

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



## The Seventh Sunday of Easter

12 May 2024

Altarpiece of Saints Thomas and Matthias by Bernard van Orley

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

12 MAY 2024

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | Prelude

Brett Maguire, *organist*

César Franck

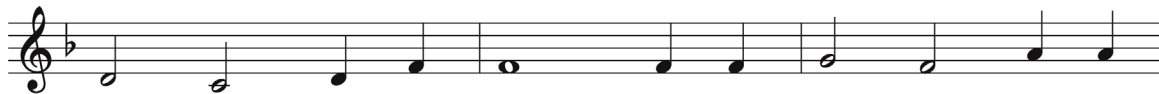
(1822-1890)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | As a Fire is Meant for Burning

BEACH SPRING



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a  
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are  
3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a



bright and warm - ing flame, So the Church is meant for  
pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are  
sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of



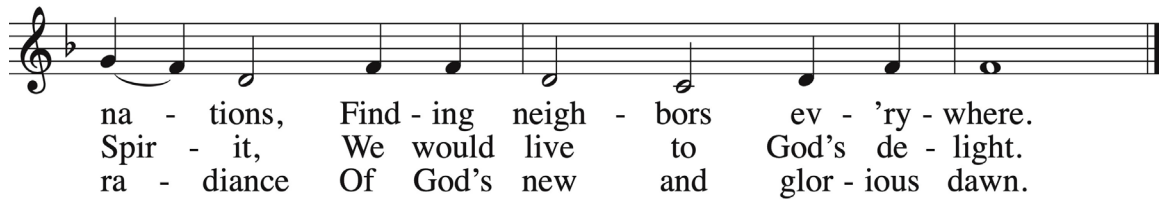
mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name.  
giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay.  
one - ness Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hues.



As we wit - ness to the gos - pel, We would  
By our gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would  
As a rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a



build a bridge of care, Join - ing hands a - cross the  
show that Christ is light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning  
storm is past and gone, May our lives re - flect the



## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

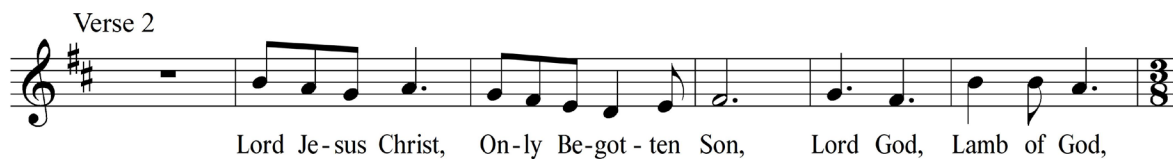
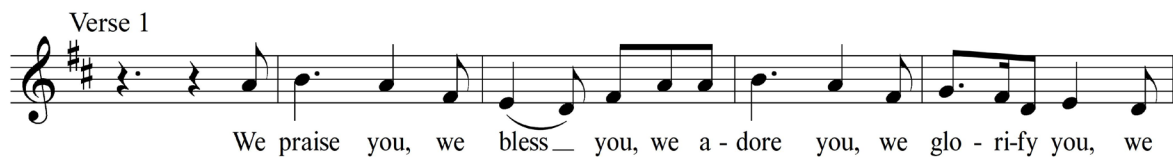
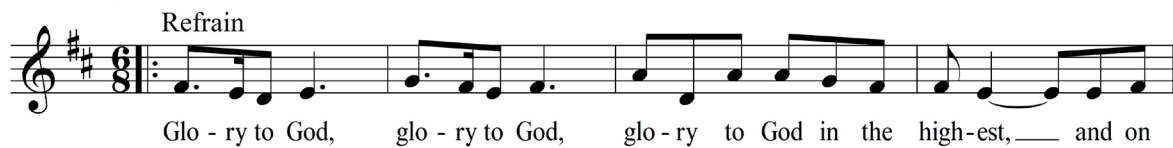
All: Amen.

- ✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

## GLORIA | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony Alonso



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 sea - ted at the right hand of the Fa-ther, — have mer - cy on us.

Verse 3

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the  
Lord, you a-lone are the Most — High, Je - sus Christ,  
with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. —

COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 1: 15-17, 20a, 20c-26





Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all within me, his holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and never forget all his benefits. *R.*

For as the heavens are high above the  
earth,  
so strong his mercy for those who  
fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far from us does he remove our  
transgressions. *R.*

The LORD has fixed his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom is ruling over all.  
Bless the LORD, all you his angels,  
mighty in power, fulfilling his  
word. *R.*

## SECOND READING | 1 John 4: 11-16

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony Alonso



## GOSPEL | John 17: 11b-19

## HOMILY

## RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Refrain

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

Verses

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

to Refrain

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

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

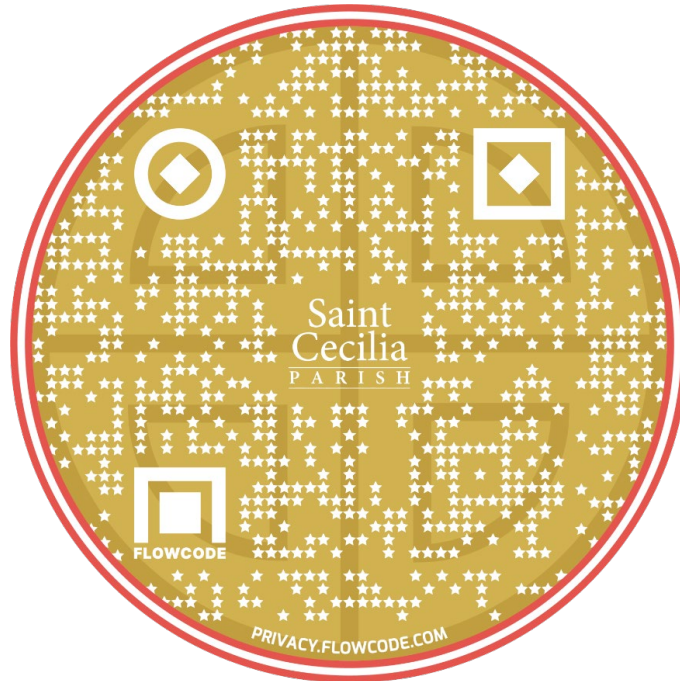
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit [www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston](http://www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston).

