

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Pentecost

Suor Plautilla Nelli, c.1540

## Pentecost Sunday

8 June 2025

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

8 JUNE 2025

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

PRELUDES | God is Gone Up

Gerald Finzi  
(1901-1956)

God is gone up with a triumphant shout:  
The Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies:  
Sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praises out,  
Unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!  
Lift up your Heads, ye lasting Doors, they sing,  
And let the King of Glory enter in.

Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly,  
In flakes of Glory down him to attend,  
And hear Heart-cramping notes of Melody  
Surround his Chariot as it did ascend;  
Mixing their Music, making ev'ry string  
More to enravish as they this tune sing.

*Toccatà IV per l'Elevazione*

Giralamo Frescobaldi  
(1583-1643)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | O Spirit, All Embracing

THAXTED



1. O Spir - it all - em - brac - ing and coun - sel - or all - wise,  
2. O Beau - ty ev - er blaz - ing in flow - er, field, and face,  
3. Come, pas - sion's pow - er ho - ly, your in - sight here im - part,



Un - bound - ed splen - dor grac - ing a shore - less sea of skies:  
You show your - self a - maz - ing in un - ex - pect - ed place.  
And give your ser - vants low - ly an un - der - stand - ing heart



Un - fail - ing is your treas - ure, un - fad - ing your re - ward;  
We see you and re - mem - ber what once our dreams had been;  
To know your care more clear - ly when faith and love are tried,



Sur - pass - ing world - ly pleas - ure, the rich - es you af - ford.  
You fan the glow - ing em - ber and kin - dle hope with - in.  
To seek you more sin - cere - ly when false i - deals have died:



Come, stream of end - less flow - ing, and res - cue us from death;  
Come, fire of glo - ry gra - cious, bless all who trust in you;  
For vi - sion we im - plore you, for wis - dom's pure de - light;



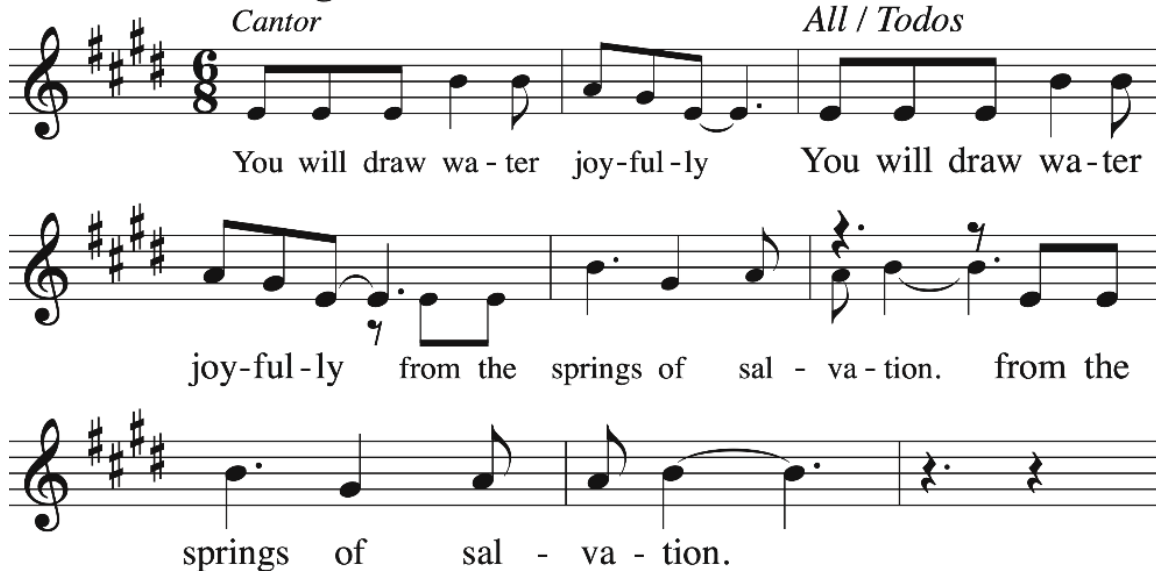
Come, wind of spring - time blow - ing, and warm us by your breath.  
Un - dy - ing flame te - na - cious, burn in your Church a - new.  
In prayer we come be - fore you to wait up - on your light.

