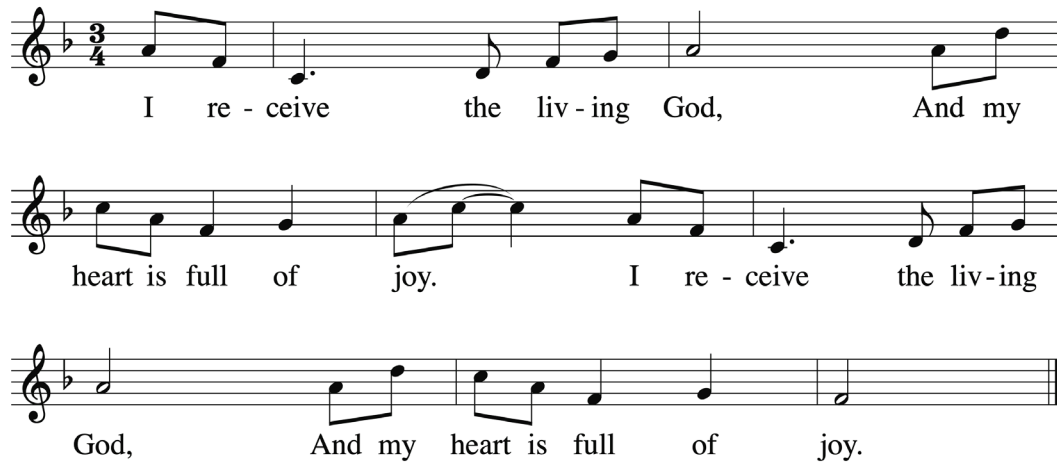
ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

and I desire to receive you into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace you as if you were already there
 and unite myself wholly to you.
 Never permit me to be separated from you.

COMMUNION | I Receive the Living God

LIVING GOD

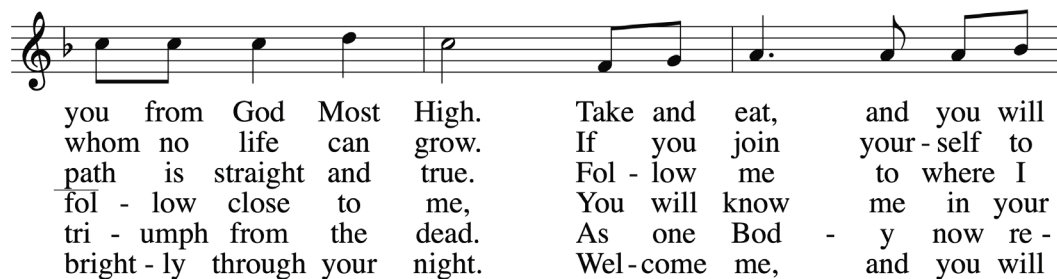


I re - ceive the liv - ing God, And my
 heart is full of joy. I re - ceive the liv - ing
 God, And my heart is full of joy.

Verses



1. Je - sus	says:	I	am	the	Bread	Sent to
2. Je - sus	says:	I	am	the	Vine,	Far from
3. Je - sus	says:	I	am	the	Way,	And my
4. Je - sus	says:	I	am	the	Truth.	If you
5. Je - sus	says:	I	am	the	Life,	Raised in
6. Je - sus	says:	I	am	the	Day,	Shin - ing



you from God Most High.	Take and eat, and you will
whom no life can grow.	If you join your - self to
path is straight and true.	Fol - low me to where I
fol - low close to me,	You will know me in your
tri - umph from the dead.	As one Bod - y now re -
bright - ly through your night.	Wel - come me, and you will



D.C.

live;	You need nev - er fear to die.
me,	A rich har - vest you will know.
lead;	There my Fa - ther waits for you.
heart,	And my word will make you free.
main,	Mem - bers joined to me, the Head.
walk	By the Spir - it's guid - ing light.