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



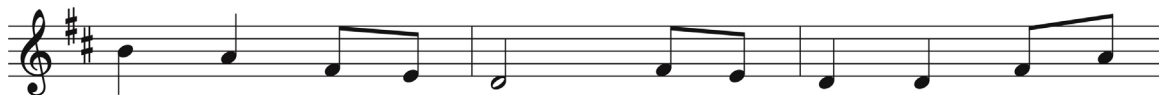
# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | God, We Praise You!

NETTLETON



1. God, we praise you! God, we bless you! God, we  
2. True a - pos - tles, faith - ful proph - ets, Saints who  
3. Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, Ev - er -  
4. Christ, at God's right hand vic - to - rious, You will



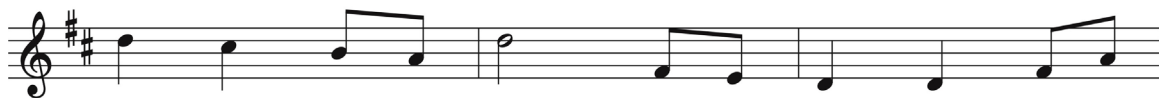
name you sov-'reign Lord! Might - y King whom an - gels  
set their world a - blaze, Mar - tyrs, once un - known, un -  
last - ing Son of God, Hum - ble was your vir - gin  
judge the world you made; Lord, in mer - cy help your



wor - ship, Fa - ther, by your Church a - dored: All cre -  
heed - ed, Join one grow - ing song of praise, While your  
moth - er, Hard the lone - ly path you trod: By your  
ser - vants For whose free - dom you have paid: Raise us



a - tion shows your glo - ry, Heav'n and  
Church on earth con - fess - es One ma -  
cross is sin de - feat - ed, Hell con -  
up from dust to glo - ry, Guard us



earth draw near your throne, Sing - ing "Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
jes - tic Trin - i - ty: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly  
front - ed face to face, Heav - en o - pened to be -  
from all sin to - day; King en - throned a - bove all



ho - ly, Lord of hosts, and God a - lone!"  
Spir - it, God, our hope e - ter - nal - ly.  
liev - ers, Sin - ners jus - ti - fied by grace.  
prais - es, Save your peo - ple, God, we pray.



## 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.

## HOLY, HOLY | Mass of Christ, the Savior

Dan Schutte

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and  
earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho-  
san - na! Ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is  
he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, the Savior

Dan Schutte

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your  
Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.

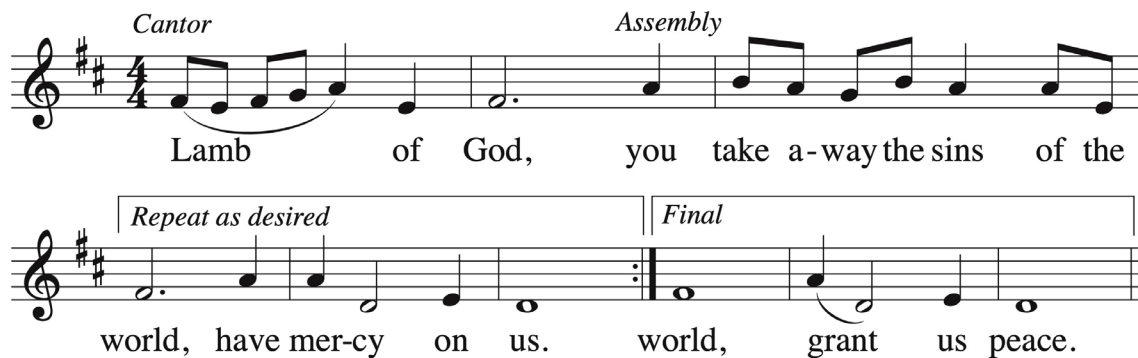


## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## LAMB OF GOD | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony 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.

## Verse 1



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.

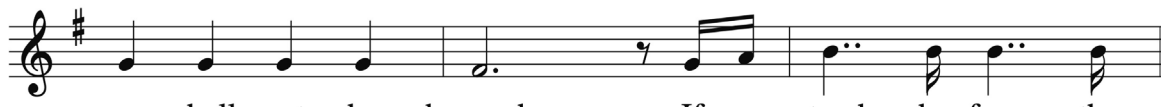
## Verse 2



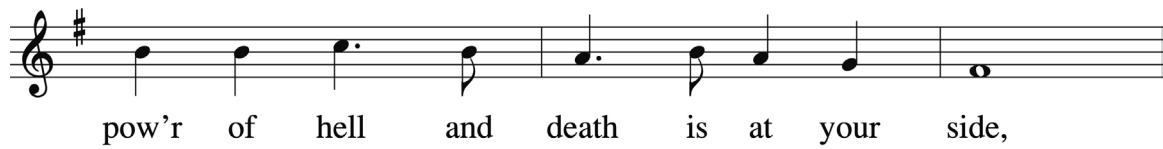
2. If you pass through rag - ing wa-ters in the



