

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

14 May 2023

Prayer V by Angu Walters

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

14 MAY 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

HYFRYDOL



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



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



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



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



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



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

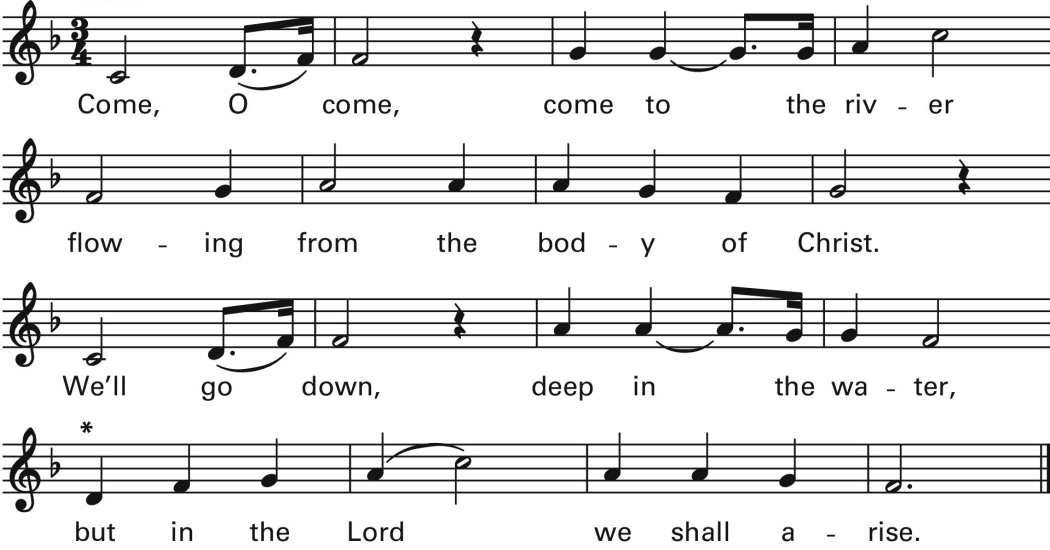
✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

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

SPRINKLING RITE | Come to the River

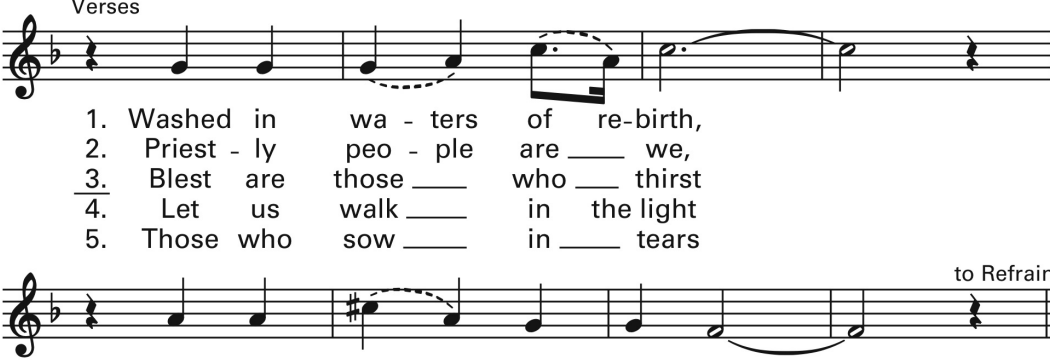
Bob Hurd

Refrain




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

Verses



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

to Refrain



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

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

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:* *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 8: 5-8, 14-17

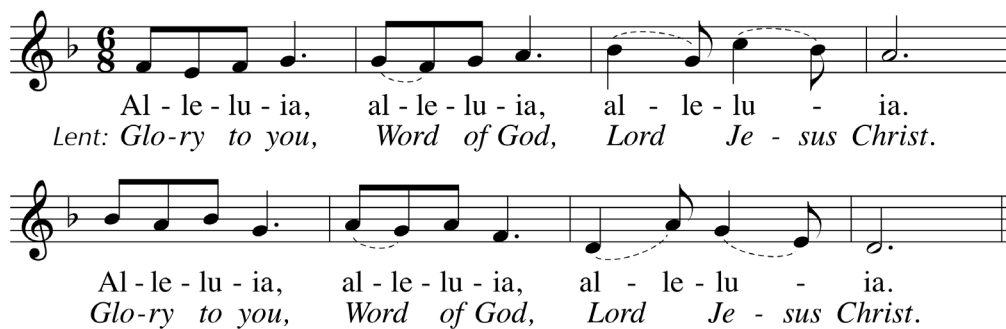
RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 66: Let All the Earth

