

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Our First Communicants

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

18 May 2025

# Saint Cecilia

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18 MAY 2025

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | *Ave Maris Stella*, Setting II

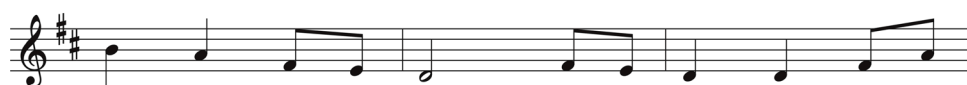
Jean Titelouze  
c.1562/3-1633

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Sing a New Church

NETTLETON



1. Sum - moned by the God who made us Rich in  
2. Ra - diant ris - en from the wa - ter, Robed in  
3. Trust the good - ness of cre - a - tion; Trust the  
4. Bring the hopes of ev - 'ry na - tion; Bring the  
5. Draw to - geth - er at one ta - ble All the



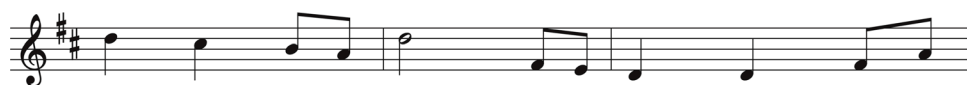
our di - ver - si - ty, Gath - ered in the name of  
ho - li - ness and light, Male and fe - male in God's  
Spir - it strong with - in. Dare to dream the vi - sion  
art of ev - 'ry race. Weave a song of peace and  
hu - man fam - i - ly; Shape a cir - cle ev - er



Je - sus, Rich - er still in u - ni - ty:  
im - age, Male and fe - male, God's de - light:  
prom - ised, Sprung from seed of what has been.  
jus - tice; Let it sound through time and space.  
wid - er And a peo - ple ev - er free.



Let us bring the gifts that dif - fer And, in



splen - did, var - ied ways, Sing a new Church in - to



be - ing, One in faith and love and praise.

## 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 | You Will Draw Water Joyfully

Tony E. Alonso

### Refrain in English

*Cantor* *All / Todos*

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

### Estribillo en Español

*Cantor* *Todos / All*

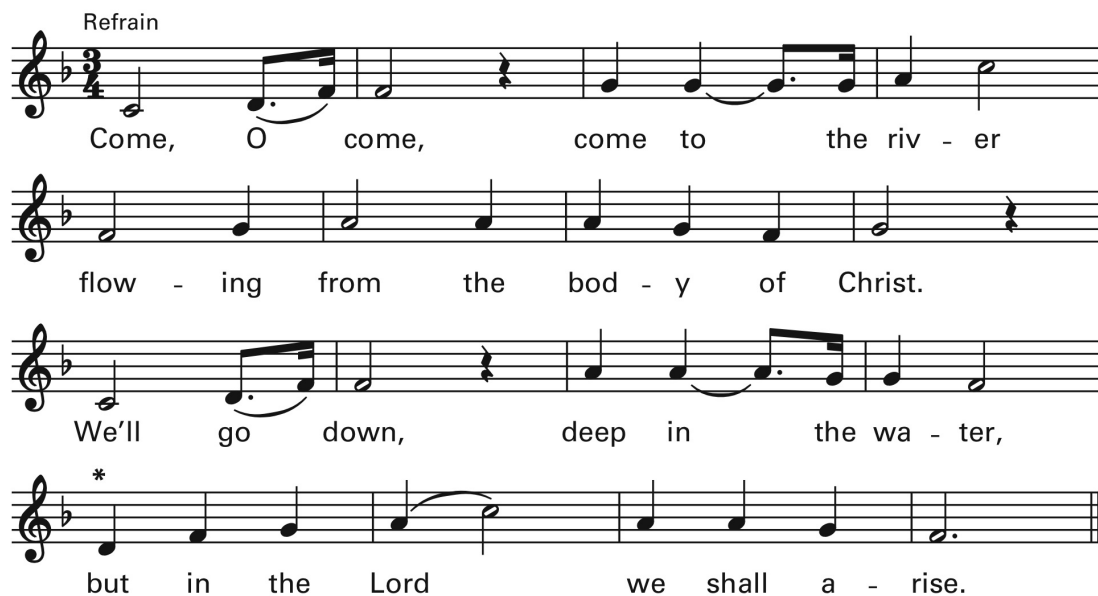
Sa - ca - rán a - guas con a - le - grí - a Sa - ca -  
rán a - guas con a le grí - a de las fuen - tes de sal - va -  
ción. de las fuen - tes de sal - va - ción.

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

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

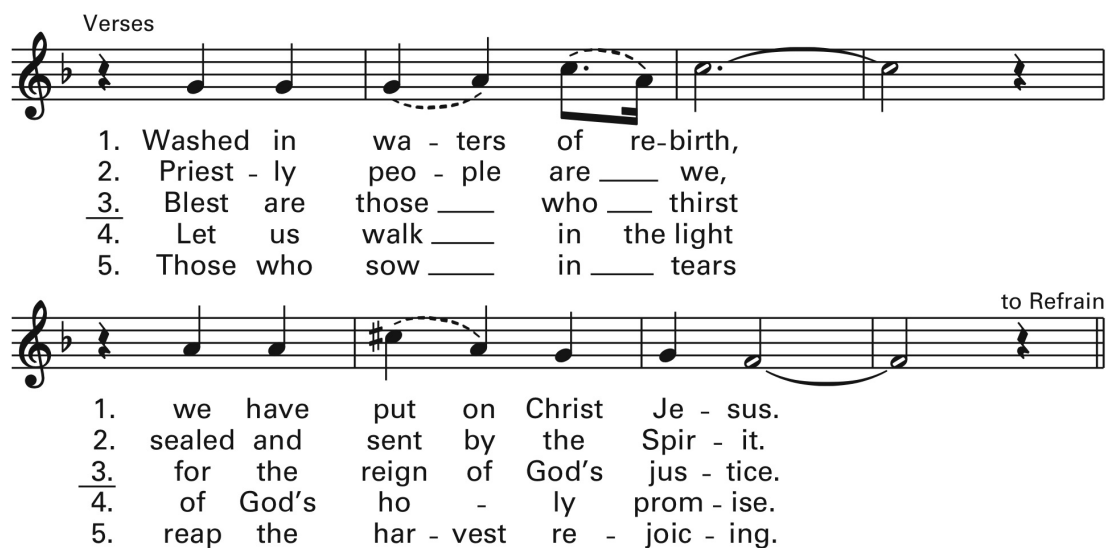
Sing the wonders God works, make them known in every land.  
O people of Zion, shout: The Holy one is among you.

