

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 June 2024

In a Storm with Jesus by Eero Järnefelt (1926)

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

23 JUNE 2024

## THE TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Andante

Brett Maguire, *organist*

Kate Loder

(1825-1904)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre -  
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly  
3. Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de -  
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for  
reign - ing And, as on wings of an  
fend you; Sure-ly his good-ness and  
dore him! All that has life and breath,



he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
come now with prais - es be - fore him!



All you who hear, Now to his tem - ple draw near.  
Have you not seen All you have need - ed has been  
Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can do,  
Let the "A - men" Sound from his peo - ple a - gain!



Praise him in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
Met by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
Who with his love does be - friend you.  
Glad - ly with praise we a - dore him!

## 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

Refrain



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. *to verses*

Verse 1




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.

Verse 2



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



Son of the Fa - ther, — you take a - way the sins of the world, have

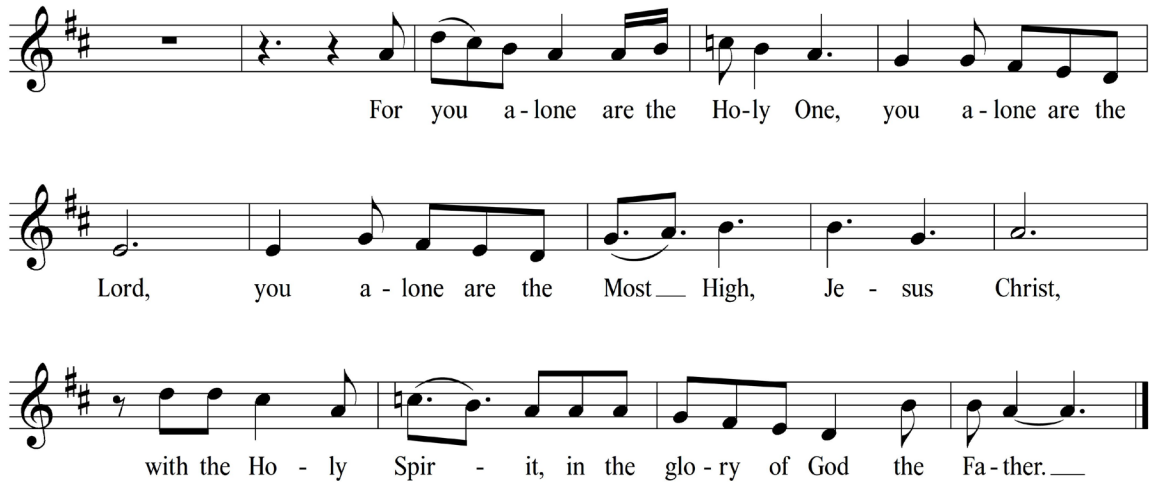


mer-cy on us; you take a-way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer;



you are sea - ted at the right hand of the Fa-ther, — have mer - cy on us.

Verse 3



COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Job 38: 1, 8-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 107: Give Thanks to the Lord

Tony Alonso



1. Some went down to the sea in ships, to trade on the mighty waters. These have seen the deeds of the Lord, the wonders he does in the deep.
2. For he spoke and raised up the storm-wind, tossing high the waves of the sea that surged to heaven and dropped to the depths. Their souls melted away in their distress.
3. They then cried to the Lord in their need, and he rescued them from their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper, and the waves of the sea were hushed.
4. They rejoiced because of the calm, and he led them to the haven they desired. Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men.