Marty Haugen



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

SECOND READING | 1 Peter 3: 15-18



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

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

GOSPEL | John 14: 15-21

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

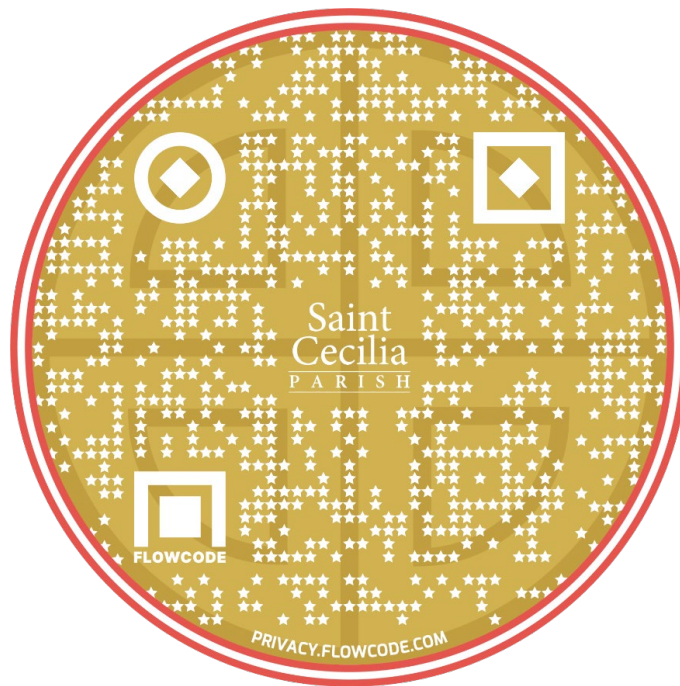
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

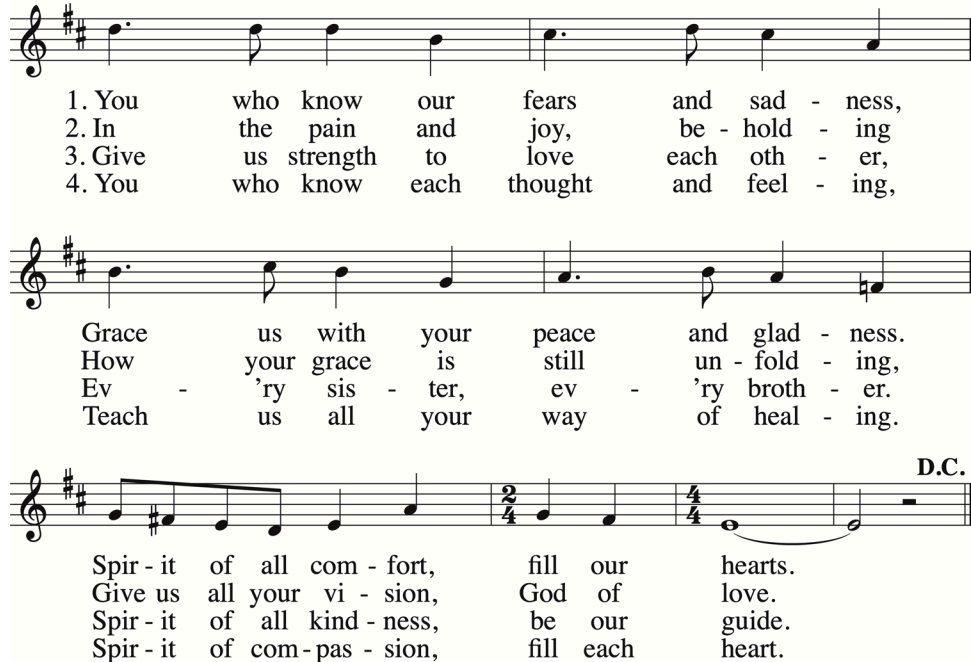
PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Healer of Our Every Ill

Marty Haugen



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, Light of each to - mor - row,
Give us peace be - yond our fear And hope be - yond our sor - row.

