

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Pentecost Sunday

28 May 2023

Pentecost by Fray Juan Bautista Maíno (1615 - 1620)

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28 MAY 2023

PENTECOST SUNDAY

PRELUDE | Andante Cantabile from Trio for Piano, Flute and Oboe

Karl Goepfardt
(1859-1942)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Come, Holy Ghost

LAMBILLOTTE



1. Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, And in our
2. O Com - fort - er, to thee we cry, Thou heav'n-ly
3. O Ho - ly Ghost, through thee a - lone Know we the
4. Praise we the Lord, Fa - ther and Son, And Ho - ly



hearts take up thy rest; Come with thy grace
of God most high, Thou fount of life,
Fa - ther and the Son; Be this our firm
Spir - it with them one; And may the Son



and heav'n-ly aid To fill the hearts which thou hast
and fire of love, And sweet a - noint - ing from a -
un - chang - ing creed, That thou dost from them both pro -
on us be - stow All gifts that from the Spir - it



made, To fill the hearts which thou hast made.
bove, And sweet a - noint - ing from a - bove.
ceed, That thou dost from them both pro - ceed.
flow, All gifts that from the Spir - it flow.

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.

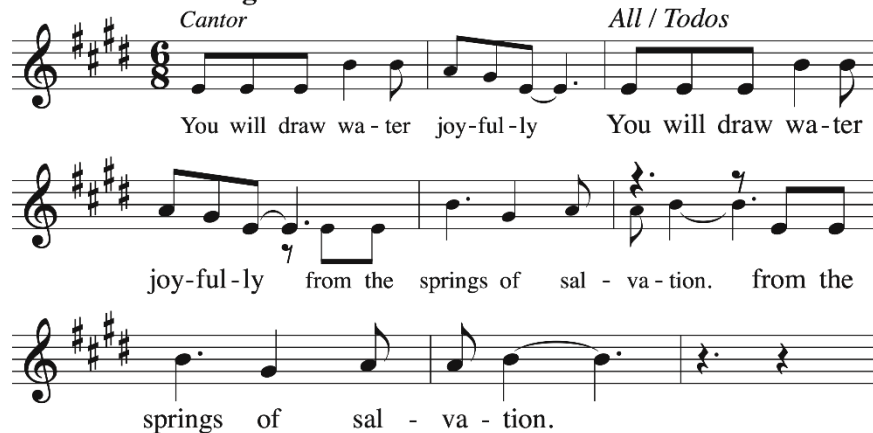
All: And with your spirit.

SPRINKLING RITE | You Will Draw Water Joyfully

Tony 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.

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.

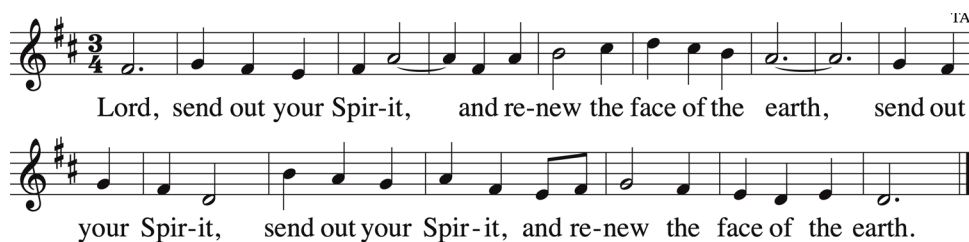
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 2: 1-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 104: Lord, Send Out Your Spirit

Tony Alonso



Bless the LORD, O my soul!
 O LORD my God, how great you are!
 How many are your works, O LORD!
 The earth is full of your creatures. R.

created,
 and you renew the face of the
 earth. R.

You take away their breath, they die,
 returning to the dust from which
 they came.
 You send forth your spirit, and they are

May the glory of the LORD last forever!
 May the LORD rejoice in his works!
 May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
 I will rejoice in the LORD. R.

