

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



God Bless Our First Communicants!

Seventh Sunday of Easter

17 May 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

17 MAY 2026

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | Retrospection

Florence Price
(1887-1953)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Gather Us In

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,
2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
We are the old— who yearn for your face,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, But



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
Now is the King - dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,
Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er,



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: Amen.

- ✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Refrain in English

Cantor *All / Todos*

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

Estribillo en Español

Cantor *Todos / All*

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

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

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

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

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

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

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



Verse 3

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

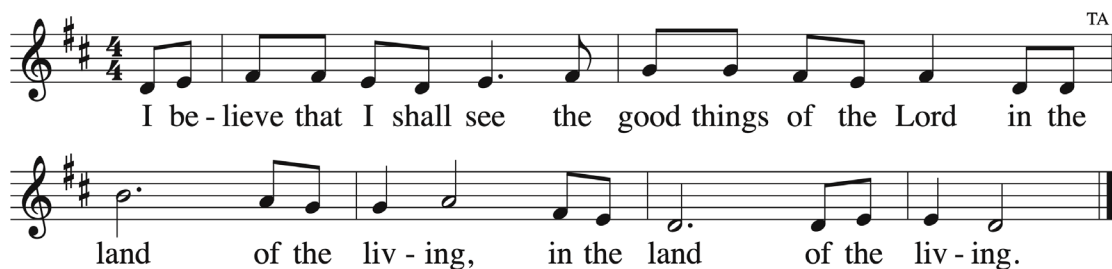
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 1: 12-14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 27: I Believe That I Shall See

Tony Alonso

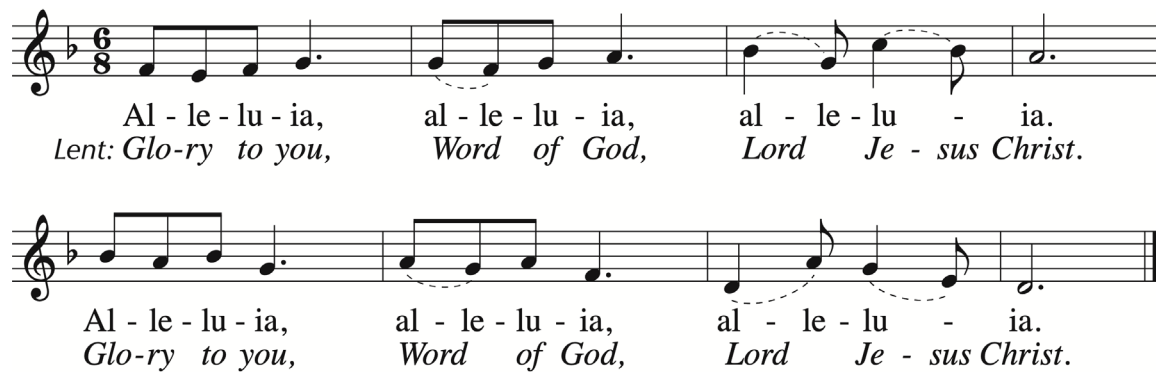


The LORD is my light and my salvation;
 whom shall I fear?
 The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
 whom should I dread? *R.*

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;
 have mercy and answer me.
 It is your face, O LORD, that I seek;
 hide not your face from me. *R.*

There is one thing I ask of the LORD,
 only this do I seek:
 to live in the house of the LORD
 all the days of my life,
 to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,
 to inquire at his temple. *R.*