Verses



1. You who know our fears and sad - ness,
2. In the pain and joy, be - hold - ing
3. Give us strength to love each oth - er,
4. You who know each thought and feel - ing,
Grace us with your peace and glad - ness.
How your grace is still un - fold - ing,
Ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
Teach us all your way of heal - ing.
Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
Give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death, ris - ing you re - stored our life.
Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry. Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry.

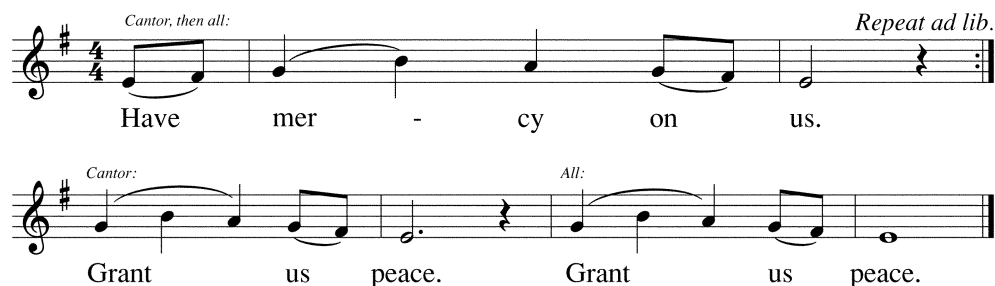


THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

Refrain

Un - less a grain of wheat shall fall up -
on the ground and die, it re - mains but a
sin - gle grain with no life.

Verses

1. ♪ If we have died with him, then we shall
2. ♪ If an - y - one serves me, then they must
3. ♪ ♪ Make your home in me as I make
4. ♪ If you re - main in me and my word
5. ♪ ♪ Those who love me are loved by my
6. ♪ ♪ Peace I leave with you, my peace I

live with him; if we hold firm, we shall
fol - low me; wher - ev - er I am, my
mine in you; those who re - main in me
lives in you, then you will be my dis -
Fa - ther; we shall be with them and
give to you; peace which the world can - not

D.C.
reign with him.
ser - vants will be.
bear much fruit.
ci - ples.
dwell in them.
give is my gift.

I will not leave you comfortless: Alleluia!
I will come to you again: Alleluia!
And your heart shall rejoice: Alleluia!

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.

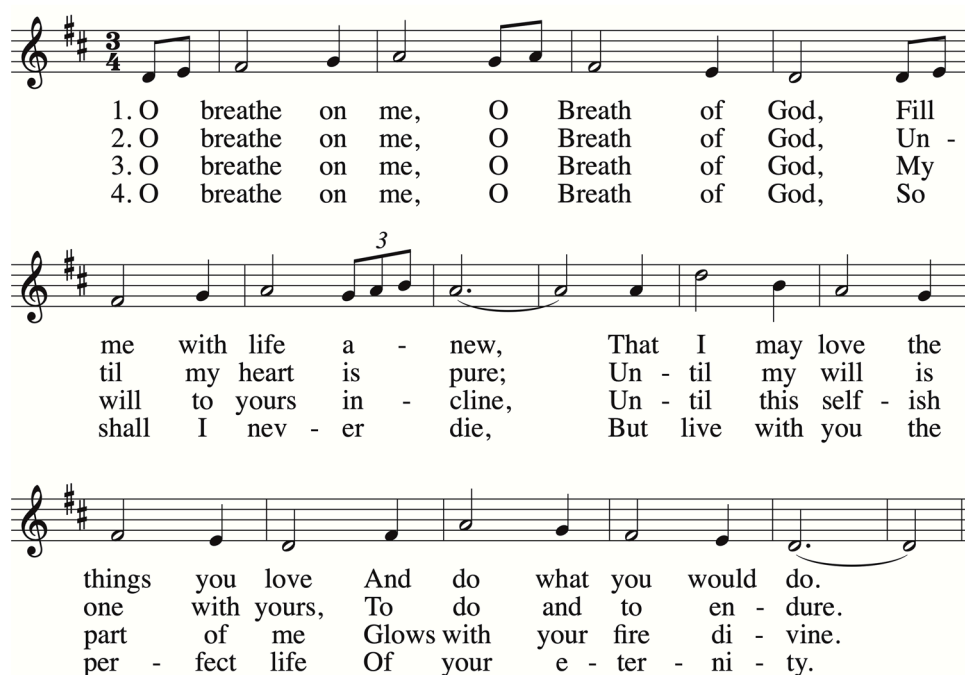
All: Amen.

✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL | O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God

ST. COLUMBA



1. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, Fill
2. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, Un -
3. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, My
4. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, So

me with life a - new, That I may love the
til my heart is pure; Un - til my will is
will to yours in - cline, Un - til this self - ish
shall I nev - er die, But live with you the

things you love And do what you would do.
one with yours, To do and to en - dure.
part of me Glows with your fire di - vine.
per - fect life Of your e - ter - ni - ty.

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.

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.

God Bless Our First Communicants

MAY 13, 2023



ADAM



Amelia



Burch



Cailey



Caleb



Casey



CHARLIE



Colton



Dash



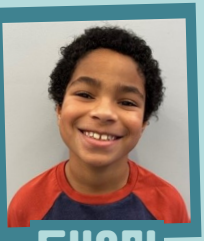
DAVID



DILLON



Dominic



EVAN



Fiona



Grace



Harry



Henry



JACK



Katie



Lena



Lily



LIZA



Lucca



Maddie



MAGGIE



NIKOLAUS



Rory



SCARLETT

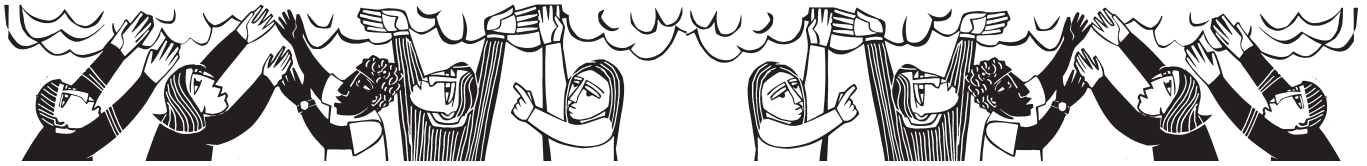


seamus



SZILVIA

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, May 13 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, lector

Sunday, May 14 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Bob Mann, lector

Sunday, May 14 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Julie DesAutels, Harry Minehart, and Kelly McClintock, lectors

Sunday, May 14 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Karen McMenamy, Pat Maguire, and Zachary Boutin, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 13 | 5:00 p.m.

Bridie Maloney, *Memorial*

Sunday, May 14 | 9:30 a.m.

Estelle Unni, *3rd Anniversary*
Christine Forker, *1st Anniversary*
Antonio Silvaggio, *63rd Anniversary*
Annunziata Silvaggio, *22nd Anniversary*
Cecelia Dodson, *Memorial*
Barry Lamb, *Memorial*
Michael Mone, *Memorial*

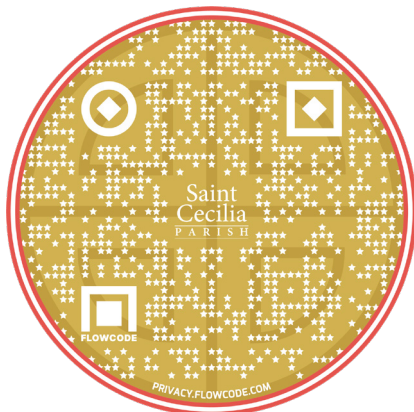
Sunday, May 14 | 11:30 a.m.

Richard Howland, *8th Anniversary*

Thursday, May 18 | 8:00 a.m.