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13

SEQUENCE | Come, Holy Spirit

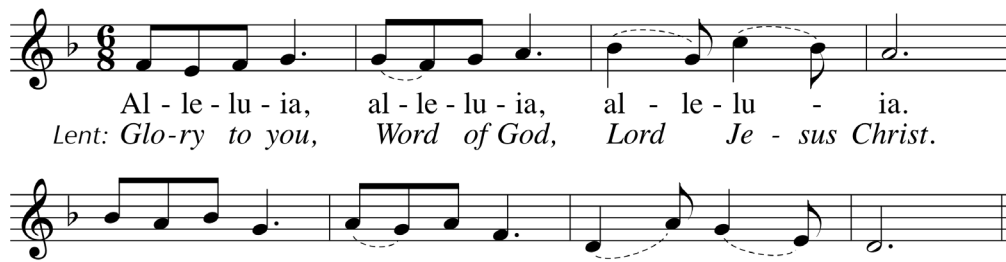
Veni Sancte Spiritus
Richard J. Clark

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
 Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
 Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
 Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
 Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
 And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,

Nothing good in deed or thought,
 Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
 Wash the stains of guilt away:
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
 Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
 In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
 Give them joys that never end. Amen.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony 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 20: 19-23

HOMILY

PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE (9:30 Mass) | Glenn C. Thomas Gallo

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION (9:30 Mass)

NICENE CREED

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

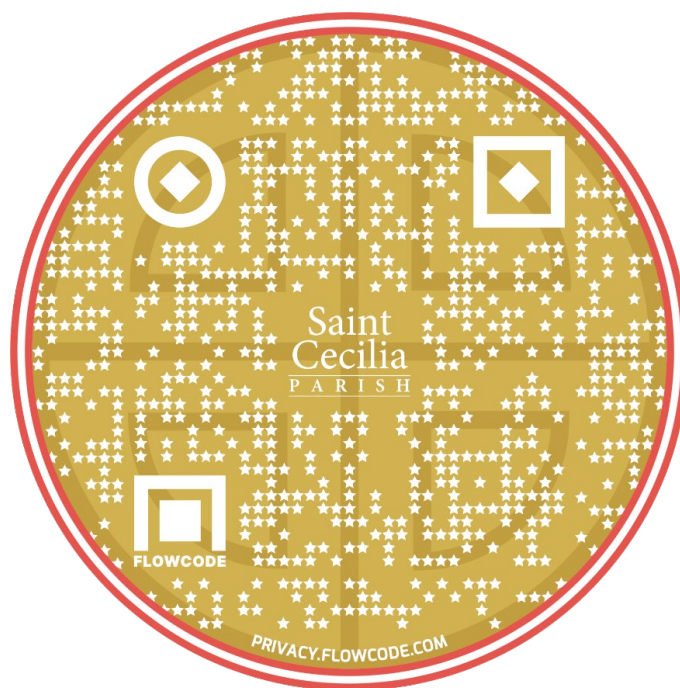
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

1. Bap - tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Cleansed by the
2. Bap - tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Dead in the
3. Bap - tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Marked with the
blood of Christ our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion, Trust - ing his
tomb with Christ our King: One with his ris - ing, Freed and for -
sign of Christ our King: Born of one Fa - ther, We are his
prom - ise, Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren, Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

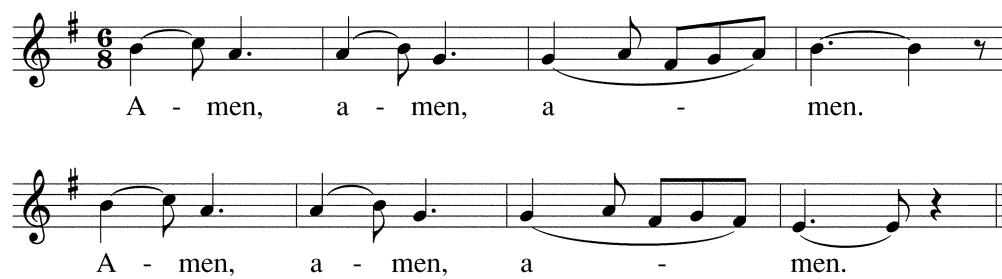
All: It is right and just.

