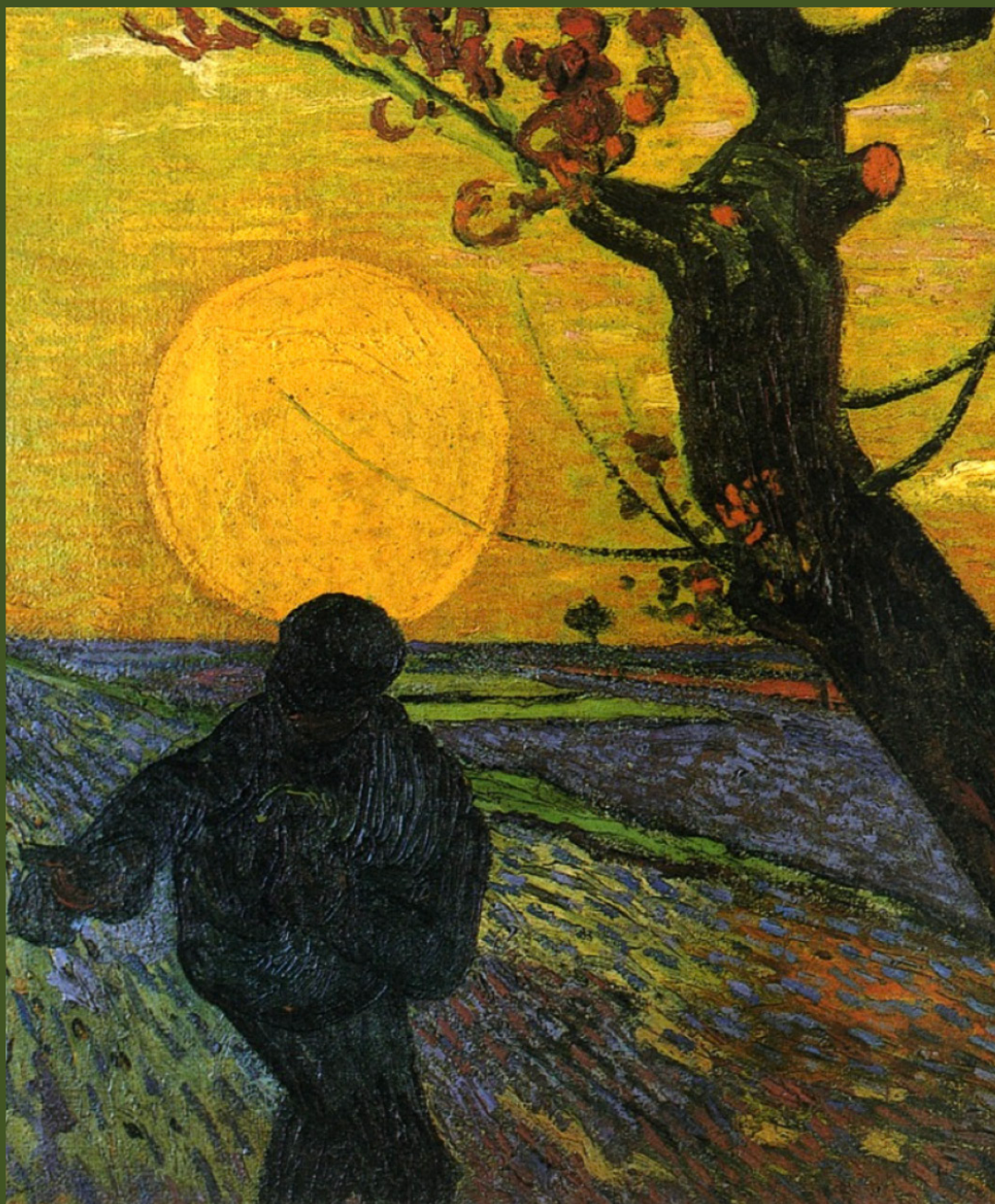


Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Sower with Setting Sun

by Vincent van Gogh (c.1888)

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 July 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

