

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

16 June 2024

The Sower by Vincent van Gogh

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

16 JUNE 2024

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | *Vater unser im Himmelreich*, Setting II, VW 27
Brett Maguire, organist

Heinrich Scheidemann
(1595-1653)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Come, You Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR



1. Come, you thank - ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of
2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to his
3. For the Lord our God shall come And shall take his
4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To your fi - nal



har - vest home. All is safe - ly gath - ered in
praise to yield; Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown,
har - vest home; From his field shall in that day
har - vest home. Gath - er all your peo - ple in,



Ere the win - ter storms be - gin. God, our Mak - er,
Un - to joy or sor - row grown. First the blade, and
All of - fens - es purge a - way, Giv - ing an - gels
Free from sor - row, free from sin, There, for ev - er



does pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.
then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.
charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
pu - ri - fied, In your pres - ence to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we
But the fruit - ful ears to store
Come with all your an - gels, come!



Raise the song of har - vest home.
Whole - some grain and pure may be.
In God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

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 Joy and Peace

Tony Alonso



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high-est, — and on



earth peace, 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, hea-ven-ly King, O God, al-migh-ty 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 sea - ted at the right hand of the Fa-ther, — have mer - cy on us.

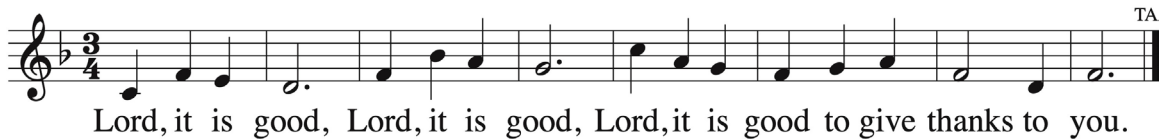
Verse 3

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. —

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Ezekiel 17: 22-24



1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your loving mercy in the morning, and your truth in the watches of the night.
2. The just will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a Lebanon cedar. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.
3. Still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is upright. In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

SECOND READING | 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony Alonso



GOSPEL | Mark 4: 26-34

HOMILY

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

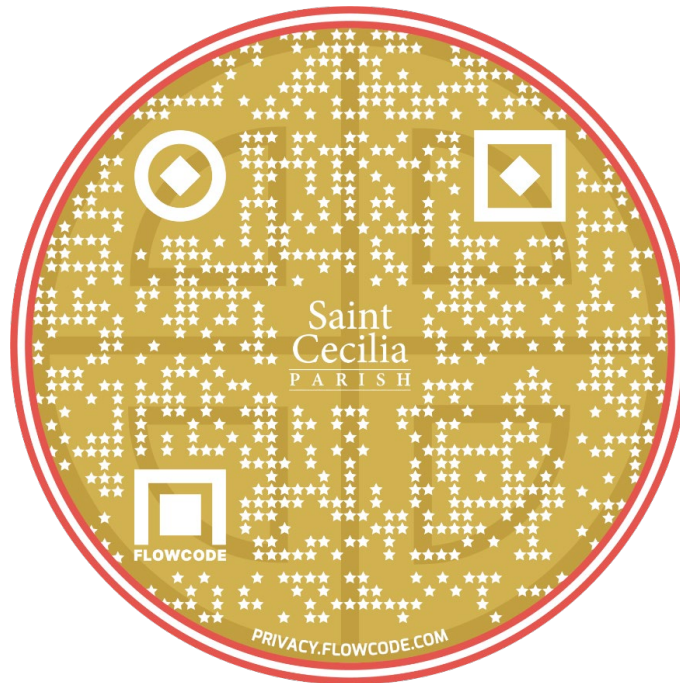
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 | We Walk by Faith

Marty Haugen



1., 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight; No
2. We may not touch his hands and side, Nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4. That, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; But in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound To call on you when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you



none e'er spoke; But we be - lieve him near.
we re - joice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near, And seek where you are found:
as you are, With full and end - less sight.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and
 earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho -
 san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is
 he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, the Savior

Dan Schutte

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your
 Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.

GREAT AMEN | Mass of Christ, the Savior

Dan Schutte

A - men. A - men. A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Cantor *Assembly*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the

Repeat as desired *Final*

world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.

