

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ

Corpus Christi

11 June 2023

The Last Supper by Jen Norton

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

11 JUNE 2023

SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST


PRELUDE | *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*, BWV 731

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)


ENTRANCE PROCESSION | As the Bread of Life is Broken

THAXTED

Refrain



As the bread of life is bro - ken, the cup of love out - poured,

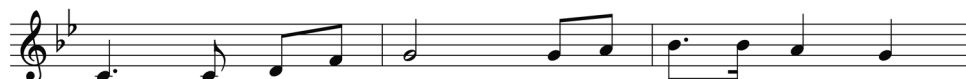


We are one in Christ, our Sav - ior, and sent to serve the Lord.


Verses



1. We, the man - y who are gath - ered, are u -
2. In the word of God pro - claimed here the good
3. In the bread of life here giv - en, we be -
4. Sent as bless - ing for God's peo - ple, to go



nit - ed now as one. In this joy - ful cel - e -
news of truth is heard. In the tell - ing of the
come what we re - ceive. In the cup of love here
forth in love and peace, In our wit - ness to God's



bra - tion, we re - call what God has done.
sto - ries, we are o - pen to God's word.
of - fered, we af - firm what we be - lieve.
king - dom, may our char - i - ty in - crease.

D.C.

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.

GLORIA | Mass of Remembrance

Curtis Stephan



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a -
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you
thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly
King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.
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 seat - ed

at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer -

cy, have mer - cy on us. For you a - lone are the

Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the

Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - men.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14b-16a



1. O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord! O Sion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you.
2. He established peace on your borders: he gives you your fill of finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth, and swiftly runs his command.
3. He reveals his word to Jacob; to Israel, his decrees and judgments.
He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his judgments.

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Remembrance



GOSPEL | John 6: 51-58

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

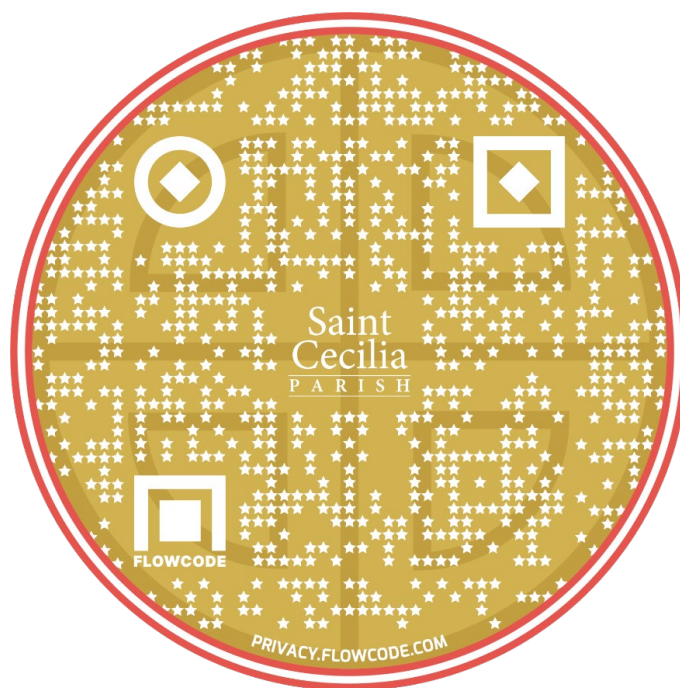
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115




LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

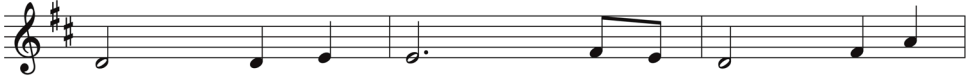
PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | In This Place

Trevor Thomson


Verses



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



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



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




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



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

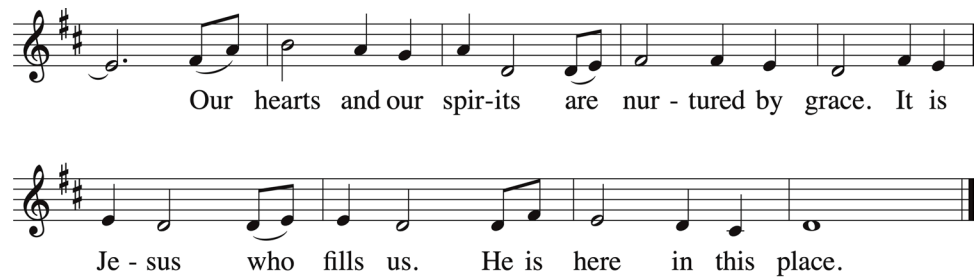
Refrain



We are gath - ered at ta - ble as one in the Lord.
**to - geth - er*



We are gath - ered as peo - ple who are liv - ing the Word.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✕ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✕ Lift up your hearts.