12 JULY 2026

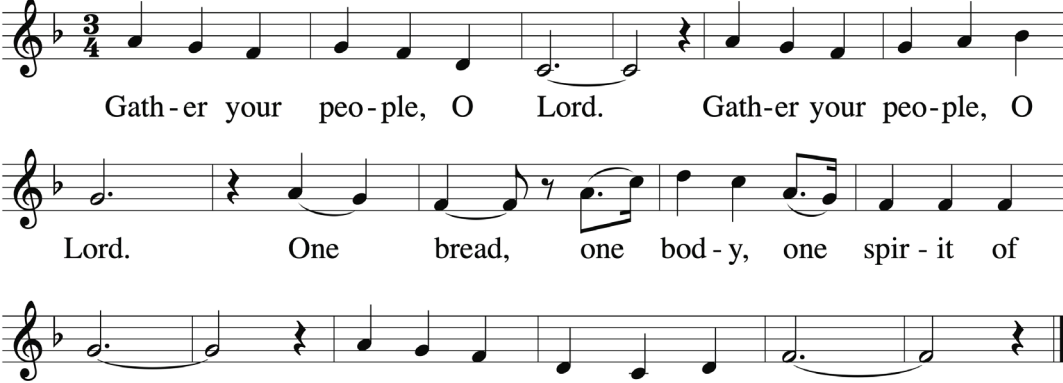
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | *Allegro Assai* from Sonata, Op. 65, No. 4

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

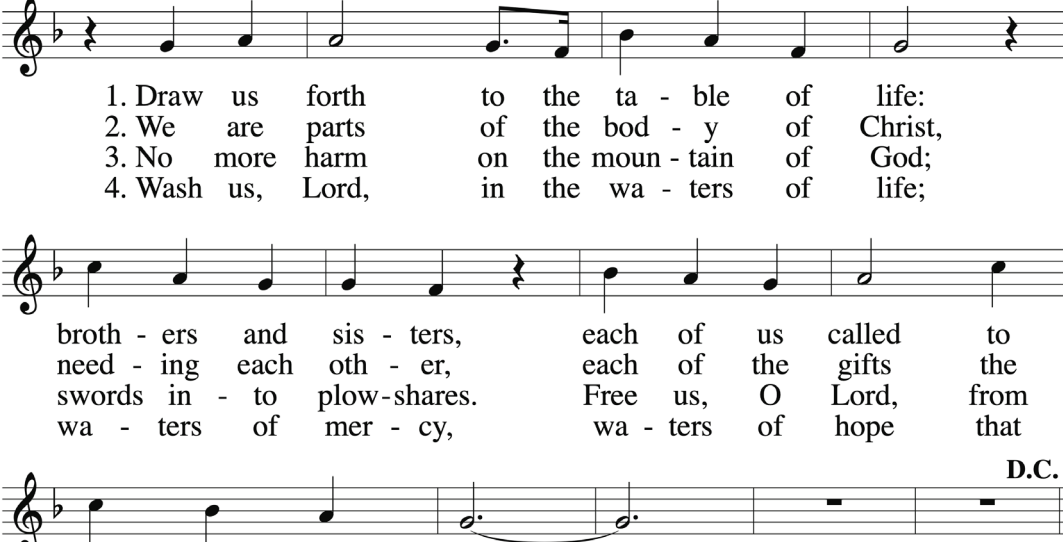
ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Gather Your People

Bob Hurd



Gath - er your peo - ple, O Lord. Gath - er your peo - ple, O
Lord. One bread, one bod - y, one spir - it of
love. Gath - er your peo - ple, O Lord.

Verses



1. Draw us forth to the ta - ble of life:
2. We are parts of the bod - y of Christ,
3. No more harm on the moun - tain of God;
4. Wash us, Lord, in the wa - ters of life;
broth - ers and sis - ters, each of us called to
need - ing each oth - er, each of the gifts the
swords in - to plow-shares. Free us, O Lord, from
wa - ters of mer - cy, wa - ters of hope that
walk in your light.
Spir - it pro - vides.
hard - ness of heart.
flow from your side.

D.C.

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

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. A - men.

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. |

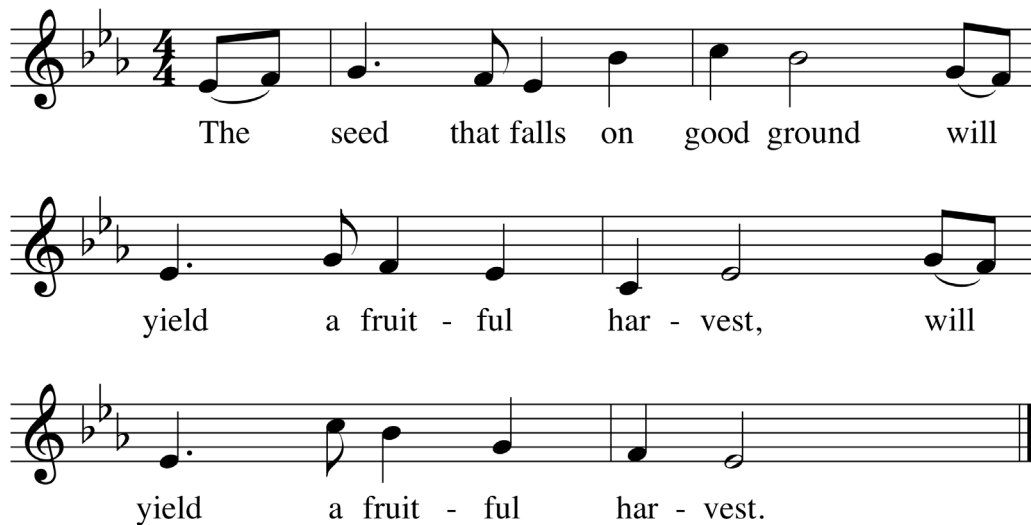
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 55: 10-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 65: The Seed That Falls on Good Ground