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

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

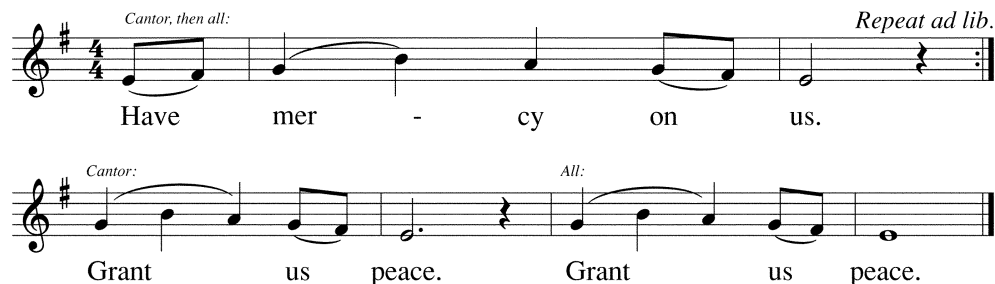


THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

LAMB OF GOD | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



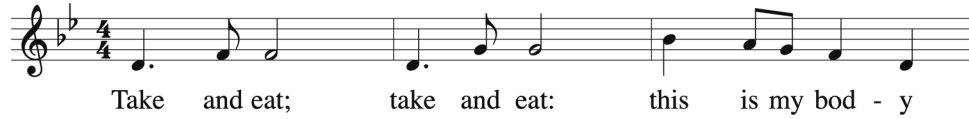
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

Refrain



Verses



1. I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
 2. I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
3. I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
 4. I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid;
 5. I am the light that came in - to the world;
 6. I am the first and last, the Liv - ing One;



- I am the seed that died to be re - born;
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
I am the gate that guards you night and day;
 A cho - sen stone and pre - cious in his eyes;
 I am the light that dark - ness can - not hide;
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;



- I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
You are my flock: you know the shep-herd's voice;
 You are God's dwell - ing place, on me you rest;
 I am the morn - ing star that nev - er sets;
 I am the bride-groom, this my wed - ding song;



- I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.
 Lift up your face, in you my light will shine.
 You are my bride, come to the mar - riage feast.

*Cantate Domino canticum novum,
Cantate et benedicite nomini ejus:
Quia mirabilia fecit.
Cantate et exultate et psallite
in cythara et voce psalmi:
Quia mirabilia fecit.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,
Sing and give praise to his name:
for he has done marvellous deeds.
Sing and exult and praise.
in songs with the harp and the voice:
for he has done marvellous deeds.

CONCLUDING RITES

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Amen.

✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.

1. God, whose pur - pose is to kin - dle,
 2. God, who still a sword de - liv - ers
 3. God, who in your ho - ly gos - pel

Now ig - nite us with your fire.
 Rath - er than a placid peace,
 Wills that all should tru - ly live,

While the earth a - waits your burn - ing,
 With your sharp - ened Word dis - turb us,
 Make us sense our share of fail - ure,

With your pas - sion us in - spire. O - ver - come our
 From com - pla - cen - cy re - lease! Save us now from
 Our tran - quil - i - ty for - give. Teach us cour - age

sin - ful calm - ness, Stir us with your sav - ing name.
 sat - is - fac - tion, When we pri - vate - ly are free,
 as we strug - gle In all lib - er - at - ing strife.

Bap - tize with your fier - y Spir - it,
 Yet are un - dis - turbed in spir - it
 Lift the small - ness of our vi - sion

Crown our lives with tongues of flame.
 By our neigh - bor's mis - er - y.
 By your own a - bun - dant life.

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

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

WELCOME!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

*Be Sealed With
the Gift of the Holy Spirit*



KARINA



ALLISON



KRISTEN



CHRISTOPHER



MICHAEL



BEN



COLIN



RACHEL



BIBI



JACK



CONNOR



RICCARDO



OLIVIA



KIERAN



LILLIAN



KATHRYN



FIONA

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, May 27 | 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, May 28 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Cathy Anderson, lector

Sunday, May 28 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Julie Bogdanski, Moira Macdonald, and Ben DeWinter, lectors

Sunday, May 28 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Jen Kowieski, Mark Richburg, and Chika Offurum, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 28 | 9:30 a.m.

Joan Brighenti, *1st Anniversary*
Ben Martins Romanni, *Memorial*

Sunday, May 28 | 11:30 a.m.