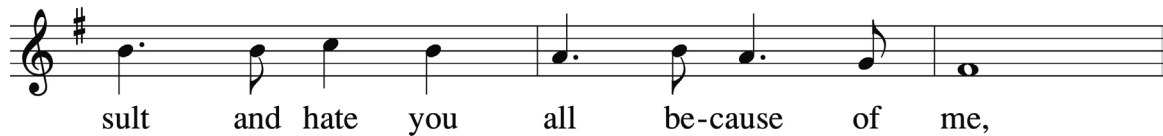
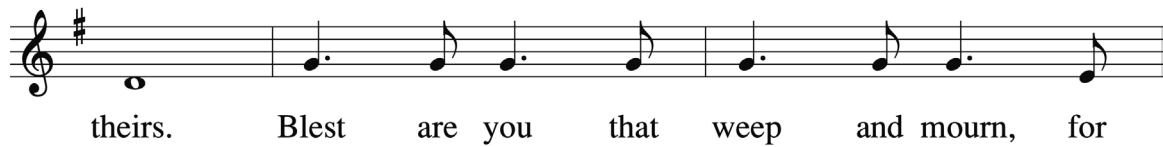
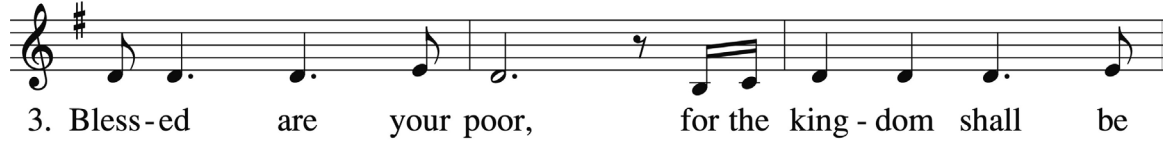
sea, you shall not drown. If you walk a-mid the burn-ing flames,



you shall not be harmed. If you stand be-fore the



Verse 3



COMMUNION MEDITATION | God is Gone Up

Gerald Finzi  
(1901-1956)

God is gone up with a triumphant shout: The Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies:  
Sing Praises out unto our King sing praise seraphic-wise!  
Lift up your Heads, ye lasting Doors, they sing, and let the King of Glory in.

Me-thinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly, in flakes of Glory down him attend,  
And hear Heart-cramping notes of Melody, surround his Chariot as it did ascend;  
Mixing their Music, making every string more to en-ravish as they this tune sing.



## 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.

✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL | Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

1. Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth. Go  
2. Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place. Go  
3. Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless and pray. The  
4. Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, For

preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth, Bap -  
live the Word of God's re - deem - ing grace. Go  
nights of tears give way to joy - ous day. As  
I am with you till the age shall end, When

tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
seek God's pres - ence in each time and space. Al -  
ser - vant Church you fol - low Christ's own way.  
all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"

le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

POSTLUDE | Prelude in C Major, BWV 547  
Brett Maguire, *organist*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

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

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

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

# God Bless Our First Communicants

MAY 11, 2024



AVA



ANDREAS



ASHER



BRENT



CHARLIE



CLAIRE



ELIZABETH



FRANCIS



GRACE



GRIFFIN



HANNAH



HARRY



ISABELLE



LEO



LEO

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

# God Bless Our First Communicants

MAY 11, 2024



LETHU



LIAM



LUKE



MILES



MYLES



OWEN



PATRICIA



POPPY



PETER



ROMAN



RYAN



TEAGAN



WARREN



WILLIAM



# WELCOME!

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 11 | 5:00 p.m.**

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Cynthia Wanner, lector

### **Sunday, May 12 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant  
Nicholas Hayes-Mota, lector

### **Sunday, May 12 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Kate McGillicuddy, Tim McGillicuddy, and Ritika Philip, lectors

### **Sunday, May 12 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Thomas O'Brien, Catherine Horsley, and Laura Melle, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

### **Sunday, May 12 | 8:00 a.m.**

John & Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

### **Sunday, May 12 | 9:30 a.m.**

Cecelia Dodson, *Memorial*  
Margaret Cunnane, *Memorial*  
Carol Ascrizzi, *Memorial*  
Sr. Marie McDonald, *Memorial*

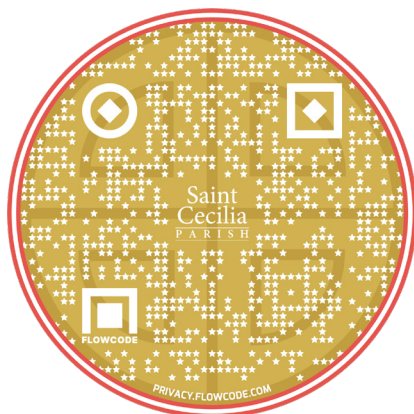
### **Sunday, May 12 | 11:30 a.m.**

Kay Whelan O'Halloran, *Month's Mind*  
Richard Howland, *9th Anniversary*  
Kathy Devaney, *Memorial*  
Eileen Williams McNeill, *Memorial*

### **Thursday, May 16 | 8:00 a.m.**

Chace Redman, *Memorial*

SCAN THIS CODE  
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!

## TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26

1 John 4:11-16

John 17:11b-19

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

## Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Jacqueline Lavelle, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, and Fred Tufts.

## Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Kathleen and Jules Damiani** of Cypress, TX, **John and Mary Garrett and family** of Scituate, **Kimberly Kane** of Edgartown, and **Susan Garvey** of Newburyport. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/](http://www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/).

## 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. Happy Mother's Day!

## First Communion Class

We look forward to welcoming our twenty-nine first communicants to the table of the Lord on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. 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, especially their teachers, Mr. Mark Lippolt and Ms. Anna Demare.

## High School Confirmation

On Sunday, May 19, Bishop Reed will be with us to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation with our high school confirmation candidates. Pray that they will continue to grow in the knowledge of the deep and abiding love God has for each of them.

## 2024 Parish Pastoral Council Elections

The results of the Parish Pastoral Council elections are in—congratulations to Olivia Hastie, Andre Jones, and Sabrena Tufts! Welcome to the council!

## Attention, Graduates!

We want to acknowledge and celebrate all our graduates this spring. Please email the names of the parishoners

who are graduating from high school or college to Christine Burns at her parish email address and use the word "graduate" in the subject line. Feel free to include the school's name and the degree awarded.

