

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



In My Father's House There Are Many Mansions

by Irving Amen (1962)

Fifth Sunday of Easter

3 May 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

3 MAY 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | *Apparition de l'église éternelle*
Richard Webster, *guest organist*

Olivier Messiaen
(1908-1992)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | I Know That My Redeemer Lives

DUKE STREET



1. I know that my Re - deem - er lives!
2. He lives to bless me with his love;
3. He lives and grants me dai - ly breath;
4. He lives, all glo - ry to his name;



What joy this blest as - sur - ance gives!
He lives to plead for me a - bove;
He lives, and I shall con - quer death;
He lives, my Sav - ior, still the same;



He lives, he lives who once was dead;
He lives my hun - gry soul to feed;
He lives my man - sion to pre - pare;
What joy this blest as - sur - ance gives:



He lives, my ev - er - last - ing Head!
He lives to help in time of need.
He lives to bring me safe - ly there.
I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

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

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.

GLORIA | Mass from Age to Age

Chris de Silva

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

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

Cantor:

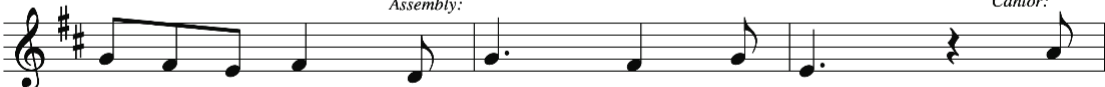


2. Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of



God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the

Assembly: *Cantor:*



sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you

Assembly: *Cantor:*



take a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer; you are

Assembly: **D.C.**



seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer-cy on us.

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 6: 1-7

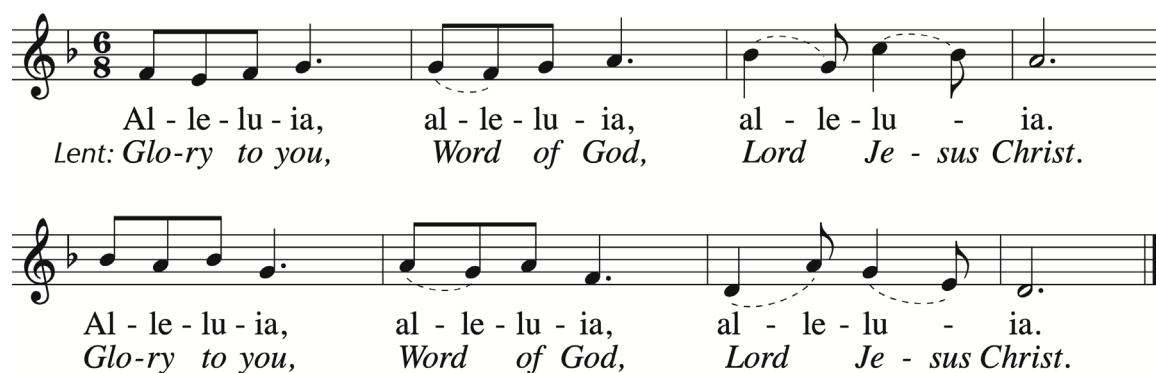


1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for the upright.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful, and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.
3. Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

SECOND READING | 1 Peter 2: 4-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso



GOSPEL | John 14: 1-12

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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

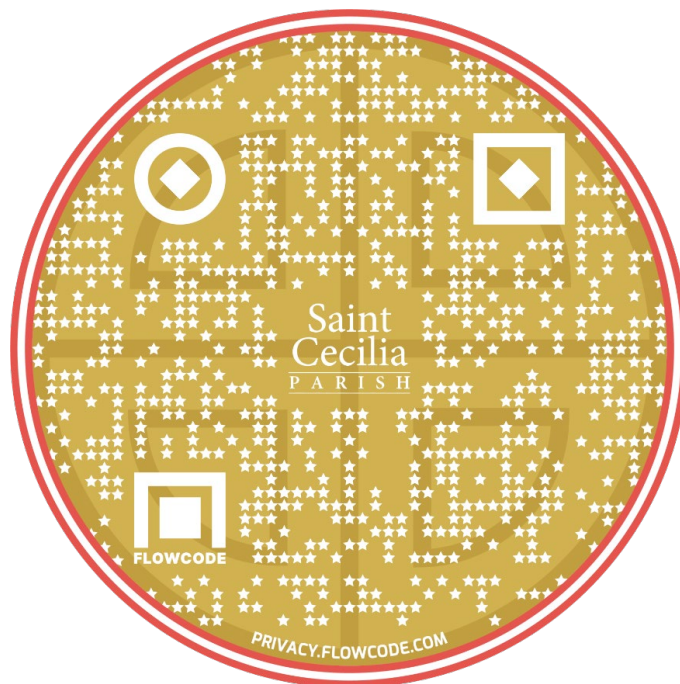
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

