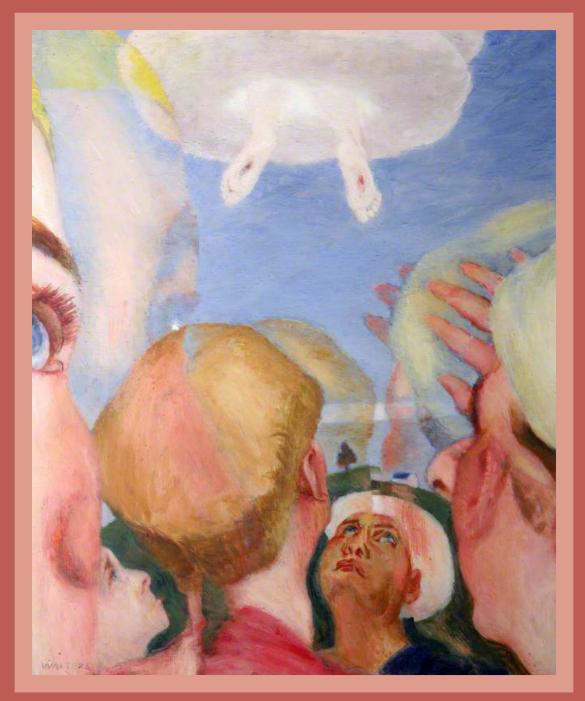
Saint Cecilia P A R I S H



The Ascension

Evan Walters, c.1949

Seventh Sunday of Easter 1 June 2025

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

1 June 2025 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | Allegretto from Sonata Op. 65, no. 4

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL



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 | Come to the River

Bob Hurd

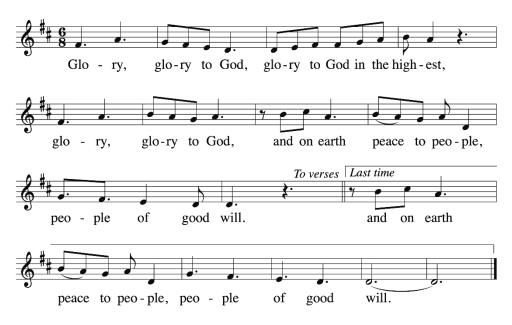




God indeed is my Savior; I am confident and fearless. My courage is the Lord, for God has been my Savior!

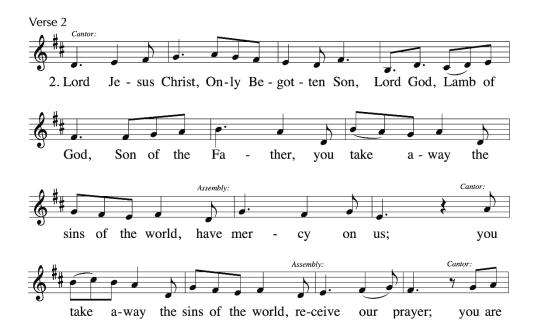
Proclaim God's name to the nations, tell the world of God's works. Praise the Lord, all you people, how glorious is God's name!

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



Verse 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 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.

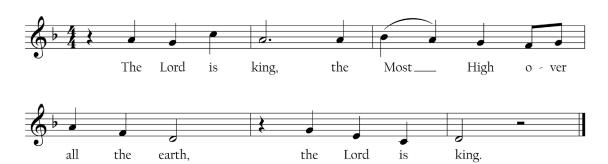
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 7: 55-60

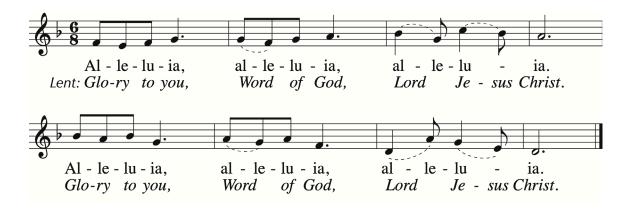
RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 97: The Lord is King

Tony E. Alonso



- 1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad. Cloud and darkness surround him; justice and right are the foundation of his throne.
- 2. The mountains melt like wax before the face of the Lord, before the face of the Lord of all the earth. The skies proclaim his justice; all peoples see his glory.
- 3. For you indeed are the Lord most high above all the earth, exalted far above all gods.