#### 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.

**Refrain in English**

*Cantor* *All / Todos*



You will draw wa - ter joy - ful - ly You will draw wa - ter  
 joy - ful - ly from the springs of sal - va - tion. from the  
 springs of sal - va - tion.

**Estribillo en Español**

*Cantor* *Todos / All*



Sa - ca - rán a - guas con a - le - grí - a Sa - ca -  
 rán a - guas con a le grí - a de las fuen - tes de sal - va -  
 ción. de las fuen - tes de sal - va - ción.

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.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the  
high-est, and on earth peace, on earth peace to  
peo-ple of good will. We praise you, we  
bless you, we a-dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we  
give you thanks for your great glo-ry, Lord God,  
heav-en-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa-ther.  
Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, you  
take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us;

you take a-way the sins of the world re-  
 ceive our prayer; you are seat - ed at the  
 right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer - cy on us.  
 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One,  
 you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the  
 Most High, Je - sus, Christ,  
 with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo-ry of God the  
 Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 2: 1-11

Lord, send out your Spir-it, and re-new the face of the earth,

send out your Spir-it, send out your Spir-it, and re-new the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and honor,  
wrapped in light as with a robe! *R.*

You set the earth on its foundation,  
immovable from age to age.  
You wrapped it with the depths like a  
cloak;  
the waters stood higher than the  
mountains. *R.*

You make springs gush forth in the  
valleys;  
they flow in between the hills.  
There the birds of heaven build their

nests;

from the branches they sing their  
song. *R.*

From your dwelling you water the  
mountains;  
by your works the earth has its fill.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle  
and plants to serve mankind's need,  
that he may bring forth bread from  
the earth. *R.*

How many are your works, O LORD!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your creatures.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul. *R.*

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13

SEQUENCE | *Veni, Sancte Spirit*

Richard J. Clark

Come, Holy Spirit, come!  
And from your celestial home  
Shed a ray of light divine!  
Come, Father of the poor!  
Come, source of all our store!  
Come, within our bosoms shine.  
You, of comforters the best;  
You, the soul's most welcome guest;  
Sweet refreshment here below;  
In our labor, rest most sweet;  
Grateful coolness in the heat;  
Solace in the midst of woe.  
O most blessed Light divine,  
Shine within these hearts of yours,  
And our inmost being fill!  
Where you are not, we have naught,

Nothing good in deed or thought,  
Nothing free from taint of ill.  
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour your dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away:  
Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.  
On the faithful, who adore  
And confess you, evermore  
In your sevenfold gift descend;  
Give them virtue's sure reward;  
Give them your salvation, Lord;  
Give them joys that never end. Amen.  
Alleluia.

Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia. Al-le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL | John 20: 19-23

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!

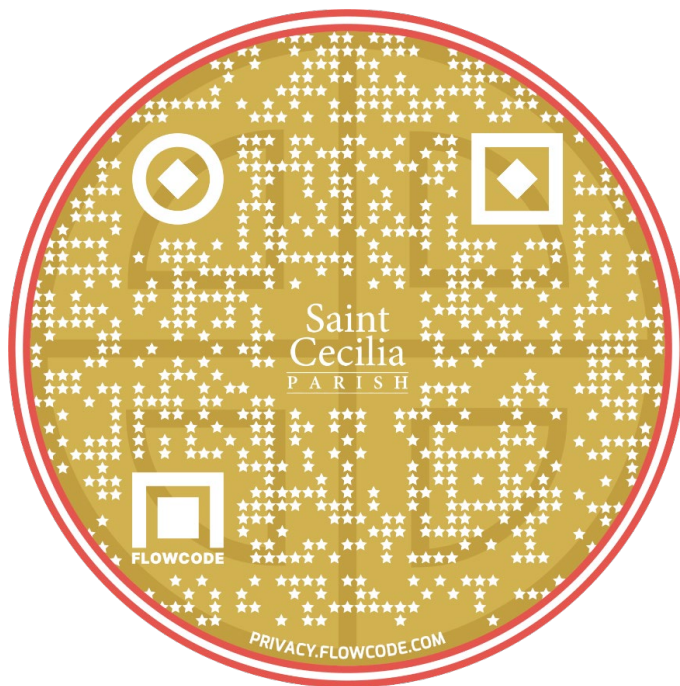
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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](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 | Holy Spirit