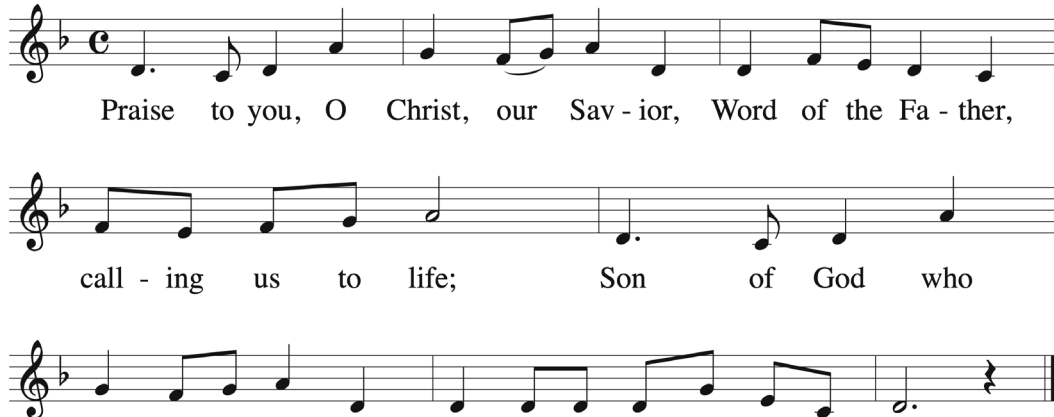


LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Praise to You, O Christ Our Savior

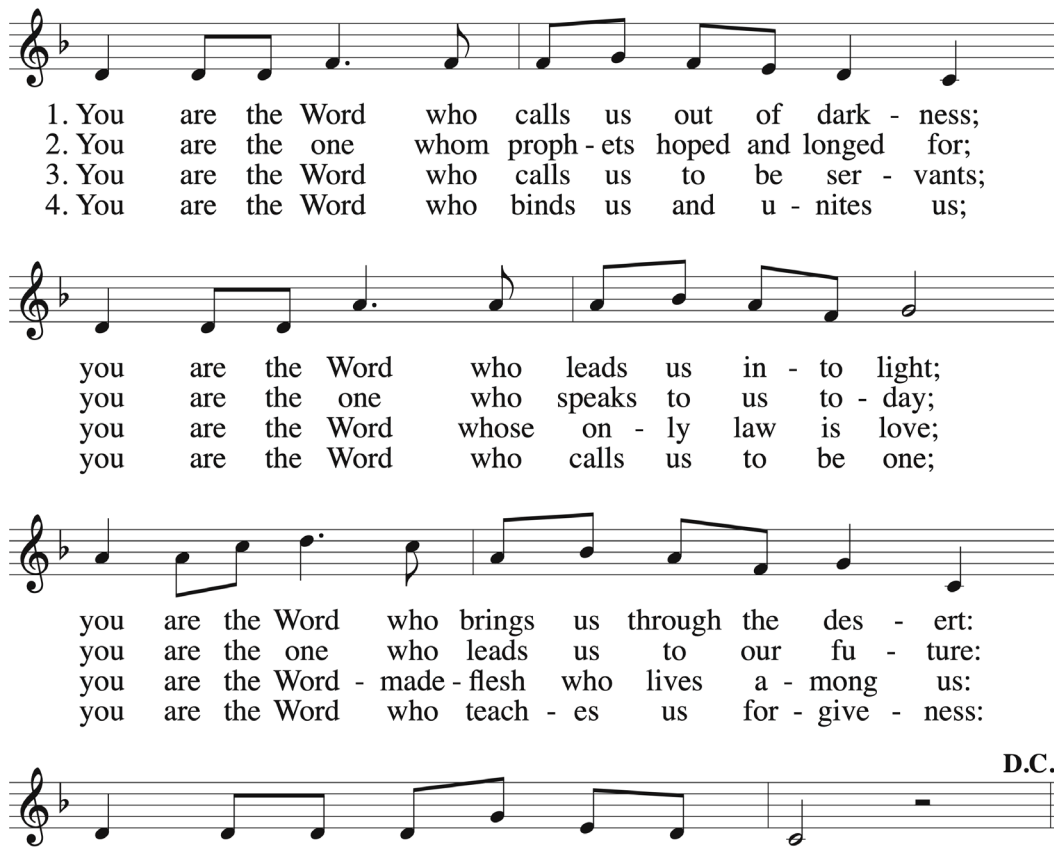
Bernadette Farrell

Refrain



Praise to you, O Christ, our Sav - ior, Word of the Fa - ther,
call - ing us to life; Son of God who
leads us to free - dom: glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!