Refrain



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

Verses



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

to Refrain

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

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

*To verses* *Last time*

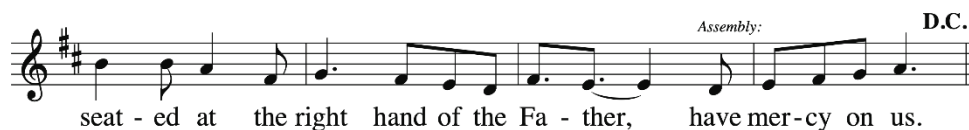
## Verse 1

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

## Verse 2

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

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



Verse 3

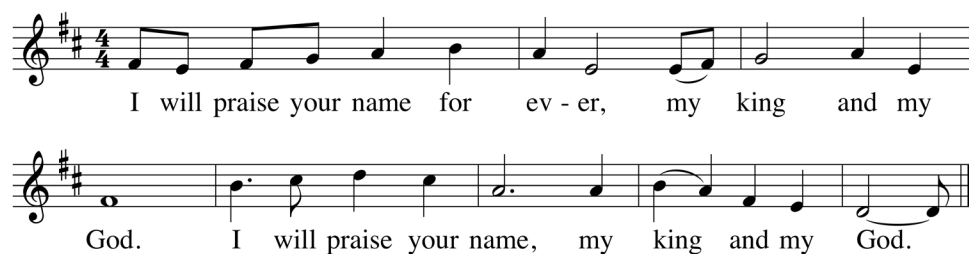
3. For you alone are the Holy One,  
 you alone are the Lord,  
 you alone are the Most High,  
 Jesus Christ,  
 with the Holy Spirit,  
 in the glory of God the Father.  
 Amen.

COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 14: 21-27

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 145: I Will Praise Your Name      Tony E. Alonso




Verses

1. I will extol you, my God and king,  
 and bless your name forever and ever.  
 I will bless you day after day,  
 and praise your name forever and ever.
2. The LORD is kind and full of compassion,  
 slow to anger, abounding in mercy.  
 How good is the LORD to all,  
 compassionate to all his creatures.
3. All your works shall thank you, O LORD,  
 and all your faithful ones bless you.  
 They shall speak of the glory of your reign,  
 and declare your mighty deeds.
4. To make known your might to the children of men,  
 and the glorious splendor of your reign.  
 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
 your rule endures for all generations.
5. The LORD is faithful in all his words,  
 and holy in all his deeds.  
 The LORD supports all who fall,  
 and raises up all who are bowed down.

SECOND READING | Revelation 21: 1-5a

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso



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 13: 31-33a, 34-35

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!

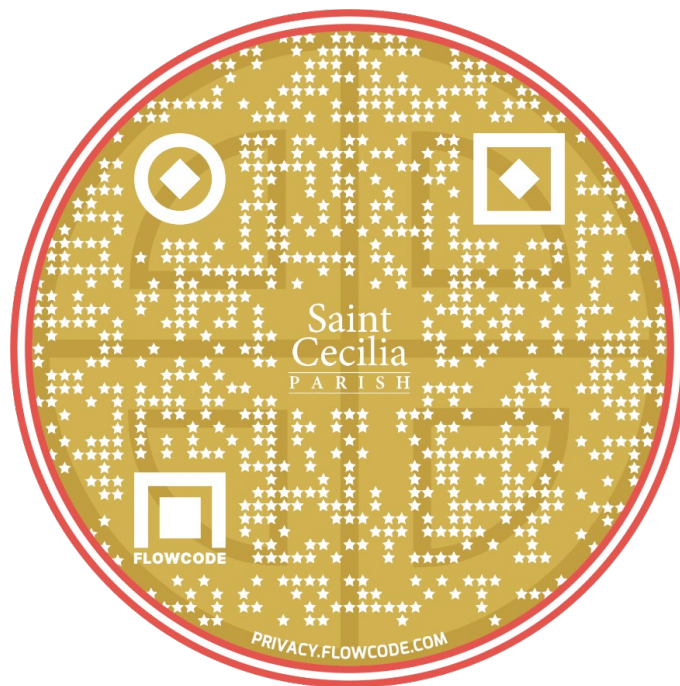
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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](http://www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston).

You can also mail a check to:

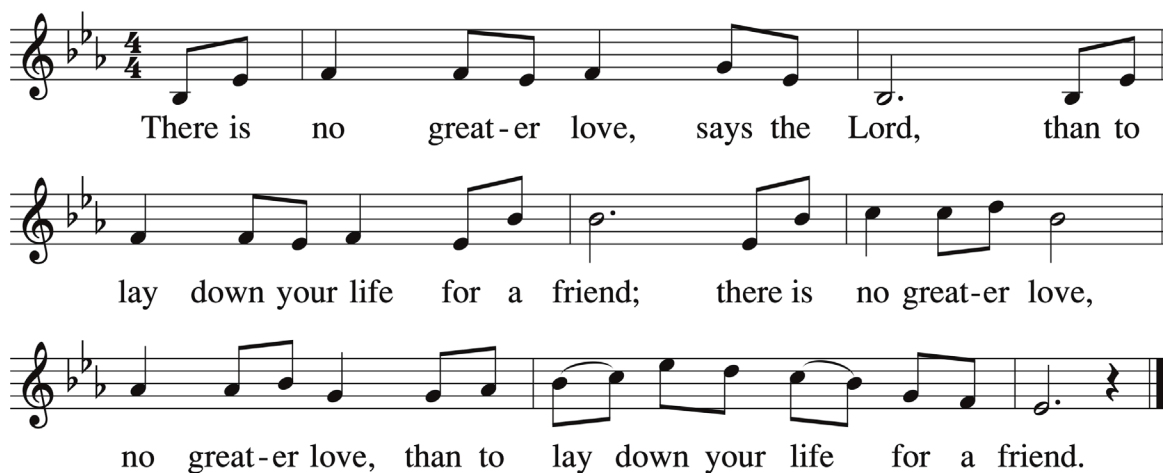
Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | No Greater Love