## Congratulations, Crista!

**Crista Lambert** will obtain her Master of Social Work degree from Simmons University on May 17. Congratulations!

## 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.

**Charlotte Josephine Bates**  
**Miles Savignol Brown**  
**Claire Victoria Castro**  
**Roman Keeffe Coffey**  
**Teagan Lynn Crumlish**  
**Patricia Helen Drake**  
**Peter Martin Dunn**  
**Francis Ragosta Early**  
**Andreas Ramos Fabbrucci**  
**Elizabeth Roosevelt Fairchild**  
**Isabelle Garita**  
**Hannah Grace Goehler**  
**Ava Eleanor O'Toole Hoeker**  
**Warren William Holda**  
**Liam James Holland**  
**Penelope Louise Hautaniemi**  
**Leo Haynes**  
**Owen Hanify-Killen**  
**Myles Alexander Knight**  
**Grace Margaret McDonald**  
**Luke Robert McGuire**  
**Langaletu Scarlett Mchunu**  
**Griffin Kevin Mellyn**  
**Harry Paul Munger**  
**William John Ostberg**  
**Leo James Pelletier**  
**Brent Andrew Schmidlin**  
**Ryan James Tricolli**  
**Asher Cormac Wharton**



## LOUIS D. BROWN PEACE INSTITUTE'S MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Sunday, May 12 | 8:00—10:00 a.m

Town Field Park, 1520 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, MA

Please join us on May 12 for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's 28th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace (MDW4P). The Institute was formed in 1996 by a Boston mother who turned her grief into action after her teenage son was murdered. The Institute's goal is to empower survivors, Generation Peace and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss to cultivate cycles of peace and healing. This year, we have set a parish goal of \$9,000 to contribute to the program's mission through their annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Your gift can have a lasting impact on the healing steps that move us toward peace in the Greater Boston area.

### It's Time To Dig Deep!

With just \$2,000 left to reach our \$9,000 goal, we're in the final stretch. But it's not over yet! Your support, whether through prayers or donations, makes a significant impact. Even if you can't physically be there, you're walking with us in spirit, carrying the banner of peace alongside our team. Let's make this final push together and contribute to a world filled with compassion and justice!

**Questions?** For information about the Saint Cecilia Team, ask our reception team to put you in touch with Jeanne Bruno!



## HELP OUR FRIENDS AT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE



Mother's Day cards will be sold this weekend in the Saint Cecilia narthex. By purchasing Mother's Day cards through their fundraiser, you help WLP provide a wide array of services for the most vulnerable women in our community, including healthy meals and individualized services that empower these women to make positive changes in their

lives. The cards are blank on the inside so they can also serve as a personal or "thank you" note.

In addition you can remember the woman in your life by sponsoring a meal at the Women's Lunch Place day shelter in her name:

- *\$150: Provides one day of fresh fruit for all guests*
- *\$300: Provides one day of nutritious breakfast for all guests*
- *\$500: Provides one day of healthy lunch for all guests*

*And, of course, a Mother's Day card is included with each sponsorship.*

For more information about this fundraiser, contact Mark Lippolt at the Hunger and Homelessness email address or you can order cards directly by visiting [www.MothersDayCards.org](http://www.MothersDayCards.org). At checkout, please indicate that Katie Balian or Mark Lippolt referred you to this campaign.

SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH  
YOUR SMART PHONE TO  
PURCHASE MOTHER'S DAY CARDS!





## ALL ARE WELCOME MASS: CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH

**Friday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.**

**The Paulist Center | 5 Park Street, Beacon Hill**

"God is Father and he does not disown any of his children. And 'the style' of God is closeness, mercy, and tenderness. Along this path, you will find God." – Pope Francis responding to Fr. James Martin's question, "What would you say is the most important thing for LGBTQ people to know about God?"



The Greater Boston LGBTQIA Catholic Collective, representing the Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry; the Paulist Center Community; Saint Anthony Shrine; Blessed Trinity Parish, Westford/Littleton; and Saint Susanna Parish, Dedham invite you to honor our LGBTQ siblings at an ALL ARE WELCOME Mass at the Paulist Center on Friday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. Help commemorate the beginning of Pride Month by celebrating the unique diversity of God's children at this liturgy. Join us after the Mass for a reception.

## CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES' RICE BOWLS

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic Church in the United States. Thanks to your support in the past year, CRS touched the lives of more than 120 million poor and vulnerable people in more than 110 countries around the world. When you donate to CRS' Project Rice Bowl, a quarter of all donations stay local and go to Catholic Charities of Greater Boston.

***It is not too late to return your Rice Bowl or make a donation to Catholic Relief Services!*** Even if you have not used the actual cardboard rice bowl to collect funds, you can still donate by making a check payable to "Catholic Relief Services." When you give, you help fill the bellies of young children so they can study hard in school. You help prevent trafficking and provide welcome kits for survivors. You help mothers and babies around the world receive nutritional care and health exams. When you give, refugees find safety and receive emergency assistance and trauma counseling. Farmers learn innovative ways to plant and grow crops despite drought or disease. And women find dignity in opportunities for savings and training. Learn more at [www.CRS.org](http://www.CRS.org).

## A REQUEST FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

For over 100 years, Sunset Point Camp 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 so they can 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 (the higher the SPF, the better)
- Bug spray
- Flip flops (boys/girls ages 6-15)
- Underwear (boys/girls ages 6-15)

So the next time you're shopping or on Amazon, 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!



## FRIENDSHIPWORKS' ELDERBRATION WALK

On Sunday, May 19, the 9th Annual Walk and Fundraiser to End Elder Isolation will take place at the beautiful Jamaica Pond! The Walk begins at Rogerson House, 434 Jamaica Way, Jamaica Plain (9:00 a.m. check-in). The Walk continues from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This special Elderbration honors and celebrates older adults and helps them feel connected and treasured in their community. The celebration will include food, live music, cultural performances, and fun! Here's a link if you would like to join the Saint Cecilia Walk Team or make a donation to the team: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/elderbration2024/team/957709/>

## THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA

MAY 12 – MAY 19

### Sunday, May 12

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom

### Monday, May 13

SCYA Women's Group, 7:30 p.m. | Zoom

### Tuesday, May 14

Evening Prayer, 6:00 p.m. | Zoom

### Wednesday, May 15

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30 a.m. | Zoom  
Communion Circle, 3:30 p.m. | Susan Balis House  
SCYA Service Night, 5:30 p.m.  
Supper Club at the Paulist Center

### Thursday, May 16

Wisdom Group, 7:30 p.m. | Zoom

### Saturday, May 18

Young Families "Play & Pray," 3:00 p.m. | Lincoln Park

### Sunday, May 19

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom  
High School & Adult Confirmation, 2:00 p.m.  
SCYA Contemplative Prayer, 1:45 p.m.  
Community Room

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

*Are you or is someone you know searching for a spiritual home? Are you interested in learning more about what it means to be Catholic?*

If you would like to explore Catholicism or are already Catholic but have not yet received Eucharist, we would be honored to accompany you in your journey. For more information, contact Tanya Rybarczyk at [trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org), or call her at 617-536-4548 X117.