Verses



1. You are the Word who calls us out of dark - ness;
2. You are the one whom proph - ets hoped and longed for;
3. You are the Word who calls us to be ser - vants;
4. You are the Word who binds us and u - nites us;

you are the Word who leads us in - to light;
you are the one who speaks to us to - day;
you are the Word whose on - ly law is love;
you are the Word who calls us to be one;

you are the Word who brings us through the des - ert:
you are the one who leads us to our fu - ture:
you are the Word - made - flesh who lives a - mong us:
you are the Word who teach - es us for - give - ness:

D.C.
glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!
glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!
glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!
glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!

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.

SANCTUS | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

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

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

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

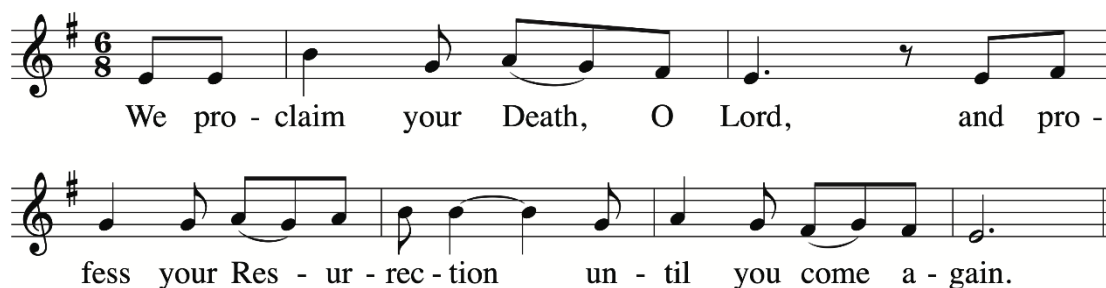
high - est, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -

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

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

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

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



AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

AGNUS DEI | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

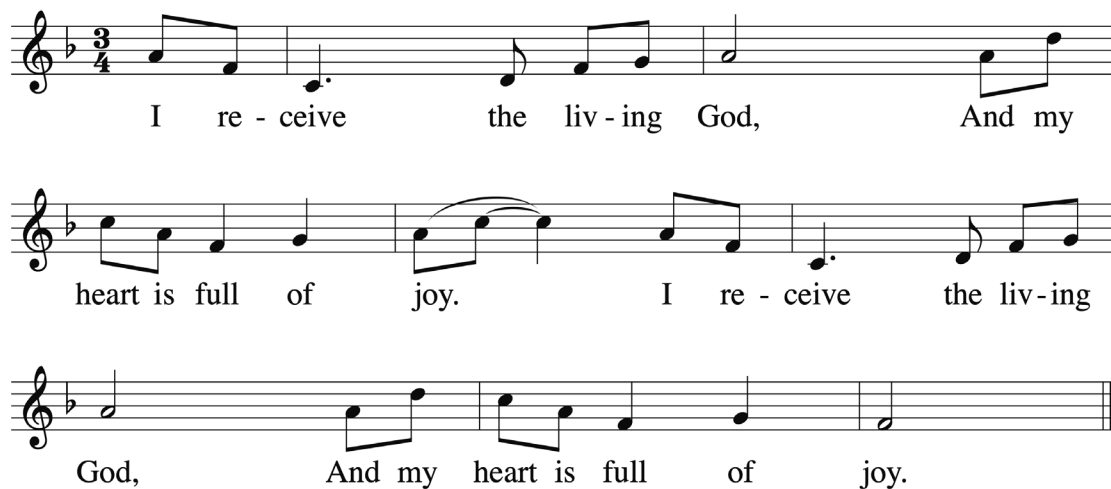
It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an "Act of Spiritual Communion." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of 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.

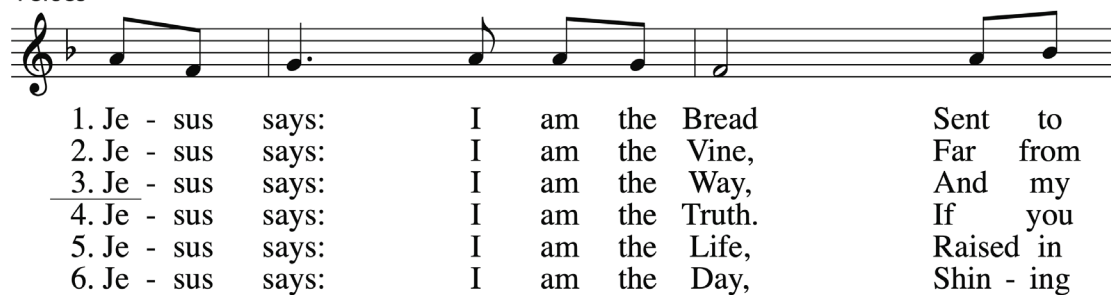
COMMUNION | I Receive the Living God

LIVING GOD

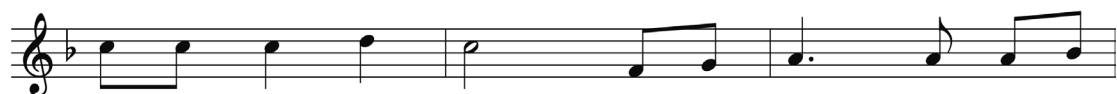


The musical notation is written on a single staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "I re - ceive the liv - ing God, And my heart is full of joy. I re - ceive the liv - ing God, And my heart is full of joy." The first line of music covers the first two phrases, the second line covers the next two, and the third line covers the final two. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Verses