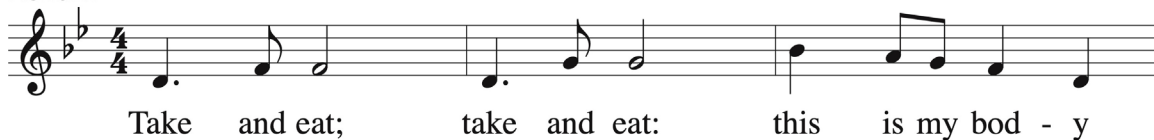
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

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.

CONCLUDING RITES

RECESSIONAL | Lead, Kindly Light

Gather #654



Lead, kind - ly Light, a - mid the gloom of eve - ning.



Lord, lead me on! Lord, lead me on!



On through the night! On to your ra-diance!



Lead, kind - ly Light! Lead, kind - ly Light!

Verses



1. The night is dark, and I am far from home,
2. Not al - ways thus, I sel - dom looked for you,
3. So long your pow'r has blest me on my way,



di - rect my feet; I do not ask to see
I loved to choose and seek my path a - lone.
and still it leads, past hill and storm and night!

the dis - tant scene; on step e - nough for me.
 In spite of fear, my pride con-trolled my will,
 And with the morn, those an - gel fac - es smile,

So lead me on - ward, Lord, and hear my plea.
 re - mem - ber not my past, but lead me still.
 which I have loved long since, and lost a - while.

D.C.

POSTLUDE | *Vater unser im Himmelreich*, Setting III, VW 27
 Brett Maguire, *organist*

Heinrich Scheidemann

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.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, June 15 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, lector

Sunday, June 16 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Thomas Skorupa, lector

Sunday, June 16 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Virgen Palermo, Bobbi Moran, and Zachary Boutin, lectors

Sunday, June 16 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Mark Richburg, James Paradis, and Moira Macdonald, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, June 15 | 5:00 p.m.

Virginia DeSisto, *Memorial*

Friday, June 21 | 8:00 a.m.

John Leonard, *Memorial*

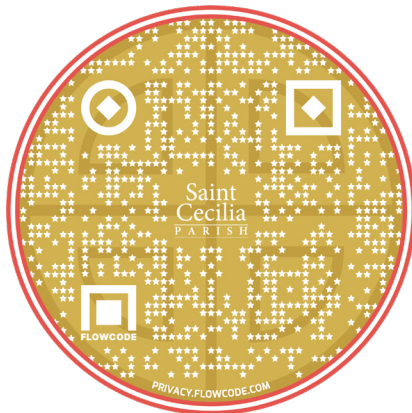
TODAY'S READINGS

Ezekiel 17:22-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Job 38:1, 8-11
2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Mark 4:35-41

**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 Jacqueline Lavelle, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, and Fred Tufts.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Suzanne Milauskas** of Waterville, Maine, **Linda Garcia** of Peoria, Arizona, **Regina Nisbett** and **Maggie Farrell**, both of Brookline, and **Sarah Sewell** and **Annie Byrnes**, both of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at <https://www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/>.

Happy Pride Month!

Saint Cecilia wishes a Happy Pride to our LGBTQ+ siblings. Thank you for the courage you show in living lives of authenticity and for reminding us all that love always wins. May we never forget that every one of us is made in the beautiful image of God and is entitled to be treated with "respect, compassion, and sensitivity." ~*Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Coffee Hospitality Update

As a gentle reminder, we will not have coffee hospitality for two holiday weekends in the summer—the Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends—so we can give our hard-working hospitality team time off to enjoy these holidays.

Catholic Appeal Update

We are pleased to share that our Catholic Appeal campaign has reached 86% of our financial goal of \$149,149 and our donor goal of 196 contributions. With your continued support, we aim to complete our campaign by June 30. Your generosity supports vital ministries such as Catholic education, faith formation, and outreach services that bring Christ's love to those in need. You can donate here: <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate1/>. Thank you for your generosity!

Juneteenth & Office Closure

In 2021, President Biden declared June 19 a national holiday in commemoration of the day news of the abolition of slavery finally reached Texas. It took nearly two and a half years after President Lincoln declared emancipation. On this day, let us reflect on the ways that racism continues to oppress, and pray for change, both big and small. In observation of Juneteenth, the parish offices will be closed on Wednesday. For pastoral emergencies, please call 857-317-3833. Otherwise we will get back to you on Thursday!

Happy Father's Day!