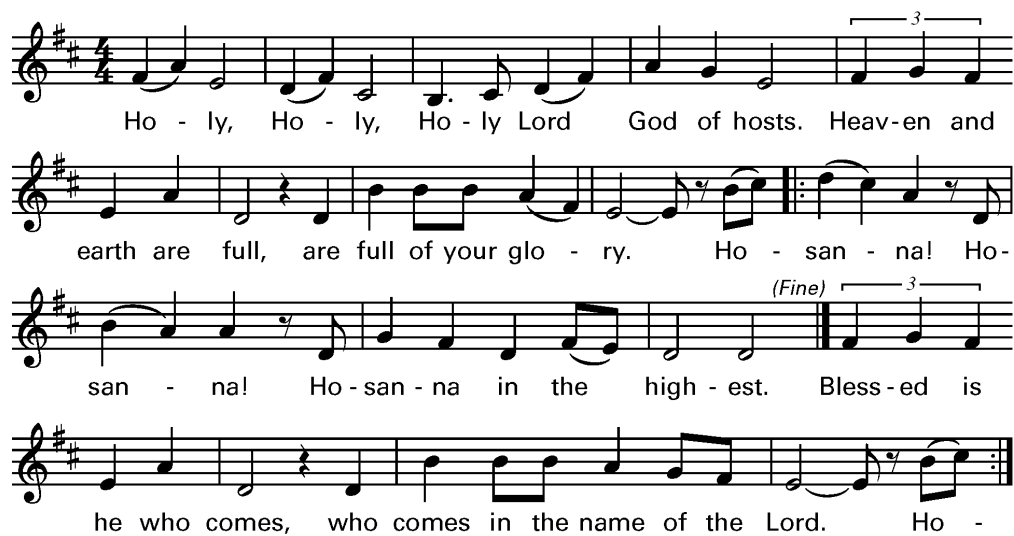
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✕ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte





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 Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



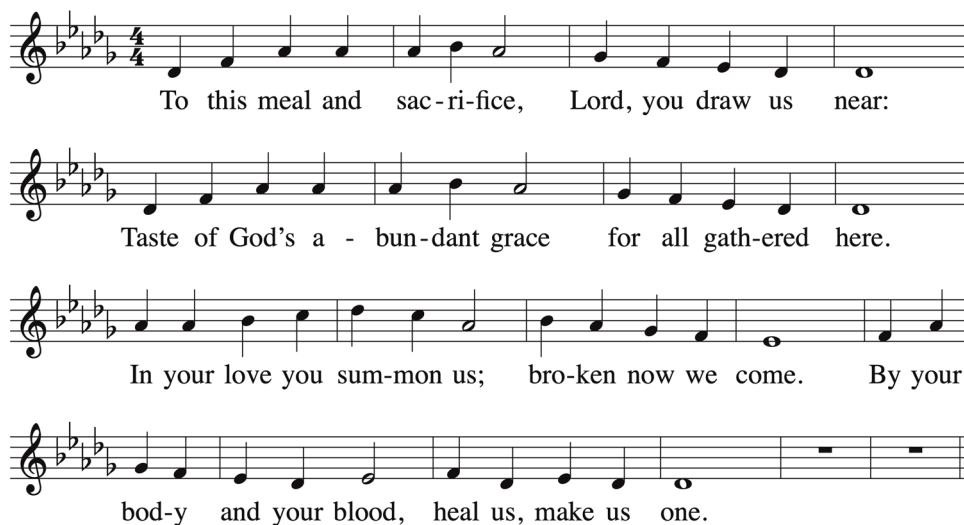
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