Chris de Silva



Ho-ly Spir-it, come, re-fresh us with your fire of love.




Ho-ly Spir-it, come, re-new us, heal us with your love.

Verses 1-4

*Cantor:*



1. Give us the gift of wis - dom, wis - dom to fol - low the  
2. Give us un - der-stand - ing, knowl - edge for jus - tice and  
3. Give us the gift of knowl - edge, knowl - edge that leads us to  
4. Give us the gift of coun - sel, judg - ment that serves the



truth, giv-er of gifts, and light of the world,  
peace, giv-er of gifts and heal - er of souls,  
you, giv-er of gifts and path - way to peace,  
truth, giv-er of gifts and well - spring of love,


*All:*




ve - ni, San - cte Spi - ri - tus. **D.C.**

Verses 5-7

*Cantor:*



5. Give us the gift of for - ti - tude, cour - age to fol - low your  
6. Give us the gift of pi - e - ty, hum - ble wor - ship of  
7. Give us the fear of the Lord, rev - 'rence and awe be - fore



will, giv-er of gifts and strength for our souls,  
you, giv-er of gifts and foun - tain of grace,  
you, giv-er of gifts and bear - er of hope,

*All:*



ve - ni, San - cte Spi - ri - tus. **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 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 on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the first staff. A 'Fine' marking is placed above the third staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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 on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final double bar line and repeat dots.

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

## 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 the Savior

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

## ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Loving Jesus,  
I believe that you  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there  
and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.

COMMUNION | Make Us One


Chris Di Silva



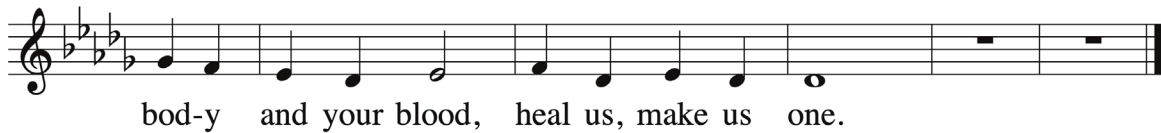
To this meal and sac-ri-fice, Lord, you draw us near:



Taste of God's a - bun-dant grace for all gath-ered here.

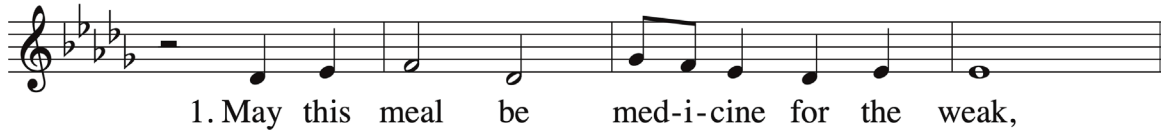


In your love you sum-mon us; bro-ken now we come. By your

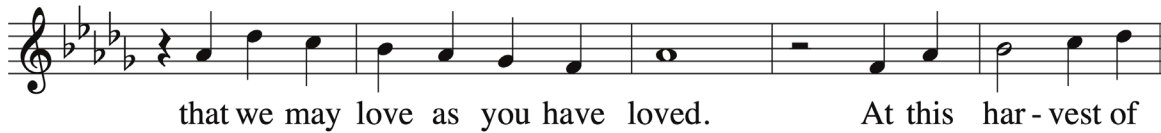


bod-y and your blood, heal us, make us one.