Michael Joncas



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

Verse 1



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

Verse 2



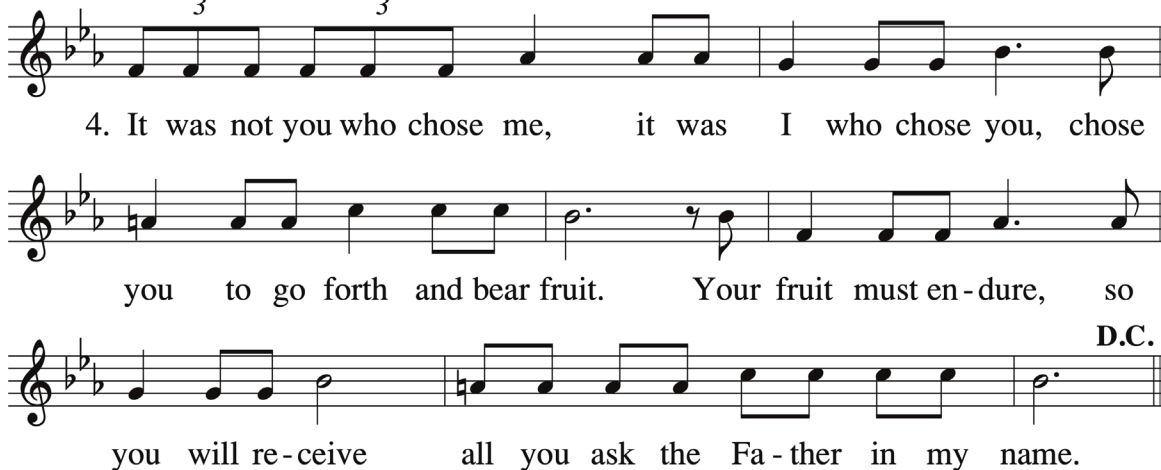
2. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and  
your joy may be com-plete. Love one an-oth-er as



Verse 3



Verse 4



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

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

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

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

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

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

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

## AMEN | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

## THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

## AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso

The musical score is written for a Cantor or choir and the congregation (All). It is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace." The score consists of three staves. The first staff is for the Cantor or choir, and the second and third staves are for the congregation. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*Cantor or choir:* Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have  
*All:* mer - cy on us. *Cantor or choir:* Lamb of God, you  
*All:* take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

## 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.



1. All who hun-ger, gath - er glad - ly; Ho - ly man - na  
 2. All who hun-ger, nev - er stran-gers; Seek-er, be a  
 3. All who hun-ger, sing to-geth - er; Je - sus Christ is



is our bread. Come from wil - der - ness and wan-d'ring.  
 wel - come guest. Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing.  
 liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing.



Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for  
 Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were  
 Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who



days of full - ness, All a - round us is our food.  
 lost and scat - tered In com - mun-ion's love have stood.  
 from this ta - ble Live their days in grat - i - tude.

Refrain



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

## 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.



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 the  
 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.

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

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

# 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.

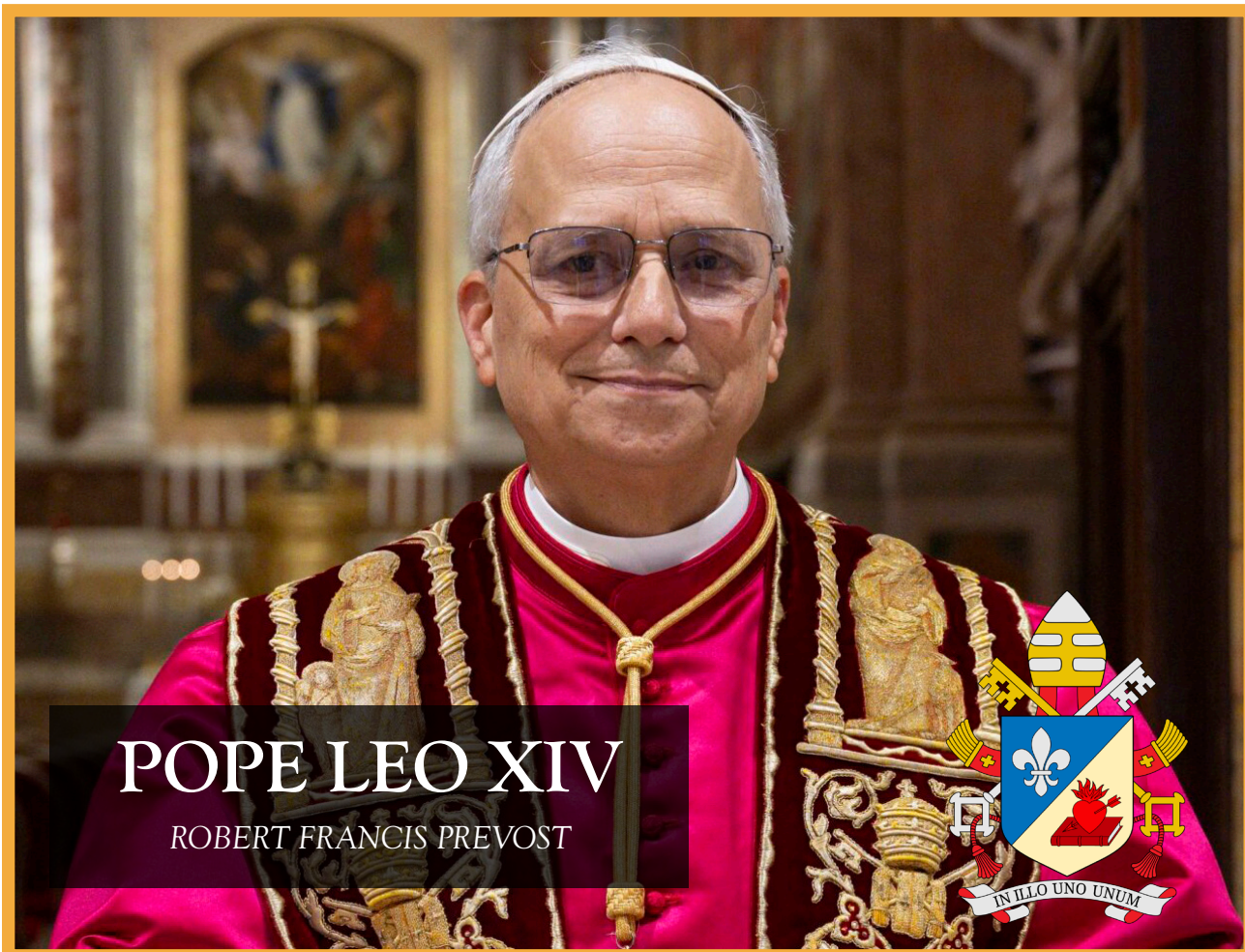
Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two 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.

