

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Elisha and the Shunammite woman

by Gerbrand van den Eeckhout (c.1649)

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

28 June 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

28 JUNE 2026

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | *Récit en Dialogue* from *Verbum Supernum*

Nicolas de Grigny
(1672-1703)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte

Verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them.
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them.



My hand will save. I, who made the
They turn a - way. I will break their
My hand will save. Fin-est bread I



stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



CALL TO WORSHIP

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

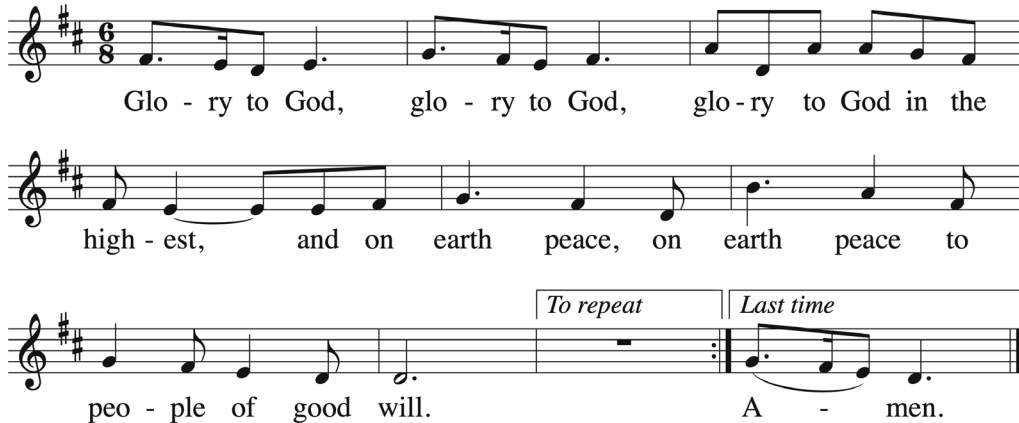
✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

GLORIA | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso

Refrain



Verses

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.
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father,
have mercy on us.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
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.

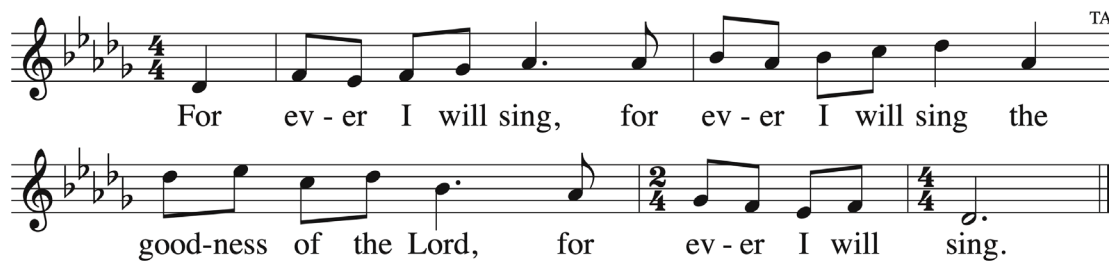
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | 2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16a

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 89: Forever I Will Sing

Tony E. Alonso



I will sing forever of your mercies,
O LORD;
through all ages my mouth will
proclaim your fidelity.
I have declared your mercy is
established forever;
your fidelity stands firm as the
heavens. R.

How blessed the people who know your
praise,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of

your face,
who find their joy every day in your
name,
who make your uprightness their
joyful acclaim. R.

For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favor it is that our might is
exalted.

Behold, the LORD is our shield;
he is the Holy One of Israel, our
king. R.

SECOND READING | Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso



GOSPEL | Matthew 10: 37-42

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

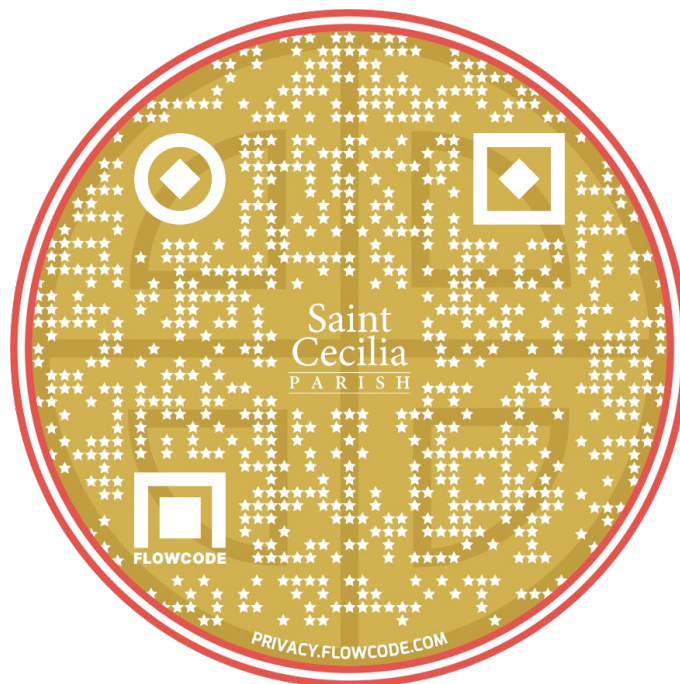
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