Sheldon Rich, *8th Anniversary*

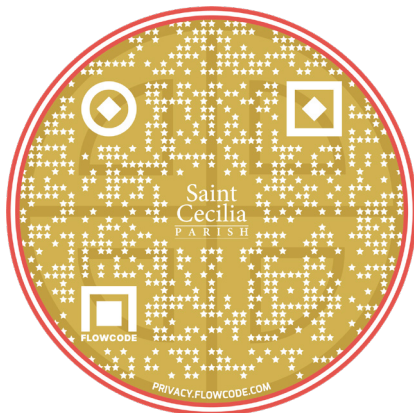
TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

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

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: **Jill Bodnar** of Brookline, **Carolyn Wheaton** of Wakefield, **Christina Goncalves** of Boston, **Matt Mourges** and **Cleo Woodcock** of Boston, **Suzanne and James Palacino** of Wellesley, **Meredith Lang** and **Matthew Gorham** of Boston, and **the Monos Family** of Watertown. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Second Collection

This week's second collection supports the formation and training of seminarians in the Archdiocese of Boston for service as future priests. Please be generous and support these seminarians on their journey toward their ordination to the priesthood. You can donate through our online giving platform: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/second-collection-for-seminarians-2023>. For more information, please visit www.VocationsBoston.org.

Looking for Teachers

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

Attention, Graduates!

We want to acknowledge and celebrate all our graduates this spring. Please email the names of the parishioners who are graduating from high school or college to Christine Burns at cburns@stceciliaboston.org and use the word "graduate" in the subject line. Feel free to include the school's name and the degree awarded.

Pentecost Sunday—Wear Something Red!

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

Register for 2023/24 Children's Faith Formation!

Don't wait! Now is the time to register your children and teens for our 2023/24 children's faith formation program. The season begins on September 24. Remember that high school confirmation is a two-year program, beginning in ninth grade. To register, please fill out this Google form: <https://forms.gle/5KKbrSm2HWEbpm7V6>. Please note that the fee to register is \$200 and you can pay via our iGive platform: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/faith-formation-registration-fee>

Congratulations, Glenn!

At this Sunday's 9:30 liturgy we look forward to celebrating the sacrament of confirmation with **Glenn C. Thomas Gallo**. Glenn was baptized in January and is now ready to be confirmed and receive holy communion. Congratulations, Glenn! We're so happy you're with us.

BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This Sunday, we celebrate the sacrament of confirmation for seventeen young men and women 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, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, awe, and wonder!

Karina "Jude" Artemiev
Allison Ang "Cecilia" Chan
Kristen Anne "Elizabeth of Hungary" Cinotta
Christopher Jacob "Vincent" Davis
Michael "Matthew" Egan
Ben "Ignatius of Loyola" Erskine
Colin Michael "John" Fisher
Rochel Marques "Francis of Assisi" Lima
Bibi Hall "Joan of Arc" Noury-Ello
Jack Michael "Michael" Panayotou
Connor James "Ignatius of Loyola" Roche
Riccardo Alessandro "Francis of Assisi" Rollo
Olivia Me En "Hildegard of Bingen" Ryan
Kieran Jeremiah "Sebastian" Spock
Lillian Paige "Joan of Arc" Stephenson
Kathryn Clare "Bridget" Swords
Fiona Jeanne "Jeanne d'Arc" Zambuto

WELCOME, GLENN!



Glenn C. Gallo was brought up in the Unitarian Church and attended King's Chapel in Boston. Four years ago, he was introduced to Saint Cecilia and this experience was transformative and increased Glenn's desire to become a member of the Catholic faith. Glenn resides in Watertown with his wife Diane. He would like to extend his thanks to Father Unni for being a warm, welcoming mentor, and would also like to thank his sponsor, Rudy Flores.

JOIN THE HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS MINISTRY MAILING LIST



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



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Generous parishioners have donated children's books that can be found in a box in the narthex. Please feel free to borrow these during our liturgies.

ALL ARE WELCOME MASS

**Celebrate Pride Month at Saint Cecilia
Friday, June 9 | 6:00 p.m.**

"God is Father and he does not disown any of his children. And 'the style' of God is closeness, mercy, and tenderness. Along this path, you will find God."

—Pope Francis responding to Fr. James Martin's question, "What would you say is the most important thing for LGBTQ people to know about God?"

Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry, in collaboration with the Paulist Center Community; St. Anthony Shrine and the Franciscan friars; Blessed Trinity Parish, Westford/Littleton; Saint Joseph Parish, Boston; and Saint Susanna Parish, Dedham invite you to honor our LGBTQ siblings at an ALL ARE WELCOME Mass at Saint Cecilia on Friday, June 9 at 6:00 p.m. Help commemorate the beginning of Pride Month by celebrating the unique diversity of God's children at this liturgy. Following the Mass, there will be a reception in the Parish Café.



DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES



Now that our Faith Formation classes have ended for the academic year and with summer approaching, many of the families that have been faithful donors to our collection of food items for the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett pantries will be away until September. We hope that you will consider participating in this important ministry during the summer months so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The local economy might have improved for some of us, but the working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices. Saint Cecilia has committed to providing these items to the food pantries: Cheerios or cornflakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta and spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, canned tuna fish, canned chicken breast, cooking oil, and tomato sauce. While any canned or shelf-stable items are appreciated, it is particularly helpful when parishioners can help with the staples listed above. Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex.





CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF BOSTON'S SPRING CELEBRATION GALA

On May 17, Catholic Charities of Boston hosted more than 250 guests at its annual 2023 Spring Celebration Gala at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

This year's John and Virginia Kaneb Justice and Compassion Award was presented to President Vincent Rougeau of College of the Holy Cross for his work as a nationally respected expert in legal education and Catholic social teaching. Honoree President Rougeau commended Catholic Charities for not only responding proactively to these needs across the community but for also honoring the inherent dignity of every person.

We're pleased to share that our very own Father John shared remarks, along with Catholic Charities President & CEO Kevin M. MacKenzie, Catholic Charities Chair of the Board of Trustees Mark Kerwin, and Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley of the Archdiocese of Boston. Catholic Charities Boston is one of the largest social service non-profit organizations in Massachusetts, with over 70 programs serving neighbors of all faiths and backgrounds that help move people from crisis to self-sufficiency.

BULLETIN CORRECTION

In our bulletin last week, we did not acknowledge the male participants who were vibrant members of our Saint Cecilia Walking Team in the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's 27th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Thank you to these men who fundraised, walked, and showed their support for this important and profound cause!

A REQUEST FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES



For over 100 years, Sunset Point Camp has provided a dream vacation at the seashore to over 40,000 low-income, at-risk children aged 6-13 from Greater Boston without regard for their race, nationality, or religious affiliation. Nearly 450 city-based boys and girls travel to Hull, Massachusetts each summer for a one or two-week overnight camp experience that allows them to enjoy fresh air, learn new talents, receive academic summer support, and simply have fun! Sunset Point Camp is operated by our friends at Catholic Charities and they need donations of the following items for kids at the camp:

- **Sunblock (the higher the SPF the better!)**
- **Bug spray**
- **Flip flops (boys/girls ages 6-15)**
- **Underwear (boys/girls ages 6-15)**

The next time you're shopping or on Amazon.com, please consider picking up some of the above items and dropping them in the labeled plastic bins in the narthex. Thank you!



THE PENTECOST SERMON I PREACHED AT THE FESTIVAL OF HOMILETICS

BY NADIA BOLZ-WEBER

Bulletin Editor's Note: Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran Pastor and founder of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, CO. House for All Sinners and Saints is "a group of folks figuring out how to be a liturgical, Christocentric, social justice-oriented, inclusive, incarnational, contemplative, irreverent, ancient/future church with a progressive but deeply rooted theological imagination." This sermon was published in 2012.

A few years ago a local Lutheran church gifted *House for All Sinners and Saints* a full set of used paraments. My church is like every other church's little sister so we get a lot of hand-me-downs. As a group of us went through these beautiful altar cloths we came inally to the red set and found one with an image of a descending dove with completely crazy eyes and claws that looked like talons. Yep. It was as though the Holy Spirit was a raptor. "Man, someone said. We can't use this one it makes The Holy Spirit look dangerous." That was some completely sound advice.

I hear people describe Pentecost as the birthday of the church...which has always kind of smacked of oversentimentality to me. Because it's not exactly a quaint story. It's a dangerous one. The story opens with that small group of believers isolating themselves as the text says, all together in one place. They were perhaps afraid of outsiders so they all stayed together. Had they actually known better they would have been afraid of not dispersing because what was about to happen would have freaked out even the bravest amongst us. They were in danger but not from outsiders—the danger they were in, as they sat all together in one place, was from a God who is about to crash the party and bring in everyone they were trying to avoid.