Verse 1



1. May this meal be med-i-cine for the weak,



that we may love as you have loved. At this har - vest of



good-ness, may we feast in u - ni - ty. **D.C.**

Verse 2



2. May this feast bring heal - ing for the poor,



that we may serve as you have served. At this



ta - ble of jus - tice, may we serve in u - ni - ty. D.C.

Verses 3-6



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



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



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



1. Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, And in our  
 2. O Com - fort - er, to thee we cry, Thou heav'n - ly  
 3. O Ho - ly Ghost, through thee a - lone Know we the  
 4. Praise we the Lord, Fa - ther and Son, And Ho - ly



hearts take up thy rest; Come with thy grace  
 gift of God most high, Thou fount of life,  
 Fa - ther and the Son; Be this our firm  
 Spir - it with them one; And may the Son



and heav'n - ly aid To fill the hearts which thou hast  
 and fire of love, And sweet a - noint - ing from a -  
 un - chang - ing creed, That thou dost from them both pro -  
 on us be - stow All gifts that from the Spir - it



made, To fill the hearts which thou hast made.  
 bove, And sweet a - noint - ing from a - bove.  
 ceed, That thou dost from them both pro - ceed.  
 flow, All gifts that from the Spir - it flow.

POSTLUDE | Fugue in G, BWV 541  
 Brett Maguire, *organ*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
 (1685-1750)

*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).

# 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 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 7 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Uma Staehler, lector

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

Rev. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant  
Jim Dougherty, lector

### Sunday, June 8 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Tom McGillicuddy, Kate McGillicuddy,  
Tom Skorupa, lectors

### Sunday, June 8 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Pat Scofield, Mark Richburg, Zach Boutin  
lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

### Saturday, June 7 | 5:00 p.m.

Andrew Morey, *4th Anniversary*  
Catherine Aylward, *Memorial*

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

John and Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

### Sunday, June 8 | 9:30 a.m.

Beirne Lovely Jr, *5th Anniversary*  
Susan Szul, *16th Anniversary*  
Dr. Gerry Doyle, *Memorial*  
Ann Kelley, *Memorial*

### Sunday, June 8 | 11:30 a.m.

Don Garaventi, *1st Anniversary*  
Patricia Macdonald, *11th Anniversary*  
Roger Dumont, *Memorial*

## TODAY'S READINGS

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

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY READINGS

Proverbs 8:22-31  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15



# 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: **James Andrews** of Caledonia, IL, **Kirk** and **Jan Willison** of Vienna, VA, **Charles** and **Claudia Toolan** of Bristol, RI, **Annie Grinnen** of Quincy, **Maureen Donohue** of Cambridge, **Maisha Kasole** of Cambridge, and **Megan Smith,** and **Ryanne Dymek** and **Christopher Llerena** of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

### Pentecost Sunday

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

### Special Collection for Seminarians

This week's second collection supports the formation and training of seminarians in the Archdiocese of Boston for service, we pray, as future priests. We are blessed that many are responding to the call to serve as priests. Please be generous and support these seminarians on their journey toward their ordination to the priesthood. You can donate online using the following link: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/special-collection-for-seminarians-2025>. For more information, please visit [www.VocationsBoston.org](http://www.VocationsBoston.org).

### Congratulations, Graduates!

We wish to congratulate **Sharon A. Franzetta** for obtaining her Doctorate in Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island and **Gina M. Franzetta** for obtaining her Masters in Computational & Advanced Design from the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering & Geodesy.

We also celebrate **Richard Kouyoumjian** for obtaining his Nutrition degree from Boston University.

We would also like to congratulate **Cornelia Nisbet** for obtaining her high school degree from East Chapel Hill High School - she will be attending Boston University in the fall. Congratulations, Sharon, Gina, Richard, and Cornelia!