# HABEMUS PAPAM!



Saint Cecilia Parish shares in the joy of the universal Church at the announcement of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV! The name chosen provides some indication that Pope Leo will put Catholic Social Teaching at the heart of his pontificate. We pray that God will bless Pope Leo with strength and courage as he begins his Petrine ministry. May he continue building bridges that connect us to one another and may the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for him always.

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

### **Saturday, May 17 | 5:00 p.m.**

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Mary Kane, lector

### **Sunday, May 18 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant  
Linda Frayling, lector

### **Sunday, May 18 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Moira Macdonald, Kelly McClintock,  
Thomas O'Brien, lectors

### **Sunday, May 18 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
James Paradis, Karen McMenamy,  
Chika Offurum, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

### **Sunday, May 18 | 9:30 a.m.**

James Skeffington Sr., *10th Anniversary*  
Louise Hartnett, *Memorial*  
John Ouellette, *Memorial*  
Fred and Josephine Mason, *Memorial*

### **Sunday, May 18 | 11:30 a.m.**

Warren Bruno, *Anniversary*  
Alec Bruno, *Anniversary*

## TODAY'S READINGS

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

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29  
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23  
John 14:23-29



# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

## Our Deceased

**Robert Irving Batson** died on April 28. Pray for his eternal repose as well as for the consolation of Tina, Corey, and Olivia Suglia.

**Lois T. Flaherty** died on May 11. Pray for her eternal repose as well as for the consolation of Lois' family and friends.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## Our Sick

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

## Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **John Evans** of Watertown, **Christine Fedele** of Boston, and **Amy Janowski**, also of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

## Coffee Hospitality Changes

There will be no Coffee Hospitality in the Parish Hall on **May 25th** (Memorial Day Weekend), **July 6th** (Independence Day Weekend), and **August 31st** (Labor Day Weekend). Our dedicated volunteers will take some well-deserved time off to enjoy the holidays.

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**Make All Things New**

**James B. Janknegt, c. 2005**

## SACRED CONVERSATIONS: SPEAKING WITH THE HEART OF CHRIST

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

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

## MONTHLY BEREAVEMENT GROUP

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH | 6:00 PM | ONLINE**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 18TH | 2:00 PM | FAMILY FLEX CENTER**

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

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

## SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS

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

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

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

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

## SAINT CECILIA CLIMATE JUSTICE GROUP

**SUNDAY, MAY 18 | 1PM | CLASSROOM 1**

The Saint Cecilia Climate Justice group will meet on Sunday May 18th at 1pm in classroom 1.

## SIMEON & ANNA SENIORS

**THURSDAY, MAY 22 | 10AM | PARISH HALL**

The next Simeon and Anna Seniors Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8th. From 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. 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 15 - MAY 22

### THURSDAY, MAY 15

Communion Circle | 4pm | Hale House  
Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

### SATURDAY, MAY 17

Sacred Conversations | 9am - 12pm | Parish Hall

### SUNDAY, MAY 18

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom  
Climate Justice Meeting | 1pm | Classroom 1  
Small Group Connections | 1:30pm | Parish Hall  
Bereavement Group | 2pm | Family Flex

### MONDAY, MAY 19

Returning Citizens | 5:30pm | Parish Hall  
SCYA Women's Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Small Group Connections | 8pm via Zoom

### THURSDAY, MAY 22

Simeon and Anna Seniors | 10am | Parish Hall  
Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

## "THE LETTER"

**FRIDAY, MAY 30 | 7PM VIA ZOOM**

The Boston Chapter of the Laudato Si' Movement will host a showing of the award-winning film *The Letter* via Zoom. Pope Francis invites five people from around the world to share their concerns about climate change as they seek hope for the future. More at: [theletterfilm.org](http://theletterfilm.org). Register at: [tinyurl.com/TheLetter-5-30](http://tinyurl.com/TheLetter-5-30).

## SPIRITUALITY GROUP FOR MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1 | 1:30PM | COMMUNITY ROOM**

The intention for the group is to gather interested medical and mental health professionals of all kinds to explore a faith-based response to supporting ourselves and those we serve in these challenging times. This group is starting up on Sunday June 1st at 1:30pm. If you are interested in helping create such a group, please let us know by emailing Mary Wessel at her parish email, Kathy Sanders ([sanderno2010@gmail.com](mailto:sanderno2010@gmail.com)) or Michael Murphy ([mmurphycmh@gmail.com](mailto:mmurphycmh@gmail.com)).



## 29TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

We are overjoyed to announce that our parish community has exceeded our fundraising goal for the Mother's Day Walk For Peace! Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, their loved ones, and our parish match, we were able to raise \$10,075 in support of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. We welcomed several new members to the team, walking alongside thousands of people committed to spreading peace, healing, and resilience in our communities. Reflecting on this year's success, we're filled with gratitude and hopeful anticipation for next year's walk. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making a difference! If you would still like to donate, please visit: [www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/stcecilia](http://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/stcecilia).



## LEARN ABOUT THE GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION

**GBIO WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZING: A DAY DEVOTED TO FAITH, REFLECTION, AND ACTION**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7 | COFFEE AT 8:45AM, WORKSHOP FROM 9AM - 12PM | SAINT CECILIA PARISH HALL**

In a further expression of our commitment to dialogue and community engagement, Saint Cecilia Parish is pleased to announce our next steps towards membership in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). Founded in 1998, GBIO is an interfaith coalition focused on making systemic changes to support social and economic justice in our local communities. GBIO works for the public good by coalescing, training, and organizing people across religious, racial, ethnic, class, and neighborhood lines and is dedicated to developing leaders who are committed to making Greater Boston a better place to live, work, and raise a family. For more than 20 years, GBIO has worked to improve housing and healthcare, reform our criminal justice system, address racial disparities in our city, and rebuild schools and neighborhoods. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "There is power in unity, and there is power in numbers"—GBIO represents 45 member institutions and more than 107,000 individuals and has shown the power of collective strength in achieving a variety of goals.

You are invited to join leaders from Saint Cecilia and Saint Katharine Drexel parishes for a morning grounded in prayer, community, and the mission of the Church. Guided by experienced organizer Kristen King, we'll explore Catholic Social Teaching—from Pope Leo XIII to Pope Francis—and will discuss how our partnership with GBIO can help us live out our faith in ways that promote justice, peace, and the common good. The day will include time for spiritual grounding, learning, small-group discussion, and a plan for moving forward.

Whether you're new to organizing or are looking to deepen your impact, this workshop is a good opportunity to connect, learn, and discern how we can act together to build bridges for the common good. This workshop is free and open to all.