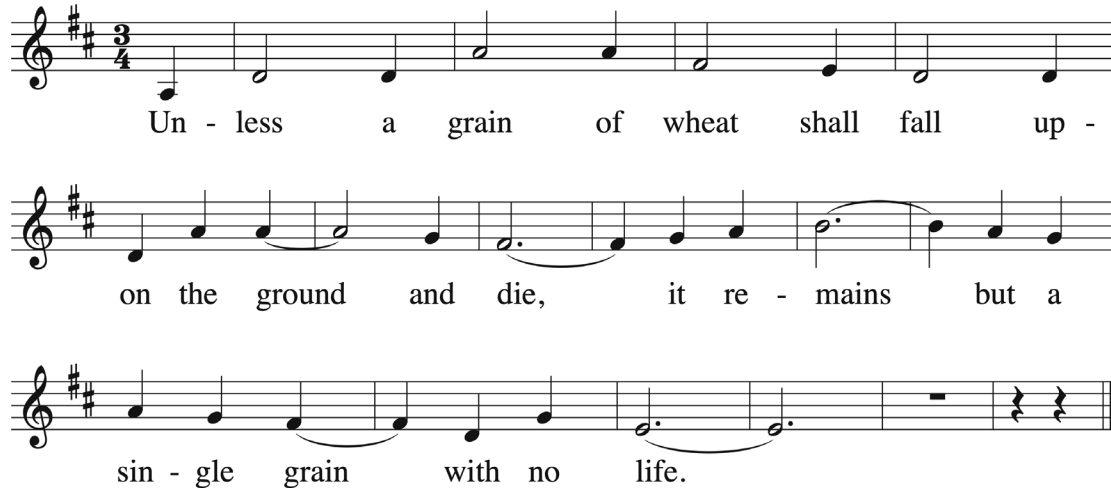


LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Unless a Grain of Wheat

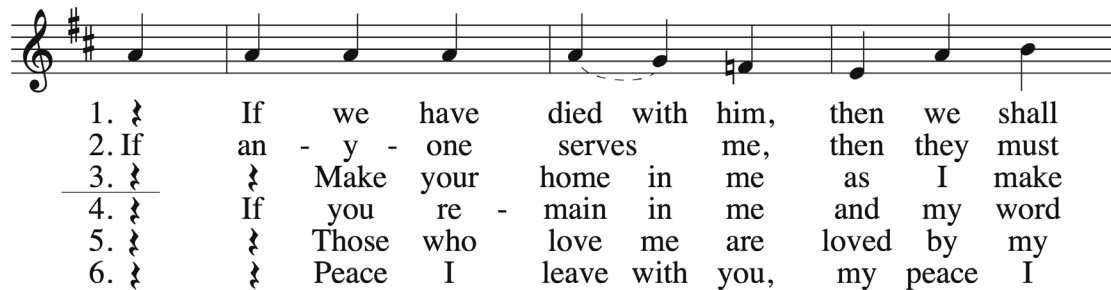
Bernadette Farrell

Refrain



Un - less a grain of wheat shall fall up -
on the ground and die, it re - mains but a
sin - gle grain with no life.

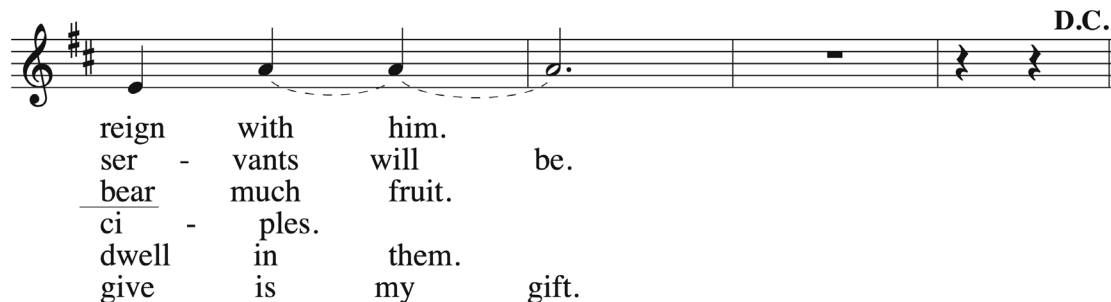
Verses



1. ♪ If we have died with him, then we shall
2. If an - y - one serves me, then they must
3. ♪ ♪ Make your home in me as I make
4. ♪ If you re - main in me and my word
5. ♪ ♪ Those who love me are loved by my
6. ♪ ♪ Peace I leave with you, my peace I



live with him; if we hold firm, we shall
fol - low me; wher - ev - er I am, my
mine in you; those who re - main in me
lives in you, then you will be my dis -
Fa - ther; we shall be with them and
give to you; peace which the world can - not



reign with him.
ser - vants will be.
bear much fruit.
ci - ples.
dwell in them.
give is my gift.