### 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.



*The flowers in front of the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Beirne Lovely** by his wife **Joan**.*

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**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
ELECTION RESULTS**

The results of the election are in!  
Congratulations to:

**KATIE BALIAN**

**JOHN BATTAGLINO**

**MAGGIE GILES**

Welcome to the council! Thank you to all of our wonderful candidates and to everyone who voted this weekend.

**GBIO Workshop  
on Community  
Organizing**

Join Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) for a day devoted to faith, reflection, and action.

Guided by experienced organizer Kristen King, we'll explore Catholic Social Teaching and will discuss how Saint Cecilia's partnership with GBIO can help us live out our faith in ways that promote justice, peace, and the common good.

**Saturday, June 7th**

- **Coffee at 8:45am**
- **Workshop from 9am - 12pm**
- **Parish Hall**

**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 receive the Zoom link, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

**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!

**SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP  
FOR THOSE IN THE MEDICAL  
AND MENTAL HEALTHCARE  
WORKFORCE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22 | 1PM | COMMUNITY ROOM**

This group is an ongoing meeting throughout this summer to provide spiritual support for those working in the healthcare system in these stressful times. Our next meeting is June 15, Sunday, at 1pm. You are welcome to drop in and meet other parishioners who work in the healthcare system and want to integrate their Catholic spirituality in their self-care and care of others. Feel free to contact Mary Wessel at her parish email, Michael Murphy PhD, or Kathy Sanders MD with any questions. Please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) if you need any email addresses shared — our receptionists will be happy to help!

**THE GREATER BOSTON LGBTQIA  
CATHOLIC COLLECTIVE CELEBRATES:**



**PRIDE MONTH**

4<sup>th</sup> Annual

**All Are Welcome Mass**

Friday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m.

St. Cecilia's Parish

18 Belvidere St., Boston

Reception to Follow!

**Pride Festival**

Saturday, June 14th

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Boston Common

Come visit us

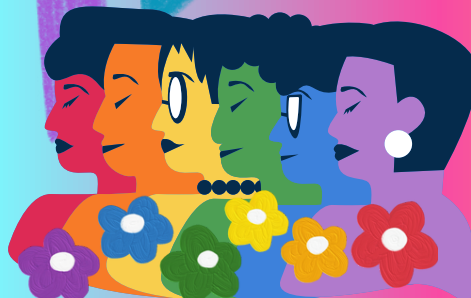
at our booth!

For more information and the exact location of the  
Pride Festival Booth, email:

[GreaterBostonLGBTQIACatholics@gmail.com](mailto:GreaterBostonLGBTQIACatholics@gmail.com)



GREATER BOSTON  
**LGBTQIA**  
CATHOLIC COLLECTIVE



## 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.



## 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)

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!

## A FEW REMINDERS ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY

- Father John will **NEVER** email you to ask for money, request that you purchase gift cards, or inquire about financial account numbers. He also will never ask you if you're free to communicate via email or text; nor will he ask you if you can perform a favor for him.
- If something in a subject line or an email looks suspicious or sounds out of character, it probably is. Read carefully.
- Always be sure to check the origin email address, even if you recognize the sender's name. You may need to hover over or click on the name for the full email address to be visible. Many scam emails are sent from a Gmail account. Be suspicious of any email from the parish that does not end with "[stceciliaboston.org](mailto:stceciliaboston.org)."
- Be aware of urgent requests. They are quite often scams.
- Be sure to delete all spam email.
- When in doubt, please call us. If you want to verify the validity of any email that appears to be coming from Father John or anyone on the parish staff, please call (617)-536-4548.

**COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA**  
**JUNE 5 - 13**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 5**

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

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7**

GBIO Workshop | 8:30am | Parish Hall

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8**

Pentecost Sunday  
Bereavement Group | 2pm | Family Flex

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13**

Pride Mass | 6:30pm



**FIRST THEY CAME...**  
**BY MARTIN NIEMÖLLER**



**First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.**

**Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.**

**Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.**

**Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.**

---

Rev. Martin Niemöller was a prominent Lutheran pastor and theologian in Germany. Niemöller was initially a Nazi supporter, but later became one of the founders of the Confessing Church which opposed Nazis' state control of churches. After World War II Niemöller became an anti-war activist, expressing his belief that German churches in particular were complicit through their silence in light of Nazi persecution.