The musical notation is written on a single staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "1. Je - sus says: I am the Bread Sent to
2. Je - sus says: I am the Vine, Far from
3. Je - sus says: I am the Way, And my
4. Je - sus says: I am the Truth. If you
5. Je - sus says: I am the Life, Raised in
6. Je - sus says: I am the Day, Shin - ing"



you from God Most High. Take and eat, and you will
 whom no life can grow. If you join your - self to
 path is straight and true. Fol - low me to where I
 fol - low close to me, You will know me in your
 tri - umph from the dead. As one Bod - y now re -
 bright - ly through your night. Wel - come me, and you will



live; You need nev - er fear to die.
 me, A rich har - vest you will know.
 lead; There my Fa - ther waits for you.
 heart, And my word will make you free.
 main, Mem - bers joined to me, the Head.
 walk By the Spir - it's guid - ing light.

7. Jesus says: I am the Love
 Which can bind you close to me.
 Those who know this gift I bring
 Will find true community.

8. Jesus says: I am the Peace
 Which the world cannot bestow.
 Learn to love and live in me,
 And in you my Reign will grow.

9. Jesus says: I am the Lamb,
 And my death set sinners free.
 Those who drink the cup I drink
 Must take up this work with me.

CONCLUDING RITES

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Amen.

RECESSIONAL | Sing with All the Saints in Glory

ODE TO JOY



1. Sing with all the saints in glo - ry,	Sing the res - ur -
2. O what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing	All that eye has
3. Life e - ter - nal! heav'n re - joic - es:	Je - sus lives who
<i>1. Can - ten con glo - rio - sos fie - les</i>	<i>Him - nos de re -</i>
<i>2. ¡Oh! qué glo - ria tan ex - cel - sa,</i>	<i>Im - po - si - ble</i>
<i>3. Vi - da e - ter - na, ex - cla - ma el cie - lo;</i>	<i>Vi - ve Cris - to</i>



rec - tion song!	Death and sor - row,	earth's dark sto - ry,
yet per - ceived!	Ho - liest hearts, for	a - ges plead - ing,
once was dead.	Shout with joy, O	death - less voic - es!
<i>su - rrec - ción.</i>	<i>Muer - te y due - lo,</i>	<i>tris - te his - to - ria,</i>
<i>con - ce - bir.</i>	<i>Los más pu - ros</i>	<i>co - ra - zo - nes</i>
<i>que mu - rió.</i>	<i>¡Gri - ten,</i>	<i>vo - ces in - mor - ta - les!</i>



To the for - mer days be - long.	All a - round the
Nev - er that full joy con - ceived.	God has prom - ised,
Child of God, lift up your head!	Pa - tri - archs from
<i>Pe - nas del pa - sa - do son.</i>	<i>Nu - bes ne - gras</i>
<i>No es - pe - ra - ron re - ci - bir.</i>	<i>Dios pro - me - te,</i>
<i>Al - cen ros - tros ha - cia Dios.</i>	<i>Los pa - triar - cas</i>



clouds are break - ing,	Soon the storms of	time shall cease;	In God's
Christ pre - pares it,	There on high our	wel - come waits.	Ev - 'ry
dis - tant a - ges,	Saints all long - ing	for their heav'n,	Proph - ets,
<i>se di - si - pan,</i>	<i>La tor - men - ta</i>	<i>ce - sa ya.</i>	<i>Des - per -</i>
<i>Cris - to o - fre - ce</i>	<i>El ban - que - te</i>	<i>ce - les - tial.</i>	<i>Pa - ra</i>
<i>del pa - sa - do,</i>	<i>Los que es - pe - ran</i>	<i>ce - le - brar,</i>	<i>To - dos</i>



like - ness we a - wak - en, Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
hum - ble spir - it shares it; Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
psalm - ists, seers, and sag - es, All a - wait the glo - ry giv'n.
tan - do en su i - ma - gen, Dios la e - ter - na paz nos da.
to - dos los hu - mil - des, Vi - da en Cris - to es e - ter - nal.
sa - bios y pro - fe - tas Glo - ria an - he - lan sin ce - sar.

4. Life eternal! O what wonders
Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amid earth's closing thunders,
Saints shall stand before the throne!
Oh, to enter that bright portal,
See that glowing firmament,
Know, with you, O God immortal,
Jesus Christ whom you have sent!