To register, please visit: [www.stceciliaboston.org/gbio/](http://www.stceciliaboston.org/gbio/)

## A REQUEST FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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

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

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

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

## JOIN THE WISDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group holds two gatherings each week on Zoom—Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30—to share ways in which faith informs and enriches the second half of life. This is not a book club, but conversations are often informed by shared spiritual reading. The group is presently concluding their exploration of *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. On May 29 they will begin discussing Rochard Rohr's newest book, *The Tears of Things*. For more information about meetings or to be added to their mailing list, please contact the ministry at their parish email.

## LET LIFE GROW: SCYA DONATION DRIVE

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

From **May 3- May 25** we will be collecting baby, child, and new mother items for three Boston-area pregnancy help centers. The list of items are below and you can drop them

off **before or after weekend mass during the month of May.**

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

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

You can also support St. Mary's via their Amazon Wish List: [www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3Q43UXD47BKCP/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3Q43UXD47BKCP/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

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



**SOME MORE PICTURES OF  
OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS**

**THE GREATER BOSTON LGBTQIA  
CATHOLIC COLLECTIVE CELEBRATES:**

# PRIDE MONTH

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual**

## **All Are Welcome Mass**

**Friday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
St. Cecilia's Parish  
18 Belvidere St., Boston  
Reception to Follow!**

## **Pride Festival**

**Saturday, June 14th  
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Boston Common  
Come visit us  
at our booth!**

**For more information and the exact location of the  
Pride Festival Booth, email:  
[GreaterBostonLGBTQIACatholics@gmail.com](mailto:GreaterBostonLGBTQIACatholics@gmail.com)**



# 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 31/June 1**. If you cannot be present that weekend, you may also submit your vote via e-mail at [info@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:info@stceciliaboston.org) until 1:00 p.m.(ET) on Sunday, June 1.

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**KATIE BALIAN:** Saint Cecilia has been a home for me since the moment I entered. Pretty shortly after, the clergy, parishioners, and staff became a source of comfort to me throughout both joyful and difficult times. I became a registered parishioner in 2020. I moved to Boston from Los Angeles in 2015 and struggled to find a parish that felt comfortable and to be the right fit, like the parish I grew up at in California. The moment I walked through the doors and then heard Fr. John give a homily mentioning the twelve steps, as an active participant in the 12-step community, I immediately felt like this was my place (I would later learn just how much)! I currently serve as a greeter where you can see me at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, but have served in the Hunger and Homelessness Ministry, as an OCIA sponsor and as a Children's Faith Formation Catechist.



**JOHN BATTAGLINI:** Many of you know me as "John, the Greeter" at our 9:30 Sunday Mass. In this simple ministry, I've experienced firsthand the warmth and kindness that truly define our Saint Cecilia family. Your welcoming smiles remind me each week of the importance of connection and belonging. If given the opportunity to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council, I would embrace our spirit of cherishing everyone who enters our doors. I believe each person who joins us—whether in person, virtually, or in spirit—deserves to feel valued and loved. My commitment would be to uphold our parish vision by ensuring your hopes and needs remain at the heart of all we do. Personally, my wife Elizabeth and I live in the Fenway neighborhood. We're blessed with five children and five grandchildren, and together we share a love for good food, tennis, golf, and traveling—always looking forward to the next great adventure we can experience together.



**STEPHEN FOLEY:** Saint Cecilia feels like home, and it's not just because my great-grandparents were married at this church. I came to Saint Cecilia during the pandemic, attending Mass remotely and then joining the parish in 2023. I regularly attend the 9:30 a.m. Mass and serve as a Eucharistic minister. From the start, it felt like coming home, as I was drawn to Fr. Unni's homilies, which helped strengthen me for the week ahead and guide me to lead a more fulfilling life as a son, husband, and parent to my two girls. Today, Saint Cecilia serves as a place of comfort and spiritual growth for me, and as a result, I feel the need to give back and become more involved. For this reason, I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a parish council member and help ensure that the church remains a vibrant and welcoming community for all.



**MAGGIE GILES:** Hi friends! Maggie Giles here, member of St. C's since 2017. I serve as a lector, on the steering committee of the Rainbow Ministry, and on March 22 had the honor of organizing and facilitating our "Journeying Together in Hope" Lenten Retreat. I gravitate to the 9:30 when I'm not a lector at another Mass. My goal in serving on the Council is to give back; Saint Cecilia has been a godsend (literally!) in providing me with a spiritual home where I experience love, a warm welcome, and belonging. I was led to believe for many years that as a lesbian I wasn't welcome in the Church, but when I found St C's my experience was of finding a spiritual home where we are all welcome to take our rightful place among the Body of Christ, share our faith journey with one another, and be of service to others. Especially during this time of such great uncertainty, I want to be of service helping others feel that same joy of finding their spiritual home and community here. Thank you!



**AUBREY HARTNETT:** Hi, I am Aubrey Hartnett, and I joined Saint Cecilia in 2012—and this parish community has been central to my family ever since! Over the years, I have been involved in various ministries, including the Young Families Ministry as the volunteer coordinator, co-chair, and advisor. I also served on the Racial Equity Team, working to operationalize the strategic plan for the parish. You can find me with my three little ones (Leo, Aixa, and Roya) at the 9:30 Mass most Sundays. I would love to serve this community that means so much to me and my family, and I am always interested in doing more to make sure families with small children, interfaith families, and families of all racial and ethnic backgrounds feel truly welcome in this parish. My goal in serving on the Council would be to bring these (and other!) voices to the table, making sure accessibility, engagement, and full participation are possible for all of us in this beautiful community! I have a background in international relations, education, and healthcare, and have been a Lay Marianist since my college days, serving in various capacities in the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative over the years, as well. I look forward to meeting more of you and serving our parish community—thank you!



**SARA MURPHY TRAVIS:** I grew up in an Irish-Catholic family who went to Mass every Saturday. Church was an obligation and it wasn't until I started high school at Notre Dame Academy that I found attending Mass was far beyond the obligation of my parents. The Bible intrigued me as I developed a passion and started attending Mass by choice. I continued my faith each week in college as a Jesuit priest would come on Sundays to conduct Mass on campus. This began my strength from the Jesuit values and principles. We raised our sons Catholic and as a family, we played an active role in the church. My children were altar servers and I taught Faith Formation for the Holy Communion sacrament. Life threw me some very challenging hurdles. Both my son and I had life-threatening conditions that required low-survival surgeries to survive. My faith got me through it all as the strength God gave me allowed my family to persevere. I attended St Cecilia after graduating from college in 1987 for many years and I returned in 2022. During the 9:30 Mass on Sundays, I can lose thought of everything going on outside the doors and engage fully in my faith. Walking through the doors of St Cecilia, I feel part of a faithful, welcoming community. Some days I enter Mass feeling dragged down and leave feeling a weight lifted off my shoulders. I am applying for the Parish Pastoral Council because I want to help instill the same feeling and support many others.