# CONFIRMATION

Last Sunday, we celebrated the sacrament of confirmation for thirty-seven men and women who have been preparing to receive the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit! Here are some pictures of our wonderful confirmands:



# SUOR PLAUTILLA NELLI'S PENTECOST

BY DR. RICHARD STEMPEL

You may well be wondering, 'what is so remarkable about this altarpiece?' and I wouldn't blame you. It's not terribly famous and is almost completely unknown. As a result I don't think it has been cleaned or restored for years, although the colours are both rich and intense. There are certainly no good photos of it to be found online – I suspect there aren't any anywhere, for which I can only apologize.

We see the apostles and Mary gathered in an upper room, seated in a horseshoe, leaving space for our approach. Their hands are held together, crossed in front of their chests, or held up, inflected at the wrists – all standard gestures of prayer at the time. Apparently in silence, they sit in their own private worlds, or look around at each other, or up towards the appearance of the Holy Spirit. The gestures are somewhat awkward – wooden even – which adds to the solemnity of the occasion, and to the sense that each individual is experiencing this event in their own way.

The tongues of fire sit upon each of the people present. When we get close, we can see who they are. On the left, hands raised, wearing yellow and blue with short grey hair and short grey beard, is St Peter. And on the right, with no beard, wearing pink and green, is St John the Evangelist, the youngest of the apostles. Indeed, he is the only man without a beard. In between Peter and John – and this is what is remarkable about the painting – there are five women. The Virgin Mary is in the centre, and to the left, with red hair, and wearing a scarlet cloak, is Mary Magdalene. She is carrying the jar of precious ointment with which she washed Christ's feet in the house of Levi, and with which she was going to anoint his body in the tomb.

The Acts of the Apostles does not specify how many people were present at Pentecost, but earlier, after the Ascension, the eleven apostles had returned to Jerusalem and went to an 'upper room' – probably that represented in this picture. Acts 1:14 says, 'These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren'. Now, I'm not sure that we have the 'brethren' in this painting, unless they are counted among the apostles, but we do have 'the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus'. It's just that



'the women' are not usually represented. Who were they? Apart from the Virgin, and Mary Magdalene, the three others are potentially a third Mary, Joanna and Susanna. The first of these was with Mary Magdalene at the Resurrection (Matthew 28:1), while the other two are mentioned by Luke as people who supported Jesus (Luke 8:3).

Why do artists never include them? Well, my guess would be that none of the other artists were women. Suor Plautilla Nelli (1524-1588) is Florence's first known woman artist. At the age of 14 she was put into a convent by her parents – hence the title 'Suor', meaning 'Sister' – standard practice at the time, as most families couldn't afford dow-



ries for more than one daughter. She entered the Convent of Santa Caterina on Piazza San Marco, overseen by the monks of San Marco. The monks were influenced by the visionary Dominican preacher Girolamo Savonarola, who recommended that nuns should draw to stop them from becoming idle. Thus, Nelli taught herself to paint: she never received any formal training, apparently. She seems to have become the chief artist for the Dominicans in Florence. If so, she was taking over this unofficial role from Fra Bartolomeo, whose work influenced her own in its broad, balanced, classicising forms – incredibly different from the ecstatic energy of late Botticelli.

She even trained a number of her fellow nuns to work as her assistants, ending up with a sizeable workshop. By the end of the 16th Century, a third of the known women artists in Florence were Dominican nuns. Although she couldn't sell her work, the convent could – and although she couldn't leave the convent, her work travelled far afield: this Pentecost made it to Perugia, and is still to be found there, languishing in the Church of San Domenico.