SECOND READING | 1 Peter 4: 13-16



GOSPEL | John 17: 1-11a

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

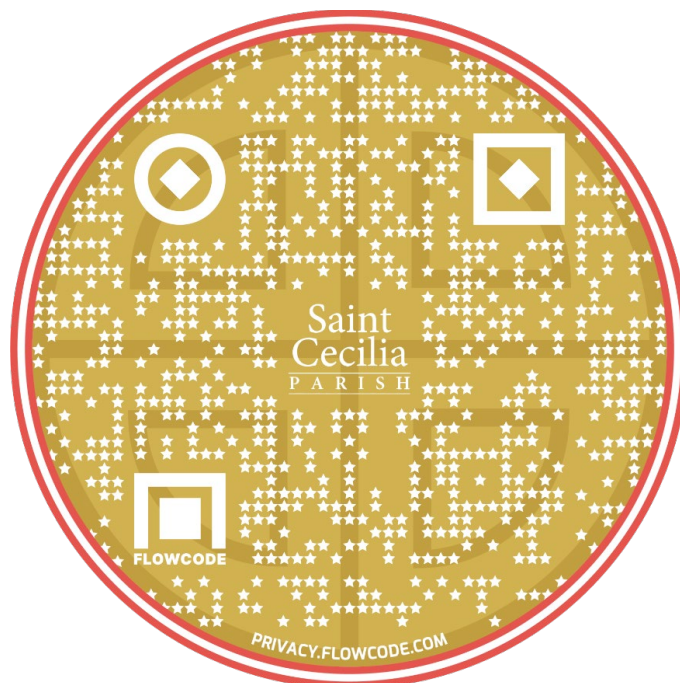
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, Seek now this soul of
2. O let it free - ly burn, Till earth - ly pas - sions
3. And so the yearn - ing strong, With which the soul will
mine, And vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing;
turn To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
long, Shall far out-pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;
O Com-fort - er, draw near, With - in my heart ap -
And let your glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my
No soul can guess Love's grace Till it be - come the
pear, And kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
sight, And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
place Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.



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

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

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

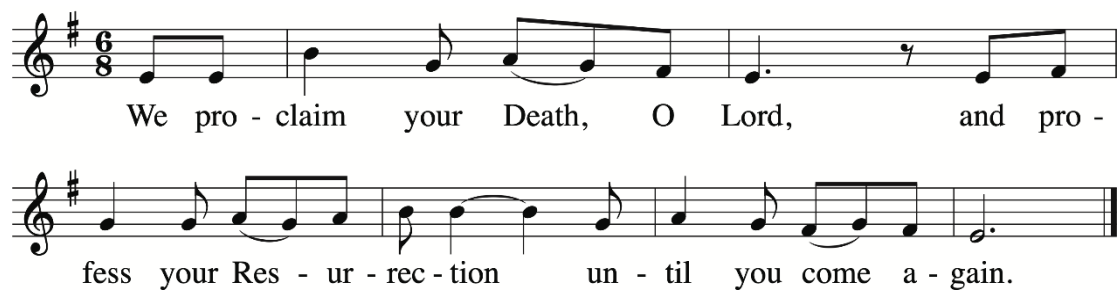
high - est, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -

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

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -

san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



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

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



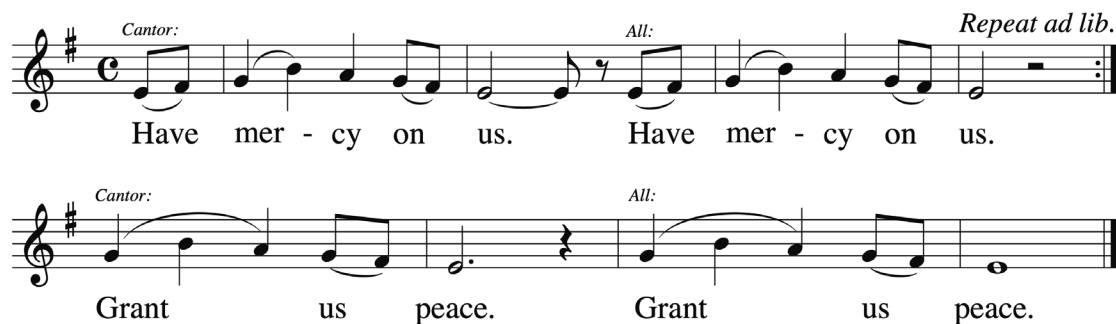
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