SECOND READING | 2 Corinthians 5: 14-17

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony Alonso



GOSPEL | Mark 4: 35-41

HOMILY

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

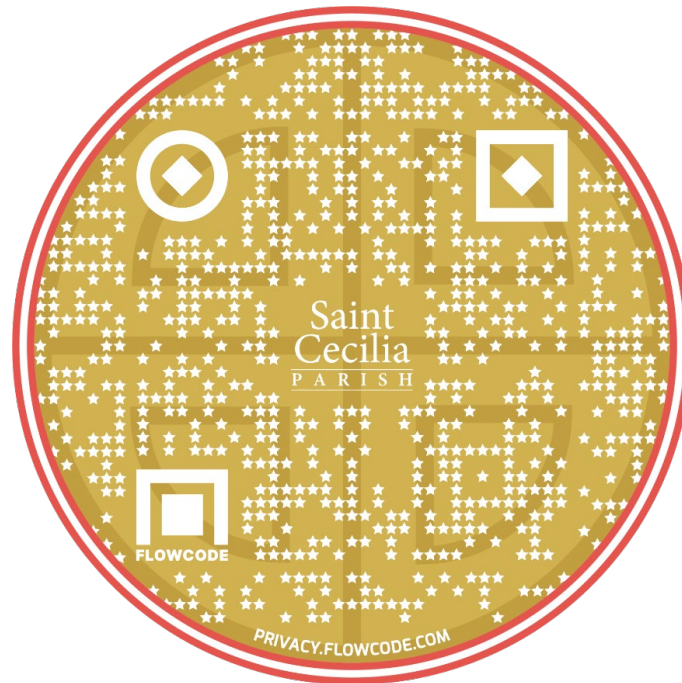
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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](http://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 | How Can I Keep from Singing?

Robert Lowry



1. My life flows on in end-less song. A -  
2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife I  
3. What though my joys and com-fort die? The  
4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A



bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion I hear the clear though  
hear that mu - sic ring - ing. It finds an ech - o  
Lord my sav - ior liv - eth. What though the dark - ness  
foun - tain ev - er spring-ing! All things are mine since



far - off hymn That hails a new cre - a - tion.  
in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



No storm can shake my in-most calm While to that Rock I'm



cling-ing. Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth,



How can I keep from sing-ing?

## 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

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 -

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff contains the melody for 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and'. The second staff continues with 'earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho -'. The third staff continues with 'san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is'. The fourth staff concludes with 'he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -'. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes in the first and third staves. A 'Fine' marking is placed above the third staff.

## 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.

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for 'We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your'. The second staff concludes with 'Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.'. The melody is simple and easy to sing.



## 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 Joy and Peace

Tony 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

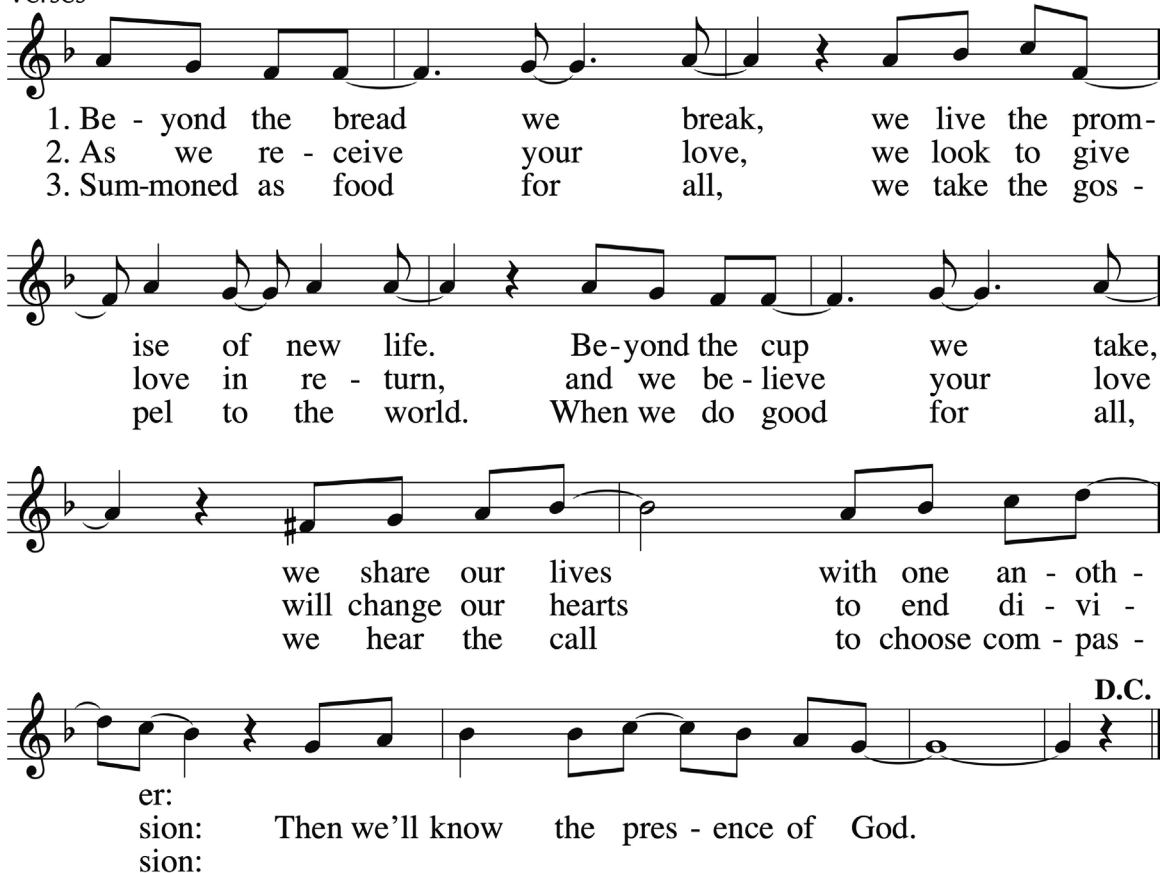
Loving Jesus,  
 I believe that you  
 are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.  
 I love you above all things,  
 and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
 Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,  
 come at least spiritually into my heart.  
 I embrace you as if you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