D.C.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

SANCTUS | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso

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

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

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

high - est. Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who

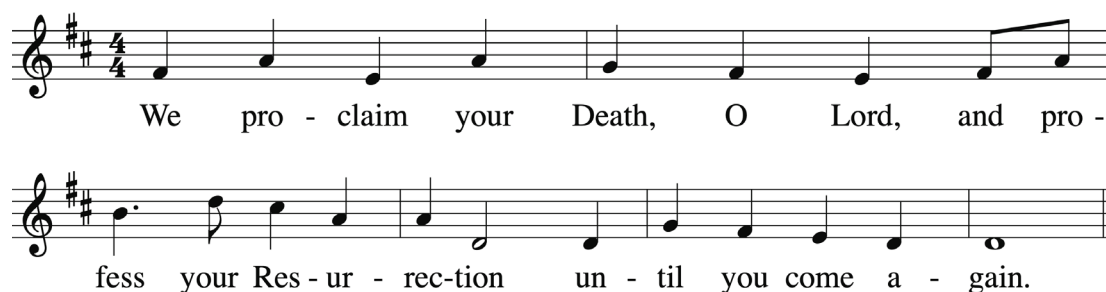
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

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

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso



AMEN | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso



THE LORD'S PRAYER

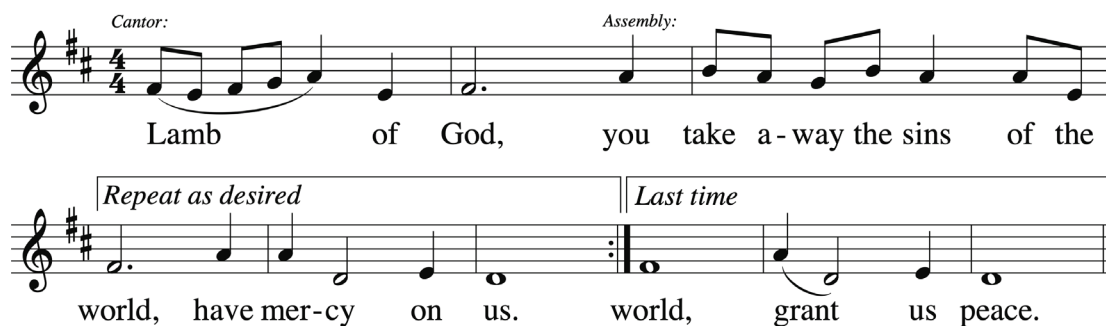
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,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

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:

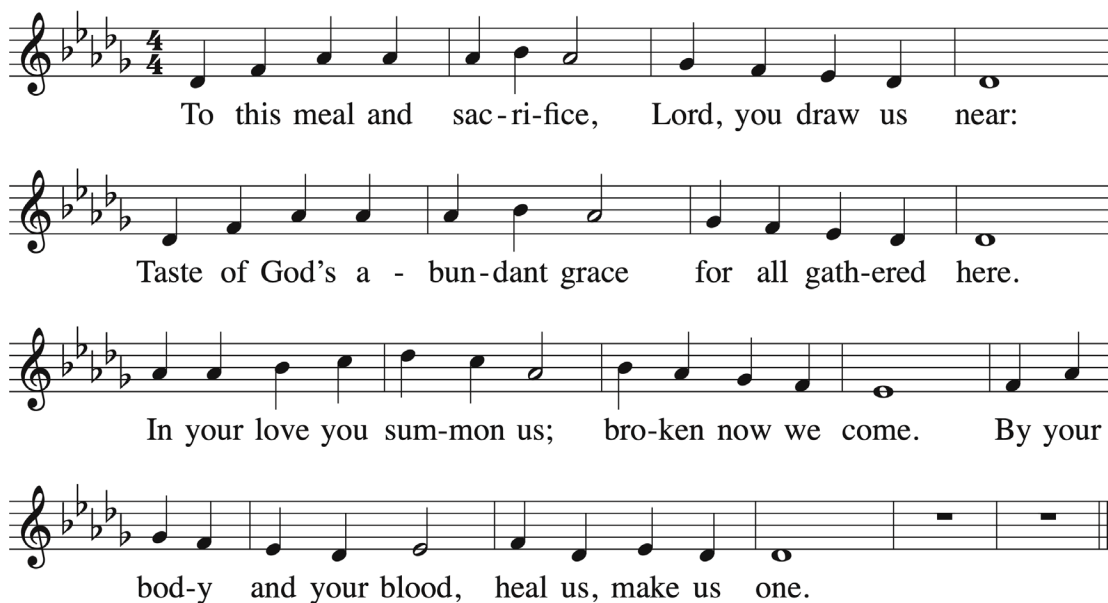
ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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 | Make Us One