**UMA STAEHLER:** I have been a parishioner for about 7 years, after relocating from Indianapolis. I knew I was at my new church home during my first Mass experience. Since this time, I have been involved in the Marriage Prep Ministry with my husband, David, and more recently the Greeter and Lector Ministries. You can usually find me at the Saturday Mass. I have also completed one term on the Parish Council, and feel called to serve a second term. Serving on the Parish Council has allowed me to learn more about Saint Cecilia, and be a voice for parishioners as we discuss ways to continue being a vibrant parish with evolving needs. Parish life has been an important part of my faith journey after joining the Catholic Church as an adult 30 years ago. Saint Cecilia has welcomed me and allowed me to grow, something I would like to continue doing for others.



**PETER LIN-MARCUS:** I have participated as an active member of Saint Cecilia Parish since 2004. I usually attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass and sometimes the 9:30 and 6 p.m. Mass depending on my schedule. I have been serving on the Parish Council for one term since 2022. My service to the parish includes serving as a participant in the Journey to Racial Justice efforts and the Racial and Social Justice Ministry. I am proud to continue supporting the great work of Saint Cecilia including implementation of the Journey to Racial Justice, building the Far-Flung Flock with out virtual community and most recently developing small communities. For me Saint Cecilia Parish and our faith is not about 2-3 hours on Sunday but how we live the remaining 6-½ days per week. Saint Cecilia Parish has provided the inspiration, faith, and tools to bring my faith beyond the walls to serve countless communities, listening to them, empowering youth, disabled and excluded, addressing addiction and homelessness and ending health disparities. Pope Leo XIV and the late Pope Francis healed the world and renewed the Church, started out as pastors who tended to the periphery, serving people on the edge. Their leadership started in local churches and communities like Saint Cecilia which are driven by the people at the front lines, living the faith and helping each other and addressing unjust systems. Saint Cecilia is similarly called to renew the Church and heal the world. I would support efforts by all of us in making this happen. Thank you very much.

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## SCHEDULE

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

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

**May 31/June 1** | Election

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



# 'IT'S BEAUTIFUL TO SEE': BLACK BOSTONIANS REACT TO THE POPE'S CREOLE ANCESTRY

BY DANNY MCDONALD

**M**eyer Chambers, director of the Archdiocese of Boston's Black Catholic Choir, did not know anything about Robert Prevost when the Chicago-born cardinal became this week Pope Leo XIV, the new leader of the Roman Catholic Church and the first born in the US.

But turns out Chambers and the pontiff have much in common, including roots in the Seventh Ward of New Orleans, where the pope's maternal grandparents, both of whom are reportedly described as Black or mulatto in various historical records, married and lived. They can also both trace ancestry back to Haiti.

"The longer I'm on the planet, the less I'm surprised when I hear things," he said of the pope's roots.

On Friday, Chambers was among Black Bostonians to react with warmth and pride to the revelation that the new pope is a descendant of Creole people of color.

Chambers, who is a parishioner at St. Katharine Drexel in Dorchester, said the pope appears to be a man of humility and worldliness, someone who cares about justice and someone who wants people to care about one another. He was elated when he heard about the pope's lineage, saying it was "a matter of pride."

"It's going to be a matter of healing pride because there's been some tough times, politically," he said. "We're living in tough times."

Multiple outlets, including *The New York Times*, reported this week that the maternal grandparents of Leo XIV were described as people of color in historical documents.

The grandparents, Joseph Martinez and Louise Baquié, lived in New Orleans and eventually moved to Chicago in the early 20th century and had a daughter: Mildred Martinez, the pope's mother, according to the Times.

In Boston, the genealogical discovery of Leo XIV, which is the name the new pope chose, was broadly welcomed.

M. Shawn Copeland, a professor emerita at Boston College's department of theology, said, "Such a discovery



Image: St. Sebastian's Magazine

*Meyer Chambers sings in St. Sebastian School's Winter Program.*

ought not to be surprising to anyone in the Americas."

"Nearly all of us are racially and culturally mixed; sadly, we either do not know our interwoven roots or sometimes choose to ignore and forget them," she said.

Copeland said as "an African American, a practicing Roman Catholic, and a professional theologian, this discovery of the pope's background strikes a chord of joy and pride."

"Yet what is most important is that Leo XIV already has extended himself to all human persons, especially those whom our society marginalizes and demeans," she said. "The pope forcefully reminded the world of God's unconditional love for all of us, for humanity, and he assured us that 'evil will not prevail.'"

State Senator Lydia Edwards, a Black Democrat from East Boston and practicing Catholic, said Black Catholics in the US are often overlooked and considered by some within the American Black community to be “an anomaly.”

“He couldn’t be more American than to have come from that particular ancestry in the United States,” said Edwards.

About 6 percent of Black adults in the US are Catholic, the Pew Research Center reported in 2022. Among adult American Catholics, only 4 percent are Black.

Edwards noted that the pope’s family did not identify as Black while he was growing up and that the pope would not have the same lived experience as someone who identified as Black.

But still, for her, Leo XIV is technically the first “African American pope.”

“It’s beautiful to see and I wish him well,” Edwards said.

She added, “He is probably related to some people in Louisiana who are Black. That’s a big deal that you are related to pope.”

Boston resident Lorna DesRoses, a multicultural ministry consultant at the Archdiocese of Boston, said the pope’s roots speak to the history of the US, and the hardships faced by people of color.

DesRoses learned of the pontiff’s lineage through social media, where she said it spread quickly through local Black Catholic and Haitian threads. (*The National Catholic Reporter* this week reported that a grandfather of the pope, Joseph Martinez, was born in Haiti.) She said there was a time when it was not unusual for someone with Creole roots to move north and not acknowledge their roots, especially if they were white-passing.

“It’s a complicated history,” she said.

Creoles, also known as “Creole people of color,” have a history almost as old as Louisiana, the Times reported this week. While the word Creole can refer to people of European descent who were born in the Americas, it commonly describes mixed-race people of color, according to that newspaper.

DesRoses, who is of Haitian descent, called the pope’s heritage “a blessing for the church.”

“This is historic,” she said. “It’s a historic moment in the life of the church, in the life of this country.”

Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, who is the first Haitian American to lead the city’s legislative body, said the pope’s heritage is “deeply meaningful for lots of different communities.”

“There’s a lot to be proud of here,” she said.

The news comes at a particularly painful time for Haitians living in Greater Boston, as bloody civil strife and unrest continues in Haiti, said Louijeune, who is not Catholic but whose father is.

Given so much ongoing suffering there, the pope’s connection to the island nation “is pretty uplifting,” she said.



*Originally published in the Boston Globe on May 9th, 2025.*

*Danny McDonald is a general assignment reporter for the Boston Globe.*

## Hunger & Homelessness Ministry



**Top:** One of our volunteers filling every inch of his car with donations from a Boston Whole Foods as he headed to the Catholic Charities food pantry in Dorchester.

**Bottom:** Volunteers in the kitchens of Community Servings in Jamaica Plain.

# IN LEO XIV, I SEE QUALITIES OF A HOLY/WHOLE PERSON, AND POTENTIAL FOR MORE

BY NANCY SYLVESTER



Image: Vatican News

*Pope Leo XIV greets the world as the newly elected 267th Pope on May 8, 2025.*

When I heard of Pope Francis' death, I teared up, and as I read his Easter message, I thought, "Here was a holy person." As I said that, I remembered a paper I wrote for a theology class as a postulant, the first year of entering religious life, that focused on what holy meant. The word holy derives from words that mean "being whole."

Today, much is written about an emerging consciousness that first sees from wholeness. Instead of first seeing everything as separate and trying to figure out how things do or do not connect, it sees the relationships and interconnections before analyzing the separate parts. It is a whole new way of seeing reality and one's life.

I believe and hope that our newly elected Pope Leo XIV is this kind of holy/whole person.

Being holy/whole does not imply timidity or acquiescence. It is strong and conveys a sense of knowing who one is.

Being holy/whole requires one to have done their inner work, to become aware of what triggers one's unhealthy self so as not to react to people and positions out of one's needs, but rather to respond from one's heart, from the place of Divine indwelling. It is to be courageous enough to be humble, to admit mistakes, and seek counsel. It is to be secure enough to be forgiving and offer mercy.

Being holy/whole means widening one's embrace of truth and tradition. It is seeing that change can open one up to seeing a much larger vision of the Gospel. It is understanding that one's experience is critical to one's overall development and sees experience as transformative.

Such transformative experiences enable understanding that those who are different and too often excluded from the church are the very people that Jesus welcomed throughout his life. Such transformative experiences can call into question the absolutism of some of our moral teachings, especially when faced with the suffering or exclusion of others.

Being holy/whole means believing in the broadest vision of how universal the church really is. It recognizes that the message of the Gospel moves beyond the individual and the church community into the wider suffering world — beyond the human, to include all creatures and the whole planet as our Earth home, worthy of respect and care.

Being holy/whole means understanding the role of a moral leader in the global community: to advocate for every life as precious in a world increasingly prone to violence; to speak out when human rights are violated and when hatred and contempt are stirred up toward the vulnerable, the marginalized, and especially toward those seeking a new homeland; to challenge the unequal distribution of wealth at all levels, which prevents millions of women, men, and children from achieving their basic human needs.

It means recognizing and condemning domestic and sexual violence, where rage is too often directed at women and children. It means being able to imagine new possibilities for peace and nonviolence: to hold the many global conflicts with open hands — acknowledging the multiple sides yet calling us to see the unjust suffering and destruction they cause.

It means understanding that every person is a child of God. We are all equal. We are all interconnected.

Being holy/whole means understanding that one's way of doing things is not the only right way. Today, in a polarized world and church, dialogue must be fostered at every level of exchange, and so continuing to develop a synodal church is important.

This requires both attention to one's inner development and the practical skills of dialogue. It requires an authentic acknowledgement of each person's moral agency and respect for each person's ideas and positions. It believes that after everyone — regardless of position, gender or worldview — offers their best options, something new can emerge as we continue together to imagine other possibilities to what is needed in any specific situation.

Being holy/whole demands a faith deeply rooted in the experience of the Divine. One's faith has to be experiential, to be alive, integrating the insights of science, cosmology and psychology with the wisdom of our faith tradition,

breathing new life into our credal belief statements. This will help make the Gospel message alive once again to all generations, especially the young.

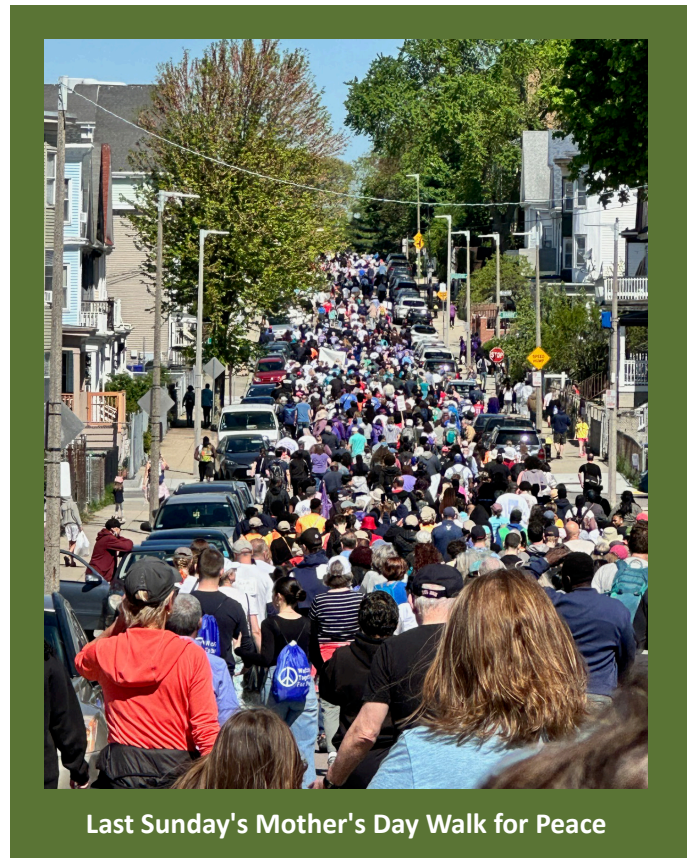
Jesus embodied holiness/wholeness and invited us to come follow him. As we are getting to know Leo XIV, I see many of these qualities alive in him and the potential to cultivate many of the others. May he continue to relinquish the trappings of power and privilege, so like Jesus we will only need to see the choices he makes — how to live, how to serve, how to lead — to want to follow and help make the Gospel come alive in our world.