## Refrain



We are one, one in the bod - y, one in the Spir-  
 it of the Lord. Here, we be - come food for the hun-  
 gry, drink for the thirst - y. At this ta-ble of love, by faith,  
 we are all made one.

## Verses



1. Be - yond the bread we break, we live the prom-  
 2. As we re - ceive your love, we look to give  
 3. Sum-moned as food for all, we take the gos -  
 ise of new life. Be-yond the cup we take,  
 love in re - turn, and we be - lieve your love  
 pel to the world. When we do good for all,  
 we share our lives with one an - oth -  
 will change our hearts to end di - vi -  
 we hear the call to choose com - pas -  
 er:  
 sion: Then we'll know the pres - ence of God.  
 sion:

D.C.

## 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.

RECESSIONAL | A Living Faith

ST. CATHERINE

1. Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still  
2. Faith of our moth - ers, dar - ing faith,  
3. Faith of our sis - ters, broth - ers too,  
4. Faith born of God, O call us yet;

In spite of dun - geon, fire, and sword;  
Your work for Christ is love re - vealed,  
Who still must bear op - pres - sion's might,  
Bind us with all who fol - low you,

Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
Spread-ing God's word from pole to pole,  
Rais - ing on high, in pris - ons dark,  
Shar - ing the strug - gle of your cross

When - e'er we hear that glo - rious word.  
Mak - ing love known that and free - dom real.  
The cross of Christ still burn - ing bright.  
Un - til the world is made a - new.

Faith of our fa - thers, ho - ly faith,  
 Faith of our moth - ers, ho - ly faith,  
 Faith for to - day, O liv - ing faith,  
 Faith born of God, O liv - ing faith,  
 We will be true to you till death.

POSTLUDE | Sonata II, Op. 1, no. 2  
 Brett Maguire, *organist*

Elisabetta de Gambarini  
 (1731-1765)

*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](mailto: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 22 | 5:00 p.m.**

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

**Sunday, June 23 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant  
Jim Dougherty, lector

**Sunday, June 23 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Thomas Skorupa, Rosaria Salerno, and Bobbi Moran, lectors

**Sunday, June 23 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Zachary Boutin, Chika Offurum, and Peter Haley, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Sunday, June 23 | 9:30 a.m.**

Dr. Gerry Doyle, *5th Anniversary*  
Pamela Cach, *Memorial*  
Sr. Ann Kelley, SND, *Memorial*

**Sunday, June 23 | 11:30 a.m.**

Roger Dumont, *1st Anniversary*  
Robert Yobaccio, *Memorial*

**Thursday, June 27 | 8:00 a.m.**

Maria Cristina Campo de Paez, *Anniversary*

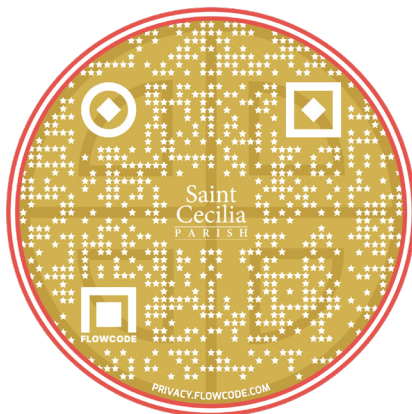
## TODAY'S READINGS

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

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24  
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15  
Mark 5:21-43

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, ME, **Lisa Renzi** of Quincy, and **Johana Rendon Ledesma** and **Carolyn and Joseph Cravero** of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at <https://www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/>.