AGNUS DEI | Mass of the Angels and Saints



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION | In This Place

Trevor Thomson

Verses



1. We are all hun - gry peo - ple, we need
2. All our lives are a mys - t'ry; we see
3. Though the world may tell us to
4. In the bread that is bro - ken is the

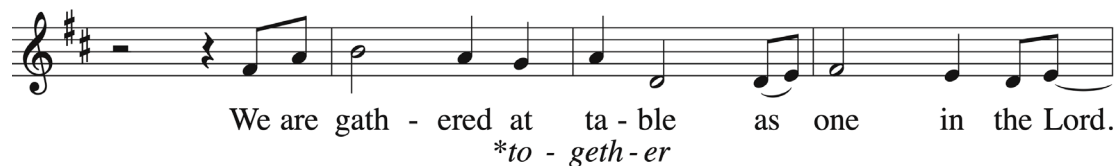
shel - ter and strength. We are one in our
not where they lead. We are asked now to
look at our - selves, we reach out to an -
Christ that re - stores. As we take, now re -

hurt - ing, we are one in our pain. In our suf -
trust you and we know we must be - lieve. As our feet
oth - er where suf - fer - ing dwells. As our hands
ceive him, we find love ev - er - more. As the bread

f'ring and sad - ness, we are saved by the grace
be - come Christ's feet, we go forth with the grace
be - come Christ's hands, we are healed by the grace
be - comes Bod - y, we are filled with the grace

of the pow - er and the Spir - it that is here in this place.

Refrain



COMMUNION MEDITATION | The Lord Bless You and Keep You

John Rutter
(b. 1945)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

CONCLUDING RITES

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Amen.

RECESSIONAL | Table of the World

NETTLETON

1. From the ta - ble of Christ Je - sus To the ta - ble of the
2. From the ta - ble of Christ Je - sus To the ta - ble of the
3. From the ta - ble of Christ Je - sus To the ta - ble of the

world,
world,
world,

Now to live the Gos - pel vi - sion Of a
We are nour - ished by this ban - quet; May we
We re - turn to dai - ly la - bor, Lives of

land where good - ness reigns — Not to seek the beg - gar's
nour - ish all we meet. Sing of grace and sing of
hun - ger, fear and need. All trans - formed here in our

"thank you," Not for earth - ly, vain re - ward,
mer - cy, Sing of love that brings forth peace.
meet - ing, All who strug - gle to be - lieve:

But to do the work of jus - tice, Lay - ing
May we hum - bly serve all peo - ple, Share the
Let us go forth from this ta - ble To be -

down the an - gry sword.
rich - ness of this feast.
come what we re - ceive.

POSTLUDE | Toccata on Great Day
Brett Maguire, *organ*

Adolphus Hailstork, III
(b. 1941)

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

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

HAPPY EASTER!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, May 16 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Theresa Chaklos, lector

Sunday, May 17 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Bobbi Moran, lector

Sunday, May 17 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Christie Hedges, Ben DeWinter, Maggie Giles, lectors

Sunday, May 17 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon and homilist
Megan Altendorf, Laura Melle, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 16 | 5:00 p.m.

Bridie Maloney, *Memorial*

Sunday, May 17 | 9:30 a.m.

Joyce Koch, *1st Anniversary*
Sr. Marie McDonald, *6th Anniversary*
Carol Ascrizzi, *Memorial*
Eileen Doherty, *Memorial*
Catherine Charland, *Memorial*
Earl Charland, *Memorial*

Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!



TODAY'S READINGS

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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Genesis 11:1-9
Romans 8:22-27
John 7:37-39

BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Alana



Annette



Annika



Catherine



Cecilia



Charles



Chris



Cody



Cole



Colum



Drea



Emma



Evelin



Gio



Henry



Jack

Saint Cecilia
P A R I S H

BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Jack



Jane



Josh



Krisztina



Maddie



Maura



Maya



Milania



Nayanna



Nicholas



Sadie



Scarlett



Sydney



Taylor



Thomas



Will

Saint Cecilia
P A R I S H

BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This Sunday, we celebrate the sacrament of confirmation for the 32 young parishioners and 21 adults who have been preparing to receive the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit enlighten each of our confirmands with the gifts of wisdom, understanding, and piety!