Elizabeth Murray Beimers, *5th Anniversary*

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 1:12-14
1 Peter 4:13-16
John 17:1-11a



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Anastaja Lee, Sue Ryan, Niecee Regis, Tim Finn, Glenn Gallo, Carol Tebo, John Hosang, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rick Gaillardetz, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: **Julie and Paul Burke** of Boston, **Maggie Spinard** of Boston, **Keith Bucklen** of Boston, **Elizabeth Glowacki** of Boston, and **Denisse Rojas Marquez** and **James Blum** of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Catholic Appeal

Thank you to those who have given to the Catholic Appeal! We've exceeded our donor and financial goal. We are stronger together and your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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 cburns@stceciliaboston.org and use the word "graduate" in the subject line. Feel free to include the school's name and the degree awarded.

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 the thirty children in our First Communion Class 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.

Looking for Teachers

Are you interested in volunteering for our Faith Formation program during the 2023-2024 school year? We are looking for a group of adults who are interested in helping grow our faith formation program in a variety of roles. No teaching experience is required. If you have any interest, please email our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at ohastie@stceciliaboston.org.

Ascension Thursday

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is observed on Thursday, May 18. Ascension Thursday is a holy day of obligation and we will celebrate the liturgy at eight o'clock in the morning.



WELCOME,
FIRST COMMUNICANTS!

Some say First Eucharist, but these children have been with us at Eucharist faithfully for a long time. This Saturday they celebrate a new level of relationship with the Body of Christ. We are delighted to welcome these children to the table of the Lord this Saturday.

Dillon Jonathan Bolser
Henry George Bourque
Dominic Stuart Casiello
Scarlett May Champlin
Adam Chen
Casey Joseph Cox
Margaret Patricia Drake
Kathryn Ryan Fleming
Cailey En Harris
Lena Marie Hartmann
Madelynn Denise Higgins
Burch Frederick Hindle
Grace Elise Horan
Caleb Edward Inglis
Jack Donovan Jones
Szilvia Charlotte Teamey
Nikolaus Maurits Johannes Lirk

Dash Johnson Marine
Colton Donald Mazanec
Liza McKenna Oh
Harrison Joseph Pokaski
James Charles Rzezutko
Evan Lorthé Shapiro
Seamus George Sollinger
Rory James Campbell-Stewart
Amelia Joyce Vicino
Lucca Quilty Vultaggio
Fiona Lily Weaver



This Mother's Day

**HONOR A WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE
WITH A GIFT TO WOMEN IN NEED**

Each Mother's Day card supports a week of healthy lunches for a guest of **WLP**.

The artwork was created by a guest and the back of the card tells her story!

Visit **mothersdaycards.org**
for more information.

SUPPORT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE THIS MOTHER'S DAY

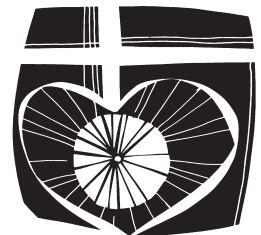
Mother's Day cards will be sold this weekend in the Saint Cecilia narthex. By purchasing Mother's Day cards through their fundraiser, you help WLP provide a wide array of services for the most vulnerable women in our community, including healthy meals and individualized services that empower these women 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. For more information about this fundraiser, please contact Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com or you can order cards directly by visiting www.MothersDayCards.org. At checkout, please indicate that Mark Lippolt referred you to this campaign.



JOIN US FOR THE 2023 MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Please join us on May 14 for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's 27th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. 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. Saint Cecilia Parish has supported the Institute's essential work for many years, and this year, we have set a parish goal of \$7,000 to contribute to the program's mission through its annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Your gift can have a lasting impact on the healing steps that move us toward peace through compassionate justice. We invite you to visit our team page (<https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/stcecilia>) to donate. You can also sign up to join our Walking Team for an unforgettable community experience.

As we enter our final week of fundraising for the Mother's Day Walk for Peace, we reflect upon the journey of the Institute's founder, Chaplain Clementina Chéry. Coming from a place of anguish following the murder of her son, Chaplain Chéry leaned upon her spiritual foundations to answer the call to peace work and establish the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Our Team has doubled in size and donations continue to come in as we prepare to walk beside the families who have lost their loved ones to senseless violence. By walking, we are the visible presence of our parish's support and we hope you'll join us and/or donate to this deeply meaningful cause. For those interested, the Saint Cecilia Team will join other Walkers at Town Field Park in Dorchester at 8:00 a.m. on May 14 for what will be a 4.3 mile walk, followed by a rally.