SECOND READING | Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20



GOSPEL | John 17: 20-26

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,

and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

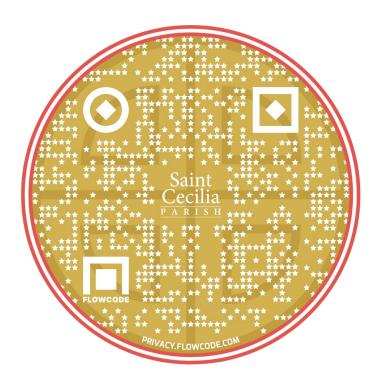
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish 18 Belvidere Street Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | One Bread, One Body

John Foley



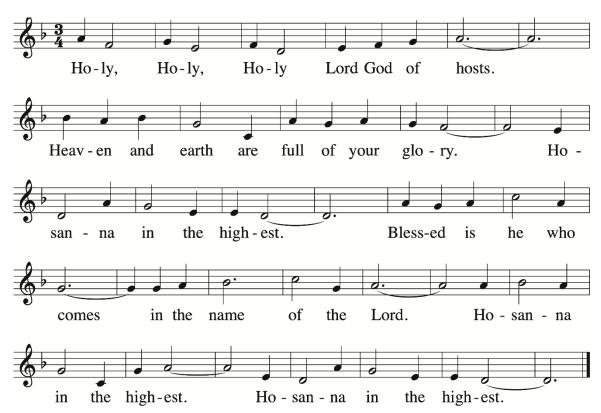
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- **▼** 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.

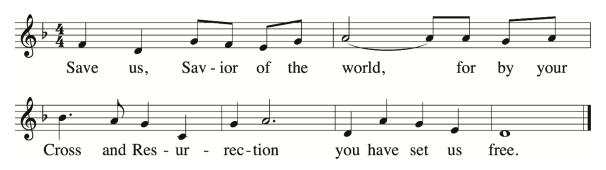
Sanctus | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso



 $\label{thm:memorial-accumulation} Memorial Accumulation \ | \ Mass of \ Christ, Light \ of the \ Nations$

Tony E. Alonso





THE LORD'S PRAYER

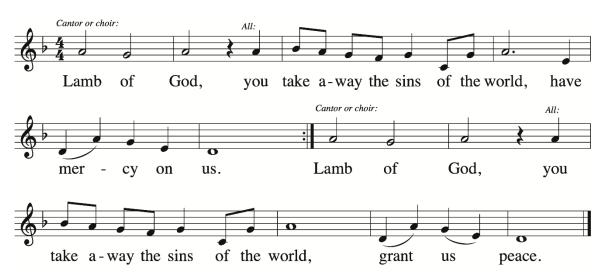
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,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

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

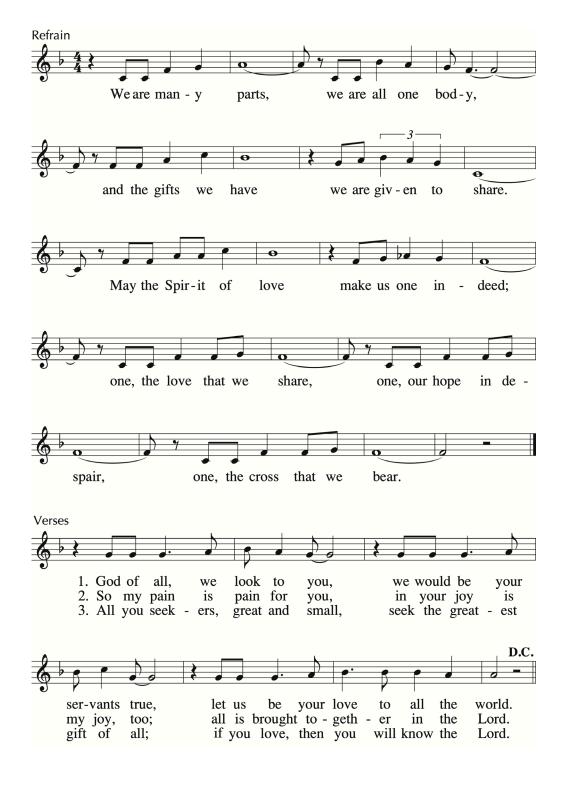
It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an "Act of Spiritual Communion." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of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

Marty Haugen



Haec dies quam fecit Dominus: exultemus et laetemur in ea, Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it, Alleluia.