Tony E. Alonso

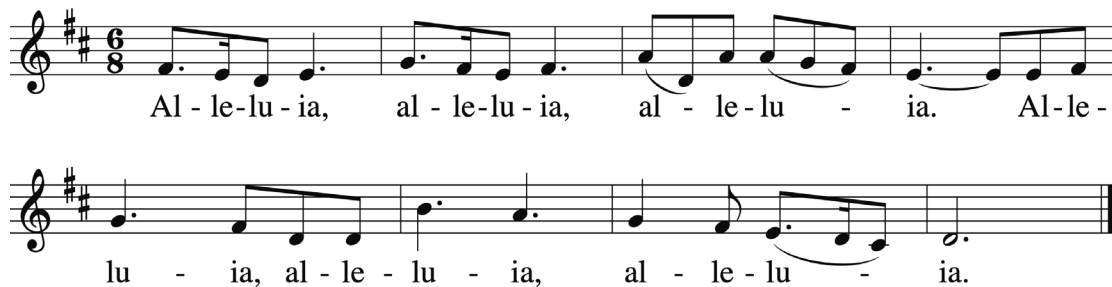


1. You visit the earth, give it water; you fill it with riches. God's ever flowing river brims over to prepare the grain.
2. And thus, you provide for the earth: you drench its furrows; you level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth.
3. You crown the year with your bounty. Abundance flows in your pathways; in pastures of the desert it flows. The hills are girded with joy.
4. The meadows clothed with flocks. The valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy; yes, they sing!

SECOND READING | Romans 8: 18-23

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso



GOSPEL | Matthew 13: 1-23

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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

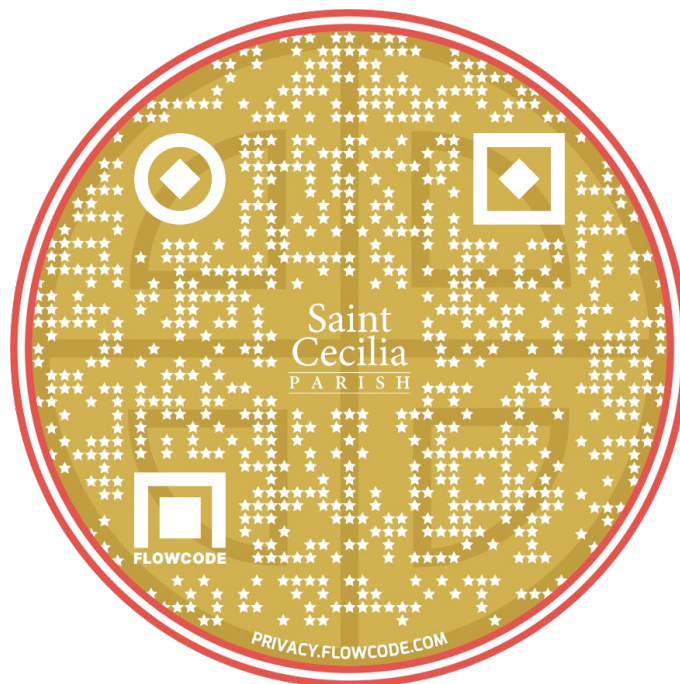
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 | A Generous Heart

Chris de Silva

Refrain



Show us your way, give us on - ly what we need; teach us to
serve as you de - serve. As you emp - tied your-self, let us
give as we re-ceive. Cre - ate in us a gen - er - ous heart.
Cre - ate in us a gen - er - ous heart.