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 | All People That on Earth Do Dwell


OLD ONE HUNDREDTH



1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing
 2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With -
 3. O en - ter then his gates with praise; Ap -
 4. For why? The Lord our God is good: His
 5. To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The
 *Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise



to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; Him serve with mirth, his
 out our aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
 proach with joy his courts un - to; Praise, laud, and bless his
 mer - cy is for ev - er sure; His truth at all times
 God whom heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, you



praise forth tell; Come we be - fore him and re - joice.
 does us feed, And for his sheep he does us take.
 Name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, And shall from age to age en - dure.
 an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.
 heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

POSTLUDE | *Mit Fried' und Freud' ich fahr' dahin, BWV 125*
Brett Maguire, organ

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

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

HAPPY EASTER!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, May 10 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Emily Bogert, lector

Sunday, May 11 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Bobbi Moran, lector

Sunday, May 11 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Natasha Bolton-Pierre, Zachary Boutin,
Rosaria Salerno, lectors

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

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Julie DesAutels, Virgen Palermo,
Karen McMenamy, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 11 | 8:00 a.m.

John and Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

Sunday, May 11 | 9:30 a.m.

Cecelia Dodson, *Memorial*
Doris Hearty, *Memorial*
Carol Ascrizzi, *Memorial*
Richard Larve, *Memorial*
Sr. Marie McDonald, SNDdeN, *Memorial*
Carol Callaghan, *Memorial*

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

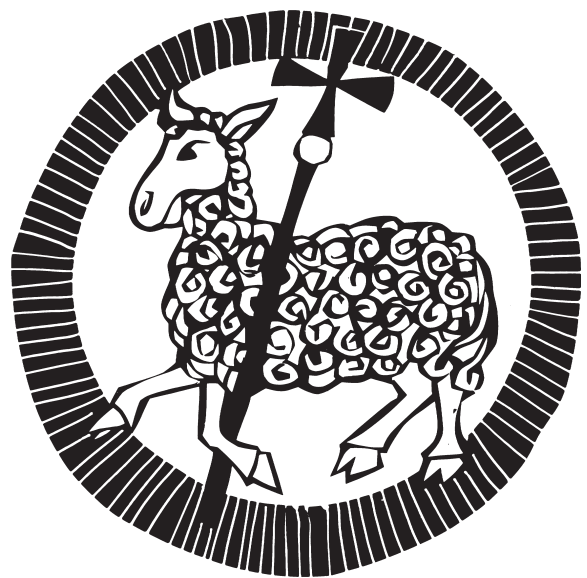
Richard Howland, *10th Anniversary*
Margaret Cunnane, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 13:14, 43-52
Revelation 7:9, 14b-17
John 10:27-30



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Pray for the eternal repose of **Danny Ryan** who died on May 3, as well as for the consolation of his family and friends. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at Saint Cecilia next Thursday, May 15 at 11:00 a.m. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, Fred Tufts, Baby Eloise Josephine Mason, Kevin J. Owens, So Kwai Sim, Andrea Surette, and Maureen McLaughlin.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Nan Butterfield** of Plymouth, **Linda and Stephen O'Leary** of Natick, **Christina and Nicholas Mirlocca** of North Reading, **Priya Philip** of Somerville, **Mariam Fneiche** of Brookline, and **Vivica Dsouza and Jim and Casey Bloomer** of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

First Communion Class

We look forward to welcoming our twenty-two first communicants to the table of the Lord on Saturday. We pray in a special way that this new level of relationship with Jesus brings them joy, wisdom, and new insights to their growing faith. Thank you to all who have supported them along the way!

Papal Conclave

As the bulletin went to press, the 133 cardinal electors have begun the conclave that will elect our next pope. We pray that the cardinals will be receptive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they choose the best new bishop of the Diocese of Rome and pastor of the universal Church. May the next pope embody the teachings of Jesus with the kind of love, compassion, and mercy that Francis possessed.

Good Shepherd Sunday

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

Happy 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.

Parish Pastoral Council—Last Call!

Please see page 8 for information about running for a seat on the Parish Pastoral Council. If you would like to throw your hat in the ring, your brief statement and headshot should be sent to Scott MacDonald by noon (EDT) on Monday, May 12. Please note that statements should be no longer than 150 words and should include responses to the four questions you'll find on page 8.

A Reminder to Parents

While at Saint Cecilia, children should never go to the restrooms alone. We are happy that you feel so safe here, but please remember that we are in an urban building that is quite open and has multiple entrances. For the safety of our children, please do not allow them to wander around unsupervised and please do not ever allow them to go to the restroom unaccompanied by a parent.

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Welcome, First Communicants!