Ps. 117: 24

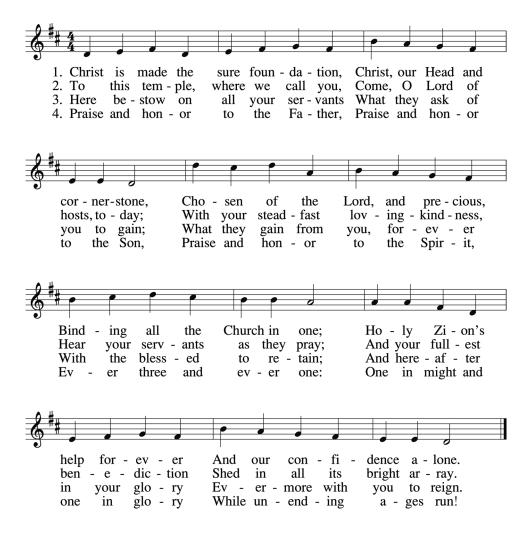
CONCLUDING RITES

▼ 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.



POSTLUDE | Allegro maestoso e vivace from Sonata Op. 65, no. 2 Brett Maguire, organ

Felix Mendelssohn

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 Massachusett 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 31 | 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, June 1 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Tom Skorupa, lector

Sunday, June 1 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant Rev. Jerry Browne, Concelebrant Bobbi Moran, James Paradis, Elli St George, lectors

Sunday, June 1 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant Megan Altendorf, Catherine Horsley, Kelly McClintock, lectors

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 7:55-60 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 John 17:20-26

PENTECOST SUNDAY READINGS

Acts 2:1-11 Romans 8:8-17 John 20:19-23

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, June 1 | 9:30 a.m.

Don Garaventi, 1st Anniversary Frank J. Unni, Memorial Dolly Madden, Memorial Sean Brice, Memorial

Wednesday, June 4 | 8:00 a.m.

Lillian M. & Waldo A. Ahlquist, *Memorial* Elizabeth A. Hope, *Anniversary*



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

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

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: Maura Sharp of Acton, Jessica and Peter Welch of Waltham, Raquel Furtado and Cameron Smith of Arlington, Anna Rothschild and Christopher Pardo of Jamaica Plain, and Mary Nee, and Dora Priolo and Nicole Costanzo of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Pentecost Sunday

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

Attention, Graduates!

We want to acknowledge and celebrate all our graduates this spring. Please email the names of the parishoners who are graduating from high school or college to Anastassia Kolchanov at her parish email and use the word "graduate" in the subject line. Feel free to include the school's name and the degree awarded.

Welcome to Our Boston College High School Confirmands

This Sunday, we welcome four students from Boston College High School who will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. May each of these confirmands be enlightened by the Holy Spirit with wisdom, empathy, piety, and love!

Max Rayan Jude Achab Patrick Mangan Xavier Kelly Dante Joseph Oscar Minacapilli Julian Angel Sebastian Sustache



Be Sealed With the Gift of the Holy Spirit!

This Sunday, we celebrate the sacrament of confirmation for eleven young men and women who have been preparing to receive the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit enlighten each of our confirmands with the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, awe, and wonder!

Perrin Elizabeth Veronica Baisley
Erin Abigail Rose Philippine Bourque
Atreyu Simon Bradish
William Daniel John Dunn
Charlotte Ann Cecilia Fisher
Clayton Thomas Francis Kacich
Payton Madison Cecilia Knight
Lucas Simoneau Leo Scully
Jonah Ethan Thomas Selter
Delmace Joseph Kizito Sevenson Mayo
Colette Geraldine Elizabeth Tate

Welcome to Our Adult Confirmands

This weekend we also celebrate the twenty two adult parishioners who will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. After participating in classes to prepare to receive the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit, these men and women are now fully initiated Christians!

Alana Philomena Fahey **Alexandria Mary Magdalene Rodrigues Amour Michael Llorico Ana Paola Ospina Sapuy Anne Theresa Ho Barrett Devon Daniel Kelly Daniela Jude Morin** Elsy Virgen de Guadalupe Orellana **Erik Mario Villafuerta Heather Irene Williams** Jennifer Mary Anthony Julia Therese of Lisieux Ginther Kathleen Rose Walsh **Kelly Cecilia Walsh** Liam John Patrick Sullivan Megan Cathlene Amelia Dickerson **Nathaniel Francis Joslin Nicholas Thomas Drevos** Nina Hernandez **Tyler Carlo Egan** Valentina Maria Berenice Pedroza Munoz **Zane Thomas Crut**

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

"THE LETTER"

FRIDAY, MAY 30 | 7PM VIA ZOOM

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

Register at: tinyurl.com/TheLetter-5-30.