Verses



Cantor:
1. That we may give our all with-out count - ing the cost:
2. To toil for what is right, nev - er look - ing for rest:
Lent: 3. Show us your mer - cy, Lord, as we thirst for your peace:

All: Cre - ate a gen - er - ous heart. *Cantor:* That we may fight for
To la - bor on for
For - give our sins, O

jus - tice, not heed - ing the wounds:
peace, not to ask for re - ward: Change our
Lord, as we yearn for your love:

All: heart, Lord. Cre - ate a gen - er - ous heart. **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

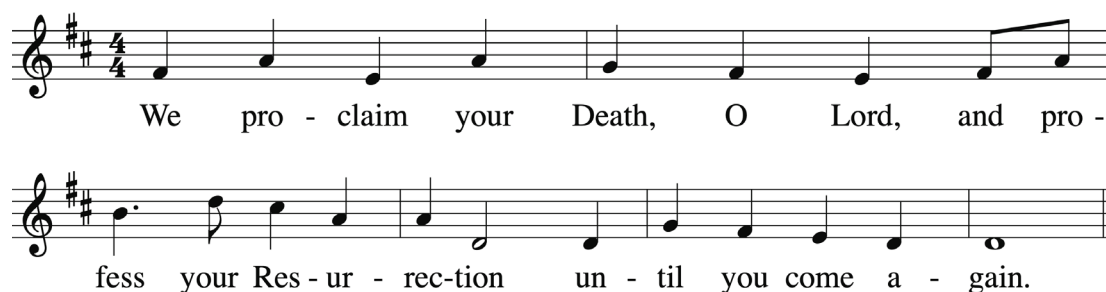
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

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

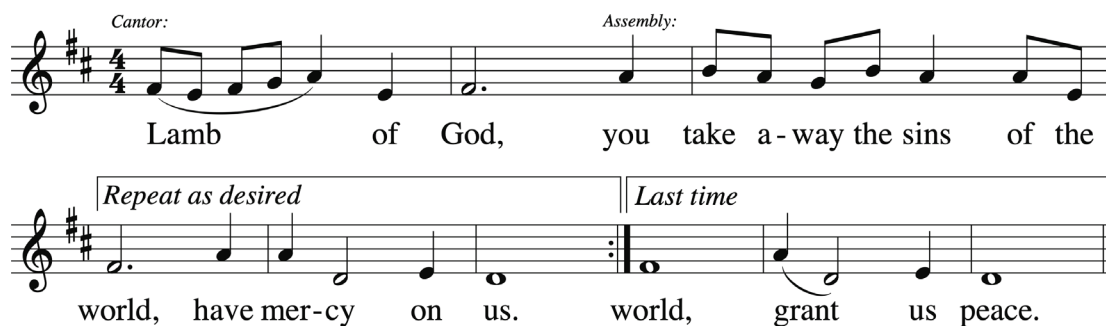
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom,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

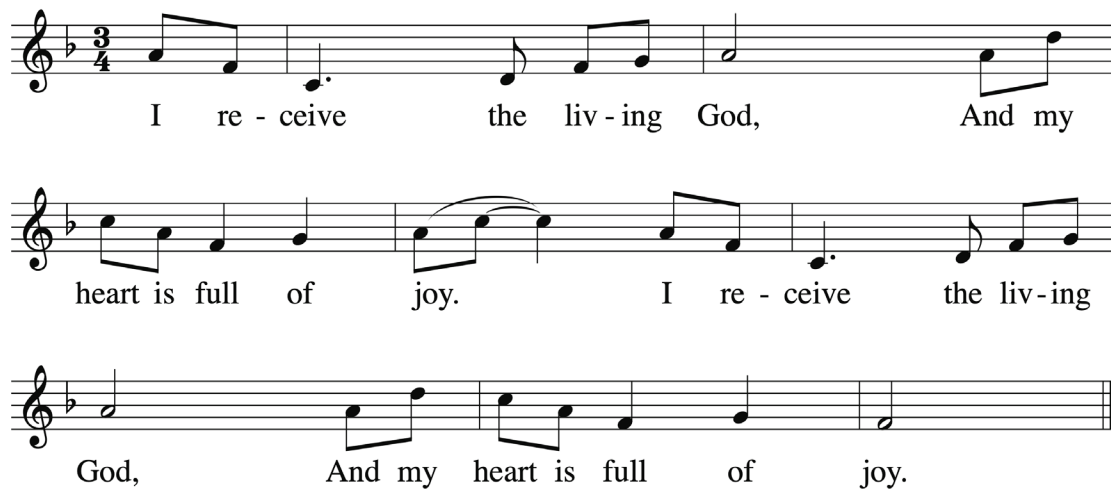
It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an "Act of Spiritual Communion." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of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

LIVING GOD

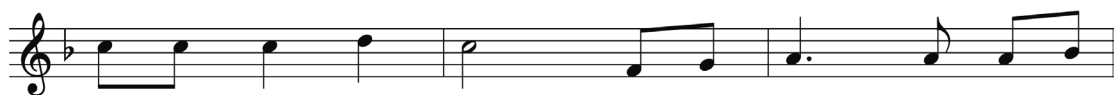


The musical notation is written on a single staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "I re - ceive the liv - ing God, And my heart is full of joy. I re - ceive the liv - ing God, And my heart is full of joy." The music consists of three lines of notes corresponding to these lyrics.