Some say First Eucharist, but these children have been with us at Eucharist faithfully for a long time. Today they celebrate a new level of relationship with the Body of Christ. We are delighted to welcome the following children to the table of Jesus, our gentle and good shepherd. May they always live in peace in the pastures where the Lord dwells.

Jacob Isaiah Yap Karamitis
Bailey Aisling Barraford
Gomez Sean Li
Owen René Inglis
Bridgeman-Alfonso Ambrossi Muncey
Aidan Quinn Garvey
David Vincent McGrath Young
Nahla Sophie Bedlion
Kevin Bartholomew Jones
Grace McAllister
Nicholas Joshua Campbell IV
Madeline Preston Hammond
Corinne Bartolomea Jacobs
Ariela Maria Diaz-Bazan
Cecilia Mary Callahan
Grayson Robert Vicino
Meghan Kathryn McDonagh
Clara Jane Holda
Maxwell Jeffrey Niederst
Gabriel Nicholas Arbour-Kasper
Emilia Linda Walczak Carapezza
Sofia Natalie Wayman

Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
Carly-Anne Gannon



PRAY & PLAY

SATURDAY, MAY 10 | 3PM | SOUTHIE/DORCHESTER

Pray and Play is a gathering for children who enjoy a good playground and their parents who want to upgrade their playground chitchat. We'll have playground time, snacks, and prayerful discussion for parents. Don't forget to sign up at the link below so that we know you're coming, have enough snacks, and can share any last-minute details (like rain cancellations). We hope you can make it! To sign up, scan the QR code above or visit: linktr.ee/scyfboston



SACRED CONVERSATIONS: SPEAKING WITH THE HEART OF CHRIST

SATURDAY, MAY 17 | 9AM - 12PM | PARISH HALL

In a world marked by division and anger, everyday encounters and conversations can be difficult. How can we foster healthy dialogue as children of God? Led by Elli St. George, executive coach, trainer, and conversation expert, participants will explore how to communicate with compassion, humility, and truth—modeling the way Christ spoke with others. We will reflect on the grace-filled power of our words through authentic, attentive conversations to foster healing, understanding, and deeper relationships. For more information or to register, please contact Mary Wessel at parish email.

MONTHLY BEREAVEMENT GROUP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH | 6:00 PM | ONLINE

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH | 2:00 PM | FAMILY FLEX CENTER

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."
 — Matthew 5:4

Grieving the loss of a loved one can be overwhelming, but you are not alone. Join us for our Monthly Catholic Bereavement Support Group, where we gather in faith, compassion, and community to find healing and hope. The CARES Ministry invites all who are interested to a workshop centered on the Art of Sacred Conversation. In a world marked by division and distraction, healthy and meaningful dialogue can be found in small moments of grace. For more information or to receive the Zoom link, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS

Looking to deepen your faith and connect with fellow parishioners? This May, the Parish Pastoral Council is launching Small Group Connections—a space for prayer, reflection, and meaningful conversations inspired by Sunday's message. Groups will meet once every two weeks, and we'd love for you to be part of this new parish initiative.

Sundays | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Parish Hall (in person)
May 18, June 1, June 15

Wednesdays | 8–9 p.m. ET | Virtual (Zoom)
May 21, June 4, June 18

Join us as we accompany one another and grow together in faith! Participation and interest will determine summer dates. To sign up, email the PPC at our parish email – we can't wait to welcome you!

LET LIFE GROW: SCYA DONATION DRIVE & FELLOWSHIP EVENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

You can also support St. Mary's via their Amazon Wish List: www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3Q43UXD47BKCP/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

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

A FINAL ACT OF MERCY



National Catholic Reporter reports that at the end of his life, Pope Francis made one final act of mercy: He emptied his personal bank account to donate €200,000 (around \$227,251 USD) to fund a pasta factory—*Pastificio Futuro*, or "Future Pasta Factory"—that operates at a juvenile prison in Rome. It was a final act of love toward those he had called his "brothers and sisters behind bars," a gesture that Bishop Benoni Ambärus, auxiliary Bishop of Rome and director of the Office for Prison Pastoral Care, said "captures the very essence of Francis' pontificate."

HELP OUR FRIENDS AT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE



Mother's Day cards will be sold this weekend in the Saint Cecilia narthex. The Women's Lunch Place on Newbury Street currently provides services to more than 250 women and their children each day. Each \$25 card provides a week of lunch for a guest

at the agency's shelter and advocacy center.