SPIRITUALITY GROUP FOR MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

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

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

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

TUESDAY, JUNE 3 | 7PM | SANCTUARY

Come find rest and healing in God's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, with praise and worship music led by the Young Adult ministry. All are invited to come to the altar! Please use the St. Cecilia street entrance and ring the bell to enter.

Can't join us in person? Please scan the QR code below to receive a Zoom link. If you've already signed up for these, no need to fill out the form again.



IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN

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FFF COFFEE HOUR: LUIS DE PRADA FROM CREATIVE CALLINGS PROJECT

SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST | 4PM VIA ZOOM

How does a parish encourage active participation, service and social justice work? The Creative Callings Project works with congregations around New England (including St. Cecilia) to think innovatively about calling, vocation, and what it means to support parishioners in living lives of meaning and purpose. Luis De Prada works with Creative Callings and is a Practical Theology Phd student at BU School of Theology. Previously, he was Adjunct Professor and Minister of Music at Barry University and a longtime high school Theology teacher. Join us as we learn how other faith communities are facilitating these conversations and deepening community connections and help us consider our own callings!

To register, please send an email to the Far Flung Flock and include your name and address.

SIMEON AND ANNA SENIORS

THURSDAY, JUNE 5 | 10AM | PARISH HALL

The next Simeon and Anna Seniors Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 5th. From 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:30 there will be time for prayer. All parish seniors are invited to participate.

SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS

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

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

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

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

KNITTING & CROCHET MINISTRY

The next Sit & Knit for June is canceled and all Sit & Knits will resume in September. Any completed Dexter Off The Hook Baby Blankets should be dropped off at the reception desk and labeled "St. Cecilia Young Adult Ministry."





LEARN ABOUT THE GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION

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

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

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

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

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

To register, please visit: www.stceciliaboston.org/qbio/

SUPPORT COMMUNITY SERVINGS THIS FATHER'S DAY

Community Servings' Dinners4Dads fundraiser is the perfect way to honor the father figure in your life! In exchange for a \$35 donation, you can have the agency send a custom-designed greeting card for you. Your gift provides one week of medically-tailored meals for someone experiencing illness and hunger.

Price: \$35. Includes shipping.

To send a card or learn about another gift option: https://www.servings.org/fathersday/

Orders must be placed by Sunday, June 8th!

MONTHLY BEREAVEMENT GROUP

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH | 6:00 PM | ONLINE SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH | 2:00 PM | FAMILY FLEX CENTER

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

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)

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

MAY 29- JUNE 5

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Ascension Thursday Mass | 8am

Communion Circle | 4pm | Hale House

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

FRIDAY, MAY 30

PPC Election Voting Begins at 5pm (ET)

The Letter Movie Screening | 7pm via Zoom

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Confirmation | 3pm

PPC Election Voting Ends at 1pm (ET)

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom

Mental Health Provider Support Group | 1:30pm

Community Room

Small Group Connections | 1:30pm | Parish Hall

FFF Coffee Hour | 4pm via Zoom

SCYA Bible Study | 4:30pm | Family Flex Center

MONDAY, JUNE 2

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Communion Circle | 3:30pm | Susan Balis House

Bereavement Group | 6pm via Zoom

Small Group Connections | 8pm via Zoom

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Simeon and Anna Seniors | 10am | Parish Hall New Parishioner & Ministry Appreciation Party 6pm | Parish Hall 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!

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 corn flakes, 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.com or a similar service. If you choose to do so, have them delivered to:

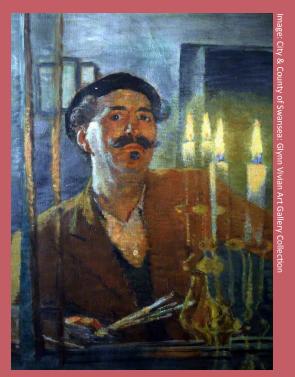
Saint Cecilia Parish 18 Belvidere Street Boston, MA 02115

Thank you!

JOIN THE WISDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

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

BULLETIN ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: EVAN WALTERS



Self Portrait with a Candle, c. 1939

Evan Walters (1893 - 1951) was a Welsh artist who split his time between Swansea and London. Walters' work initially focused on conventional portraiture as well as depictions of Welsh landscapes and workers. Walters was noticed by a local philanthropist at his first solo show in 1920, elevating his career to new heights.