Today is Father's Day—a good time to give thanks to God for our dads, living and deceased. We remember all fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and all those men who have been like fathers to us. May St. Joseph pray for all of them. Some years ago, a study demonstrated that while spirituality is transmitted to children primarily through a mother's influence, religious "practice" was most effectively passed along through a father's example. Happy Father's Day to all who are celebrating!

Second Collection This Week

This 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/promoting-the-gospel-second-collection-2024>

Happy Summer!

Summer officially begins on Thursday, June 20 at 4:50 p.m. This period around the June solstice is known as midsummer and Midsummer's Day is June 24—the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. The Nativity of John the Baptist is one of the oldest festivals of the Christian church and long ago helped to Christianize the pagan summer solstice rites. Pray for a happy and safe summer for all the members of our community.

Special Collection Update

Thanks to your generous donations, we raised \$3,259 through our special collection to aid the people of Brazil. Thank you to the Archdiocese of Boston, which is responding to this crisis by partnering with Catholic Relief Services and Caritas Brazil to assist.



*The flowers in front of the altar are given for the greater glory of God and in memory of **Arthur F. Dunnett** on the 50th anniversary of his passing by the Dunnett girls, his daughters.*

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 so they can 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 (the higher the SPF, the better)
- Bug spray
- Flip flops (boys/girls ages 6-15)
- Underwear (boys/girls ages 6-15)

So the next time you're shopping or on Amazon, 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!

DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

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. You may wish to follow the example of some of our parishioners and have some of the items above delivered to the parish via Amazon or a similar service. If you choose to, please have them delivered to *Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115*. Thank you!

HELP COMMUNITY SERVINGS
FEED THEIR CLIENTS THROUGH
THEIR DINNERS4DADS
FUNDRAISER

Join us in supporting our nonprofit partner Community Servings by celebrating a father figure in your life through their DINNERS4DADS fundraiser!

A \$35 donation sends your recipient a personalized Father's Day card designed by local artist Susy Pilgrim Waters, and a week of nutritious, scratch-made meals to a critically ill neighbor in Massachusetts.

With a \$65 or \$95 donation, you're not just providing two or three weeks of meals to one of Community Servings' clients. You're also giving your recipient a unique Father's Day card and a box of delicious cookies from locally-owned Top Shelf Cookies. See fundraiser details here: <https://ow.ly/9sZ650RG6v4> or go to www.servings.org.



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

Are you or is someone you know searching for a spiritual home? Are you interested in learning more about what it means to be Catholic? If you would like to explore Catholicism or are already Catholic but have not yet received Eucharist, we would be honored to accompany you in your journey. For more information, email Tanya Rybarczyk (trybarczyk@st-ceciliaboston.org), or call her at 617-536-4548 X117.



EcoEcho
Compelling Concerts for Climate Action

Join a live-streamed event combining **powerful music, engagement, and action**

To register click [HERE](#)



registration form above

Learn more click [HERE](#)



<https://climatemusic.org/ecoecho/>

Event Date
Thursday
June 20th

Event Timing
8PM-10PM

Location
Spontaneous Celebrations
45 Danforth St,
Jamaica Plain,
MA 02130

Contact email with questions
climatejustice@stceciliaboston.org

Other relevant info
Hosted by Saint Cecilia Parish

The ClimateMusic Project [ClimateMusic.org](https://climatemusic.org) | info@climatemusic.org | +1-415-753-5515

 ClimateMusic.org

CLIMATE MUSIC ECOECHO LIVESTREAM PERFORMANCE

Join the Saint Cecilia Climate Justice group on Thursday, June 20 from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. for a livestream performance of "Climate," by composer Erik Ian Walker, and a discussion organized by The ClimateMusic Project. The program will also include an introduction and audience Q&A with climate scientist Dr. Andy Jones.

The Saint Cecilia Climate Justice Group will be gathering in person at Spontaneous Celebrations (45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain). Registration at www.tinyurl.com/stcecilia-ecoecho is optional, but encouraged. For more information or to get the link to listen remotely, please email our Climate Justice group.

SAINT CECILIA FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, July 7, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. ET

The Far-Flung Flock leadership team is thrilled to welcome Saint Cecilia parishioners from Michigan as our guests for the July online coffee hour. Over the past three years, through participating in livestream Sunday Mass, chatting, and listening to Fr. John's homilies and shoutouts, these Michigan parishioners have been inspired to connect and minister to their local communities, following the example set by Saint Cecilia's various ministries.