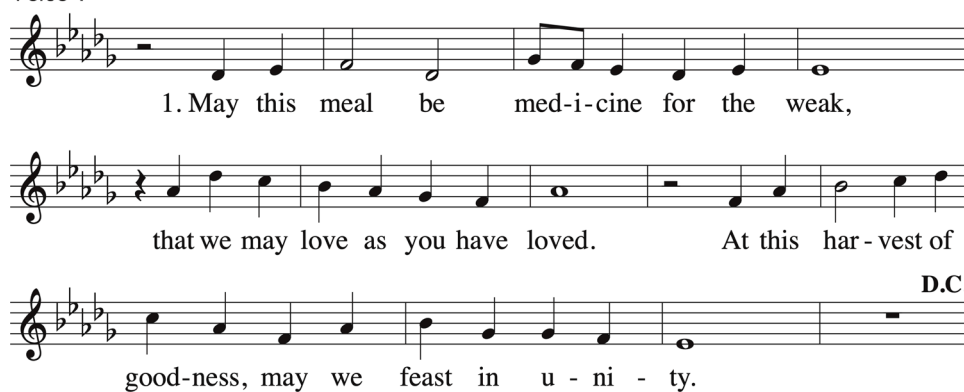
Loving Jesus,
 I believe that you
 are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
 I love you above all things,
 and I desire to receive you into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace you as if you were already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

Refrain



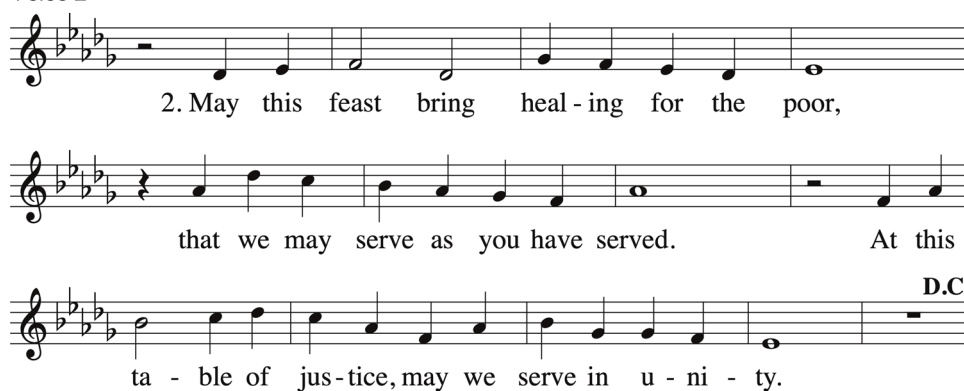
To this meal and sac-ri-fice, Lord, you draw us near:
Taste of God's a - bun-dant grace for all gath-ered here.
In your love you sum-mon us; bro-ken now we come. By your
bod-y and your blood, heal us, make us one.

Verse 1



1. May this meal be med-i-cine for the weak,
that we may love as you have loved. At this har - vest of
good-ness, may we feast in u - ni - ty.

Verse 2



2. May this feast bring heal - ing for the poor,
that we may serve as you have served. At this
ta - ble of jus-tice, may we serve in u - ni - ty.

Verses 3–6



3. May our hearts be o - pen to your pres - ence,
4. May this food be wel - come for the "oth - er,"
5. May our hands bring com - fort to the sick,
6. May this bread trans - form our hearts for peace,



that we may share as you have shared. At this
em - brac - ing all hu - man - i - ty. At this
em - pow'r - ing all who gath - er here. At this
re - viv - ing hope for all our days. At this



gath - 'ring of na - tions, may we live in u - ni - ty.
ban - quet of glad - ness, may we work for u - ni - ty.
al - tar of heal - ing, may we sing for u - ni - ty.
tem - ple of mer - cy, may we pray for u - ni - ty.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | *Panis Angelicus*

Cesar Franck

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.



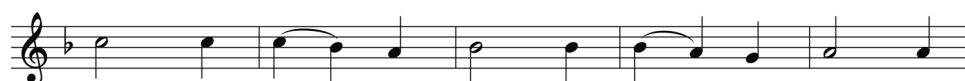
1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, Here on the
 4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, You the



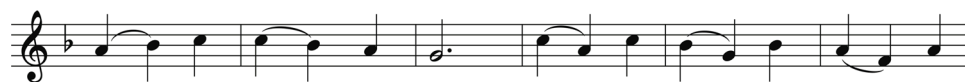
scep - ter, his the throne. Al - le - lu - ia! His the
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
 Lord of lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of



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



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



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



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

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.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, June 10 | 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, June 11 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Elizabeth Fahey, lector

Sunday, June 11 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Thomas O'Brien, Rosaria Salerno, and Bob Mann, lectors

Sunday, June 11 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Tanya Rybarczyk, Pat Scofield, and Greg Rybarczyk, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, June 11 | 8:00 a.m.

John & Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

Sunday, June 11 | 9:30 a.m.

James Lienhardt, *1st Anniversary*
Eileen Bolesky, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

John 6:51-58

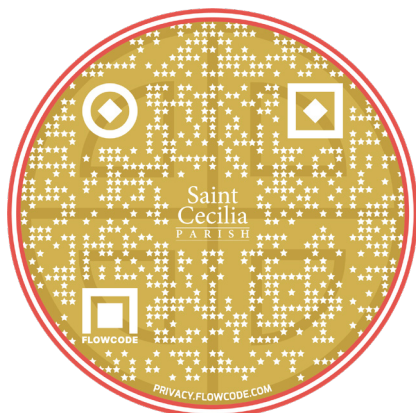
NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Exodus 19:2-6a

Romans 5:6-11

Matthew 9:36-10:8

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



As we eat his flesh that was sacrificed for us,
we are made strong, and, as we drink his Blood
that was poured out for us,
we are washed clean.

—From Preface I of the Most Holy Eucharist

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS



"Jesus does not prefer exclusive, selective places. He looks for places untouched by love, untouched by hope. Those uncomfortable places are where he wants to go and he asks us to prepare his way...All of us know people who are lonely, troubled and in need: they are abandoned tabernacles. Jesus became bread broken for our sake; in turn, he asks us to give ourselves to others, to live no longer for ourselves but for one another. The Eucharist is translated into life when we pass beyond ourselves to those all around us."

—Pope Francis, Corpus Christi, 2018



Our Sick

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

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: **Jocelyn Bresnahan** of Milton, **Bruce Foley** of Somerville, and **Julie Dombroski** of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Pray for All the Members of Our Parish

As we celebrate the feast of the Lord's Body and Blood, pray for the community of Saint Cecilia, that through our sharing in the Eucharist we may be transformed more and more into the Body of Christ and will always reverence one another as members of his body.

Liturgy of the Hours

Please join us on Tuesday, June 13 at 6:00 p.m. for Vespers for the Memorial of St. Anthony of Padua and on Friday, June 16 at 6:00 p.m. for Vespers for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. Vespers is streamed live on the [Saint Cecilia Facebook page](#) or via Zoom. Please email sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com for details.

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>

Second Collection Next Week

Next week's second collection will be shared by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). These two organizations communicate the Gospel by promoting works of justice, education and the dignity of human life. Your generous donations will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes and will support our local communications needs, such as Catholic TV programming. You can donate here: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/cchd-ccc-second-collection-2023>

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.



SUPPORT COMMUNITY SERVINGS THIS FATHER'S DAY

Community Servings' Dinners4Dads fundraiser is the perfect way to honor the father figure in your life, especially if he happens to be a sports fan! Along with their locally-owned bakery partner, Top Shelf Cookies, they are offering \$65 and \$95 gift packages of cookies that include Fenway-inspired Green Monster Mint and Bruin's-inspired Black and Gold – a chewy, dark chocolate cookie studded with peanut butter chips.



Both packages include a personalized Father's Day card designed by local artist Susy Pilgrim Waters. With your donation, Community Servings will be able to provide more than a weeks' worth of medically-tailored meals to a local dad and family experiencing a critical or chronic illness. *Hit a home run this Father's Day with Dinners4Dads!* Place your order at <https://www.servings.org/fathersday/>.



DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

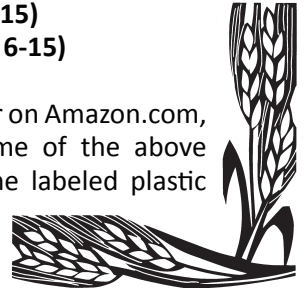
Now that our Faith Formation classes have ended for the academic year and with summer approaching, many of the families that have been faithful donors to our collection of food items for the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett pantries will be away until September. We hope that you will consider participating 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.

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!



HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS MINISTRY: DRIVERS NEEDED

Each weekend parishioners have the opportunity to pick up donated meat, dairy products, prepared foods, and produce from four local supermarkets and deliver it to either Catholic Charities' Haitian Multi-Service Center in Dorchester or the Huntington Y's Families in Transition program. In addition, we deliver parish donations to two Dorchester pantries: the Mary Ann Brett Pantry and the Catholic Charities pantry at the Yawkey Center. This vital ministry takes place at 8:00 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday morning and on Sundays can be completed in time to attend or watch the 9:30 a.m. parish Mass. We need drivers for all the Saturdays and Sundays in June and July. Please email Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com if you would like more information about how you can help.

CATECHISM STUDY - IN-PERSON LITURGY DISCUSSION

Thursday, June 22 | 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Location: Saint Cecilia Parish Hall

Open to: Everyone



The Saint Cecilia Young Adults (SCYA) Catechism Study Group is starting a new section of the Catechism, on liturgy and the sacraments. Join us in person in the Saint Cecilia Parish Hall for food and fellowship as we discuss what we believe about the liturgy (Why

and how do we celebrate Mass the way we do? What does “liturgy” mean and encompass?). All newcomers, ages, and opinions are welcome! Scan this QR code with your smartphone to sign up for this event (click on the Catechism link to RSVP), and check out other upcoming SCYA events.



NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Tuesday, June 27 | 7:00—8:00 p.m. In-person

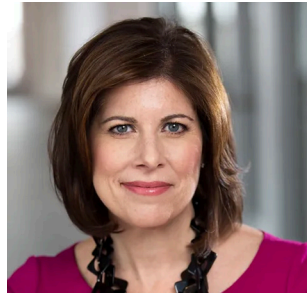
Location: Saint Cecilia Church

Open to: Everyone

Join the Saint Cecilia Young Adults for an in-person evening of adoration and worship in the Saint Cecilia Church sanctuary. Please enter through the side entrance on St. Cecilia Street, and ring the bell to be let in. All are welcome!



CONGRATULATIONS, KELLEY TUTHILL!



Catholic Charities Boston’s Board of Trustees has announced Chief Operating Officer **Kelley Tuthill**, former WCVB-TV reporter and breast cancer advocate, as the new President and CEO. She will begin transitioning into the President’s role this summer before assuming the CEO role in January 2024. Kelley will succeed Kevin M. MacKenzie,

the former Board Chair who assumed the role of President & CEO in January 2020 and will continue in an advisory capacity. “We are grateful for Kelley’s leadership and commitment to Catholic Charities mission during these challenging times as so many in our communities are struggling,” said Cardinal Séan P. O’Malley, OFM Cap.

Tuthill is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame where she serves as a member of the College of Arts and Letters Advisory Council. Tuthill holds a doctorate in education from Regis College and a master’s degree in journalism from Columbia University. She worked for more than two decades as a journalist, most notably as a reporter and anchor at WCVB-TV Channel 5 Boston.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO JOINED US FOR OUR NEW PARISHIONER/ MINISTRY APPRECIATION PARTY!



GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

BY MARTIN HOGAN

There is a wonderful Danish film called *Babette's Feast*. Babette was a French woman who ran a high-class restaurant in Paris. She had to flee from Paris at a time of civil unrest and eventually landed by boat on the coast of Jutland, in Denmark. She was taken in as the servant of a rather austere evangelical pastor and his two daughters who ministered to a small community of believers. Even though she was a marvelous cook, she prepared the simple fish dishes that they had been used to and expected. Some years passed and the pastor died, and she continued cooking for the two sisters who lived very frugal lives.

One day, word came through to Babette that she had won the equivalent of today's lotto. She decided to spend the money on preparing the most lavish meal imaginable for the two sisters and the little community of believers to whom they ministered. She quietly ordered from France all the ingredients she needed for the meal. The resulting feast, Babette's feast, was like nothing this little community in Jutland had ever seen before. The whole community came together in the sisters' house and there they dined like royalty. Members of the community who had been bickering with one another a short time previously were delighted to be in each other's company, as the best of wine flowed and the finest of food was eaten. There was one outsider to this little religious community present, a rather debonair Danish officer. He was a man of the world; he had dined in the restaurant that Babette once ran in Paris. He fully appreciated the quality of every item of food and drink that was on the table. He was so moved that he stood up to speak. He quoted from one of the Psalms, 'Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven'. He recognized the sacred dimension of this meal which everyone was relishing so much. Babette looked on from the side, exhausted but contented at this celebration of communion over which she presided.