## PRAY AND PLAY

**May 18, 3:00 p.m. | Lincoln Park, Somerville**

**Open to families with kids who enjoy a good playground!**

Join the Saint Cecilia Young Families (SCYF) Ministry for their first "Pray and Play"—a gathering for children who enjoy a good playground and their parents who want to upgrade their playground chitchat. The group will have playground time, snacks, and prayerful discussion for parents. Sign up here (<https://bit.ly/4a5EOQc>) to receive updates and information about the location.

*We also invite you to join the SCYF General Meetup on May 26 in the Family Flex Center after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.*

## SUMMER COFFEE HOSPITALITY PAUSES

We will not have coffee hospitality for three holiday weekends in the summer—Memorial Day weekend, the Fourth of July weekend, and Labor Day weekend—so we can give our hardworking hospitality staff some time off to enjoy these holidays.

## JOIN OUR WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP!

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group holds two online gatherings each week. They meet on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. to share the ways in which faith informs and enriches the second half of life. Although the group is not a book club, their conversation is informed by the spiritual book or article that they read together each week. For Eastertide, they'll be reading *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen. For more information about their meetings or to be added to their mailing list, contact the ministry at their parish email address.







*Are you a senior looking to  
connect in person with other elders  
in the Saint Cecilia faith community?*

## Simeon & Anna Seniors Gathering

Join our new, biweekly **Simeon and Anna Seniors Gathering**. Join us for prayer, song, and communion, followed by coffee, cookies, and conversation! Our inaugural meeting is on May 30.

**Simeon** and **Anna** are the two elders who greet Mary and Joseph when they bring their newborn infant to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Moved by the Holy Spirit, they immediately recognize and witness to God in their midst. Together they represent the crucial role of older people who, as Pope Francis writes, "have the courage to dream."

.....  
**What:** Simeon and Anna Seniors Gathering

**When:** Thursday, May 30, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

*Every Other Week Following*

**Where:** Saint Cecilia Parish

**Questions?** Email Lucy Conroy  
([seniors@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:seniors@stceciliaboston.org))

### CARES SATURDAY MINISTRY RETREAT



### MAKE WAY FOR BETTY ANNE!



# SUPPORT OUR NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Spring is traditionally the time of year when the majority of the nonprofit agencies Saint Cecilia supports through our Hunger & Homelessness Ministry have their most critical fundraisers. We invite you to learn more below.

**Monday, May 13**

*Medicine that Matters Gala — Boston Health Care for the Homeless*

Location: Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel | Information about the event:

<https://www.bhchp.org/events/2024-gala/>

**Sunday, May 19**

*Elderbration — Friendship Works*

Location: Jamaica Pond | Information about the event:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/elderbration2024/>

**Wednesday, May 29**

*Spring Celebration — Catholic Charities*

Location: Wharf Room, Boston Harbor Hotel | Information about the event:

<https://www.ccab.org/news-updates/catholic-charities-spring-celebration-2024/>



*For more information about any of these events,  
please email our Hunger and Homelessness Ministry  
at their parish email address.*



## DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

Now that our Faith Formation classes have ended for the academic year (and with summer approaching!), many of the families that have been faithful donors to our collection of food items for the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett pantries will be away until September. We hope that you will consider participating in this important ministry during the summer months so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The local economy might have improved for some of us, but the working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices.

Saint Cecilia has committed to providing these items to the food pantries: Cheerios or cornflakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta and spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, canned tuna fish, canned chicken breast, cooking oil, and tomato sauce. While any canned or shelf-stable items are appreciated, it is particularly helpful when parishioners can help with the staples listed above. Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex.

You may wish to follow the example of some of our parishioners and have some of the items above delivered to the parish via Amazon or a similar service. If you choose to, please have them delivered to Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115. Thank you!



# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

*Join Father John and the Saint Cecilia Choirs  
Under the Direction of Robert Duff on a*

## *2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Italy*

**June 15-23, 2025**



### **We will participate in Mass at:**

- The Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi
- St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

### **The Saint Cecilia Choir will perform two evening concerts:**

- The Basilica di Sant'Andrea della Valle in Rome
- The Basilica di Santa Cecilia in Trastevere

### **Want to learn more?**


Visit [www.stceciliaboston.org/italy](http://www.stceciliaboston.org/italy) to get your questions answered! Head to this webpage for updates, to read a PDF outlining the trip itinerary and to watch a recording of a virtual information session with the hosting company, Music Celebrations International.

**We will visit Rome, Florence,  
Assisi, and Vatican City.**

### ***Highlights include:***

- A visit to La Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze, home to the largest number of Michelangelo sculptures in the world, including *David*
- A walking tour of the medieval town of Assisi, birthplace of Sts. Francis and Clare, including a visit to the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi—one of the most important pilgrimage sites in all of Italy
- A tour of the Vatican Museums which house some of the world's most important collections of art (included will be a visit to the Sistine Chapel)
- A visit to St. Peter's Basilica, including the *Pietà*
- A tour of the Colosseum and its arena floor, the Roman Forum.
- A tentative weekly Papal Audience and Blessing (subject to the Holy Father's schedule)
- Visits to the Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and Trevi Fountain
- Visits to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.