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

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

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!

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

MAY 8 - 17

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Simeon and Anna Seniors | 10am | Parish Hall

SCYA Book Group | 6:30pm | Family Flex

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

SATURDAY, MAY 10

First Communion

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom

Last Day of Children's Faith Formation

MONDAY, MAY 12

SCYA Women's Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

TUESDAY, MAY 13

SCYA Craft and Prayer Event | 5:30pm | Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Monthly Bereavement Group | 6pm via Zoom

THURSDAY, MAY 15

Communion Circle | 4pm | Hale House

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Sacred Conversations | 9am - 12pm | Parish Hall

ANNUAL PRIDE MASS

JUNE 13 | 6:30 P.M. | SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

The Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry is pleased that our parish will once again be hosting the annual Pride Mass for The Greater Boston LGBTQIA Catholic Collective. The liturgy will take place on Friday, June 13th at 6:30 p.m. All Are Welcome!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This year, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) election will be held on the weekend of **May 31/June 1**. There are three seats to be filled, each for a 3-year term. This is an exciting time for our parish and serving on the Parish Pastoral Council is a significant way of contributing to our vibrancy and growth. Please take the time to vote, and if you feel inspired, consider running for one of the open seats.

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

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

What is the level of commitment and responsibility?

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

How can I become a candidate?

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

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

This statement can be sent to Scott MacDonald at his parish email address and will be included in the bulletins for May 18, May 25, June 1.

A headshot is also required.

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

Schedule

May 12 | Statements and headshots due to Scott MacDonald by noon (ET)

May 18, May 25, & June 1 | Biographies, platform statements, and headshots published in the parish bulletin

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

May 31/June 1 | Election

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

A MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE

BY DAVID MANZO

She was a newlywed. The small wedding with family and close friends had taken place weeks ago. Such joy, life brimming with anticipation of wonders to come. But early on it was clear something was wrong.

As she walked, she shuffled, sometimes stumbling.

Her doctor in Waterbury CT was unsure and suggested she see a doctor at the notable Lahey Clinic, then located in Kenmore Square, Boston. While this should have been the happiest time in her life, instead, she sat and heard the devastating diagnosis: Multiple Sclerosis (MS), the unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Treatment options in 1952 were limited.

During the first year of her marriage, the disease, with all its uncertainty, progressed slowly. In her heart she longed to have a child. But could she? Would she be able to fully care for the baby? What if the toddler wandered away? There was no way she could run after him to keep him safe.

She prayed. Then quite by accident she came across a book.

This is the story of my mother. But in some ways it is the story of so many moms facing difficult decisions as they choose to navigate a path forward when life doesn't go exactly as they had hoped.

Mom prayed to the God in whom she placed her hope. Then almost by accident – some might call it providence – she came across a book that would change her life and give me life.

More than 70 years later, *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Norman Vincent Peale sits on my bookshelf and reminds me that faith is why I am here today.

Mom came to understand that she could have a child only if she accepted that she could not do it alone. She'd need my dad, my sister, her family and many friends to raise me. It would take a village of loving people. She would have to depend on others.

Like so many, as Mother's Day approaches, I reflect on how my life was shaped by the love of the first woman in my life.