4. *¡Vida eterna! ¡Gozo eterno!*
Fieles cantan a una voz.
Cesan truenos y nos vemos
Frente al trono tuyo, Dios.
Y al pasar por tus portales,
Brilla el cielo con fulgor.
Celebramos tu venida
En tu Hijo, el Salvador.

POSTLUDE | Improvisation on "We shall overcome"
Richard Webster, *guest organist*

Carl Haywood
(b. 1949)

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

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

HAPPY EASTER!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, May 2 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Theresa Chaklos, lector

Sunday, May 3 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Marie Bea Mbong, lector

Sunday, May 3 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Chika Offurum, Karen Vachon, Dede Simon, lectors

Sunday, May 3 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, deacon
Kate McGillicuddy, Tim McGillicuddy, lectors

Sunday, May 3 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Deirdre McCarthy, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 2 | 5:00 p.m.

Angelo and Eugenia Valente, *Memorial*

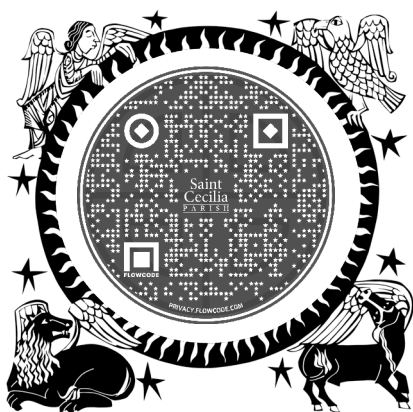
Sunday, May 3 | 9:30 a.m.

Danny Ryan, *1st Anniversary*
Fr. Richard Segreve, *Memorial*
Remedios London, *Memorial*
Judy Conklin, *Memorial*

Wednesday, May 6 | 8:00 a.m.

Ella Salerno, *Memorial*

Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!



TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 6:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

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

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **John and Mary Margaret Griffin, Jane Cummings, Thomas MacLean, Mary McGinty, Norberto Ceballos, Jelonid Fuentes, Said Tarraf and Andrew Barakat, and Courtney Carlton and Matthew Almeida.** If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Welcome to the Table!

At this Sunday's 9:30 liturgy, we celebrate with special joy as six young members of our community receive the Eucharist for the first time. This is an important milestone in their journey of faith and we hold them in prayer as they continue to grow in the love of Jesus.

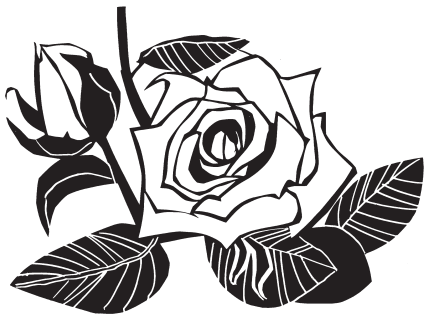
**Vivian Alves • Brigit Hammond • Camila Hayes
Maya Hayes • Ben Perencevich • Jack Perencevich**

Last 6pm Mass

This weekend is our last 6 p.m. Mass until September. Please join us after Mass for pizza and fellowship!

Mother's Day Walk for Peace Hospitality Table (5/3)

Visit the Saint Cecilia Mother's Day Walk for Peace table in the parish hall after the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies! Learn more about the Louis D. Brown Institute, sign up for the Saint Cecilia Walking Team, or donate to support the team.



*The floral arrangement in front of the altar is given for the glory of God and in loving memory of **Danny Ryan** by Bob Conroy and his family.*

IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN

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Detail of Many Mansions by Kerry James Marshall (1994)



SIT & KNIT

SUNDAY, MAY 3 | 9AM - 12PM | PARISH HALL

The next Sit & Knit is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2026 from 9:00-12:00. The group will be working on finishing the finger knit blankets, and the Bunny Project for next year.

Also, during this time. Linda Durant will be offering a "Learn to Knit" session. The cost is \$25.00 (cash or check) which includes pattern, yarn, needles and instruction. The Group will be working on a cowl for one of our local charities, and to work towards future projects for the Knitting & Crochet Ministry. Parishioners serious about learning to knit for our local charities this is a great opportunity!

FAR FLUNG FLOCK COFFEE HOUR: CHAMPIONS OF LOVE

SUNDAY, MAY 3 | 4PM EST VIA ZOOM

Join us on Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 p.m. for a conversation with Brenda Bancel and Emma Dickinson, who will speak about the *Champions of Love Foundation*. This inspiring organization views love as our greatest untapped resource. As Brenda often says, "Love is not just a feeling; it is a courageous action that has the power to ease suffering and transform our communities." While their foundation supports visionary leaders like Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ, Rev. Liz Walker, and Fr. John Unni, their mission is for everyone. Join us for what is sure to be a vibrant conversation on how we can all find ways to consciously spread love in our daily lives.

If you have not attended a virtual coffee hour before, please email the FFF and request the Zoom link.