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. **On the weekend of May 13—14, we will ask you to return your Lenten rice bowls.** 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.”

Please keep in mind that 25% of donations to CRS are returned to local non-profits. In the case of Greater Boston, that means that they benefit our friends at Catholic Charities. For more information: www.CRS.org.

CARE-TAKERS SUPPORT GROUP

Calling all parishioners who visit the sick, the elderly, or the homebound! Are you visiting people as part of a hospital or hospice volunteer group or through the CARES ministry and feel that you would benefit from peer support? We are considering starting a parishioner-led group to meet virtually, in person, or on a hybrid basis (likely once a month) to build spiritual connection and share experiences. Anyone who attends Saint Cecilia in person or virtually is welcome. If you are interested, send your thoughts to aerusso2015@gmail.com. Our best, Silvina Ibanez, Bob Sances, and Amy Russo.

ARE YOU CPR TRAINED?

Last month, we had a very successful CPR training and we're pleased to announce that we have several open slots available for our second CPR training being held on May 21 from 2:00—5:00 p.m. Registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so please contact Lisa Pickering (lpickering@stceciliaboston.org) to sign up. If you cannot attend this class, we will offer another training in the fall. Please note that there are two parts to this training—an online and an in-person component. The online component must be completed prior to the in-person training at Saint Cecilia.

OUR ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION NEEDS YOUR INPUT!



The Saint Cecilia Adult Faith Formation Commission (AFFC) provides a range of impactful in-person and virtual parish events throughout the year. Past programming has included a monthly "Faith & Film Series" as well as special guest speaker events, such as last October's, "An Evening with Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ," an enlightening presentation and discussion on faith and science with the Director of the Vatican Observatory and world-renowned astronomer. Looking ahead, the AFFC would like to hear from the parish community on ways to create new programming that is current, inspirational, and accessible. Whether you have attended an event in the past or would be interested in doing so in the future—either locally or from across the globe—the AFFC would love to hear from you! Please take a moment to fill out a two-minute survey by scanning this QR code—it's fast and easy. If you have any questions, please email Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility, at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org. Thank you for your consideration!

PLEASE SHARE ABOUT OUR RETURNING CITIZENS MINISTRY

Previously known as our Prison and After Ministry, the Saint Cecilia Returning Citizens group meets from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., every other Monday evening. During each meeting, a group of volunteer parishioners gathers to welcome men local to the Boston area who have experienced any local, state, and federal correctional institutions. Some are recently released, living in supervised settings, and others have already settled in the area. These Monday nights are designed to provide a safe space where men reentering society from prison or jail can feel welcomed and loved. Each evening, these men share their experiences and share a meal with our parishioners. Needless to say, the stories shared are very powerful and a blessing for all to hear.

We need help recruiting and inviting new members. If you know any men who could benefit from this kind of supportive conversation and fellowship, please let them know that they would be more than welcome. Questions? Please email Fr. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, at shaughnessyjames1@gmail.com.

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. This is true again in 2023, except that, with COVID seemingly winding down, everyone is returning to in-person events.

Monday, May 15

Medicine that Matters Gala — Boston Health Care for the Homeless

Location: Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport | Information about the event:

<https://www.bhchp.org/events/2023-medicine-that-matters-gala/>

Wednesday, May 17

Spring Celebration — Catholic Charities

Location: JFK Library | Information about the event:

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



For more information about any of these events, please email Mark Lippolt at Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com



JOIN THE HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS MINISTRY MAILING LIST



Over the past decade, Saint Cecilia Parish has developed a significant relationship with several Boston-based nonprofit agencies that focus on housing and homelessness as well as hunger relief and food insecurity. From facilitating the collection of food and supply donations for our partners to offering safe, limited-contact opportunities for volunteering, Saint Cecilia's Hunger and Homelessness Ministry provides plenty of ways to pitch in for our neighbors in need. To get involved, or learn more about the work of this important ministry, please contact Mark Lippolt at Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com to join the mailing list.