The Michigan community is a shining example of our engaging church that welcomes all, demonstrating that the spirit of Saint Cecilia extends far beyond Boston. Join us for this inspiring coffee hour to hear their stories and connect with fellow parishioners.

If you have not registered for any online coffee hour in the past, please register for the FFF email list with this link (<https://bit.ly/45pDVRa>). There is no need to re-register if you've attended in the past. If you have registered but are not receiving FFF email notifications, please email the ministry to confirm your email address.

RETURNING CITIZENS MINISTRY: LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Previously known as our Prison and After Ministry, the Saint Cecilia Returning Citizens group meets every other Monday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. to provide a safe, welcoming space for men transitioning back into society following prison or jail. Each meeting consists of an opportunity to discuss challenges (and wins!) and gain support, followed by a shared meal. In particular, we welcome individuals from Coolidge House (the federal release center on Huntington Avenue) and Brooke House (the state release center in the Fenway).

We are looking for more men to join us, so, if you know anyone who could benefit from this group, please personally invite them to join. You can refer any questions to the group's ministry email. Your referral could make a significant difference in someone's life!



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATES BLACK JOY AND CHRISTIAN HOPE

CELEBRATING THE ULTIMATE VICTORY OF GOOD OVER THE WORLD'S PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS MIRRORS CHRISTIAN TRUST IN THE RESURRECTION.

BY SHANNON WIMP SCHMIDT

My podcast cohost, Marcia, is a huge Swiftie—she knows every word to every Taylor Swift song, the hidden messages in each album, and which periods of Taylor’s personal life correspond to her releases. For that reason, when I was lucky enough to find tickets to Swift’s current concert tour, I knew exactly who I was going to invite. Marcia danced, sang, and laughed throughout the night, and I was a witness to this moment of “Black Girl Magic.” I teared up being able to see her forget herself in the excitement, fun, and camaraderie of the moment.

I had a similar reaction when attending Mass at one of the Black parishes in Chicago this spring. The communion meditation song featured a solo by one of the older women in the choir, who was likely in her early 80s. Though age had weathered her voice, her strong alto testified to the words she sang as they carried into the congregation,

“The road is rough; the going gets tough
and the hills are hard to climb
I’ve started out a long time ago
there’s no doubt in my mind
I’ve decided to make Jesus my choice.”

Another instance came at our Fourth of July cookout last year, watching my cousin play with his new baby. Their smiles were genuine and unguarded as he splashed the baby’s hands in the pool. All around, family and friends exclaimed over food, brought up old debates, and bobbed their heads to the playlist mix. Everyone was relaxed, but my cousin radiated joy. He was a loving dad taking delight as his son learned about the world. And I couldn’t pull my eyes away.

More and more, I find myself attuned to these moments of joy in my community. They shimmer like precious gems in my life reminding me of the hope, resilience, and genius of the people of the African Diaspora. In spite

of enslavement, colonialism, racism, and other systemic forms of oppression, joy overflows in Black people. Our story is one of turning woundedness into joy and being transformed in doing so. Our story is a story of resurrection. And the celebration of Juneteenth is a prime example of this transformation.

Juneteenth is the commemoration of the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 to 25,000 enslaved people. While the Proclamation itself went into effect in 1863, enslaved men and women in rebellious Confederate states were still in bondage until Union troops took control of the territory. Texas, as the westernmost Confederate state, was the last to come under Union control. During the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War (1865–1877), Black Texans celebrated their liberation day as a new holiday, full of the joy of obtaining freedom at long last.

As Jim Crow laws took hold following the Reconstruction period, Black Texans continued to celebrate Juneteenth but were often met with racism from their white neighbors, including violent attacks. Still, they continued to host parties and festivals, in spite of the many ways oppression by the state government continued. As the Great Migration began in the early 20th century, these families brought the Juneteenth celebration with them to other Southern states and the many cities in the North where they found themselves. Though originally unique to Texas, many other Black Americans found hope and joy in the holiday and adopted it themselves.

The movement to make Juneteenth a national holiday began in the mid-20th century, with multiple attempts to codify the date brought to Congress. In 2016, Opal Lee, retired teacher from Fort Worth, Texas, decided to put her energy into a targeted Juneteenth. Aged 89 years old, she walked from Fort Worth to Washington, DC in order to draw attention to the cause. She spent the next six years walking in various cities, attending Juneteenth celebrations, and advocating for civil rights. Juneteenth was officially declared a national holiday in 2021, and Lee was present at the White House to witness the signing of the bill into law.