May Leo XIV continue to be a holy/whole person.



*Originally published in the Global Sisters Report on May 14, 2025.*

*Nancy Sylvester is founder and director of the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue. She served in leadership of her own religious community, the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, Michigan, as well as in the presidency of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.*



# THE POPE FROM CHICAGO BACKED POPE FRANCIS' MAJOR CHURCH REFORMS

BY JAMES V. GRIMALDI



Image: CNS/Vatican Media

*Cardinal Robert Prevost (now Pope Leo XIV), prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops under Pope Francis, leaves the Vatican Synod Hall April 22, 2025, after the first general congregation of the College of Cardinals.*

Robert Prevost was born on Sept. 14, 1955, in a hospital founded by the Sisters of Mercy on Chicago's South Side. Four years ago, facing bankruptcy, the nuns sold Mercy Hospital to a technology firm.

Growing up, Prevost attended St. Mary of the Assumption Parish. The parish became too expensive for the Chicago Archdiocese to maintain in the early 2010s. The parish buildings were closed and put up for sale, and the parish merged with another in 2011.

The challenges for Catholics where Prevost grew up are a microcosm of the gargantuan problems facing the Catholic Church.

As with the problems facing Catholics in Chicago, the new Pope Leo XIV must address looming financial difficulties and the challenges of a dwindling flock as the head of a global religion that counts 1.4 billion members worldwide.

The College of Cardinals has decided he is up to the challenge. That might be because of his background. Prevost is unusually qualified to address the most pressing challenges of the Catholic Church.

In a rare combination for cardinals, he has both pastoral experience in the peripheries of the church combined with expertise in navigating the complexities of the church's central governance.

Though American by birth, Prevost has spent only a third of his life in the United States. He has lived mostly in Europe and Latin America. Prevost is a polyglot who speaks English, Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese and can read Latin and German.

As cardinal, Prevost was head of the Vatican Dicastery for Bishops, the office tasked with advising the pope on bishop appointments around the world.

While it might be early to predict the path of his papacy, there are some clues.

Prevost is known to be close to Cardinal Blase Cupich, the archbishop of Chicago.

The name Leo XIV could indicate his "emphasis on Catholic social teaching and, perhaps specifically the rights of workers and the poor," Jesuit Fr. James Martin wrote on Facebook before the conclave gathered.

Prevost's reading habits apparently include the *National Catholic Reporter*.

When NCR covered Vice President JD Vance's comments on Catholic teaching, then-Cardinal Prevost tweeted a commentary by columnist Kat Armas, a Cuban American author and theology scholar.

The column was titled "JD Vance is wrong: Jesus doesn't ask us to rank our love for others." Prevost shared the post from the NCR website.

He tweeted a Washington Post column written by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York. "Cardinal Dolan: Why Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric is so problematic," he tweeted on Jul 31, 2015, sharing the headline of the story.

In 2014, he tweeted, "It's time to end the death penalty."

Prevost has voted in Republican primaries in the state of Illinois, yet he is a social justice advocate and generally opposed to many of President Donald Trump's policies, based on Prevost's social media posts.

In 1985, Prevost joined the Augustinian mission in Peru, becoming part of the religious order inspired by St. Augustine that seeks to find a balance of "love and learning." Augustinian friars lead semi-monastic lives and are engaged in a range of pursuits, such as education or prison work. Augustinians are one of the oldest monastic orders; the Rule of St. Augustine, the organizing principles of the order, was written circa the year 400.

At age 30, Prevost went to work in Peru, serving there until 1999, with a brief stint back in Chicago in 1987 to work as pastor for vocations and director of missions for its Augustinian province.

During his early years in Peru, Prevost wore a number of hats, including teaching in the diocesan seminary, serving as judge in a church court, and leading a parish on the outskirts of the city of Trujillo.

In 1999, Prevost was elected the head of the Augustinians' Chicago-based province. And then in 2001, he tapped as prior general of the worldwide order, which he led until 2013. During that time, he was based in Rome but spent most of his time on the road and in the air, visiting the nearly 50 countries where the Augustinian order is present.

In 2014, Francis sent him back into the mission field, naming him bishop of Chiclayo, in northern Peru. He served there until the pope called him to Rome again for full-time service in the Roman Curia in 2023.

In Vatican City, Prevost has a reputation for industriousness, spending as much time working to identify new bishops as he does in dealing with problem cases — such as that of Bishop Joseph Strickland, who was head of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, until he was removed from his post in 2023.

Prevost has been a vocal proponent of Francis' emphasis on synodality — efforts to make the church's structures more inclusive and participatory. In a 2023 Vatican News interview, Prevost said synodality was a means to healing the polarization currently gripping the church.

His background in canon law also likely provided some comfort to synod skeptics, who have groused that synodality could pose threats to the church's tradition.

While fluent in languages, he is not garrulous. When he speaks, he does so with caution and great deliberation. But his steely determination and clarity might comfort those looking for a leader who knows where he wants to go and how to get there.



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*James V. Grimaldi is NCR's executive editor. A multiple Pulitzer Prize winner and former investigative reporter for The Wall Street Journal, Grimaldi is a native of Kansas City, Missouri, and a graduate of the University of Missouri Journalism School and Columbia University Graduate School*

# 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](http://www.stceciliaboston.org)

## Parish Staff

**Rev. John J. Unni**, Pastor

**Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ**, Pastoral Support

**Mark Donohoe**, Pastoral Associate

[mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org)

**Robert Duff**, Director of Music

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

**Anastassia Kolchanov**, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

**Scott MacDonald**, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

**Colleen Melaugh**, Director of Finance and Development

**Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien**, Pastoral Director of Operations

**Lisa Pickering**, Director of Facilities and Events

**Mary Wessel**, Pastoral Associate

## Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

## Music Ministry

**Tyler Cesario**, Assistant Director of Music

**Daniel Lamoureux**, Vigil Organist

**Brett Maguire**, Parish Organist

**Pendexter Macdonald**, Assistant Organist

## Audiovisual Support

**Maureen Deery**, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

**Geoffrey Edwards**, Livestream Videographer

## Schedule for Liturgy

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

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

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

## Hearing Assistance in Church

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

## For Those with Celiac Disease

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

## Building Accessibility

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

## Parking

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

## Baptism for Infants

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

## Faith Formation for Children

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

## Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

## Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

## Marriage

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

## Care of the Sick

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

## Order of Christian Funerals

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

## Joining Our Community

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

## Please note:

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