## WHAT EVERY FAMILY GRIEVING A MISCARRIAGE OR STILLBIRTH DESERVES FROM THE CHURCH

BY COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ

The first thing they tell you when you have a miscarriage is that it happens all the time.

Statistics vary depending on what source you're looking at, but anywhere from 10 percent to 15 percent of pregnancies will end in what the mother's medical paperwork will dispassionately call a "spontaneous abortion."

That number is getting higher, as medical technology makes it possible for more and more women to become aware of their pregnancies earlier.

"This happens all the time." I heard it over and over again when I lost our third child four years ago, very early in the first trimester. I heard it so much that I started to repeat it whenever I had to share the news with someone new, parroting what I had been told, trying to seem like I understood, like I was coping well: "I know this happens all the time."

Like a paper cut, or a stubbed toe.

I began to wonder if I was losing my mind to be so profoundly mourning something that happens all the time. I needed someone to tell me that it was okay that I could not sleep and that I burst into uncontrollable tears when I saw strawberries and tomatoes (which I had craved during the pregnancy).

I was the only one who knew that baby. I was the sole witness to his life. There were no pictures, no keepsakes, no locks of hair. When he was gone, everything changed for me...and very little changed for anyone else. And everyone said: "I'm so sorry," but they were only looking at me when they said it. I so desperately wanted them to be able to look at the baby, to look at the void he left in the world. I so desperately wanted them to think of him as something that existed outside of my mind. As something more than what happens all the time.

### 'This Is a Person in Your Parish'

Miscarriage and stillbirth have been solitary experiences

for most of history. Earlier generations of women refrained from talking about the experience openly, even among close friends and female relatives. It is a topic that existed—and to some extent, still does—behind a veil. I know my own grandmother suffered miscarriages only because I heard the advice she passed down to my mother: *Be sure to bless the remains with holy water.*

What a short, succinct missive—and yet, what insight it gives into what she felt. What she lost.

But the world is changing, inside the womb and out. Miscarriage may not be anything new, but knowledge of it is increasing. Medical technology enables women to learn of their own pregnancies even before a missed period. Millennials, in stark contrast to Baby Boomers and even Gen X, grieve transparently. They are talking about their miscarriages not only to their mothers and friends. They are posting about it on social media. And increasingly, Catholic families are turning to the church for accompaniment in their loss.

Is the church ready to give them the support they need?

Not often enough, says Dr. Abigail Jorgensen. A birth worker and sociology professor based in St. Louis, Mo., Dr. Jorgensen started offering her services as a bereavement doula when she was an undergraduate student at the University of Notre Dame. A bereavement doula provides nonmedical support to clients who are experiencing a miscarriage (medically defined as a loss before 20 weeks of gestation) or stillbirth (a loss after 20 weeks' gestation).

Dr. Jorgensen's book, *A Catholic Guide to Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Loss: Compassionate Answers to Difficult Questions*, was released by Ave Maria Press in April. The book's audience is primarily families who have experienced a loss, but Dr. Jorgensen has also included information in each chapter that she hopes is helpful for church ministers who are being called on to provide pastoral support.

"One in four pregnancies ends in a loss—you can't



statistically have a parish that isn't impacted by perinatal loss," she said. "This isn't just a hypothetical person, it's a person in your parish. You don't know which one it may be, but that doesn't mean they're not there."

Over the years, Dr. Jorgensen's clients have looked to her for both spiritual and logistical support during their losses. "A lot of the times it was people who were like, 'I really don't know where my baby's soul is, and I don't want to ask my priest because I don't really know him'—or it was, 'I don't know if I get to have a funeral [for my baby] in the Catholic Church; can you help me figure that out?'" she said.

For her Catholic clients, Dr. Jorgensen has often acted as a go-between for the families and the church, reaching out on the family's behalf so they can focus on their grief. But too often, she said, the response from priests or parish staff has indicated a gross lack of pastoral insight into the gravity of this issue, and a lack of understanding about perinatal loss in general.

One client called her pastor seeking baptism for her stillborn son, Dr. Jorgensen said. The client's pastor refused, correctly noting that a dead person cannot be baptized, but he did not follow up with the woman in any way or offer to visit the hospital. "To know that information [about baptism] and then to share that information in a pastoral way are two really different things," said Dr. Jorgensen.

She gets one or two calls a year from women who are confused because a priest has told them their miscarriage is a sin. "I had one client recently whose priest told her that she needed to confess her miscarriage," she said, noting that the priest used a comparison: "If you accidentally drove over someone with your car, you still have to confess that."

Catholic teaching is very clear that miscarriage is not a sin, said Joseph Weiss, S.J., a professor of the practice of liturgy at the Clough School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College.

"The definition of a sin is that you consciously, knowingly choose to do something against the will of God. And a miscarriage is a spontaneous response of the woman's body to something that has gone wrong with the pregnancy," he said.

Father Weiss said that he has never, in his more than 40 years as a priest, heard of a confessor counseling a penitent to confess their miscarriage. He acknowledges that it may

be possible that, if a penitent expresses feelings of guilt and anxiety because of a miscarriage, that a confessor may, out of compassion, allow her to confess it. But the priest's first response, he said, should be to clarify that the miscarriage is not a sin.

"But his first response should be: 'No, it is not, because it is an involuntary action. You did not choose to do this,' he said.

### **'I Think You Should Name It'**

It took me a week after learning that my baby had no heartbeat to get up the courage to send a text to a family friend of ours who is a priest. I wanted to reach out sooner, but I was embarrassed by how upset I was.

It happens all the time, after all.

He called me within a few minutes. I found myself dissolving into tears as I explained the situation, including my fears about whether or not I was blowing this all out of proportion.

He very calmly told me that I was not. "This was yours and Matt's child," I remember him saying reassuringly.

I had previously been put in touch with a very helpful organization, Life's Connection, that would assist us in burying our baby's remains, and I asked if he thought that was an appropriate thing to do.

I held my breath and wondered if he would scoff and tell me that I was crazy to think about giving a burial to what my midwife had called "the products of conception"—or if he, a celibate man, would even understand how that could be possible (it should be noted that I had several friends and family members who did not).