Juneteenth is a celebration which, even as it is borne out of a racist past, centers around relishing Black freedom rather than focusing on the fact that the Confederacy prevented the proclamation of that freedom. Its continued celebration in Texas in spite of racist attacks is an example of the perseverance in hope characteristic of Black culture in America. The spread of Juneteenth celebrations throughout the U.S. over the past hundred or so years testifies to the powerful joy found in liberation and its ability to encourage

individuals to carry on in the face of discrimination and inequality.

That type of unflinching belief in the ultimate victory of good mirrors the Christian firmness of trust in the Resurrection and Jesus' victory over sin and death. Even the story of Mrs. Opal Lee, the mother of Juneteenth, is a story of resolute commitment to the vision of a different, more joyful future. The story of Juneteenth is the story of bringing new life out of the depths of despair toward a world that looks more like the Kingdom of God.

As an Easter people, Catholics should see here the patterns of our own journey. Regardless of our ancestry, we are all a people emancipated from slavery to sin into new life and liberation. We live in a world in which we may be isolated, oppressed, or lacking hope. Yet we are called to perseverance, trust, and joy in spite of setbacks. We are vision keepers who prophesy about a future where wholeness and freedom will be given to all and even death itself will end. Juneteenth can be more than a national holiday for us. It can be a celebration of Christian hope; of Christ's triumph over all powers and principalities; and most importantly, the joy that comes from knowing Jesus and making him our choice.

This does not mean we can ignore the wounds that have come from America's sin of racism or that are still inflicted by it. Celebrating Juneteenth is an act of subversive memory—something that contradicts the easy narratives which relegate white supremacy to a few bad actors over the course of American history. It is a subversive memory because the joy of the holiday can only be understood when we acknowledge the reason it exists in the first place. But this should be no surprise to those of us who know and love Jesus. We know we cannot experience resurrection without crucifixion. But we also know that the wounds can be transformed by the love and mercy of a good and faithful God who brings us out of darkness into marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9).

That is the lens that I bring to my celebration of Juneteenth this year. My hope as the descendant of enslaved Africans that good will triumph over evil is not born simply of culture, but also of my love for Jesus who has overcome evil for eternity. While there is much work to do around me to live up to the promise of Juneteenth, I have seen the fullness of life God offers. I will keep my eyes fixed on him who is the author and perfecter of faith (Heb. 12:2). I will be a keeper of the vision, resolute in sharing what life could be in a world where every chain has been broken and woundedness forever gives way to joy.

~ Shannon Wimp Schmidt is the content director for TENx10 Youth Ministry Collaboration, cohost of Plaid Skirts and Basic Black Podcast, and author of the book *Fat Luther*, Slim Pickin's (Ave Maria Press). She lives in Chicagoland with her husband, Eric, and their four children.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA

JUNE 16 – JUNE 23

Sunday, June 16

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom
SCYA Contemplative Prayer Group, 2:00 p.m.

Monday, June 17

SCYA Women's Group, 7:30 p.m. | Zoom

Wednesday, June 19

PARISH CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30 a.m. | Zoom
Mass, 8:00 a.m.
Communion Circle, 3:00 p.m. | Mt. Pleasant Home
Communion Circle, 3:30 p.m. | Susan Balis House
SCYA Service Event/Paulist Center Dinner

Thursday, June 20

Mass, 8:00 a.m.
Communion Circle, 4:00 p.m. | Hale House
Wisdom Group, 7:30 p.m. | Zoom
Climate Music Project, 8:00-10:00 p.m.
Spontaneous Celebrations, Jamaica Plain

Friday, June 21

Mass, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 23

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom

JOIN OUR WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Our Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group holds two online gatherings each week on Zoom. They meet on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. to share how faith informs and enriches the second half of life. This group is not a book club, but their conversations are often informed by shared spiritual reading. The group's next book is *The Beatitudes of Peace* by John Dear. To request information or be added to their mailing list, email our Wisdom group at their parish address.

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
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Christine Burns, Digital and Print Media Coordinator
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Carly-Anne Gannon, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development
Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
Tanya Rybarczyk, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV | Rev. Peter Gyves, 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
Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound 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., & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.
* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

Building Accessibility

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

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.

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 get this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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.

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and around the world. We invite 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.

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 ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists would be happy to pass along the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online!