Verses



The musical notation is written on a single staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "1. Je - sus says: I am the Bread Sent to
2. Je - sus says: I am the Vine, Far from
3. Je - sus says: I am the Way, And my
4. Je - sus says: I am the Truth. If you
5. Je - sus says: I am the Life, Raised in
6. Je - sus says: I am the Day, Shin - ing"



you from God Most High. Take and eat, and you will
whom no life can grow. If you join your - self to
path is straight and true. Fol - low me to where I
fol - low close to me, You will know me in your
tri - umph from the dead. As one Bod - y now re -
bright - ly through your night. Wel - come me, and you will



live; You need nev - er fear to die.
me, A rich har - vest you will know.
lead; There my Fa - ther waits for you.
heart, And my word will make you free.
main, Mem - bers joined to me, the Head.
walk By the Spir - it's guid - ing light.

7. Jesus says: I am the Love
Which can bind you close to me.
Those who know this gift I bring
Will find true community.

8. Jesus says: I am the Peace
Which the world cannot bestow.
Learn to love and live in me,
And in you my Reign will grow.

9. Jesus says: I am the Lamb,
And my death set sinners free.
Those who drink the cup I drink
Must take up this work with me.

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 | We Are Your People

SINE NOMINE



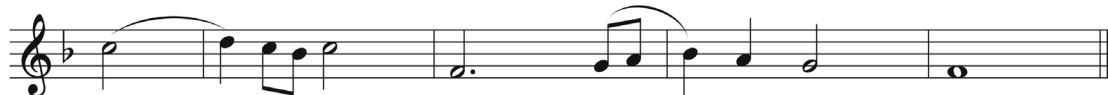
1. We are your peo - ple, called from man - y lands,
2. Root - ed in faith and nour - ished by your word,
3. We find in font and cross our u - ni - ty,
4. Stir us to hear your call, O Christ, and rise,
5. Christ, be the truth by whom our feet are led;



Known by your name, up - held by your strong hands,
Firm in the hope your prom - ise has se - cured,
Yet cel - e - brate our rich di - ver - si - ty.
Striv - ing for right where jus - tice, fal - len, lies,
Christ, be the bread by whom our hearts are fed;



Bear - ing your cross and led by your com - mands.
We bring our love, our lives to you, our Lord.
Bind - ing as one in peace and char - i - ty.
Serv - ing in love where pain for heal - ing cries.
Christ, be our life, our strength through years a - head.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

Felix Mendelssohn

Music in this worship aid is printed with permission under Onelicense.net #A700-137.

For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia,
please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDuff@stceciliaboston.org.

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, July 11 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Dede Simon, lector

Sunday, July 12 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Maggie Giles, lector

Sunday, July 12 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Valerie Sheehy, Chika Offurum, lectors

Sunday, July 12 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Laura Melle, Zachary Boutin, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 12 | 8:00 a.m.

John & Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

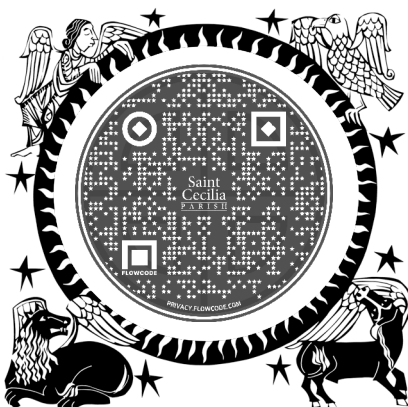
Sunday, July 12 | 9:30 a.m.

Jeffrey C. Larson, *1st Anniversary*
Bill Wallace, *5th Anniversary*
Pauline Yovino, *12th Anniversary*
Marian Clark, *Memorial*
Walter Eugene Conn, *Memorial*

Sunday, July 12 | 11:30 a.m.

Lisett Estevez, *1st Anniversary*
Alice & Walter Doherty, *Memorial*

Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!



TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Cameron Wright** and **Madison Ward, Madeline** and **John Robinson, Alicia Mastroianni,** and **Christine Weiand**. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Special Collection for Venezuela Earthquake Victims (July 18/19)

The Catholic Church, through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is working through Caritas Venezuela and the local Church to deliver emergency shelter, food, safe water, medical care and other critical relief to those affected. With the death toll approaching 1,000 and likely to surpass that, more than 3,000 having been injured and thousands more missing the Church has mobilized and is bringing immediate relief to the people impacted. If you would like to donate this week, please use the following link: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/venezuela-earthquake-victims-special-collection>.

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Credit: Wikimedia

Såmannen (The Sower) by Edvard Munch (c.1913)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

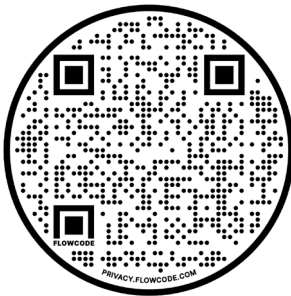
SATURDAY, JULY 11 | 9:30AM | PARISH HALL

Where do we grow from here? This month's discussion will focus on what's on the hearts of women in our parish community as we continue to grow and nurture this new ministry. All are welcome to join. For more information, please reach out to Mary Wessel at her parish email.

SUMMER CHORAL SESSIONS

SUNDAY, JULY 5 | 2PM - 4PM | CLASSROOM 1

This summer, the parish will offer free Sunday afternoon sessions on singing and choral music from June 14-August 23 taught by Tyler Cesario and Kayleigh Bennett. Open to all parishioners, topics include sight-singing, vocal technique, diction, vocal anatomy, harmony and balance, choral stylization, and audition/performance preparation. To register, scan the Flowcode below or visit www.tinyurl.com/summer-choral-sessions.



FAR-FLUNG FLOCK COFFEE HOUR: CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

SUNDAY, JULY 12 | 4PM EST VIA ZOOM

Join us as we welcome members of the Saint Cecilia Climate Justice Group to hear about the Care for God's Creation, one of the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. The global problems of climate change, environmental degradation, and human suffering are addressed in Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'* encyclical. The Climate Justice Group works to educate parishioners about these issues and teachings. We will explain the Season of Creation which we celebrate from September 1st to October 4th, and review the Saint Cecilia Climate Action Plan, as well as discuss what we can all do to live in a more sustainable and just world.

If you wish to receive the Zoom link for this and future FFF activities, sign up for the mailing list using the following link: <https://mailchi.mp/stceciliaboston/far-flung-flock-mailing-list>.

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

JULY 11 - 16

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Women's Ministry Breakfast | 9:30am | Parish Hall

SUNDAY, JULY 12

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 8:30am via Zoom

Choral Workshop | 2pm | Classroom 1

FFF Coffee Hour | 4pm via Zoom

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Anna & Simeon Seniors | 10am | Parish Hall

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 7:30pm via Zoom

ANNA & SIMEON SENIORS

THURSDAY, JULY 16 | 10AM | PARISH HALL

The next Anna and Simeon Seniors Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16. From 10:00 to 10:30 am there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:30 there will be time for prayer. All parish seniors are invited to participate.

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.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP: IN-PERSON

SUNDAY, JULY 19 | 1PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

The death of a loved one can feel confusing and isolating. No one should suffer alone. The bereavement group at Saint Cecilia supports anyone coping with loss. Feel free to grab some coffee and food and join us for an informal group discussion and prayer. For more information, please reach out to Mary Wessel at her parish email.



ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES

SUNDAY, JULY 26 | 11AM | COMMUNITY ROOM

Married couples are warmly invited to join others from the Saint Cecilia Marriage Ministry for a gathering of faith, fellowship, and encouragement. Whether you are newly married or have shared many years together, this gathering is an opportunity to strengthen your relationship with one another and with Christ while connecting with other couples in our parish community.

Come enjoy meaningful conversation, prayer, and community in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Together, we seek to grow in the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage and support one another in living our vocation with joy and hope.



SHAKESPEARE ON THE COMMON & PARISH PICNIC/POTLUCK

**TUESDAY, JULY 28 | PICNIC AT 6:30PM, PLAY AT 8PM
BOSTON COMMON**

For years, Saint Cecilia parishioners have gathered for a parish picnic/potluck prior to Shakespeare on the Common. This year, we invite you to join us for "A Midsummer Night's Dream, Tuesday July 28 on the Boston Common near the Parkman Bandstand. We'll reserve space and have a potluck picnic beforehand, which is a great opportunity to connect with other parishioners! The picnic is at 6:30 p.m. and the play begins at 8 p.m. For more information, please email Jenny Jones. The play is free, though donations to the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company are appreciated: <http://www.commshakes.org/>.

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!

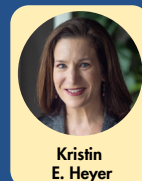
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

WHAT MAKES US HUMAN?