"I think you should name it, and I think you should bury it," he told me when I asked him what he thought I should do, adding that he would make himself available to assist us, and had done so before for other families. He even shared with me that his own mother had suffered several miscarriages, and said he felt blessed by the intercessory prayers of his siblings in heaven.

He gave me exactly what I needed—validation in my grief, reassurance that I was not insane to be so upset, and hope for my child's salvation.

When we did bury the baby's remains, my husband and I were the ones to shovel the dirt on top of the small urn that was placed in a family plot. It was hard.

It was also inexpressibly liberating.

As we drove away from the tiny mound of disturbed earth, I felt OK for the first time in weeks.

### **‘No Path for Us’**

After I spoke with Dr. Jorgensen about the negative experiences of so many of her clients, I admit that I felt confused. The church had actually been the source of my healing—was I just lucky to get a “good priest”? I wanted to hear what other Catholic women had experienced when they reached out to the church during their times of loss.

What are we doing well? What can we do better?

Ellen Smith was the first woman I interviewed. She and her husband, Matthew, live in northeastern Iowa. They have two living children and have lost 14 children to miscarriage in the first trimester.

One of the particular issues that Mrs. Smith found painful to deal with is the ambiguous language that the church uses when discussing the salvation of unbaptized babies. In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI de-emphasized the concept of limbo in the document “The Hope of Salvation for Infants Who Die Without Being Baptized.” The document states, “there are theological and liturgical reasons to hope that infants who die without baptism may be saved and brought into eternal happiness, even if there is not an explicit teaching on this question found in Revelation.” And later: “The church entrusts to God’s mercy those infants who die unbaptized.”

Mrs. Smith feels that this language “leaves a lot of room for fear and interpretation” and for misuse of the term *limbo*. “It leaves a lot of room for errors or awkward counsel or clueless responses from priests,” she said.

She is also dismayed by the lack of visibility around resources that are available to help families like hers. Her archdiocese has a well-developed parish-based ministry program for families of perinatal loss. However, she did not hear about the ministry until she was at a women’s retreat after her miscarriages had occurred, despite having been in regular contact with her parish every time she suffered a loss.

“I feel like we were just kind of left to figure it out on our own,” she said. “If every diocese has an exorcist, why can’t every diocese have someone who has [information on grief and pregnancy loss] and provides updated information once a year to every church?”

That is a sticking point for Dr. Jorgensen, too. She also believes church leaders and staff members more generally need to have more access to training in how to minister to people experiencing this particular type of loss, as well as greater knowledge of the resources available to families who have experienced it.

“The parish secretary is not the role you would think needs a ton of pastoral care [training], but it turns out, when someone has a miscarriage or stillbirth and they call the parish, who is the person administering emotional first aid? It’s the parish secretary,” she said.

Christine Sherman found herself in a situation like Mrs. Smith’s. Mrs. Sherman lives in Dallas, Tex., with her husband, Michael, and their son. For her third miscarriage, in 2023, she had to be prescribed misoprostol to pass the baby at home. She wanted to bury the remains of the child, but when she called her parish, it didn’t have any information to offer her, not having a cemetery of its own.

She spent countless hours over the next few weeks calling funeral homes, cemeteries and local organizations trying to find a place to lay her child to rest. Several places quoted her fees in the thousands of dollars. Finally, a priest friend located a cemetery an hour away from the Shermans’ home that would bury the baby for free.

“We just felt like we didn’t know where we fit into the church,” Mrs. Sherman said. “It seems like there’s no clear path for what to do when this happens to you. Most other things, if you call your church, they tell you you’re going to do A, B, C. There was no path here.”

Jessica Hobbs was working for the Diocese of Charleston in South Carolina when she experienced her miscarriage in 2009. She did not know at the time that she had the option to collect the baby’s remains and bury them. She still regrets not doing so, she said.

“I think that’s where the Catholic Church fails, is that women don’t know what to do,” she said. “We catechize [on the dignity of all human life], we do all these things, but we never tell people what to do [when miscarriage occurs].... The couple who has just lost a baby, their first call should be the church. It just didn’t dawn on me—that should be my first thing that I do.”

### **‘This Generation Is Different’**

This seemed a consistent refrain of the women with whom I spoke: The resources, if they existed, were complicated to access if you were not already “in the know.” Almost every woman who finally found the support she needed found it

only because she was already personally friends with a priest.

Too often, “the church is being reactive instead of proactive,” said Kelly Breaux, president of *Red Bird Ministries*, a Catholic grief support ministry that accompanies couples who have lost children at any stage, from pregnancy to adulthood. “We miss those opportunities to be able to tell people ahead of time—if this has happened to you or if it happens to you, we are here to support you, and we want to walk with you.”

In recent years, church leaders have begun to take note, though the information does not always make it to the parish level.

“Ten to 12 years ago, in the national conferences [for pro-life directors], we’d start seeing presentations about miscarriage ministry and things like that—meaning the church has to be aware of these children and that their lives are equally precious and need to be commemorated and mourned as well as the children lost to abortion,” said Lisa Everett, director for marriage and family ministry in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

I reached out to Ms. Everett because I was impressed by the resources for perinatal loss that were offered on the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend’s website. Those resources exist under the ministry *Ava’s Grace*, which Ms. Everett developed in memory of her stillborn granddaughter.

The *Ava’s Grace* web page also includes a document that details liturgical rites that can be used in cases of miscarried or stillborn babies.

“Over the years I had noted that most Catholics—whether lay or clergy, including very devout families—simply were not aware of all the liturgical and funerary options that are available in the case of miscarriage or stillbirth,” said Brian MacMichael, director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who created the document. “We seem to be talking more openly nowadays about miscarriages...I do think there’s an increasing pastoral need to make these rites known, because they provide both a spiritual balm and a sense of closure, just as a funeral does after any death.”