KNITTING & CROCHET MINISTRY MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 4 | 3:30PM VIA ZOOM

The next ministry Zoom meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2026 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. In this meeting, we will:

- Welcome New Members
- Discuss current projects on our needles
- Plan new projects and the needs of our community
- Show and tell of completed projects
- And much more!

Contact the Knitting & Crochet Ministry for more information.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

TUESDAY, MAY 5 | 7PM - 8PM | SANCTUARY

All parishioners, regardless of age, are invited to join in praise and worship, led by the Young Adult Ministry, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. In the month dedicated to our Blessed Mother, we will honor Mary as she leads us closer to Jesus. Through music, reflection, and the Rosary, we will pray the Sorrowful Mysteries and encounter her maternal care, trusting more deeply in the goodness of God. Please enter from the side door on Saint Cecilia Street and ring the bell to be let in.

Can't join us in person? We'll be live-streaming our worship service over Zoom. Register to receive a Zoom link each month here: www.tinyurl.com/stc-night-of-worship.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 | 6PM VIA ZOOM

When a loved one dies, everything changes. At Saint Cecilia, we believe no one should walk alone in grief and loneliness. Wherever you are in your grief, you're welcome here. No pressure. No timeline. Just an open, steady invitation to join a supportive community. Please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email for the Zoom link.

ANNA & SIMEON SENIORS

THURSDAY, MAY 7 | 10AM | PARISH HALL

The next Anna and Simeon Seniors Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7th. From 10:00 to 10:30 am there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:30 there will be time for prayer. All parish seniors are invited to participate.

SPACE TO SHARE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 | 6:30PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

Space to Share is a place for LGBTQ+ parishioners to speak freely about the challenges and joys of being LGBTQ+ and Catholic (or whatever else is on our minds). Whether it's your first visit or you're a biweekly regular, we'd love to have you join us! To learn more, please contact the Rainbow Ministry.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

SATURDAY, MAY 16 | 9:30AM | PARISH HALL

The Women's Ministry breakfast is a time set aside for faith, fellowship, and encouragement. Each month, women of all ages and stages of life gather around the table to share a simple meal, deepen their relationship with Christ, and build meaningful connections through prayer, reflection, and discussion.

All are welcome to this new ministry as we seek a range of ideas to grow spiritually as individuals and to serve our greater community. From 9:30 to 10:00 am there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:00 there will be a discussion on Mother Mary.

For more information, please reach out to Mary Wessel at her parish email.

THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

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



COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA MAY 3 - 7

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 8:30am via Zoom

Sit & Knit | 9am - 12pm | Parish Hall

FFF Coffee Hour | 4PM ET via Zoom

MONDAY, MAY 4

Knitting & Crochet Ministry Meeting | 3:30pm via Zoom

TUESDAY, MAY 5

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12pm | Comm. Room

Night of Worship | 7pm | Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Bereavement Group | 6pm via Zoom

THURSDAY, MAY 7

Anna & Simeon Seniors Group | 10am | Parish Hall

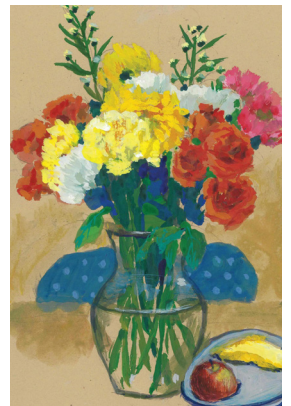
Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 7:30pm via Zoom

HELP THE WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

AVAILABLE AFTER WEEKEND LITURGIES | NARTHEX

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

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



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

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

SAINT DYMPHNA



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

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

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

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

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

To get on the distribution list, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.



30 YEARS STRONG: 30TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

SUNDAY, MAY 10 | 9AM
TOWN FIELD PARK, DORCHESTER

JOIN SAINT CECILIA IN SUPPORTING THE LOUIS D. BROWN PEACE INSTITUTE

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a beloved Boston tradition celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. It is a powerful day to remember and honor loved ones, support survivors of homicide, and commit to building a more peaceful world. Funds raised provide critical services, advocacy, and healing for families impacted by murder, grief, and loss.

On Mother's Day, May 10, our Saint Cecilia team will walk the 3.1-mile route starting at Town Field Park in Dorchester, and we invite you and your friends and family to join us for this meaningful community event.

- **When:** Sunday, May 10. Walk kicks off at 9:00 a.m.
- **Where:** Town Field Park, Dorchester.
- **Our Goal:** We aim to raise \$10,000, and the parish will generously match up to \$3,000 in total donations.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

1. **Walk With Us:** Join the Saint Cecilia Walking Team. This is a wonderful activity for parishioners of all ages.
2. **Donate:** Support our goal by contributing through our Team Page.

To learn more, donate, or sign up, visit our table in the parish hall after the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies this Sunday, or visit: www.tinyurl.com/stcecilia2026.

MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, MAY 21 | 8PM VIA ZOOM

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

MANY MANSIONS

BY KERRY JAMES MARSHALL



Many Mansions is the first in Kerry James Marshall's series of five large-scale paintings depicting public housing projects in Chicago and Los Angeles such as Rockwell Gardens, Wentworth Gardens, or, as in *Many Mansions*, Stateway Gardens.

Struck by the absurdity of the term “garden” to describe these failed solutions to low-income housing, Marshall was inspired to represent the profound contradictions of living in such an environment. *Many Mansions* is filled with ironic and startling juxtapositions of the real and artificial—from the unnaturally cheerful landscape to the three haunting, ebony-skinned figures dressed in nostalgic Sunday best.

The title of the painting, visible on the red ribbon above, is a variation on Christ's oft-quoted remark found in John [14:2]: “In my Father's house there are many mansions.”

- The Art Institute of Chicago

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!



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This year, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) election will be held on the weekend of **May 30/31**. There are three seats to be filled, each for a 3-year term. This is an exciting time for our parish and serving on the Parish Pastoral Council is a significant way of contributing to our vibrancy and growth. Please take the time to vote, and if you feel inspired, consider running for one of the open seats.

Who is eligible to run for membership on the Parish Council?

1. You must be a registered member of our community and at least eighteen years old. You can register by visiting our website at www.stceciliaboston.org or by filling out a paper registration form in the narthex.
2. You should already be an active participant in the life of the parish.

What is the level of commitment and responsibility?

Meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. In addition to monthly meetings, members are expected to volunteer to lead or assist with occasional parish initiatives or activities. It is also expected that council members will participate in a variety of parish events and programs and be visible representatives of the parish community.

How can I become a candidate?

Please prepare a brief statement (no longer than 150 words) that tells us about yourself and why you are interested in serving the parish as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. Your statement should include the following:

- *What Saint Cecilia Parish means to you.*
- *How long have you been a registered parishioner?*
- *What ministry/ministries are you involved in?*
- *What Mass do we typically see you at?*

This statement can be sent to Scott MacDonald at his parish email address and will be included in the bulletins for May 17, 24, and 31.

A headshot is also required.

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

Schedule

May 8 | Statements and headshots due to Scott MacDonald by noon (ET)

May 17, 24, & 31 | Biographies, platform statements, and headshots published in the parish bulletin

May 31 | Absentee ballots due no later than 1:00 p.m.(ET) via e-mail

May 30/31 | Election

**Completed materials or any questions can be sent
to Scott MacDonald at his parish email address.**

IN A SURPRISE CHICAGO APPEARANCE, POPE LEO PLEDGES SUPPORT TO EFFORTS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

BY KEVIN CLARKE



Credit: OSV News photo/Simone Risoliti, Vatican Media

Pope Leo XIV holds a cross during a visit to Bata prison in Equatorial Guinea, April 22, 2026.

Pope Leo XIV is showing no signs of slowing down a day after his return to Rome from what must have been a grueling 11-day trip to Africa. As folks in his native Illinois gathered at DePaul University in Chicago to celebrate the state's abolition of the death penalty 15 years ago, attendees at the afternoon conference on April 24 were no doubt astonished to welcome a surprise guest. Pope Leo joined them through a prerecorded video message, "celebrating the decision made by the Governor of Illinois in 2011."

Leo offered his support "to those who advocate for the abolition of the death penalty in the United States of America and around the world."

"I pray that your efforts will lead to a greater acknowledgement of the dignity of every person, and will inspire others to work for the same just cause," the pope said.

"The Catholic Church," Leo said, "has consistently taught that each human life, from the moment of conception until natural death, is sacred and deserves to be protected."

"Indeed, the right to life is the very foundation of every other human right. For this reason, only when a society safeguards the sanctity of human life will it flourish and prosper."

The church, he said, affirms "that the dignity of the person is not lost even after very serious crimes are committed." He

said effective systems of detention have been developed that protect citizens “while not completely [depriving] those who are guilty of the possibility of redemption.”

“This is why Pope Francis and my recent predecessors repeatedly insisted that the common good can be safeguarded and the requirements of justice can be met without recourse to capital punishment. Consequently, the Church teaches that ‘the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person.’”

Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, the executive director of Catholic Mobilizing Network, a national anti-death penalty advocacy that works in collaboration with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a press statement that it was “absolutely thrilling to hear the first American Pope’s encouraging words about death penalty abolition efforts in his home state and country.”

“It indicates the closeness of the Holy Father Pope Leo to the Church’s indefatigable work across the nation to end this death-dealing practice. Pope Leo makes it crystal clear that the death penalty is a priority for the universal Church.”

In March 2011, Illinois became the 16th state since 1847 to abolish the death penalty. Many other states have followed Illinois’s lead, and now 26 states and the District of Columbia have outlawed capital punishment.