JULY 9 | 6-8PM | SAINT CECILIA CHURCH



Berit Reisenauer
Guidotti



Kristin
E. Heyer



Andrea
Vicini, SJ

Saint Cecilia
PARISH

In case you missed Thursday's panel discussion, *What Makes Us Human*, you can find the livestream on our Youtube channel.

Check it out using the following link: https://youtube.com/live/_61s8t8XtKq?feature=share.

IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS: FALL OPENINGS



Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) New England is interviewing applicants now for fall openings. IVC Service Corps Members combine direct service opportunities at local non-profits serving those in need in our communities with monthly spiritual reflection in the Jesuit tradition. Volunteers, 50 years of age and better, serve one or two full days/week from September through June. For more information and an application, contact IVC New England Director Dave Hinchey at dhinchey@ivcusa.org. Check out our website at www.ivcusa.org/newengland.

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.

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 soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, & shampoo for 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 a few items from the list above 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.

Catholic Charities Boston Volunteer Opportunities

At Catholic Charities Boston, we have volunteer opportunities that create a lasting impact on our families' journey to self-sufficiency.

We would love for you to join us in Boston!

Yawkey Center Food Pantry

Help restock pantry shelves, assist with product selection, client intake, light cleaning, and helping lift and transport light to moderately heavy items.

Shifts are available Mondays through Saturdays in Dorchester.

English Language Learning

Our adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs seeks volunteer teaching assistants. Teaching experience not required, simply bring your kindness, patience, and willingness to help our clients who are excited to be learning English!

Class schedules vary but include weekday day and evening classes in Dorchester, South Boston, and Roxbury.

Family Shelters

Volunteers can work with children in the programs, support Food Bank deliveries, support our technology initiatives, and/or assist program managers with maintaining the shelters' common areas.

Shifts are available throughout the week in Dorchester and Roxbury.

This Summer:

We seek support for the shelters' Greater Boston Food Bank pick-up and deliveries on the fourth Thursday of each month. Volunteers will meet at our Dorchester shelter, ride along with our team to the Greater Boston Food Bank, and help load the van. Volunteers will then help unload the food at our two Dorchester and Roxbury shelters.

We are also seeking volunteers to assist with a basic computer skills class for adult learners. This includes basic computer literacy, online job applications, resume updates. This opportunity has flexible timing.



Catholic
Charities
BOSTON

Interested in these volunteer opportunities?

Please email Katherine Houston at
katherine_houston@ccab.org to get started!



ONLINE RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE: THE 19TH ANNOTATION OF THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISE OF ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

DATES: SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 – APRIL 30, 2027
TUESDAYS VIA ZOOM | 4PM – 5PM EST

This retreat, led by Fr. John Predmore, SJ, will serve those familiar with Ignatian prayer and would like to deepen their faith relationship in a group setting.

This approach invites retreatants to develop a weekly prayer routine, to engage in a prayerful review of each day, and meet individually with a trained retreat director. This retreat makes the depth and grace of the full Exercises accessible to those desire a deepening experience of prayer, discernment, and intimacy with God.

The Retreat in Everyday Life is best suited for individuals who have made a directed Ignatian retreat and can maintain a habit of contemplative prayer. It helps is one is already familiar with spiritual direction and can entrust one's prayer movements to a director.

Fr. Predmore will create a recorded version of the discussion for weekly reflection. Each week's handouts will include a poem, a song, a visual art contemplation, and a reflection on Teilhard de Chardin's *Creation Theology*.

For more information or to sign up for the retreat, please contact Fr. John Predmore, SJ.



GBIO TEAM UPDATE

NEXT PARISH-WIDE MEETINGS:
VIRTUAL: MONDAY, JULY 20 | 6PM
IN-PERSON: WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 | 5PM

The Next Phase - Researching the Reality of the Topics

This is a call to the whole Saint Cecilia Parish GBIO team and anyone in the parish who would like to join in this advocacy process. The mission of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) is to build up power by developing local leaders so we can act together and create lasting change in our communities.

Come to a parish-wide meeting

GBIO's work is rooted in the conviction that lasting change grows from relationships, and that when people of faith come together, they can help shape communities marked by justice, dignity, and care for all.

The Saint Cecilia Parish GBIO team is holding a parish-wide meeting to provide an update, information on how to get involved, and a discussion about the five topics that were identified through the listening sessions at St. Cecilia's and all the member congregations of GBIO. They are **mental health, food insecurity, child care, housing, and education**.

