

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Wheat and Weeds

by Jim Janknegt

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 July 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

19 JULY 2026

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | *Vater Unser im Himmelreich*

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN



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



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



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



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



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: Amen.

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

GLORIA | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony 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. |

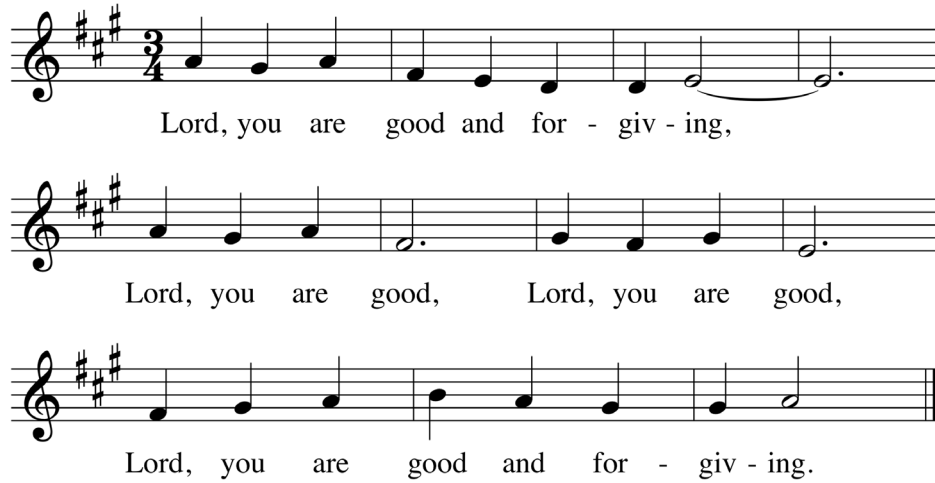
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 86: Lord, You are Good and Forgiving

Tony E. Alonso



Lord, you are good and for - giv - ing,

Lord, you are good, Lord, you are good,

Lord, you are good and for - giv - ing.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, and attend to my voice in supplication.
2. All the nations you have made shall come; they will bow down before you,
O Lord, and glorify your name, for you are great and do marvelous deeds, you who alone are God.
3. But you, O God, are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, O Lord, abundant in mercy and fidelity;
turn and take pity on me. O give your strength to your servant.

SECOND READING | Romans 8: 26-27

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso



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 | Matthew 13: 24-43

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

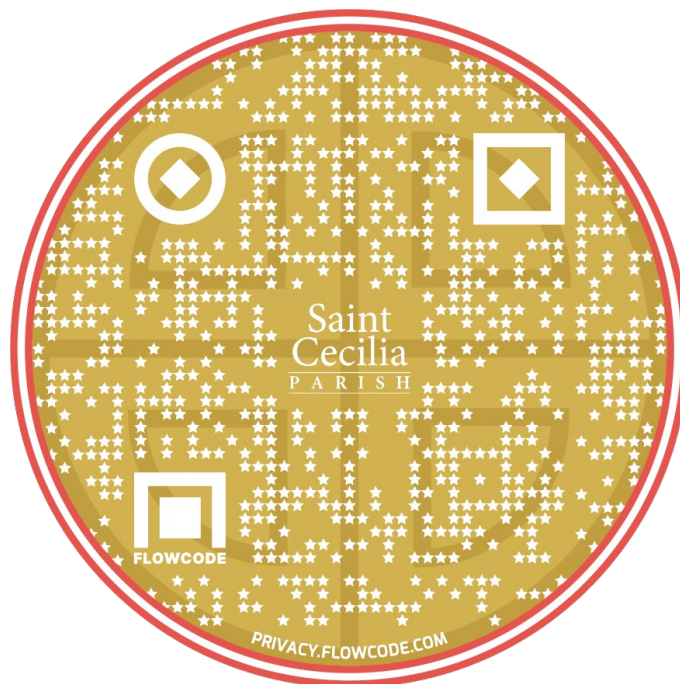
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