The Depaul University event, “A Beacon of Light in Darkness,” included reflections from noted anti-death penalty crusader Helen Prejean, C.S.J., and honored former Governor Pat Quinn, who ended the use of capital punishment in Illinois.

Executions in the United States experienced a sharp increase in 2025, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Executions rose from 25 in 2024 to 47 in 2025. The D.P.I.C. reports that the spike in executions is due almost entirely to a dramatic increase in executions in Florida, which alone accounted for 19 executions, or 40 percent of the year’s total.

But even as executions rose, public support for capital punishment in the United States reached historic lows. A Gallup poll in October 2025 found that support for the death penalty hit a 50-year low of 52 percent. Gallup also found that 44 percent of Americans now oppose the death penalty — the highest level of opposition recorded since May 1966.

The pope’s video appearance before his hometown audience came on the same day that the U.S. Justice Department announced that it would allow firing squads as a permitted method of execution as the Trump administration moves to ramp up and expedite capital punishment cases.

The Justice Department is also reauthorizing the use of single-drug lethal injections with pentobarbital that were used to carry out 13 executions during the first Trump

administration—more than under any president in modern history. The Biden administration had removed pentobarbital from the federal protocol over concerns about the potential for unnecessary pain and suffering.

The Associated Press reports that the moves were announced as part of a broader push to step up federal executions after a moratorium under the Biden administration. Only three defendants remain on federal death row after former President Joe Biden converted 37 of their sentences to life in prison, though the Trump administration has so far authorized seeking death sentences against 44 federal defendants.

The federal government has not previously included firing squad as a method of execution in its protocols, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Five states currently allow executions by firing squad: Idaho, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Utah.

A number of states allow other methods of execution, including electrocution, inhaling nitrogen gas or death by firing squad.



Originally published in America on April 24, 2026.

Kevin Clarke is America’s chief correspondent and the author of Oscar Romero: Love Must Win Out (Liturgical Press).



THE IMPORTANCE OF GOING TO CONFESSION (EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NERVOUS)

BY JAMES MARTIN, SJ

I go to confession a lot. To put that more accurately, as a priest, I not only hear confessions often but also go to a priest to confess my sins often. For some reason, I have never found it all that difficult.

That is not the case for many Catholics. One person I met recently has not confessed his sin for years because he is worried about what the priest might give him for a penance. (I tried to reassure him that penances are never impossible and, besides, the church asks priests to give penances that are doable.) One woman told me a few years ago that she was too worried that she would cry. (I asked her what was so awful about that. I have cried enough in confession.) Another person once told me that he was embarrassed because he knew his parish priests too well. (I told him that this didn't seem insurmountable: I've gone to confession with Jesuits I live with!)

I accept that confession is hard for many people, but at the heart of these objections about the sacrament of reconciliation may be a misunderstanding of what the sacrament is about. Nothing sums that up better than a line from Peter Fink, S.J., a liturgical theologian who was a longtime professor at what was then the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass. What he told our class completely changed how this cradle Catholic viewed the sacrament.

"Confession," said Father Fink, "is not about how bad you are, but about how good God is."

To my Philadelphia-bred Catholic ears, that represented a complete turnaround because, frankly, I thought confession was indeed about how bad you are. Now, we are all, in one way or another, sinful people. I do not mean that we are bad people; rather, we all sin from time to time. (I doubt that either Jesus or Mary is reading these words, so I'm confident in saying this.) Therefore, we all need forgiveness and reconciliation not only with God but with the larger community. Again, it can be a challenge, but it is necessary for the state of our souls.

Admittedly, Catholic theology has focused more on original sin (the only provable doctrine, as the saying goes) instead of what Richard Rohr, O.F.M., likes to call "original blessing." Nonetheless, it is abundantly true that we sometimes sin, need forgiveness and need to hear that forgiveness from a real, live person. We can surely confess our sins to God privately, but doing it aloud in front of a



Credit: Wikimedia

The Confession by Giuseppe Molteni (1838)

priest and hearing the words of absolution are, to my mind, essential.

This is not the place for a full treatment of the sacrament of reconciliation. But I was happy that it was the audience question chosen for our conversation with Cardinal Blase Cupich, the archbishop of Chicago, who gives a deep and pastoral answer to the question on this week's episode of "The Spiritual Life."

In point of fact, I love going to confession in part because I love how I feel afterward: clean, fresh, reconciled. I just wish everyone could remember Father Fink's line the next time they resist the sacrament. Don't forget how good God is.



Originally published in America on April 20, 2026.

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., is a Jesuit priest, author, editor at large at America and founder of Outreach.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, Deacon

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities Operations & Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Ben Worthley, Audio Engineer

Schedule for Liturgy

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

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

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

Baptism for Infants

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

Parking

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

Faith Formation for Children

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

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

Please note:

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