“The previous generation, they didn’t even talk about it,” said Amy Huschka, a mom of five who lives in Wichita, Kansas. She said her own mother told her: “I didn’t even tell my mom I had a miscarriage—it was a silent thing. Nobody spoke about it. You just didn’t talk about it.”

Ms. Huschka said she told her mother: “This generation’s different. Our generation talks about things a lot more. I’ve got people coming up to me telling me their story...and they’re not getting the support they need from the church.”

Ms. Huschka was living in Houston, Texas, when she experienced her miscarriage in 2011. At the emergency room, where she was being treated for blood loss, medical staff kept asking if she wanted them to take away the baby’s remains. “We just kept saying no, because I knew it wasn’t a Catholic hospital, and I had no idea what they were going to do with the body,” she said. “I said, ‘No, we’ll call our priest and we’ll take care of that on our own.’”

But when she called her priest to ask if it was possible to bury the baby in the parish cemetery, he said he would pray for them but couldn’t offer anything more than that.

“That was very, very hard,” she said.

### Carving Mount Rushmore

In the weeks following the Dobbs decision in 2022, I saw countless social media posts from secular, pro-abortion groups that questioned why, if the Catholic Church was so sure a fetus was a person, it did not provide miscarried and stillborn babies with burial. I was deeply irritated because I knew that the church *did* offer this option, and I had seen it with my own eyes. The treatment that representatives of the church gave my loss was completely consistent with a belief that that loss was a human death.

But it is not enough that my situation—and I am sure, that of many others—was handled correctly. Nor is it fair to assume that the priests and lay ministers who falter in their pastoral responses to these situations are hypocrites. They, too, are human beings who find themselves in a situation they do not know how to navigate. Still, it is imperative that all of us together work to ensure that our priests, our lay ministers and our communities are showing up to support each and every mother of miscarried and stillborn babies.

Mrs. Breaux believes that there needs to be a multifaceted approach to equipping everyone in the church with knowledge about perinatal loss—from greater emphasis on the subject for couples in marriage preparation to more technical knowledge for priests and lay ministers.

“It’s like carving Mount Rushmore,” she said, referring to the breadth of the task. “These are conversations that we need to have during Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, which is in October—we should be preaching about the things that we can offer as a church. On Bereaved Mother’s Day, the week before Mother’s Day, we should be

talking about how much the church mourns with these families.... [Priests] need more education and formation on what actually happens [physically] to understand what the family is going to experience.”

Everyone experiences loss “uniquely as a person,” said Dr. Marie Pitt-Payne, academic dean at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois, noting that what might be helpful to one person may be less so to another. “There is no cut and dried ‘this is how you handle’ a miscarriage or infant death, she said. “So what really needs to be cultivated is the art of encounter.”

The seminary at Mundelein currently has over 120 seminarians in formation for almost 30 dioceses, and Dr. Pitt-Payne believes that it is crucial to equip them with information on how to accompany families who face perinatal loss.

Seminaries and formators need to take a “multifaceted” approach to helping their students learn how to accompany families through perinatal loss, Dr. Pitt-Payne said. At U.S.M.L., she has brought in speakers to share their personal experiences with the seminarians, and she has also broached the topic in the classroom, creating a case scenario that calls for students to research different pastoral strategies a priest can use in these instances. The specific topic of miscarriage has not been a focus in the seminary’s Cor Luxta Meum Simulation Center, where seminarians navigate different pastoral scenarios with the help of trained actors, but Dr. Pitt-Payne does not rule out that possibility in the future.

### A Question of Life and Death

Several months after Ms. Hobbs experienced her miscarriage, a priest friend offered a Mass for her baby, and a coworker from the Diocese of Charleston gave her a “certificate of life” to commemorate the child’s memory. She still treasures it.

Certificates of life are commemorative documents that recognize the life of a miscarried baby. Red Bird Ministries and many other organizations offer some version of this keepsake for grieving families, and they can also be created using basic templates found online. Earlier this year, the English government announced that it would be offering optional “baby loss certificates” for any family who experiences the loss of a child before 24 weeks’ gestation.

The certificate was very meaningful to her, Ms. Hobbs said: “Because there’s no death certificate, and there’s no birth certificate. One of the hardest things for me was that

it was like she didn’t exist.”

I asked Dr. Jorgensen if she feels the outcomes of these pastoral situations are largely dependent on how seriously the church takes a woman and her experiences.

Yes and no, she said. Certainly, it pertains to women’s personal experiences—but more correctly, “it has to do with the very fundamental question of life and death.”

“Loss affects families, loss affects dads,” she said. “Loss affects older siblings, loss affects grandmas and grandpas and aunts and uncles—and all the people who could have gotten to know that kid and didn’t.”

I am not embarrassed anymore over the sorrow I felt—and still feel—because of my miscarriage. Yes, it happens all the time. No, not like a paper cut, and not like a stubbed toe. A death. Death happens all the time, too, and it is always hard.

My baby was a person only I could see. What I really, really needed from the church was assurance that others saw my child, too. That it valued him, too. It lost him, too.

And that is what the church gave me.

That is what we need to give every mother.

~ *Colleen Jurkiewicz is a staff writer with The Milwaukee Catholic Herald. She contributes weekly to LPI’s blog (Practicing) Catholic.*

# PARISH RESOURCES

## Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115  
Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment  
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781  
Website | [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org)

## Parish Staff

**Rev. John J. Unni**, Pastor  
**Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ**, Pastoral Support  
**Christine Burns**, Digital and Print Media Coordinator  
**Mark Donohoe**, Pastoral Associate  
**Robert Duff**, Director of Music  
**Carly-Anne Gannon**, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation  
**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  
**Tanya Rybarczyk**, Pastoral Associate

## Assisting Clergy

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ | Rev. Peter Grover, OMV | Rev. Peter Gyves, 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  
**Vasily Izumchensky**, Livestream Sound Engineer

## Schedule for Liturgy

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

## Building Accessibility

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

## 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.

## Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 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 Sunday 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, at her parish email.

## 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.

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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.

## 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 both local and long distance 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 ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists would be happy to pass along the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online!