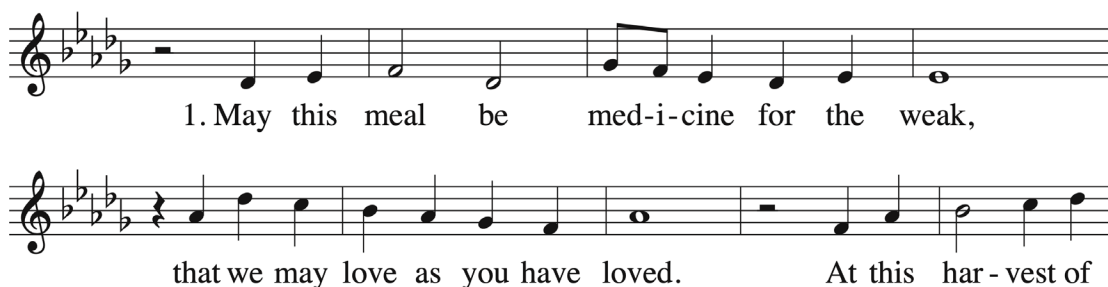
Chris De Silva

Refrain

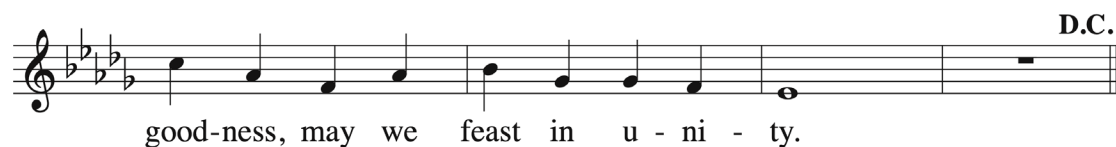


To this meal and sac-ri-fice, Lord, you draw us near:
Taste of God's a - bun-dant grace for all gath-ered here.
In your love you sum-mon us; bro-ken now we come. By your
bod-y and your blood, heal us, make us one.

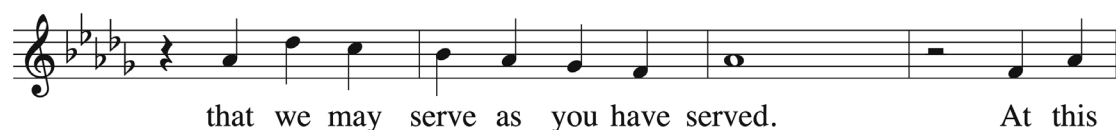
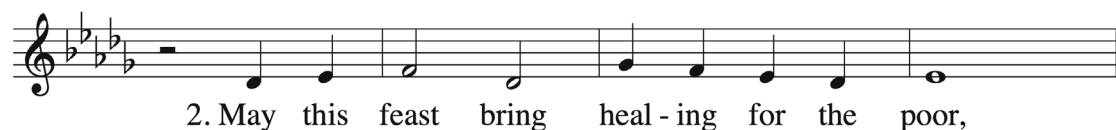
Verse 1



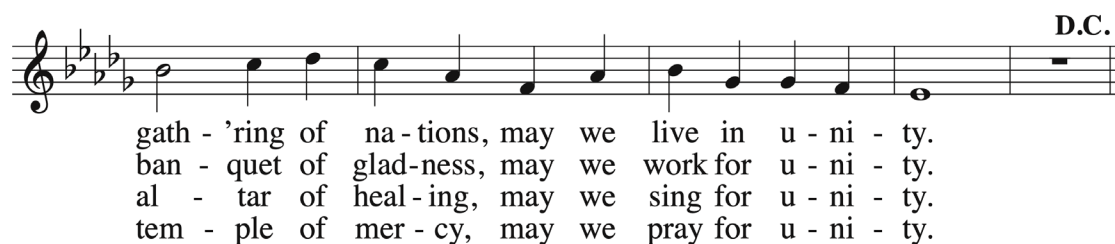
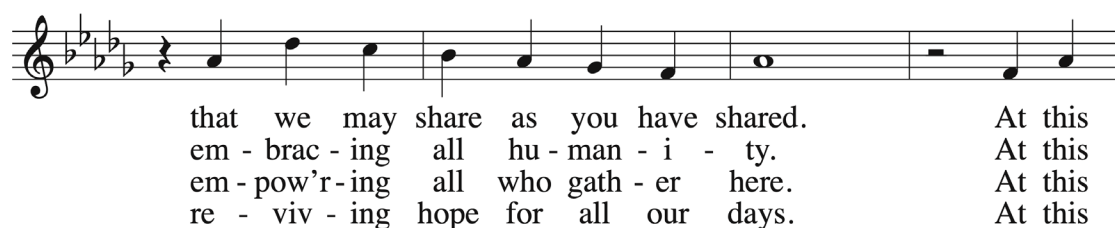
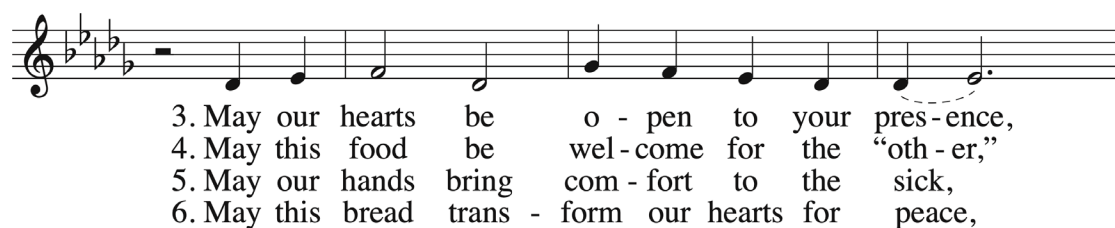
1. May this meal be med-i-cine for the weak,
that we may love as you have loved. At this har - vest of



Verse 2



Verses 3-6



CONCLUDING RITE

✠ The Lord be with you.