This is an invitation to the entire parish, especially people who might bring different things to our work together—some who've lived these issues firsthand, and others who are gifted at bringing people together around a shared purpose. If you are already an advocate or would like to be an advocate, we encourage you to attend. GBIO's work is accomplished by developing local leaders so we can act together and create lasting change in our communities.

We will be hosting both a virtual meeting and an in-person meeting so you have an opportunity to participate. The content will be the same for both meetings.

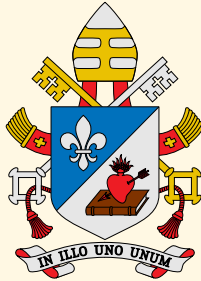
Virtual: Monday, July 20, 2026 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm
In-person: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 from 5:00pm to 6:30

For both meetings, please register by Friday, July 17th by sending an email to the GBIO team.

More opportunities to get involved

We have been hearing that many of you are looking to put your faith into action. As St. Paul reminds us in his first letter to the church of Corinth, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service, but the same Lord."

If you can't make the parish-wide meetings and want to share your thoughts or to speak to a St. Cecilia Parish GBIO team member, send us an email.



Letter of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV on the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States of America

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Americans on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This semiquincentennial marks that defining moment in the history of the United States of America, July 4, 1776, that gave enduring voice to the ideals of liberty, equality, the pursuit of happiness, justice and democratic self-government.

For two and a half centuries, generations of Americans have worked together to carry these principles forward — through sacrifice, service, innovation and civic participation. This anniversary stands as an invitation not only to celebrate the nation’s remarkable journey, but also to reflect upon the responsibilities that the sons and daughters of this country bear to one another, and to the generations who will inherit the nation that is being shaped today.

Among the most cherished of these principles is religious freedom — the right of every person to worship according to conscience and to practice their faith openly, without coercion or fear. In marking this anniversary, it is important to recognize that freedom of religion has long been central to the American promise, protecting both individual dignity and the peaceful coexistence of a diverse people.

This same freedom has permitted the Catholic Church to take root and flourish within the United States, to the advantage not only of her own members, but of the entire nation. As faithful sons and daughters of the Church, Catholics are called to imbue every dimension of their existence with the charity of Christ (cf. 2 Cor 5:14), living out the Gospel in the circumstances of daily life. Such a way of living has given rise to the many benefits that the Church has provided over the years to the development of this nation. In particular, I bring to mind her service in areas of education, the preferential care of the poor, healthcare and basic social services, to name a few.

In the Encyclical *Sapientiae Christianae*, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII wrote that “no better citizen is there... than the Christian who is mindful of his duty” (no. 7). In fact, faith — far from standing in opposition to the responsibilities of citizenship — lends new vigor to the pursuit of justice, peace and the common good, bringing to perfection every natural gift bestowed by the Creator. Saint Paul himself encouraged the early Christians to pray for those in positions of authority in order to live a peaceful life in accord with the will of God (cf. 1 Tim 2:2). In this



regard, it is in the faithful fulfilment of duty – to God and country – that Catholics are called to continue to serve the nation, as leaven for the growth of a civilization of love (cf. Mt 13:33).

Also among the principles that have guided the development of this country is the God-given dignity of every human life, each person being endowed with an inherent worth that calls for reverence, protection and care. In this spirit, a full understanding of this dignity leads to recognizing the importance of safeguarding human life from its beginning at conception until natural death, and of building a society in which the vulnerable, the suffering and the forgotten are always met with compassion, solidarity and love.

Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants, whose hopes, sacrifices and contribution have formed part of the history of this country from its very beginning. In every generation, those who have arrived seeking freedom, opportunity and a place to belong have helped to shape the nation's character. To receive them with compassion and generosity is not only an act of charity, but also a recognition of the dignity that belongs to every human person.

In my recent Encyclical Letter, *Magnifica Humanitas*, I wrote about working together for the common good. “Building a world in which everyone can flourish requires shared responsibility and courage. No one can single-handedly bear the weight of the challenges the world is facing” (no. 13). We need one another, and we need to work together in unity to confront the challenges that the world is facing today.

May this milestone renew the shared commitment to the promise of freedom, justice, opportunity and democracy. May Americans honor the courage and vision of those who came before them by strengthening their communities, respecting their differences and working together toward a more perfect union.

Congratulations on this extraordinary national anniversary. May the spirit of 1776 continue to inspire hope and unity as the United States of America moves into the future. In assuring all of you of my prayers in your renewed efforts to strengthen the nation in the principles that guided its Founding Fathers, I entrust you to the intercession of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of this country, that she will continue to watch over America and protect all who dwell therein.

From the Vatican, June 25, 2026

Leone PP. XIV

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.