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FRIENDSHIPWORKS ELDERBRATION AND 8TH ANNUAL WALK TO END ELDER ISOLATION

FriendshipWorks serves older adults, 60+ years of age by matching them with volunteers for friendship and assistance. They also have Spanish-speaking staff and can often match in a variety of languages. These services are at no cost. FriendshipWorks service areas include all of Boston, Brookline, Newton, Somerville, and Cambridge. In addition to home visitations, the agency also provides medical escorts, assistance with specific tasks, PetPals, and their MusicWorks program in Boston. Their biggest annual fundraiser takes place on Sunday, May 20 at 9:00 a.m. and is a walk around Jamaica Pond. To join the Saint Cecilia Team or donate: <https://secure.ggiv.com/event/elderbration/team/921643/>



LIFTED UP, ASCENSION DAY

BY D. REBECCA DINOVO

In early 2011 there were billboards plastered across the nation warning of Judgment Day on May 21, 2011, with the words, “The Bible guarantees it.” This was the day that had been predicted as Christ’s second coming by Pastor Harold Camping of Family Radio. Pastor Camping was so convinced of the date from his reading of the Bible, and he had attracted so many followers to this belief, that over \$100 million dollars was spent on a nationwide advertising campaign for it. Clearly, he was wrong, although Camping later claimed a spiritual judgment had actually taken place that day (which presumably would have been helpful information to have had earlier).

The campaign was a rather strange one given that the Scriptures are quite clear, including in the lesson appointed for today from Acts 1, that no one can know the day or hour of Christ’s return. In today’s text, we read the disciples asking Jesus about the end times and Jesus states, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.” Still, many religious groups continue to try and predict “Judgment Day.” In fact, one Biblical scholar named Ian Gurney believes that Armageddon began in 1999 and so Judgment Day will happen in 2023. It seems clear that we humans deeply desire to know what is going to happen and when it is going to happen. Rather than living in radical trust and faith in God about an open and unknown future, we frequently focus on what we think we know and can control and may find ourselves getting stuck on the wrong thing.

Today, we commemorate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. This event is believed to have occurred 40 days following Jesus’ resurrection. It was necessary for Jesus to ascend to heaven, Jesus said, so that the Holy Spirit could descend upon Jesus’ followers at Pentecost. Yet even as soon as the Ascension occurred, we read that Jesus’ followers got stuck and focused on the wrong thing. Notice that after Jesus ascended, his disciples remained there, standing in place, looking, and gazing up into heaven. Two angels had to come and intervene according to the text, and asked them, “Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?” and commended them on their way back to Jerusalem.

It is ironic to note, then, that we humans are still stuck on that spot where Jesus ascended, despite the message of the angels. In fact, if you visit the Holy Land today, you can go to the place where it is believed that Jesus actually ascended on the Mount of Olives. There is a shrine that has been built around the imprint of a foot: and it is deeply held by many that it is the footprint of Jesus’ right foot, his last point of physical contact with the earth. This spot has been fought over by Christians, Christian groups, and Muslims over the centuries. The chapel that was built and surrounds the footprint has been destroyed and erected time and time again. Today it is called the Chapel of the Ascension, and it’s a spot that both Christian and Muslim pilgrims travel to see and revere as a holy place by offering their worship and prayers. While it sounds like an interesting place to visit, even if this were the actual footprint of Jesus, do any of us really believe that Jesus would want us to spend so much time focused on his footprint, fighting over and about it, and vying for control over that little spot of earth? This sounds more like material for a Monty Python skit than a spiritual experience, especially in light of the angel’s original message: “Move on!”

But while this shrine to a footprint and Pastor Harold Camping and his followers may seem like extreme examples, they clearly reveal something that is true about all of us as humans. We really do spend our time – way too much of our time – stuck, simply looking in the wrong direction instead of living by faith in what God’s Holy Spirit is calling us to do. We can probably all think of times and ways in which the churches we know and love have spent weeks, months, or even years fighting about trivial things from the color of the carpet to who will have access to our buildings to how exactly to take Communion. It’s not that we don’t have to make decisions about important practical realities, it’s just that we can so easily get stuck there and invest our time, energy, focus, and money on things that matter comparatively little.