With his newfound success, Walters started experimenting with perception and time. His fascination with vision came from an experience he had one evening gazing at a fire: he became aware of the "doubled" appearance of his boot as he mindlessly stared at the flames. This moment led to Walters developing the double-vision technique which aimed to capture the physical act of visualization.

He spent the rest of his career fixated on vision and the problem of depicting visual experiences. In Walters' double-vision paintings, objects in focus were fixed and painted precisely while objects in the peripheral visual field were doubled or semitranslucent. Walters' techniques were ahead of his time but not received warmly by the public, and his popularity waned.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

This weekend, we invite you to make your voice heard by voting for THREE new members of our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). Here's how it works:

Starting **Friday, May 30th at 5:00 p.m. (ET)**, you can visit <u>www.stceciliaboston.org/ppcelection</u> or scan the Flowcode on page 11 to access the voting form. To vote, select up to three candidates and click "submit." You will then receive a confirmation message at the bottom of the page when your votes have been sent in.

VOTING IS OPEN FROM FRIDAY, MAY 30 AT 5:00PM (ET) TO SUNDAY, JUNE 1 AT 1:00PM (ET).



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



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



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

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



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



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

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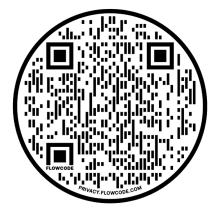


UMA STAEHLER: I have been a parishioner for about 7 years, after relocating from Indianapolis. I knew I was at my new church home during my first Mass experience. Since this time, I have been involved in the Marriage Prep Ministry with my husband, David, and more recently the Greeter and Lector Ministries.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



PETER LIN-MARCUS: I have participated as an active member of Saint Cecilia Parish since 2004. I usually attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass and sometimes the 9:30 and 6 p.m. Mass depending on my schedule. I have been serving on the Parish Council for one term since 2022. My service to the parish includes serving as a participant in the Journey to Racial Justice efforts and the Racial and Social Justice Ministry. I am proud to continue supporting the great work of Saint Cecilia including implementation of the Journey to Racial Justice, building the Far-Flung Flock with out virtual community and most recently developing small communities. For me Saint Cecilia Parish and our faith is not about 2-3 hours on Sunday but how we live the remaining 6-1/2 days per week. Saint Cecilia Parish has provided the inspiration, faith, and tools to bring my faith beyond the walls to serve countless communities, listening to them, empowering youth, disabled and excluded, addressing addiction and homelessness and ending health disparities. Pope Leo XIV and the late Pope Francis healed the world and renewed the Church, started out as pastors who tended to the periphery, serving people on the edge. Their leadership started in local churches and communities like Saint Cecilia which are driven by the people at the front lines, living the faith and helping each other and addressing unjust systems. Saint Cecilia is similarly called to renew the Church and heal the world. I would support efforts by all of us in making this happen. Thank you very much.

SCAN BELOW TO VOTE:



If you are having trouble with the Flowcode, please visit www.stceciliaboston.org/ppcelection or contact reception.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

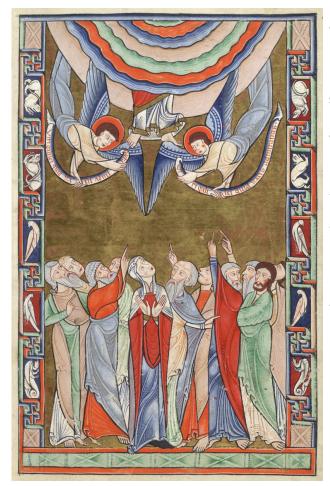
BY PAUL NICHOLSON, SJ

ne of things I like doing on a day off is going around old churches. There are plenty of old churches in England. You might think that's a bit of a strange thing for a priest to do when he finally gets a day off. Maybe it is, you might even think it's a bit sad, and perhaps that's true, but it is the truth. It's what I like doing. It comes in handy for this homily, at least, because the image of what we celebrate in today's feast is a popular one in medieval art—in stained glass, sculpture, paintings and in other ways. And it's often portrayed in a very similar way across those different media and in different churches and different settings.

It's an image that's presented in two halves. The bottom half shows the twelve disciples, sometimes eleven if they've remembered that Judas is no longer with them, but often twelve standing round in a circle, looking upwards and looking, frankly, rather worried. Then, about halfway up the artwork, there'll be a ring of cloud, and at the bottom of the ring of cloud, sticking out from it, are two feet. And that's all you see. The assumption is that Jesus has now ascended, has returned to heaven, and is so passed beyond the top frame of the artwork.