CONFIRMANDI

Marisol Hildegard of Bingen Argueta
Henry Jude Armstrong
Cody Sebastian Blake
Joshua Ignatius Bolser
Thomas Augustine Isaiah Boras
Matthew Laurence John Bouffard
Owen Michael Matthew Bouffard
Annette Emelia Cecilia Bourque
Jane Philip Neri Brohel
Cecilia Rose Kateri Campbell-Stewart
Maya Judith Castro
Alexander Ang Christopher Chan
Ayana Marie Cecilia Dahl
Alexandrea Philomena Diaz-Beltran
Henry Paul Sebastian Donnellan
Emma Jeanne Dunn
Thomas Fitzgerald Thomas Egan
Emme Lucia Therese Enojado
Max Gerhard Ivo Franke
Christopher Francis Gillis
Victoria Cecilia Gillis
Jack John Growdon
Jeffrey Christopher Guerrero
Sadie Charlotte Head
Emily Anne Frances Homiller
Nicholas Eric Joseph Jewett
Cole Michael Francis Kacich

Jack Wallace Paul Karle
Nicholas Peter Katsiroubas
Charles Francis Kisner
Catherine Cecilia Lyons
Sydney Catherine of Siena Marconi
Scarlett Rose Chiara Mazanec
Elizabeth Carpenter Cecilia McCoy
Krisztina Mariam Frances McGrath
Aquinnah Mae Mary Millon
Gabriella Martina Teresa Pais
Alessandra Angela Cecilia Pejrolo
Madeline Rose Philippine Prucher
Cecilia Antonia Adela Reyes
Murphy Sean Francis Rutledge
Colum Eoin Philip Neri Spock
Gio Ignatius Socci
Maura Lorthé Josephine Shapiro
Maeve Therese Gianna Sullivan
Michaela Catherine of Siena Tecson
Alana Elizabeth Susi
Annika Suzanne Teresa Teamey
Evelin Ilona Hildegard Teamey
Milania Alexandria Thibeault
Taylor Marie Ameila Timilty
John Peter Tricolli
William Thomas Tricolli

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Maeve Marsh, Emily Resciniti, Elizabeth Cusack and Joseph Collias, and Ashley Taylor and Marc Draper.** If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Be Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit

This Sunday afternoon, Bishop Cristiano Barbosa will be with us to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on 32 young parishioners and 21 adults. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with them and ask God to strengthen their faith and fill their hearts with joy as they complete their Christian initiation and receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

A Fond Farewell and Pancake Breakfast

This Sunday is our final weekend with Deacon Christopher Brolly, SJ, as he prepares for priestly ordination next month. We are grateful for his two years of service at Saint Cecilia and are sad to see him leave. Please join us in the parish hall for a pancake breakfast following the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies as we thank him and wish him well.

Pentecost Sunday

The Easter season draws to a close next Sunday with the Solemnity of Pentecost and the liturgical color is red. Help add to our celebration by wearing something red to Mass.

Memorial Day Weekend: No Coffee Hospitality

Please note there will be no Coffee Hospitality in the parish hall on Memorial Day Weekend (5/24).

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Congratulations to our First Communicants!



FAREWELL AND THANK YOU, DEACON CHRISTOPHER BROLLY, SJ



This Sunday marks our final weekend with Deacon Christopher Brolly, SJ, as he prepares to be ordained to the priesthood in just four weeks. We are deeply grateful for his presence at Saint Cecilia over the past three years, especially for his generous service with our OCIA program, his engaging homilies, and his pastoral presence in our community. Born in Hexham, Northumberland in the north of England, Christopher entered the Society of Jesus in 2015 and pronounced first vows in 2017. After studying

philosophy in Paris and teaching high school religion in London, he has been pursuing theological studies at Boston College. Ordained to the transitional diaconate in September of 2025, Christopher now looks forward to his ordination to the priesthood at St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England.