At the heart of that feast was an act of love. Babette spent her money, her time, her energy, her gifts, to make the feast possible. The gospels suggest that Jesus shared many meals with people during his ministry. The most highly charged meal Jesus had was with his disciples on the night before

he died. At the heart of all the meals Jesus shared with people was an act of love; at table Jesus was revealing the hospitable love of God. That was especially true of the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples. At the heart of that meal was an extraordinary act of love. When Jesus took the bread and said, 'this is my body', and when he took the wine and said, 'this is my blood', and when he told his disciples to take and eat, to take and drink, he was giving himself totally to his disciples. The body and blood of someone is the totality of their being. Jesus was giving his whole life, his very self, to his disciples, at that meal. When Jesus instructed his disciples to do this in memory of him, he was showing that he wanted to give himself fully and entirely to his disciples in every generation.

In response to the command of Jesus to do this in memory of him, the church from its earliest beginnings has repeated the words and deeds of Jesus at the last supper. As Paul says in today's second reading from his first letter to the Corinthians, written a little over twenty years after the last supper, "The blessing cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ." The act of love which was at the heart of the last supper was the same act of



The Bread of Life by Hermel Alejandre

love that Jesus displayed by his death on the cross. In giving his total self to his disciples in the form of bread and wine, Jesus was symbolically anticipating the total gift of himself that he would give to all humanity on the cross the next day. It is that self-gift of Jesus on the cross that is at the heart of every Eucharist. That is why Paul goes on to say in that first letter to the Corinthians, 'As often as you eat his bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes'.

The feast of the Eucharist which we celebrate today is the feast of Jesus' self-giving love. To eat the Lord's body and to drink his blood at the Eucharist is to enter into the mystery of his self-emptying love. The life and death of Jesus were absolute gifts and it is those gifts we receive at every Eucharist. In receiving this gift, we are sent from the Eucharist to give as we have received, to love as we have been loved. In entering into communion with the Lord in the Eucharist, we commit to being in communion with each other. The Eucharist reminds us that we are bound to one another and to all humanity. We leave Mass ready to live out in concrete ways that communion we share with each other.

~ Rev. Martin Hogan is a priest of the Diocese of Dublin. He was a scripture lecturer in the Mater Dei Institute of Education for over thirty years.



[Right] Last Supper/Institution of the Eucharist, ca. 1175, MS M 44, fol. 6v

This year's readings for Corpus Christi focus on the Eucharist. We are reminded that God cared for the Israelites by providing manna, and by receiving Holy Communion, we are spiritually fed and united in each other. In the Gospel of John, Jesus notes that the Eucharist is truly his Body and Blood, and gives us life. Here are highlights to consider:

- **Remembering God's blessings:** In the first reading from Deuteronomy, the Israelites are reminded to remember how God led them through the wilderness and provided for them. This is a warning against forgetting God's goodness and becoming prideful in our own abilities and possessions. We are called to recognize that all that we have comes from God, and we must be grateful for his provision.
- **Trusting in God's word:** The passage also emphasizes the importance of trusting in God's word rather than material things. This is a call to focus on the spiritual rather than the material, recognizing that our true sustenance comes from God's word. We must rely on God and his promises, rather than placing our trust in material things that will ultimately fade away.
- **The Eucharist as a sacrament of unity:** The second reading describes the Eucharist as a sacrament that creates a spiritual unity among believers. Through partaking in the consecrated bread and wine—the Body and Blood of Christ—we become united as one Body of Christ. This is a reminder of the importance of community and the role that the Eucharist plays in creating a sense of belonging among believers.
- **The true presence of Christ in the Eucharist:** The belief in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine of the Eucharist is a central belief of the Catholic Church. The second reading emphasizes that the bread and wine are not merely symbols, but are truly the Body and Blood of Christ. This belief is foundational to the Catholic faith, and is a reminder of the depth of Christ's sacrifice for us.
- **The necessity of the Eucharist for eternal life:** The Gospel reading from John emphasizes the necessity of consuming the Body and Blood of Christ for eternal life. Jesus teaches that his flesh and blood are true food and true drink, and those who eat and drink them will abide in him and have eternal life. This is a reminder of the centrality of the Eucharist to the Catholic faith, and the importance of receiving the sacrament for our spiritual nourishment and growth.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

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Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

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Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

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lpickering@stceciliaboston.org

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Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

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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.