## Happy Anniversary!

In June, we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of **Pat Maguire**, who was baptized on June 24, and **Melon Regis-Civetta**, who was baptized on June 30. May the Lord continue to bless them with the grace to live out their baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Pat and Melon!

## 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're Almost There!*

We are pleased to share that, through this year's Catholic Appeal campaign, we've reached 89% of our financial goal of \$149,149 and 96% of our donor goal. 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 so much for your generosity!

## Missionary Cooperative Appeal

Once a year, every parish in the Archdiocese is asked to host a missionary to ask for our prayers and financial

support. Next weekend we will welcome The Most Rev. Raymond Wickramasinghe, Bishop of Galle in Sri Lanka. Bishop Wickramasinghe will speak at all of the Masses. We look forward to meeting him and hearing his story, and there will be a second collection for the support of his diocese. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## JOIN OUR BIWEEKLY SIMEON & ANNA SENIORS GATHERING

**Thursday, June 27, 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.**  
**Every Other Week Following**

Join us for coffee, sweets, and conversation,  
followed by prayer and song!

\* The first 30 minutes are open for folks to arrive, be welcomed into the space, and for hospitality.

**Where?** Saint Cecilia Parish (enter through the doors on St. Cecilia Street and ring the bell to be let in).

**Questions?** Email Lucy Conroy  
([seniors@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:seniors@stceciliaboston.org))

## 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 out 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!

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## 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.

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## FLOWER MEMORIALS

If you would like to donate altar flowers in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving to God, please contact Mark Donohoe at his parish email address at least one week in advance. Thank you!



## 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 at her parish email address, or call her at 617-536-4548 X117.*



THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA

JUNE 23 – JUNE 30

**Sunday, June 23**

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

**Monday, June 24**

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

**Wednesday, June 26**

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30 a.m. | Zoom  
Mass, 8:00 a.m.

**Thursday, June 27**

Mass, 8:00 a.m.  
Simeon & Anna Seniors Gathering, 10:30 a.m.  
Wisdom Group, 7:30 p.m. | Zoom

**Friday, June 28**

Mass, 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday, June 29**

SCYA Service Event: Bingo at  
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless  
Hunger and Homelessness Ministry/Family  
Volunteer Day at Catholic Charities Food Pantry

**Sunday, June 30**

Wisdom Group, 8:30 a.m. | Zoom  
Young Families Gathering, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass,  
Family Flex Center  
SCYA Contemplative Prayer Group, 2:00 p.m.

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 and chatting 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 to 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).



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, please email the ministry at their parish address.

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!



REFLECTION FOR THE  
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

BY TERESA THOMPSON

Many coastal communities across the world have churches named after Stella Maris—Our Lady, Star of the Sea. This title reminds us of Our Mother’s special protection for seafarers as they go about their often dangerous work, fishing or navigating their way through capricious weather and choppy waves. I recently saw an artist’s depiction of Stella Maris as Mary gazing down into her opened mantle, her arms wrapped around a diamond-shaped window through which you can see a ship sailing on a stormy sea. This depiction reminded me that all of us as human beings are on voyages, not only seafarers—as we move about life on Earth, we come up against uncharted waters and high seas.

Our responses to such voyages often involve confusion, anxiety, or even terror. In the chapters preceding today’s first reading, Job, bewildered in the aftermath of losing his family, his health, his riches, and all he held dear questions how God could have allowed these tragedies to fall on him. He has been obedient and faithful to God; these punishments are totally undeserved. In Mark’s Gospel, the disciples panic at the onset of the storm that forms over the lake, thrashing around their boat and threatening to pitch them into the deep. I imagine how much Job and the disciples must have been in touch with their smallness in these moments, acutely aware of their vulnerability, witnessing the power of God and God’s creation through the might of the whirlwind and the fury of the storm.

I live in a context very different from that of the disciples, or Job. I live in a big, modern city where I have access to many comforts and conveniences, very separated from the natural world. As I contemplate these scripture passages, I find myself in awe of the ancient, elemental Earth, its dual nature of generative and lethal, and its many patterns and inner workings I do not understand. This awe—bordering on fear—holds a pressing reminder for humanity, particularly those with positions of status and privilege in the Global North. We are not in charge of the Earth—the Earth is in charge of us.