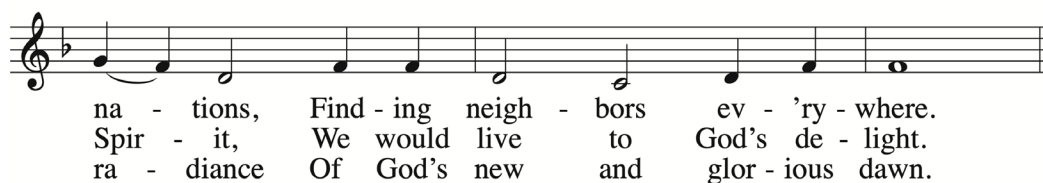
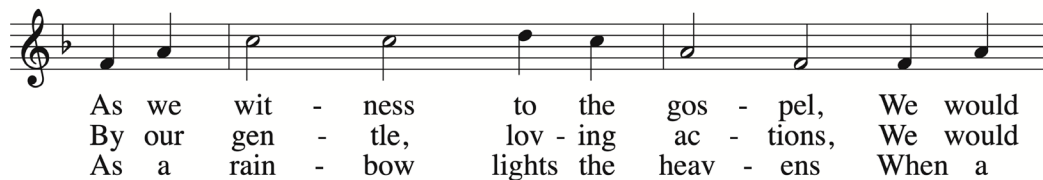
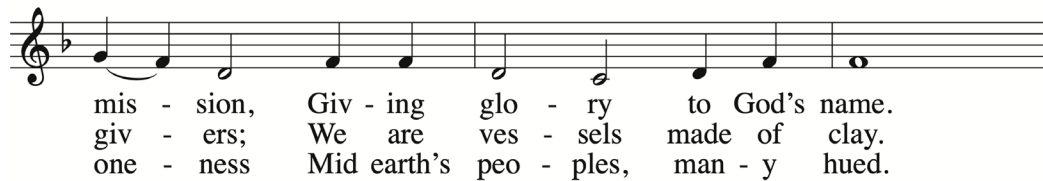
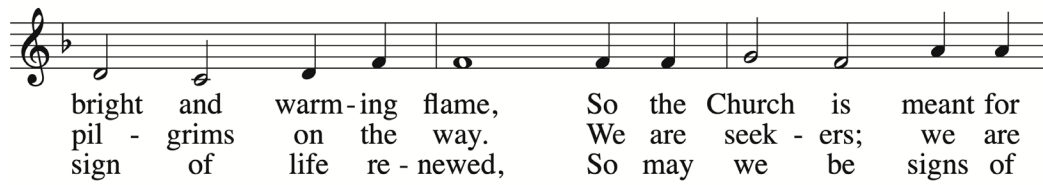
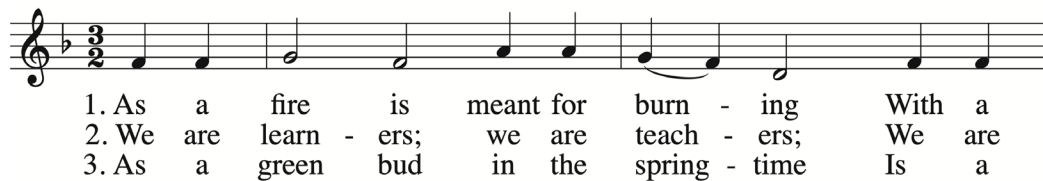
All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Amen.

RECESSIONAL | As a Fire is Meant for Burning

BEACH SPRING



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 27 | 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, June 28 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Dede Simon, lector

Sunday, June 28 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Thomas O'Brien, Nikko Mendoza, Valerie Sheehy, lectors

Sunday, June 28 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Mark Richburg, Julie DesAutels, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, June 27 | 5:00 p.m.

Mary Botosh, *Memorial*
Maria Cristina Campo de Paez, *Anniversary*

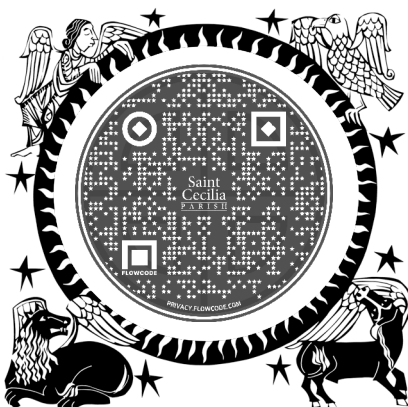
Sunday, June 28 | 9:30 a.m.

Robert Yobaccio, *Memorial*
Carol Ascrizzi, *Memorial*
Michael Donlan, *Memorial*
Bill Johansen, *Memorial*

Sunday, June 28 | 11:30 a.m.

Dolly Madden & the O'Sullivan Family, *Memorial*

Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!