Reflecting on his upcoming ordination, Christopher shares:

"I will be ordained a priest on 13 June 2026 in St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It was a great surprise and a deep blessing for me to discover that I would be ordained a priest in my home diocese where I grew in faith and received all my sacraments of initiation. Anyone from Saint Cecilia Parish is very welcome to make the journey 'across the pond' and discover one of the 'hidden gems' of the UK: my home region of Northumberland."

Following ordination, Christopher will serve in a pastoral placement in the United Kingdom over the summer before returning to Boston for the 2026–27 academic year and his final year of studies. We thank him for his kindness, faith, and dedicated service among us, and assure him of our prayers as he prepares for priestly ordination. In gratitude for his ministry, we are hosting a pancake breakfast in Christopher's honor this Sunday following the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies. Please join us in fellowship and thanksgiving as we say farewell and thank you.

Deacon Christopher, we wish you Godspeed and look forward to welcoming you back when you return to Boston.

THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

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

GBIO TEAM UPDATE & NEXT STEPS

In April, our parish Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) team completed its listening sessions and submitted parishioner feedback to GBIO as part of the discernment process for its next campaign. We are grateful to the more than 60 parishioners who participated in nine listening sessions, helping us reach 100% of our parish goal. Across Greater Boston, GBIO gathered over 1,100 stories highlighting concerns such as housing, education, child care, and food security.

GET INVOLVED

The next step is research and community organizing. All are welcome to participate.

- **May 19:** Research training for those interested in joining GBIO research teams.
- **May 29, 30, or 31:** Introductory organizing trainings covering relationship-building, leadership, and community organizing skills. Each session offers the same content; choose the date that works best for you.

For training registration links or to learn more, contact the parish GBIO team.

Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that we are called to uphold the dignity of every person and work for the common good. Join us as we continue learning, organizing, and putting our faith into action together.

HELP THE WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

AVAILABLE AFTER WEEKEND LITURGIES | NARTHEX

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

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

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

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

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC? OCIA INFO SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 | 6PM VIA ZOOM

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

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

ANNA & SIMEON SENIORS

THURSDAY, MAY 21 | 10AM | PARISH HALL

The next Anna and Simeon Seniors Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21st. From 10:00 to 10:30 am there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:30 there will be time for prayer. All parish seniors are invited to participate.

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA MAY 17 - 21

SUNDAY, MAY 17

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 8:30am via Zoom

Parish Pancake Breakfast

After 9:30am & 11:30am Masses | Parish Hall

Healthcare Workforce Support Group

After the 11:30am Mass | Classroom 1

TUESDAY, MAY 19

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12pm | Comm. Room

GBIO Research Training

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

OCIA Info Session | 6pm via Zoom

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Anna & Simeon Seniors | 10am | Parish Hall

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 7:30pm via Zoom

Marriage Fellowship | 8pm via Zoom

THANK YOU FROM PINE STREET INN!



Pine Street Inn thanks all of the parishioners of Saint Cecilia who generously donated "Welcome Home" baskets for displaced tenants in March. Pictured above are Pine Street Inn team members assembling baskets.

SAINT DYMPHNA



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

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

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

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

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

To get on the distribution list, please contact Mary Wessel at mwessel@stceciliaboston.org.

MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, MAY 21 | 8PM VIA ZOOM

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

RAINBOW MINISTRY MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 29 | SAINT CECILIA PARISH

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

MENTAL HEALTH DROP-IN GROUP

SUNDAY, MAY 31 | 1PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

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

A REQUEST FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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

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

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

So the next time you are shopping or on Amazon.com, please

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

consider picking up some of the items above and dropping them in the plastic bin identified for this purpose in the narthex. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER ESOL TEACHERS & ASSISTANTS NEEDED (SUMMER 2026)

BEGINNING JULY 6 | IN-PERSON + VIRTUAL

A Faith That Does Justice is seeking volunteer ESOL Teachers and Assistants for an 8-week session beginning July 6, 2026. Serve adult learners at all levels through virtual classes and in-person classes in Boston. Classes meet two mornings or two evenings per week (two-hour classes). We provide curriculum, textbooks, training/orientation, and classroom support. Teaching experience is welcome but not required, and strong English fluency is especially helpful.