Now, it's a simple, naïve image. It always makes me smile. It's almost a childlike view of what this feast is about. And obviously, it can't have been precisely like that, whatever happened. Yuri Gagarin, the first astronaut at the beginning of the sixties, said he'd been to space and he didn't meet God there. And in some ways he's not wrong. But if it wasn't that, if it wasn't Jesus returning through the sky like some kind of early space rocket, then what was it? What would we have seen if we'd been there on that day?

know exactly. No amount of research is going to show us what it would've been like to be there, after all. The risen body of Christ after the resurrection, it's very clear from all the Gospels, is unlike our own. It can, for example, come and go through locked doors, and yet at the same time, it (Jesus) can eat, share a meal with his disciples. What we do know and can know is that after appearing to his disciples for a short time after the resurrection, a short time traditionally marked as 40 days, the time came when this stopped. He's not available like that. He doesn't appear like that anymore. And we really can't say much more than that.



The Ascension, from the Hunterian Psalter, made in England, c. 1170.

The truth of the matter is, we don't know, and we will never Good news is, though, that the readings today aren't really interested in the guestion of where Jesus' body is. Now, that's not their main concern. They have a different set of questions to ask. What these readings and this feast want to make us think about is the question, how does God continue to work in our world at this time, in our time? We don't, as I say, live in a time when we expect to meet Jesus coming down the street towards us, or expect him to arrive unannounced when we're in a locked room or a locked house. There had been a time like that. The Gospels, the disciples were very clear in their witness, but by the time that these readings were written, the writers knew that that time was over. It wasn't likely to come again. They weren't expecting it, certainly.

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So what are we left with? Do we simply have to remember what he said and tell each other stories about him? Or was, and is, the God of Jesus still active in our own world, active here among us? Now, that's what this feast wants to have made us think about. All three of the readings that the church presents us with here tell us that we can experience God still at work.

And indeed that there's a name for that God at work in our world here and now. Today, it's called the Holy Spirit. That's put most closely in the first reading today, where we're told the disciples will be able to witness powerfully when the spirit comes. The spirit at the point of the ascension, in the way the story is told, has not yet come upon them. But when the spirit comes, they're to expect that when the spirit comes, they will find themselves able to preach powerfully in a way they haven't been able to.

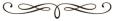
To this point, John's Gospel, in fact, is even clearer: It's actually better to live as a disciple now. It's easier to be a disciple now than it was when Jesus was walking as a human being in Palestine those centuries ago. Because the work of God can be seen more clearly when it's not tied to one particular place or person or time. If you imagine what it would be like if Jesus was still around in a way that he had been there, you'd either have to have cameras on him 24/7, or you'd have to be dashing off to the Holy Land to try and meet him. As it is, we can meet God wherever we are, and that's what we're celebrating here.

In a week or so's time, we'll be celebrating Pentecost, the coming of the Spirit in its fullness. But we can, today, on this Feast of the Ascension, take time to recognize God at work in our own world and in our own lives. So that, if you like, is the invitation of today's feast and today's readings, to ask yourself, what evidence can you point to in your own life that would demonstrate to another person who maybe asks you that God is at work there? What would you show them? What would you try and point out to them?

In the letter to the Galatians, Paul gives a list of what he calls the "fruits of the Spirit." He talks about things like love and joy and peace, patience, kindness, goodness. And what he's saying there, by calling those fruits of the spirit, he's saying to you, when you can see those in your own life, either in yourself or in other people, then you can be sure that God's spirit is at work, where you find yourself being loving or joyful or patient, where you find other people building peace or being kind or simply being good to you or to each other. There the spirit is at work there, God is at work.

God is at work in our world. In the Feast of the Ascension, God is still very much around. So if you recognize that, if you recognize God at work in that way, then you'll know that today's feast isn't about clinging onto the last sight of Jesus' feat before he finally disappears. What it is about is leaving church today, continuing to work alongside God, wherever you find him in the work that he continues to do through God's spirit.

Let's pray for eyes that are open to that, not looking skyward, feeling nostalgic, but looking determinately at our own world to see God at work and looking with determination too, to work alongside him in whatever it is we find him doing.



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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
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Carly-Anne Gannon, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development
Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist Brett Maguire, Parish Organist Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Schedule for Liturgy

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

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

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

Parking

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

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

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

Please note:

According to online safely 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.