*The floral arrangement in front of the
altar is given for the glory of God and in
loving memory of **Mary Botosh** by her
husband Charlie Botosh.*

TODAY'S READINGS

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
Matthew 10:37-42

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Zechariah 9:9-10
Romans 8:9, 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Pray for the repose of the soul of **Pen Macdonald**, who died on June 1. Pen served Saint Cecilia Parish for many years as assistant organist. Pray also for the consolation of his family and friends. According to his family, there are presently no plans for funeral rites. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Navin Pinto**, **Mariette Murphy**, and **John** and **Diane Render**. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Happy Summer!

Summer officially began last Sunday, June 21. 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 Saint John the Baptist is one of the earliest 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 members of our community.

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Credit: The National Gallery, London | Artuk

A Cup of Water and a Rose by Francisco de Zurbarán (c.1630)

2026 SUMMER CHOIR SUNDAYS

SUNDAY, JULY 19 & SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Join Robert Duff, Brett Maguire and members of the Saint Cecilia Choir at 8:30am to learn a piece of choral music and sing with the choir at the 9:30am Mass. Open to all singers of all ages and experience! We will meet in Classroom 1 at 8:30am each day.

JOIN THE SAINT CECILIA CYO BASKETBALL TEAM FOR 2026/2027

Join the Saint Cecilia Parish CYO Basketball program as we build on a great first season and look ahead to 2026–27! We are now accepting registrations for players and team managers, with girls teams in grades 3–4, 5–6, and 7–8 and boys teams in grades 3–4, 5–6, 7–8, and 9–12.

Our program emphasizes teamwork, sportsmanship, and community, and we welcome athletes of all experience levels. We are also seeking dedicated volunteers to serve as head and assistant coaches, as well as help with scorekeeping during games—your involvement makes this program possible.

Please use the registration link below to sign up and be part of another exciting season: <https://forms.gle/D7sW31WRNyGdavWE9>.

WISDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group holds two weekly online gatherings via Zoom. We meet Thursday evenings 7:30 to 8:30 PM and Sunday mornings 8:30 to 9:30 AM to share ways in which faith informs and enriches the second half of life. Our conversations are informed by our shared spiritual reading, but reading the book is optional. Our next book will be *HOPE: The Autobiography* by Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio and we will begin discussing at our June 25 + June 28 meetings. To request more information or to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to the ministry.

RAINBOW MINISTRY

Rainbow Ministry is the LGBTQ-supportive ministry of Saint Cecilia Parish. If you are interested in finding LGBTQ parishioners to sit with at Mass, or if you want to learn about the spiritual and community life activities we offer, please send an email to the ministry. We'd love to have you join us!

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. **At the moment, there is a particular need for flip flops (boys/girls ages 6-15) for the kids at the camp.**

Catholic Charities has also requested donations of sunblock (the higher SPF number, the better) and bug spray. Next time you are shopping or on Amazon.com, please consider picking up **flip flops**, sun block, and/or bug spray and dropping them in the plastic bin identified for this purpose in the narthex. Thank you!

HELP US SEND A KID TO CAMP

As you may know, Saint Cecilia Parish has a long-standing relationship with the Huntington YMCA and many of the social service programs offered in that facility. What you may not know is that the Huntington Avenue Y is the oldest in the United States -- celebrating its 175th anniversary this year -- and the cornerstone for the current building was laid by President William Howard Taft in 1912.

Through our combined donations, we would like to see if we can collect enough (\$2,500) to send one inner-city kid, ages 8 to 16, to Y camp this summer. The YMCA overnight camp in New Hampshire is a life-changing experience for those fortunate enough to attend.

To make a donation by check -- in any amount -- please make it payable to "YMCA of Greater Boston" and indicate in the memo line: "Summer Camp." Checks should be mailed to:

Mark Lippolt
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

Thanks as always for your customary generosity.



Saint Cecilia
P A R I S H

WHAT MAKES US HUMAN?

A parish conversation on Pope Leo XIV's
new encyclical on human dignity in the
age of artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence is changing how we work, communicate, learn, and make decisions. How can people of faith respond to these developments with wisdom, hope, and a commitment to human dignity?

Join Saint Cecilia Parish for an engaging conversation on Pope Leo XIV's landmark encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, which explores the promise and challenges of artificial intelligence in light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.

Date: July 9, 2026

Time: 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Location: Saint Cecilia Church, Boston

*This event is free and open to the public.
All are welcome.*

THE PANEL



BERIT REISENAUER GUIDOTTI

Doctoral candidate in theological ethics at Boston College



KRISTIN E. HEYER

Professor of theological ethics at Boston College



ANDREA VICINI, SJ

Jesuit priest, physician, and professor of theological ethics at Boston College

Together, the panelists will explore Pope Leo's vision for safeguarding human dignity, strengthening the common good, and discerning how emerging technologies can serve authentic human flourishing.

This event will be livestreamed. Copies of *Magnifica Humanitas* will be available.

You don't have to be interested in artificial intelligence; you only need to be interested in **being human**.

18 BELVIDERE STREET, BOSTON | STCECILIABOSTON.ORG

PROPHETIC TRACKS

BY MICHAEL K. MARSH

Editor's Note: The following sermon was published in 2020 and references events current to that time.