It looks unremarkable – until you stop and realise that, not only is the Virgin the focus of the painting (that was entirely traditional), but that there are four other women present, and they push the men to the edges. With five women taking centre stage and touched by the Holy Spirit, thus endowed with the ability to be heard and understood across the world, it is almost as if Suor Plautilla Nelli were advocating the ordination of women to the priesthood.



*This is an abridged version of Dr. Richard Stemp's post on his website, [drrichardstemp.com](http://drrichardstemp.com), published on May 31, 2020.*

*Dr. Richard Stemp is an art historian and lecturer specializing in Renaissance art. He is based in the United Kingdom.*



## THE TRAIN OF LIFE

### JAMES S. TIPPETT (1885-1958)

At birth we boarded the train  
and met our parents, and we  
believe they will always travel  
on our side.

However, at some station  
our parents will step down from  
the train, leaving us on this  
journey alone.

As time goes by,  
other people will board the train;  
and they will be significant  
our siblings, friends, children,  
and even the love of your life.

Many will step down  
and leave a permanent vacuum.  
Others will go so unnoticed  
that we don't realize  
they vacated their seats.

This train ride will be full of joy,  
sorrow, fantasy, expectations,  
hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.  
Success consists of having a  
good relationship with all  
passengers requiring that we  
give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is:  
We do not know at which station  
we ourselves will step down.  
So, we must live in the best way,  
love, forgive, and offer the best  
of who we are.

It is important to do  
this because when the time  
comes for us to step down  
and leave our seat empty

we should leave behind beautiful  
memories for those who will  
continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey on the  
train of life.  
Reap success and give lots of love.  
More importantly, thank God for the  
journey.

Lastly, I thank you for being one of  
the passengers on my train.

# THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MORE HONKING GOOSE THAN GENTLE DOVE

BY ANTHONY SOOHOO, SJ

Most of us are familiar with the traditional images of the Holy Spirit: the dove, the wind, the tongues of fire. In the early Middle Ages, Celtic Christians instead envisioned the Holy Spirit as a wild goose. If you've ever been around geese, you know that they can be loud and uncontrollable. And that's exactly the reason why these Christians chose this symbol. They realized that God's Spirit cannot be tamed. The Holy Spirit wakes us up, energizes and surprises us.

The Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard tells a story about a town where only ducks live. Every Sunday the ducks waddle out of their houses and head to church. They waddle into their pews as the choir waddles in and prepares to sing. Then the duck pastor comes forward, opens the duck Bible and proclaims the Scripture to them, saying: "Ducks! God has given you wings, with which you can fly. No walls can confine you. No fences can hold you. Be free! Soar like the eagles." All the ducks in the congregation shout, "Amen!" And, then, they all waddle home.

The story reminds us we profess our faith, not just with our lips but with our lives. Easter and the resurrection change everything. When we encounter Jesus in Scripture, in prayer, or in the experience of Christian community, we're never left the same but are transformed by grace to become more like God and more authentically ourselves. The same power that raises Jesus from the dead is present and at work in each one of us.

Pentecost is our "Amen," our "Yes," to God's promise and life taking root in us. And that means we can no longer waddle. We must learn to fly. Art Linkletter, the radio and television personality from the 1960's, once was asked what was the key to a fulfilling life. He responded: "Do a little more than you're paid to do. Give a little more than you have to; Try a little harder than you want to; Aim a little higher than you think possible." The Holy Spirit empowers us to be more ourselves, more the people God created us to be. Inspired to use our gifts and talents for the common good, we enter into the very heart and mystery of Christ, who is love, incarnate and poured out for all humanity.

To be a Christian is to love as boldly and as extravagantly as Jesus did. It means making the values of the Gospel



*Wild Goose over a Snowy Pond by Yoshimoto Gesso*

the center of our lives, so that everything we say and do is inspired by Jesus' example of love. And we don't do that alone. By virtue of our baptism and confirmation, we are the Body of Christ, the Church. Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit creates a community of faith where we're supported, nurtured, and challenged. The world and the church—that's where we learn to love. If we pay attention, God teaches us—gently but also sometimes by stretching us—how to live out our baptismal promises, to love unconditionally like Christ.