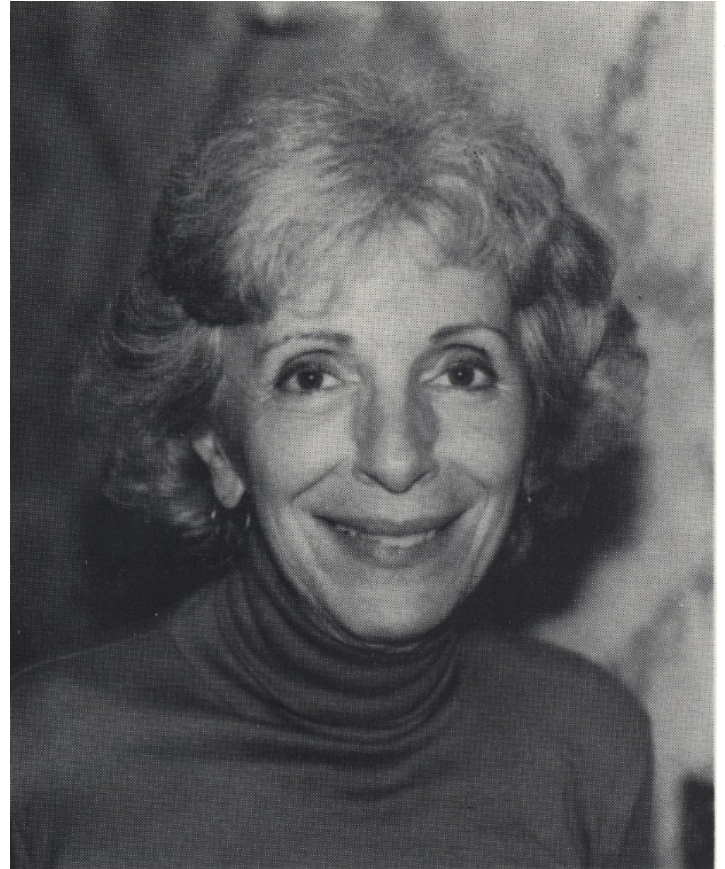


Image: David Manzo

David Manzo's mother, Elaine Manzo.

Mom taught me about humility, grace, and the power of community. And sheer determination.

MS robbed mom of the full use of her legs as well as her left hand. She could not drive and her days were spent in our home.

A baby grand piano divided the area between our living room and dining room. Each day mom shuffled by it. Each week, she, once an accomplished pianist, now could only dust the piano's keys. Her old sheet music, her favorite piece, Clair de Lune, was still stored in the piano bench. The piano, instead of being an instrument of joy, became a daily reminder of what was missing from her life. Although she had every right to be bitter, I never heard her so much as sigh, as she passed by her piano.

In public, she used my arm for balance. Sometimes she stumbled and fell. Sometimes people stared in pity, sometimes they offered to help. But always my mom graciously moved on.

I did not see her disability. I saw only my beautiful, talented mom.

Yet the image of my mother, seemingly deterred by her disability, is incomplete.

Mom learned to live her life as though she did not have a disability. She could not get to the world, so through her cooking and warm hospitality, she brought the world to her.

She was of proud Greek ancestry but taught herself to cook high French cuisine. She made both old world specialties and American comfort food. The aroma of rich sauces and sizzling roasts permeated our home. The kitchen counter never lacked for homemade pies or handmade Greek pastries to greet the unexpected guest.

And there were always plenty of leftovers when my high school and college friends came by for late night raids on our refrigerator. They came to depend on them!

Everyday my mother maximized her many talents to the delight of others. She formed community by her cooking as she graciously fed our neighbors and friends. She filled our home with love.

MS closed off many opportunities for my mom to participate outside the home, but she never let that diminish her. She nourished stomachs and hearts and was thankful that she could still give to others and eager to give more.

I spent most of my career leading two non-profits, COMPASS in Dorchester and the Cotting School in Lexington. Both served children and families with complex challenges. I made sure a photo of my mother was in my office to remind me to be faithful to her lessons.

This is the 35th Mother's Day without my mom, but she still teaches me: love takes risks, depend on each other, no one goes it alone, take life's bumps with humility and always see a person's strengths, not their weakness or disability.

For her memorial card we chose to use a lyric from Les Miserables that epitomized her life: "To love another person is to see the face of God." That is the challenge and hope that lives on in me and in all of us. Happy Mother's Day.



David Manzo is a Saint Cecilia parishioner and a professor at Boston College's Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences. He was previously the president of the Cotting School (2004-2021) and of COMPASS in Boston (1984-2004).

SAINT DYMPHNA



May 15th 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 a mental illness, and she settled in Geel, Belgium, where she cared for people with mental illnesses.

Saint Cecilia's Mental Health Ministry is a monthly drop-in open to parishioners who are struggling with their mental health during challenging times. This is NOT a therapy group, but a place to come together once a month to talk about mental health through the lens of Scripture and faith. To get on the distribution list, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

FEELING NERVOUS BEFORE THE CONCLAVE —AND PRAYING THROUGH IT

BY CARDINAL JOHN DEW



Image: Catholic Herald

Cardinal John Dew

The day I was leaving New Zealand to journey to Rome for the funeral of Pope Francis and the conclave that was to follow, I first went to our cathedral, where it had been arranged for me to meet some reporters.