Apply by scanning the QR code or by visiting bit.ly/4rsCOWf. Learn more at faith-justice.org/volunteer-opportunit/esol.

FAITH IN ACTION: IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS NEW ENGLAND

NOW INTERVIEWING FOR SEPTEMBER PLACEMENTS

Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) New England, a yearlong volunteer opportunity for women and men 50 years of age and better, is seeking service corps members for the upcoming (September to June) year. IVC service corps members give one or two full days/week of service and commit to a monthly spiritual reflection program in the Jesuit tradition.

IVC works with nonprofits in the Boston/Worcester/Providence areas that address problems of homelessness, education, immigration and more. Get info and application by checking out the IVC New England website at www.ivcusa.org/newengland.

DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

Now that our Faith Formation classes have ended for the academic year, please consider donating to Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett pantries this summer so that they can remain well-stocked. The rise in gas prices has, unfortunately, challenged local families who are already food insecure.

Saint Cecilia has committed to providing these items to the food pantries: Cheerios or corn flakes, 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.com or a similar service. If you choose to do so, have them delivered to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115
Att: Mark Lippolt

GO, DELMACE!



We are so proud of Delmace Mayo, parishioner and member of last year's Confirmation class. In his second Boston Marathon last month, Delmace knocked an incredible 14 minutes off his 2025 time. Mayor Michelle Wu and a representative of the Boston Athletic Association recently honored Delmace at the 4th annual city's Fastest Bostonians event. Delmace was the fastest Boston resident wheelchair participant in this year's Marathon.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

We invite you to make your voice heard by voting for THREE new members of our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC).

As a reminder, elections will be held on the weekend of **May 30/31**. If you cannot be present that weekend, you may also submit your vote via e-mail at info@stceciliaboston.org until 1:00 p.m.(ET) on Sunday, May 31.



STEPHEN FOLEY: Saint Cecilia is a place of comfort, community, and spiritual growth — a sanctuary where I find a deep sense of belonging and connection with others who share my values and faith. Through worship, prayer, and fellowship, I draw strength and guidance to navigate life's challenges, and I am continually inspired by this parish's spirit of kindness, compassion, and service.

I have been a registered parishioner for three years and a familiar face at the 9:30 AM Sunday Mass. I currently serve the community as a Eucharistic Minister, a ministry that has deepened my faith and commitment to this parish family. It is because of all that Saint Cecilia has given me that I feel called to give back by serving on the Parish Pastoral Council — to help shape and strengthen the community that has meant so much to me.



PETER HALEY: St. Cecilia is for me both a refuge from the pressures and trials outside the church, a place where I can think more clearly about my own life and orient myself towards the beliefs that animate our faith, and also a place to engage with other members of the community in an effort to share our strength as a group with each other. To be in church with others is for me a way to share my faith with others and offer my support for others. I believe that through service on the Council I can make myself useful to others by working to support the tradition of making our community a source of strength for others inside and outside the parish. I have been a registered parishioner at St. Cecilia since 2019. I am a Lector and usually attend the 9:30 am Mass on Sundays.



AUBREY HARTNETT: I have been a parishioner at Saint Cecilia since 2012, and it is truly my parish home where I got married and have baptized my three children. Over the years, I have been involved in the Young Adults and Young Families ministries, as well as the Racial Equity Team and even the choir. We have been longtime 9:30 Mass-goers, but have also added the 8am to our rotation with the religious education schedule. As a lay Marianist, the culture of Saint Cecilia felt immediately at home for me, and the community is unparalleled. Saint Cecilia has challenged me, supported me, and been a place where I have grown so much. I look forward to serving on the Council bringing my own experience as a mother of young children and a part of a mixed-faith and multiracial household, and also listening to and learning from the community around me to better serve the community in the pews and joining online. Whether we see you in the pews or around the city (we join from East Boston!), I am excited to serve this parish community.