Things got crazy then with the wind and voices and languages and fire and all that. It can feel like all the crazy stuff that happened that Pentecost day in first-century Palestine bears little resemblance to what the church has become in 21st-century America. There were no organs or committees or vacation bible school. At the so-called birth of the church, there were no ushers handing the Parthians a bulletin. The Medes didn't have a bake sale after the service. It can be

hard to see any resemblance at all from how we started to what we have become. Well, unless we look at the people. In which case there is honestly no difference whatsoever.

See, we still have fear and isolation in the church. It's called sectarianism. So nothing's changed there. And those people who did the whole speaking in tongues thing... well, obviously they are the Pentecostals. And that long list of how many different nationalities showed up must have been added by the first UCC'er bragging about their multiculturalism. Nothing's changed there. Then there were those who witnessed this powerful act of God...this Pente-chaos and, in an attempt at intellectualizing it, all they said was "well what does this mean?" So they were like, the first Lutherans.

And the ones who said "Those people are drunk" were perhaps some Evangelicals focused on the personal morality of others. So that's not changed a whole lot. Then finally there's the nice but completely naive guy who says "O my gosh, there's no way they can be drunk...it's only 9 o'clock in the morning" So there we have what we like to call the Methodists.

Nothing's changed much. People are people. There are the emotional ones, the judgemental ones, the naïve ones, and of course, the ones like myself who insist on categorizing and naming everyone as though people can be reduced to a label. Honestly.

So there we all are even from the beginning. Flawed, smug, confused, embarrassed, and embarrassing...in other words the very people to whom God sends the spirit.

Because see, God hasn't changed either. Just like that first Pentecost, God still crashes are parties and invites in the people we are trying to avoid. God still says yes to all our polite no thank yous. This is what is actually so dangerous about the whole thing. In which case, that red parament with the crazy taloned raptor dove is actually more apt of an image for the Holy Spirit than some soft focus hallmark card dove gently flying in a water color sky. Obviously when

speaking of the Holy Spirit we have to revert to all these metaphors of comforter and dove and wind but the thing to remember is that the Holy Spirit....is not a metaphor. Because she will mess you up. Metaphors can't do that.

Because the Spirit, while called the comforter does not bring the warm chocolate chip cookies and a night-night story kind of comfort. The Spirit brings the comfort of the truth—and if you've had any experience of the truth whatsoever you can testify that it's not exactly cozy.

It sure didn't feel cozy to me last Summer when my congregation experienced a big demographic shift. Some churches might fear drag queens and homeless folks. But all of a sudden last Summer, at *House for All Sinners and Saints*, we had middle-aged people driving in from the suburbs. People who wear Dockers and eat at Applebee's. We were a special, DIY kind of church; we made art and sang a capella and we sat in the round.

I started to resent that my precious little indie boutique of a church was turning into a 7-Eleven and I was terrified that the more edgy, marginalized people who we had always attracted would now come and see a bunch of people who looked like their parents and think well this obviously isn't for me.

So I called a church meeting for us to talk about the growth and demographic changes at the *House* with the hopes that if the people who had been around the *House* from the beginning just said who they are and what the church has always been about then the new people who really don't belong there would self-select out realizing it's really not meant for them. And even while I was planning it, it felt really wrong. Exhibit C: It's painful to be a pastor when you're really not that good of a Christian.

Luckily before we were able to be "all together in one place" for that stupid idea of a meeting, the plan changed. The plan changed because I underwent what I can only describe as a heart transplant. This is what the prophet Ezekiel describes when God said to him; "I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

It didn't feel like a removal though. Removal is far too pleasant a word. My heart was ripped out. When my own heart starts to feel bitter and judgy and hard, God says "enough." And without anesthesia or a sterile environment, God reaches in and rips out my heart of stone and replaces it (yet again) with a heart of flesh. You'd think that with as often as this particular procedure happens to me I'd have, like a zip-lock or something installed in my chest for easier access but apparently, *that's* not how it works.