When I was a kid my mom often said to me, “Mike, I can read your tracks before you make them.”

Sometimes she could see things about my life I couldn’t see for myself. Other times she told me what I already knew but it made more sense when I heard it from her. Sometimes we had difficult but meaningful conversations and other times she told me truths I did not want to hear. Sometimes she caused me to reconsider and be more thoughtful about what I was doing. Other times I tried to cover my tracks. I became more stubborn or sneaky.

I didn’t always welcome her reading my tracks. Back then that often felt like interference, a warning, or even a threat. Today it feels like love, care, concern.

I have others in my life today who can read my tracks before I make them – my wife Cyndy, John, David, Marga, and some of you. I suspect you’ve had and maybe still have track readers in your life too.

Who has read your tracks? In what ways did she or he give you insight to yourself or open your eyes to what was happening? What truths were revealed? What conversations were begun? How did it change you or the direction of your life? What was asked of you?

Whoever that was, she or he was a prophet. Have you ever thought of that person as a prophet? That’s not how I thought about my mom back then. And she probably didn’t think of herself as a prophet. But sometimes we are. We read the tracks of our children or grandchildren, friends, or colleagues even before they’ve been made and offer truths, hope, wisdom.

When we think of a prophet most of us probably think of one of the Old Testament prophets; Jeremiah, Isaiah, Amos. Some might think of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Archbishop Oscar Romero, or Archbishop Desmond Tutu as modern prophets.

But I’ve also begun to see those track reading people in my life as prophets. My mom didn’t foresee my future, but she could see the consequences of my choices, actions, and the direction I was going, and she wanted something more for me, something different. She spoke with insight, not foresight. That’s what prophets do. They reflect deeply on what is happening in the present moment and call us back to our better selves, our



Credit: Wikimedia

Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog by Caspar David Friedrich (1818)

truer selves. Sometimes they speak to individuals and sometimes they speak to entire nations, to a people. That’s the biblical tradition of prophecy and it is, I think, what is happening in our country today.

A prophet isn’t one who predicts the future. A prophet is one who calls for and insists on change. It’s one who disturbs the complacency of the present moment, interrupts business as usual, and provokes change. “The prophet is a person who is not tolerant of wrongs done to others, who resents other people’s injuries.” (Heschel,

The Prophets, volume 1, 205) The prophet interferes on behalf of the weak, the poor, the oppressed. (Ibid.) The prophet draws a line in the sand.

That's what we hear from the great prophets of Israel.

- It's Isaiah saying, "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." (Isaiah 1:17) "Is not this the fast that I choose," he asks, "to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6)
- It's Amos saying, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos 5:24)
- It's Jeremiah calling for justice and righteousness, and that no wrong or violence be done to the alien, the orphan, or the widow. (Jeremiah 22:3)

The great prophets of Israel resisted complacency as the enemy of true peace. King, Romero, and Tutu resisted complacency. I sometimes wonder if we have confused the two and settled for complacency over peace. Jeremiah puts it like this, "They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace." (Jeremiah 6:14)

I wonder if we have become so accustomed to the way things are that we can no longer see the needs of others, the injustices done to them, or their pain. I wonder if that's why in the last several weeks so many of us are in shock over what is happening in our country today. We look on in disbelief and ask, "Why? How could this happen? I don't understand. I can't imagine." Maybe it because complacency has blinded us.

What's happening is not new. What's new (I hope) is our beginning to awaken to what is happening. I think we are hearing and recognizing what's happening as a prophetic moment in our lives and in the life of America. Events can also be prophetic.

Look at everything that is happening today – the pandemic, the economy, political dysfunction, the killing of George Floyd and all those before him, the Black Lives Matter protests, graffiti and violence, mistrust of the media and the government, calls for police reform.

Those are not just problems to be fixed. Each one is a voice in a prophetic chorus crying out for change and warning of the consequences if we don't. Each one of those is reading our tracks before we make them. And it is painful. It's painful to see and it's painful to hear.

More often than not prophets awaken us from our complacency. They let us know what we do not want

to know, show us what we do not want to see, tell us what we do not want to hear, and confront us with what we do not want to acknowledge.

Those places of our resistance, however, are also the places of our growth. They are gateways into the deep heart of our humanity. They are the places where we can begin to get our life back on track, as individuals and as a country.

The prophetic cry is not about condemnation, judgment, or punishment. It is a calling, an asking, an insisting that believes we can be more and do differently. It sees more for us than we see for ourselves. It believes more about us than we believe about ourselves. The prophet's cry is about hope, healing, and more life.

Prophets "have a dream" for the people to whom they speak, not a prediction.

What would it be like for you to welcome the prophet's dream in your life today and in the life of our country? What is that dream asking of you? What do you need to do, change, or give up in order to be a part of that dream? How can you help that dream come true for others?

Read the tracks. Hear the cry. And welcome the dream.



Originally published in Michael K. Marsh's blog Interrupting the Silence on June 28, 2020.