We do this in the church, but we also do this in our own personal lives as well. We can allow ourselves to be drawn into unnecessary distractions so easily, whether it’s social

media or some drama occurring among our friends or family, or simply our own attempts to control and manage the challenges we face. Rather than focusing and living out the radical invitation of Jesus to live by faith as disciples called into an unknown and open future by God's Holy Spirit, we stand in place, gazing in the wrong direction.

If the Ascension isn't about worshipping a footprint or controlling the future, then what is it about? The Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer states: "What do we mean when we say that he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father?" Answer: "We mean that Jesus took our human nature into heaven where he now reigns with the Father and intercedes for us."

This aligns with what our Eastern Orthodox friends are quick to point out: that the Ascension is the very culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation. In other words, it is precisely because Jesus' body is no longer confined to earth that his body can be mystically located in us, as the Church, the "Body of Christ." The Ascension teaches us that the Incarnation continues in each one of us, as members of Christ's Body who have been filled with the Holy Spirit. While on earth, Jesus could only be at one place at one time; now, Jesus is present everywhere both in heaven, interceding for us, and in all of his followers, throughout the entire world.

By ascending, the disciples of Jesus were enabled to take up Christ's call to receive the power of the Holy Spirit and to become witnesses of Christ's love and saving power to the very ends of the earth. As followers of Jesus, we lead lives full of meaning and importance and we can abandon ourselves in faith to what God is doing in and among us by God's Spirit. We have been given the chance to be Christ's Body here on earth and to bring the love of God in Jesus to all people, wherever we go, in every moment of every day: in the grocery store, in traffic, at home, at work, while serving the hungry, while tucking a child into bed, hugging an old friend, visiting the sick, sewing a quilt, laughing with a neighbor, or comforting one who suffers. Jesus is present in all of it. Even when we get stuck for a time, even when we start staring in the wrong direction, even when we lose our way or purpose, Christ is present to draw us back onto the path, so that we can step boldly into an unknown and open future with God by our side.

Ascend and lift up your hearts to the Lord today. We are the Body of Christ here on earth and we can do great things when we live by faith focused on Jesus. Thanks be to God!

~ *The Rev'd D. Rebecca Dinovo serves as the Minister for Congregational Life at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in La Jolla, California, and is the Missioner for Justice*

& Peace for the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. She has served parishes in Oregon, Missouri, and Ohio, and as a chaplain at the University of Michigan. She discovered her call to ministry while serving as a missionary in Chiang Mai, Thailand, as a young adult.

31ST ANNUAL POPE ST. JOHN
XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY GOLF
TOURNAMENT

The 31st Annual Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary Golf Tournament is on Monday, May 15th, at The Weston Golf Club. This premier charity event is held to benefit the educational program for the seminarians. Tuition covers only half the cost of educating a seminarian and the proceeds from this tournament will help bridge the gap and keep the cost of educating them affordable. The \$250 player entry includes lunch at Weston Golf Club, 18 holes of golf with cart, and door prizes; followed by a social hour, silent auction, and dinner for each golfer and a guest at the seminary. To register, call Kate Folan (781-899-5500), email her (kfolan@psjs.edu), or visit www.psjs.edu.



St. John School

9 Moon Street
Boston, MA 02113
(617)-227-3143 | sjsne.com
Serving PreK3-Grade 8



COME AND VISIT US

Contact Rebecca Griffin,
bgriffin@sjsne.com to
schedule a tour



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

Parish Staff

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Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
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lpickering@stceciliaboston.org

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show
mcdeery@gmail.com
Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer
gedwards@stceciliaboston.org
Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer
vizumchensky@berklee.edu

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.

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 our Faith Formation Program, please contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at ohastie@stceciliaboston.org.

Marriage

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 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.

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.

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 also provide consultation and support to anyone in the parish who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Lois Flaherty (loisflaherty@gmail.com), Maria Roche (maria.roche15@gmail.com), Letitia Howland (L_howland@hotmail.com), or Erin Young (erin.t.young@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

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 text of the policy is also available in the narthex and Parish Office, as well as on our website.

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.

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.

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 take advantage of 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.

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. If you are local, please introduce yourself to a staff member or drop in for coffee on Sunday. 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.