In one of the interviews, I was asked if I was nervous about participating in a conclave. My immediate response was, yes. I was nervous, I did not know what to expect, and this was a first for me. However, I also said that we needed to remember that the whole experience of a conclave was set in prayer. There would be a Mass for the election of a pope, then the litany of the saints would be sung as we processed into the Sistine Chapel, which meant we would be asking the saints, including past popes, to be praying for us in the task that faced us.

By the time I reached Auckland Airport about two hours

later, I received a number of text messages from people saying that they had seen some of the interviews and that they would be keeping me and all the other cardinals in prayer. One person said that she was going to pray the litany of the saints for us every day, up to and through the conclave. I decided to do that myself every night. In a short video, I then appealed to people back home in New Zealand, asking them to join in praying the litany of the saints for us. This appeal was met with a very generous response from Catholics in New Zealand, for which I am very grateful.

From the moment of that interview, I have constantly reminded myself that the conclave is a time of prayer and is set in the context of prayer.

On my first full day in Rome, I attended my first general congregation meeting of the College of Cardinals. Of course,

the meetings began and ended with a prayer. To my mind, though, it seemed very perfunctory; it was much like a parish council meeting of the past when a quick prayer is said before quickly turning to business.

Despite the way those prayers were recited and rattled off, time and time again, cardinals spoke of the need for prayer. They spoke in particular of praying for the guidance and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit that we might choose the right person to lead the church today.

There was also a sense of deep gratitude. Over and over again, people spoke of Pope Francis and the way he had lived the Petrine ministry. They spoke of the personality of Francis, his humanity, his care and concern for others; of the way he met, greeted, smiled at and welcomed people. I was filled with gratitude, too. The blessings Pope Francis brought to the church are numerous and were spoken of with real gratitude. Every time I think of such blessings or any of the blessings God pours into our lives, I think of how I have always tried to see that everything is a gift from God, including the conclave.

As I look toward the conclave, I am anticipating the procession into the Sistine Chapel and praying to the saints. I find it an amazing thought and blessing that we can ask all those men and women from the past, people we have known, members of our families, popes, well-known saints and many others who are now with God, to pray for us and this daunting but privileged task that is ahead of us.

As the conclave draws near, I am becoming more nervous and apprehensive about what is ahead of us. All I am asked to do is to trust in God. To be part of a group discerning who the right person is to lead the church in the world today is something I never thought I would be part of. But I also know that I have the prayers of many, many people behind me. In 30 years of ministry as a bishop, I have been led many times to repeat over and over again the words of Jesus, "Do not let your heart be troubled, trust in God still and trust in me" (Jn 14:1).

Over the years when people have asked me for my definition of prayer, I also use words from John's Gospel, the simple words spoken, I believe, as an invitation: "Remain in my love" (Jn 15:9). Now, I see those words not just as an invitation from Jesus to remain in his love at prayer time but to remain in his love every moment of the day whatever I am doing. My hope is that in these days of conclave, I will not just be caught up in practicalities but stay aware that in this memorable and momentous time, we all remain in God's love.

On the Saturday before the conclave began, I was praying with the Jesuit app "Pray As You Go," as I often do. It was

the usual Saturday examen on the app. I was becoming more and more unsettled because of the task ahead of me. However, this examen enabled me to pause, reflect and face the day with new energy. On this particular examen, we were reminded that from time to time, Jesus needed to withdraw to quiet places to be alone with his Father. It invited us to imagine ourselves doing just that with Jesus beside us and suggested that we find a space to sit together and simply enjoy being present with Jesus. It then said to picture him as he leans toward us and asks, "How has your week been?" There was plenty I could share with him. Then he asked the questions, "When did you sense me close to you?" and "When did you feel most alone?"

After speaking with Jesus about these things, it was suggested that we tell him a little bit about the week ahead and to say if there was something that concerned us. It was natural for me on this particular day to talk about what was ahead next week. As the prayer time came to an end, the suggestion was to stand up and in our minds to walk a while together.

All of this was very helpful for the week ahead.

Of course, the conclave should be a prayerful experience. Think of the incredible setting of the Sistine Chapel. Think of former conclaves, the people who have prayed in that sacred place, the litany of the saints sung there. Then there is the awesome surroundings of Michelangelo's famous ceiling and his painting of "The Last Judgement." It is natural that any of us would be apprehensive, and perhaps even scared, because of the enormous task before us. This, though, is the work of God; the Holy Spirit will guide and direct us.