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Marsh is the rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Uvalde, Texas—a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. He has served there since 2005. Fr. Mike is also the owner and author of the blog, Interrupting the Silence (www.interruptingthesilence.com) a place for spiritual reflection, guidance, and growth, offering practical spirituality grounded in the contemplative tradition. We are always grateful to him for his gospel reflections and sermons.



PUT ASIDE PRECONCEPTIONS AND LISTEN TO LGBTQ PEOPLE

BY CARDINAL BLASE J. CUPICH



Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago speaks with Pope Francis during a break of the Synod on Synodality on Oct. 22, 2024.

The synodal approach to church life that Pope Francis is encouraging has greatly assisted me. It has forced me to rethink how I serve in the church and how I minister to those I serve. Perhaps the most important insight I have gained is that church leaders should be wary about presuming too much about people. We do better when we listen to others before we speak or make judgments about them. Given our years of education and preparation in the seminary and the deference that people often offer us, the fallacy that “Father knows best” can easily creep into our thinking.

Some years ago, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith,

offered helpful advice to U.S. bishops. In 2021, we were formulating a national policy regarding admission to Communion for Catholics in public office who support legislation permitting abortion, euthanasia or other moral evils.

Cardinal Ladaria urged us to first “reach out to and engage in dialogue with Catholic politicians within their jurisdictions who adopt a pro-choice position regarding abortion legislation, euthanasia, or other moral evils, as a means of *understanding the nature of their positions and their comprehension of Catholic teaching*” (emphasis added). Only then, the cardinal noted, could the bishops discern “the best way forward for the church in the United

States to witness to the grave moral responsibility of Catholic public officials to protect human life at all stages.”

In other words, we should listen to them rather than presume that we know how they understand church teaching, or that we know how they view carrying out the responsibilities of their office.

This approach of putting aside our preconceptions and really listening also applies to how church leaders ought to consider people in a variety of life situations. This includes not only LGBTQ Catholics, but also people who are married or single, those in so-called irregular situations, those who are living with physical and psychological disabilities and others.

Over this past decade as archbishop of Chicago, I have scheduled listening sessions with people representing all these groups. These conversations have given me a fresh perspective for understanding what the church means when it affirmed at the Second Vatican Council that “the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts” (*Gaudium et Spes*, #1).

Of course, we can make that affirmation honestly only if we are in touch with people at those profound levels of human existence, and listen to them. In my conversations with LGBTQ Catholics, I have encountered searing truths about the realities of their lives in our church and in our world.

An overwhelming number of LGBTQ Catholics I’ve met told me that they suffer a sense of alienation precisely because they feel preemptively judged and excluded. The pain is especially sharp when it is experienced in their families or among those who have been their friends. This is also true when they experience this as members of their own church. They relate stories of being ostracized, even being thrown out of their family homes, when they told their parents about their sexual orientation. They felt unwelcome in the church and even spoke of being denied baptism and admission to Catholic schools for the children they adopted. One person told me that the way they were banished, shunned and even hated led them to the conclusion that being gay made them a modern-day leper. Tragically, this kind of alienation can lead to suicidal ideation.

Yet amidst these realities of exclusion and suffering lies a profound resiliency, an unwillingness to give up their desire to be good and respond to Christ’s call to follow him in the life of the church. They attend Mass. They become involved in parish life where they are welcomed. They pray daily and practice works of mercy, especially outreach to the poor.

Many of our LGBTQ Catholic sisters and brothers value community life. They are convinced that it is important to make the case for their place in the life of the church because they have something not only to receive but also to give, which we should recognize and welcome.

Many LGBTQ people also learn and know what sacrificial love is, as they take on the role of parenting children who otherwise would not have a home. This also happens when LGBTQ people put the social Gospel into practice by volunteering for good causes and by dealing compassionately with others, as so many of them already know what it means to feel excluded.

Contrary to what others often say or think about LGBTQ people, the idea that they are uniquely obsessed with sexual satisfaction is a myth (as if we don’t have abundant examples of cultural obsession with heterosexual gratification). Rather, what’s been clear in my conversations with LGBTQ Catholics is that they place a high priority on expressions of love and intimacy that comport with church teaching. In fact, they tend to see a relationship with a partner as an attempt to establish stability in their lives in the face of the promiscuity that is sometimes present in both the gay and straight communities.

Pastoral outreach to the LGBTQ population always should include the call of the Gospel to live a chaste and virtuous life. At the same time, in my 50 years as a priest I have learned that all of us struggle with those demands. We are, after all, all called to chastity.

Returning to Pope Francis’s call for a synodal church, I believe we have a better chance of pursuing a holy life if we walk together “on the road” (*synodos*) and help each other along the way. This means leaving behind preemptive exclusion and the shunning of those we have easily, if not lazily, judged as unworthy of our companionship. For if we talk with and, even more important, listen to each other, we may actually come to recognize what all God’s children share as members of the same family: that we are more alike than different, and that we are all from and going home to God.



Originally published in Outreach on January 6, 2025.

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich is Archbishop of Chicago.



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

Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities Operations & Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

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*, and 11:30 a.m.

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

Baptism for Infants

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

Parking

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

Faith Formation for Children

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (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.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

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

Please note:

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