PETER LIN-MARCUS: As a 20+ year parishioner at Saint Cecilia Parish, I would welcome the chance to serve on the Parish Council. For me, our faith is not only about the 2–3 hours we spend together on Sunday, but about the remaining 6½ days each week. Through the Journey to Racial Justice, the Racial and Social Justice Ministry, and parish life, I supported Saint Cecilia’s ongoing work to become an antiracist parish rooted in the Gospel.

As a GBIO-trained community organizer, I hope to help Saint Cecilia deepen its engagement with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and empower parishioners to live the Gospel through action, relationship, and beloved community. Our parish is called to cultivate a culture of ownership rooted in the truth that every person is created in the image of God and entrusted with gifts to help build the Kingdom of God. I will help Saint Cecilia continue building systems and ministries with maximum feasible inclusion of all people—including BIPOC communities, youth, LGBTQ+ people, neurodiverse individuals, disabled people, immigrants, and those feeling excluded from church life.

The Gospel calls us not simply to welcome people, but to empower them as co-creators of our parish community and mission, ultimately to be full participants in God’s creation work. I invite all of us to join together to make this happen.



KIDISTI (KAY) MAMMO: Saint Cecilia is my spiritual home and the place where I reflect and learn about putting my faith into action and how to apply the lessons of the Gospel in my life. Coming to Saint Cecilia has provided me with a church community that also believes that our job as Christians is to stand with the marginalized. The folks at Saint Cecilia teach me everyday how easy it is to be welcoming. I have been coming to Mass since 2023 and regularly, (almost) every weekend, for the past year and quickly made close friends. I attend Young Adult Ministry events, church retreats, and special events our parish hosts, such as special speakers like Father James Martin, folks from Doctors Against Genocide, and more. You typically see me at 11:30am! I look forward to applying my professional experience in sustainability and management into my role on the Parish Council!



SARAH MURPHY TRAVIS: My name is Sarah Murphy Travis, and my husband and I have been parishioners of Saint Cecilia Parish since returning to Boston in 2022. From our very first Mass, we felt a genuine sense of welcome and belonging that has stayed with us. We regularly attend the Sunday 9:30 AM Mass, which I cherish for its mix of generations and young families. When we attend the Sunday 6:00 PM Mass, I am equally moved by the music, homilies, and the presence of so many young people. Both experiences have deepened my love for the parish.

That feeling of being welcomed inspired me to serve. I joined the Greeters and Ushers Ministry last year, and it has become one of the most meaningful parts of my week. I truly enjoy offering a warm welcome to others. I also participate in the Knitting and Crochet Ministry, where I have found both friendship and a shared sense of care for others.

After a recent trip away, returning to Saint Cecilia felt like coming home. Thank you for considering me for the Parish Pastoral Council. It would be a privilege to serve.

Any questions can be sent to Scott MacDonald at his parish email address.

'SAVED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD' – AND BY THE POETRY OF MARY OLIVER

BY ELIZABETH HAMILTON



Credit: Library of Congress/@NW Orchard LLC, used with permission of Bill Reichburn/Molly Malone Cook

Mary Oliver as a young woman, ca. 1965-1970

"Today, Mary Oliver saved my life."

This happens to be the opening line of a poem I wrote a few years back, but in Sasha Waters' new documentary, "Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the World," we see countless pieces of fan mail flood the screen to thank the poet for the same. Perhaps the film's title has a double meaning: The beauty of the world saved Oliver, and Oliver's reoffering of the world's beauty through poetry has saved her readers, too.

Celebrities willing to gush about Oliver in Waters' documentary include the musician Lucy Dacus, Stephen

Colbert and Oprah Winfrey, who said this: "Mary Oliver's poems are for me a balm in the storm. They speak the language of my soul." Would anyone disagree?