I sometimes suggest to people who are searching for God to go to or to think of a favorite and beautiful scene, a place of majesty and grandeur. I suggest they just sit for a while and think of God's presence in this particular place, and then acknowledge to themselves, "God was here in this place first."

If I'm going to be overawed by the task ahead of us, I know that I simply have to look around, at my brother cardinals, at "The Last Judgement," and acknowledge, "God was here in this place first."



Originally published in America Magazine on May 6, 2025.

Cardinal John Dew is the former archbishop of Wellington, New Zealand.



Dear Father John and the Saint Cecilia community,

As we celebrate the Easter season, I am truly humbled and honored by the ways that the Saint Cecilia community supports Catholic Charities Boston throughout the year. On behalf of the entire Catholic Charities team and our clients, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for all you do. The need for our services continues to grow across many communities throughout Greater Boston and your support ensures we can help our most vulnerable neighbors when they need it the most—thank you. It feels impossible to capture all the countless efforts of those affiliated with Saint Cecilia's, but I wanted to thank you, in particular, for your incredible generosity.

Hunger & Homelessness Ministry – The Yawkey Center Food Pantry relies on the incredible support from this group, which includes several Whole Foods and Trader Joe's pickups and deliveries on both Saturdays and Sundays. Many thanks to Mark Lippolt for leading this initiative and the Saint Cecilia parishioners who have helped pack bags at Yawkey, including the three family packing events throughout last summer.

The Knitting Ministry has been hard at work, and we are grateful for the scarves and other knitted items including the trauma teddies that were delivered to Catholic Charities Inn and welcomed with open arms!

Grocery Store Gift Cards – Parishioners have generously donated grocery store gift cards that our Refugee and Immigrant Services team have been able to give to families who have arrived in Boston and are looking to rebuild their lives.

Holiday Giving Tree - Many thanks to the parishioners who provided the following:

- 68 gift cards for Refugee and Immigrant Services, ensuring clients have essential needs met as they settle in their new homes.
- Socks, pajamas, bathing suits, and more for the children who attend Sunset Point Camp.
- Much-needed items for the Yawkey Childcare Center (clothing, toys, books) and for the Lynn Pantry (such as winter accessories, books, games/toys).

Seasonal Donation Drives

- Socks Sunset Point Campers this past summer beat the heat thanks to sunscreen and flip-flops donated from Saint Cecilia's. And when they headed back to school, your donation drive helped fill backpacks with essential supplies.
- Staring in February, guests at Catholic Charities Inn received much-needed supplies for young families including toys, clothing, and other childcare necessities.

Special Initiatives

- Through parishioner Steven Forss, we received 600 new winter coats from the Ocean State Job Lot Foundation, as well as 100 bicycles that were distributed through our Peabody Family and Youth Services program, plus 12 pallets of toys that were distributed to children through our Brockton Center and Catholic Charities Inn.
- Ash Wednesday - And finally, thank you to Father Unni and all the parishioners for supporting our Ash Wednesday Collection campaign during all masses. This is an important fundraising initiative for Catholic Charities which helps to continue our faith mission of social justice.

It is difficult to put into words the depth of our gratitude. So many St. Cecilia's parishioners donate and volunteer their time, and Catholic Charities Boston feels truly privileged and blessed to be one of your nonprofit partners. We wish all the goodness this parish sends out into Greater Boston and beyond comes back to each and every one of you.

With gratitude,

Kelley Tuthill, Ed.D.
President & CEO

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BOSTON & SAINT CECILIA AT WORK



Top left and bottom right: Hunger & Homelessness Ministry at The Yawkey Center Food Pantry
Top left: Knitting & Crochet Ministry making baby blankets for SCYA's April Showers Bring May Flowers event.
Bottom left: Knitting & Crochet Ministry making teddies for Catholic Charities & Families in Transition at the Huntington Y.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

Carly-Anne Gannon, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Schedule for Liturgy

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

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

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$15, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$15 after 4:00 every day of the week. To get this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Carly-Anne Gannon.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche (maria.roche15@gmail.com), Letitia Howland (L_howland@hotmail.com), Erin Young (erin.t.young@gmail.com), or Kathy Sanders (sanderno2010@gmail.com) if you have any questions. The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and around the world. We invite individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.

Please note:

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