See, the heart transplant happened when I called my friend Russell who I expected to sympathize with me. But Russell refused to cooperate. "Yeah. That sucks," he said. "You guys are really good at 'welcoming the stranger' when it's a young transgender person. But Nadia, sometimes 'the stranger' looks like your mom and dad." I wanted to hold the phone out in front of me and yell "*You're supposed to be my friend!*" before hanging up.

But I couldn't. Because in that moment I could feel actual blood and love pumping through my body for what felt like the first time in weeks. Russell spoke the truth. And the truth set me free and that, my friends, is the work of the Holy Spirit. And I'm here to tell you, it didn't feel like a chocolate chip cookie or a night night story.

See, if we as preachers really believe that the truth enters our ears as the preached Word...then we simply have to put ourselves in the position of having Truth spoken to us too because that's how the Holy Spirit works.

So when the meeting day finally arrived, I knew what really needed to happen. The new folks with the Dockers needed to tell us who they were and why they were there, so that the young people with the tattoos who'd been around since the beginning could hear what this church was actually about.

I sucked it up and I told them that horrible thing Russell had said to me about welcoming your parents.

Then Asher speaks up and says "As the young transgender kid who was welcomed into this community, I just want to go on the record as saying that I'm really glad there are people at church now who look like my mom and dad. Because I have a relationship with them that I just can't with my own parents."

There we all were: **flawed, smug, confused, embarrassed and embarrassing**...in other words the very people to whom God sends the spirit to mess everything up. The very people God loves enough to send that crazed bird with bared talons and a predatory beak to come and snatch out our stony hearts and replace them with the comfort of God's own.

Because God hasn't changed. Just like that first Pentecost God still says yes to all our polite no thank yous. God still crashes our parties and invites in the people we are trying to avoid. That's the thing about the Pentecost Spirit of truth: it feels like the truth might crush us. And that is right. The truth crushes us, but the instant it crushes us it put us back together into something real. Perhaps for the first time.

Because the radical and mysterious and dangerous thing

the Spirit does has always been to form us into the Body of Christ. Sometimes despite us, sometimes against us, but always for us. Because it is only the Spirit who can turn us from a “they” into a “we.”

Amen.

P.S. We are stronger now as a church. Now you can look around on any given Sunday and think *I am unclear what all these people have in common*. Because in one corner of your eye is a homeless guy serving communion to a corporate lawyer and out of the corner of the other is a teenage girl with pink hair holding the baby of a suburban soccer mom. And there I was a year ago fearing that the weirdness of our church was going to be diluted.

~ *Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran pastor, founder of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, CO, the creator and host of The Confessional and the author of three New York Times bestselling memoirs: Pastrix; The Cranky, Beautiful Faith Of A Sinner & Saint (2013 and re-released in 2021), Accidental Saints; Finding God In All The Wrong People (2015) and SHAMELESS; A Sexual Reformation (2019).*



The Pentecost by Bohemian Master, early 15th century

A Pentecost Poem - by Cheryl Lawrie

come to think of it...
actually, your spirit is not really like a flickering
candle sitting on the altar, which we've protected
from scorching with a heat proof mat
you burn with irrepressible, ferocious passion.
in truth, your spirit has little in common with the
gentle breeze from the fan fluttering the bulletins as
it rotates from the front pews
during the children's talk
we can barely stand upright in the face of your love.
luckily, your spirit barely resembles a helium filled
red balloon, rising, just out of reach, to taunt us as it
rests against the church ceiling
you would subsume us in the
unrelenting hold of your peace.
we think we have you nailed
in our fire resistant, cyclone-proof,
red cloth swathed metaphors
thank God our inadequacy defining
you has never stopped you yet.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781
E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

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Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
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Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

Audiovisual Support

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

Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.
* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at ohastie@stceciliaboston.org.

Marriage

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation.

Care of the Sick

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They also provide consultation and support to anyone in the parish who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Lois Flaherty (loisflaherty@gmail.com), Maria Roche (maria.roche15@gmail.com), Letitia Howland (L_howland@hotmail.com), or Erin Young (erin.t.young@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full text of the policy is also available in the narthex and Parish Office, as well as on our website.

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

Building Accessibility

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

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 after 4:00 every day of the week. To take advantage of this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Joining Our Community

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