I am part of the millennial generation; I have inherited an

Earth in crisis. There is no clear path to safety and prosperity for us in a country built on exploitation, a Church that is fractured and divided, a world forever at war. Perhaps the most existential threat we are forced to confront is climate change, a crisis that makes tenuous our very existence as a species. When I was born, there was already a hole in the ozone layer. Unless carbon emissions are drastically reduced by the time I turn forty, weather events will become more monstrous and extreme cold fronts will become commonplace. Whole ecosystems could collapse, harbingers of further terrible, unknowable consequences.

If we are serious about taking a real shot at overcoming the human-made crisis of climate change, we have to thrust ourselves into chaos—restructuring our economies, overhauling forms of energy production, reimagining how we steward and share land, changing how we shop, how we travel, how we eat. Chaos gets a bad rap, and oftentimes when these large-scale proposals for climate changes solutions are made, they are dismissed as too messy, too disruptive, too difficult to implement, too extreme. What these dismissals fail to acknowledge is that we find God in chaos, and God accompanies us in it.

God speaks to Job not through an angel in a dream, but out of a whirling storm. In Mark, Jesus initiates the voyage across the lake, effectively chartering the disciples directly into chaos, not around it. Chaos and order can both be of God—both the sea birthed by God and its proud waves, as well as the swaddling bands and limits God sets for it. Both the violent squall upending the disciples’ boat and the great calm Jesus renders from the wind and waves.

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul draws attention to our call to experience creation in a new way. We are called to understand the duality of all things—in dying Christ both destroyed death and restored life. If we can allow ourselves to die to the current order, our unhealthy and unsustainable ways of doing things, God will rise us up to new life. Dying in this way requires great trust, faith, and hope, because we do not yet know when we will get out of this crisis, what twists and turns the voyage will take, or what new life will

look like on the other side.

Addressing climate change is a matter of self-preservation, yes, but also one of justice. The climate change crisis brings about so much unjust suffering—the least culpable for the crisis face the worst of its consequences. Manual laborers die in unprecedented summer heat, children of low-income neighborhoods sicken from toxic fumes from industrial waste dumped near their homes instead of the homes of the elite, island nations are battered or destroyed by hurricanes, mudslides, and floods. Climate change is a life issue: as my wife and I plan to begin a family, I wrestle with the reality of what kind of Earth my children will inherit when they are born. A climate crisis they did not create and did not ask for, a world that is too often unjust. A world where the wicked are not always punished and the righteous are not always rewarded. A world where corporations and the makers of war profit, while activists and prophets of peace are too often ignored, silenced, or even killed.

On that boat, amidst the rolling waves and thunder, Jesus was asleep. Emmanuel, God with us—as human and fragile as Job, as dependent on the grace and mercy of God as the disciples—at rest, serene and calm on the precipice of peril. I don't understand that. I don't know what it's like to have so much faith that God is in control. I struggle to trust that the lives my children have will be worth living given the climate conditions they may face. Yet, I plan a family anyway—I choose to act out of hope.

In prayer, I try to picture myself on the stern of the boat with Jesus, rocked by the water, drenched by the rain. I remember the image I encountered of Stella Maris, Our Mother's arms wrapped around the sea and its travelers. God is with us, we are held—through crisis, through chaos, through suffering, through all we do not understand.

*~ Teresa Thompson is a writer, therapist, and amateur theologian based in Brooklyn, NY. She is a board member of the Metro NY chapter of Call To Action and serves as part of the Catholic Lesbians ministry and Healing Prayer ministry at the Church of Saint Francis Xavier. Teresa's writing has been published by Geez Magazine and Ignatian Solidarity Network and can also be read on her Substack, "Liturgy of the Ours." She will begin graduate study at Catholic Theological Union in fall 2024. Originally hailing from the Caribbean and Ireland, Teresa worked in New York City's public mental health system for seven years before founding her private practice, where her specialties include treating complex trauma and religious trauma. She loves being a friend, sister, daughter, wife, and dog mom.*



## A Summer Blessing

May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do, wherever you go. Walking with God means...walking with honesty and courage; and walking with love, respect and concern for the feelings of others.

May you talk to God this summer - every day and in every situation. Talking with God means...praying words of praise for the beauty of creation; saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times; asking God's help in all your decisions; and expressing sorrow when you have failed.

May you walk and talk with God every day. Amen.

# 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](http://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 the 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!