Geese can teach us a lot about being Church. Geese fly together in a v-formation. Each goose provides additional lift and reduces the air resistance for the one behind it. When the flock works together, they go 70% farther with the same

amount of energy than if each goose flew alone. When we come together as a Church, around our shared values and a common purpose, we do more than we could do alone. In a culture that prizes individualism, we witness to the power of meaningful relationships and vibrant community. In a time of cynicism and division, we show the world that our differences can be a strength rather than a liability. With the help of the Spirit, the Church embraces the creative tension that comes with being one body with many parts.

The goose at the front of the v-formation expends the most energy because it's the first to break up the flow of air, making it easier for those behind it. When it gets tired, however, it drops out of the front position and moves to the rear so that another goose can take the lead. Throughout a long journey this rotation happens many times so that the entire flock can share the burden.

Each of us is called to leadership in the Church. As St. Paul reminds us in the letter to the Corinthians: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone." Similarly, leadership in the Church appears in many different ways. Some lead through song, enlivening our worship by blending their voices with those of others. Some lead by advocating and working on behalf of the poor through their help in food kitchens and homeless shelters. Some lead by teaching and being examples of faith for our young. Some lead through sharing their wisdom and expertise on the parish council. Some lead by their presence, showing hospitality and welcoming all as if they were Christ.

Whatever form our leadership takes, it is about service and discipleship. Jesus, who washed his disciples' feet, is our model. We build up the Body of Christ, not our own egos or agendas. Service is a way of life, and, in order for us to be good leaders, we must be willing to follow Jesus in humility and gentleness. Like the wild and wise geese, we need to discern how and when to use our gifts, and when to encourage and let others take the lead.

Finally, during their long flight together, geese, constantly and loudly, honk at each other, encouraging and communicating with one another. Likewise, being part of a community requires us to be good communicators of our faith. We learn to share our experience of God with one another and with the world, in a way that encourages and consoles. When we experience disappointment or setbacks, Church reminds us to value one another for who we are, not just what we do. On our pilgrim journey, we help one another realize and remember that God

unconditionally loves each of us in a unique and wonderful way.

I think St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus, would've resonated with the image of the Holy Spirit as a wild goose. He was a bit of a wild goose himself, unafraid to learn from his mistakes and to go wherever the Lord led him, trusting that the Spirit, over time, would help him discern how better to serve God's people. His vision of the Church continues to inspire women and men today to work for a faith that does justice throughout the world. We're all called to share in that mission.

And when we're afraid or we don't feel up to the challenge, remember what happened to the disciples at Pentecost. Hiding out of fear for their lives, they must have been frightened out of their wits when tongues of fire appeared over them, but they were not consumed by the flames. Instead, they were transformed, empowered to go forth and preach the good news in every language imaginable.

What began with Jesus at Easter is handed over to you and me and the Church at Pentecost. Jesus' life, death and resurrection bring about a new creation in each of us and in the world around us. God is always calling us forth to something more, to something new. Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit so that we can become discerning disciples, to listen with an open heart and to act boldly and wisely, to patiently embrace the radical, ongoing transformation that is Christian discipleship—even when it's difficult.

God invites each and every one of us to create our own lives. But the life and world that we make is not our own. The Church is a living sign that we depend on God for everything and all are interconnected. Our lives have meaning and purpose. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, it's up to us to discover what that is.

Perhaps your life may be the only Gospel someone ever reads. Perhaps your faith may inspire someone else's good works. Perhaps your love and forgiveness may bring healing and hope to the broken hearted and the downtrodden.

Today on this Feast of Pentecost, we say yes to these possibilities.



*Originally published in America Magazine on June 2, 2025.*

*Anthony SooHoo, SJ is Professore Lettore of Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome.*

# 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](http://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, Letitia Howland, Erin Young, or Kathy Sanders 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 around 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 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.