And yet the woman behind the Pulitzer Prize is something of a public mystery. Who was the poet, really? The filmmaker and actor John Waters, a close friend of Oliver's who offers funny interludes about her throughout the film ("She was in the woods like a crazy person talking to animals!" and "She joined the church because she was after the woman preacher!"), and emphatically states that Oliver was not a healthy "earth mother." She chain-smoked. She drank. She was a beatnik. What else?

Throughout the film, we hear marvelous readings of Oliver's poems set over images and videos of her at various stages of life. We watch as contemporary poets offer poignant accounts of how her words affected them. We follow her from childhood in Ohio, to young adulthood in Greenwich Village, to years at the artist haven of Provincetown, Massachusetts, and all the way to balmy Florida, where she died at age 83 in 2019.

The documentary is being advertised, in part, as unearthing the enigma — a boast emboldened by never-before-seen photographs, excerpts from notebooks and personal correspondences. But while "Saved by the Beauty of the World" captivates the senses and moves the heart, it fails to meaningfully mine the deeper layers of the poet's elusive life.

Commentators brood about Oliver's "dark and broken" childhood; friends speak in ominous but vague tones about her second partner; in an archival interview with journalist Maria Shriver, Oliver speaks of being a victim of childhood sexual assault. This is about the extent of what we learn of her upbringing, which Oliver wanted desperately to leave behind. All the blank spaces suggest that perhaps she succeeded.

As the poet Nick Flynn put it, "I know there's a lot more to her life than just waking up in the morning and going up for a walk. What is the storm?" This is a common critique of Oliver's poems, but could also apply to this film as well.

The most intimate access made available to the audience is Oliver's 40-year-long romantic partnership with the photographer Molly Malone Cook, affectionately called "M," whom she met while living at Edna St. Vincent Millay's home, Steepletop, in New York. The couple later moved to Provincetown, Massachusetts, the chilly, oceanside landscape that inspired so much of the poet's work.

Oliver's lesbian identity has mostly been left out of her public persona, so much so that many of her readers might be surprised. Oliver, the commentators tell us, was proudly out of the closet but not a gay activist. She was private about her love life not because she felt ashamed, but because she considered romance akin to a religious experience.

Oliver's private approach to homosexuality, even during the AIDS epidemic when so many in the gay community died, led to a question probed by the film: What is the civic duty of a writer? Should Oliver have written explicitly about marginalized people? Was she "antique" in her attention to the natural world? Was her work unjust because it didn't include overt advocacy? It's a question writers and other public figures far less famous than Oliver face with increasing pressure today.

"I really believe in the resistance of the artist to be fully an artist," said U.S. poet laureate Ada Limón in defense of Oliver. Later in the film, in a clip from a speech, Oliver declares, "Our enjoyment of the natural world is, in the long

run, political."

In one of her most famous poems, "The Summer Day," which we hear read at times throughout the documentary, Oliver writes of a day spent kneeling in the grass and strolling idly through the fields. She posits: "Tell me, what else should I have done?" There's a pluck to that question, as if she's urging us to see attending to our surroundings as a kind of rebellion against the pressures of modernity.

"What is the meaning of life? Where can I go for solace? How do I find happiness?" asks Dacus. These are the kinds of questions readers bring to Oliver's poems, which usually contain, if not the answers, at least a way through whatever hardship has descended. Waters' documentary is a 90-minute visual "thank you" to Oliver, to which so many of us wholeheartedly say: "Amen."



Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the World will premiere on August 25, 2026 on PBS.

Originally published in the National Catholic Reporter on May 2, 2026.

Elizabeth Hamilton is a writer living in Dallas whose work has appeared in the Dallas Museum of Art, Southern Humanities Review and Texas Monthly.



PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, Deacon

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities Operations & Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Schedule for Liturgy

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

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

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

Baptism for Infants

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

Parking

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

Faith Formation for Children

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

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

Please note:

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