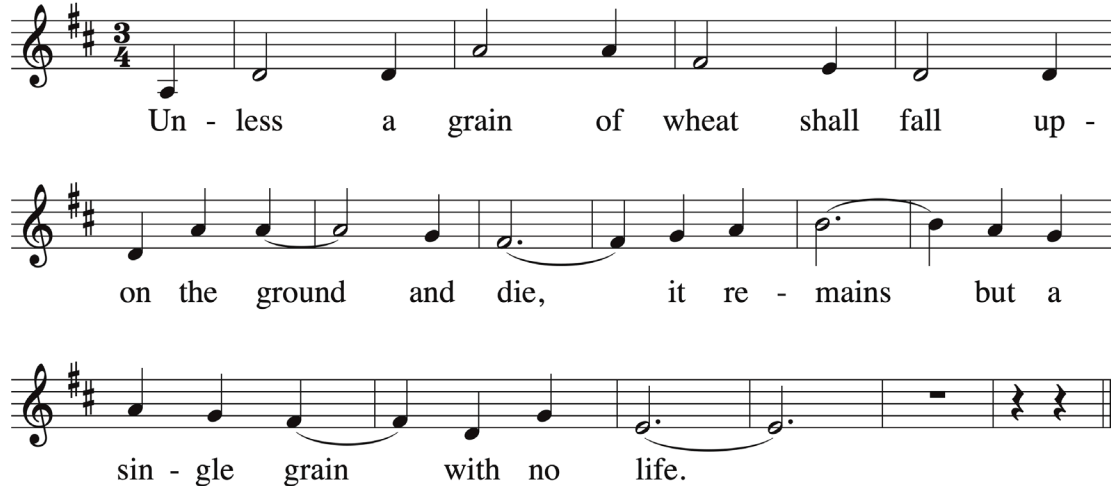


LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Unless a Grain of Wheat

Bernadette Farrell

Refrain



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

Verses



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



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



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

D.C.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✕ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✕ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✕ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

SANCTUS | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso



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

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

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

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

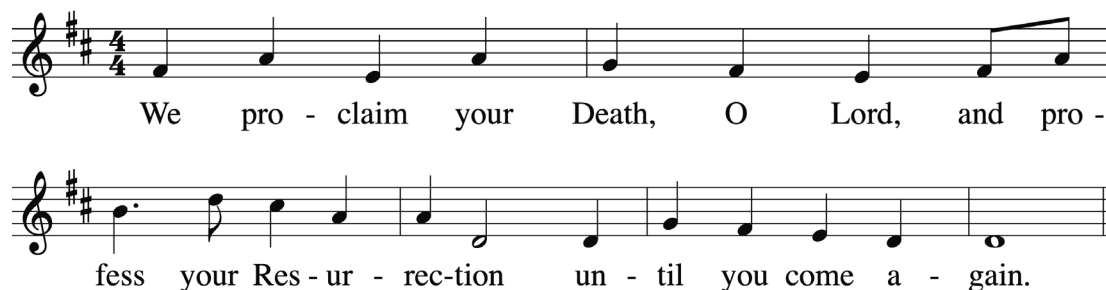
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

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

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso



AMEN | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso



THE LORD'S PRAYER

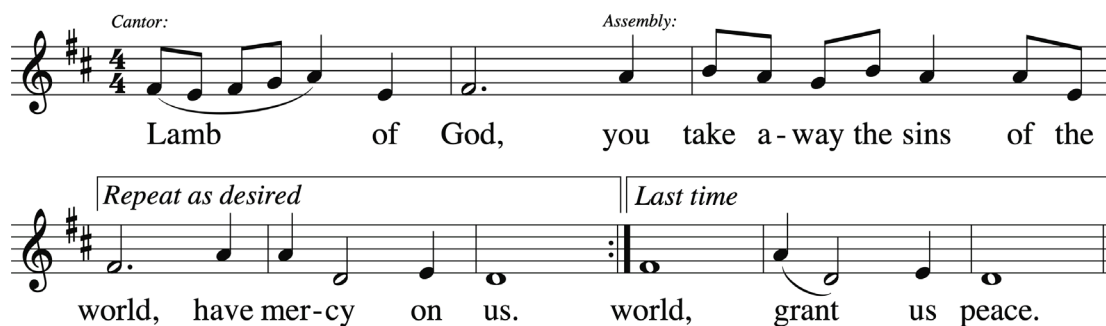
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,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

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

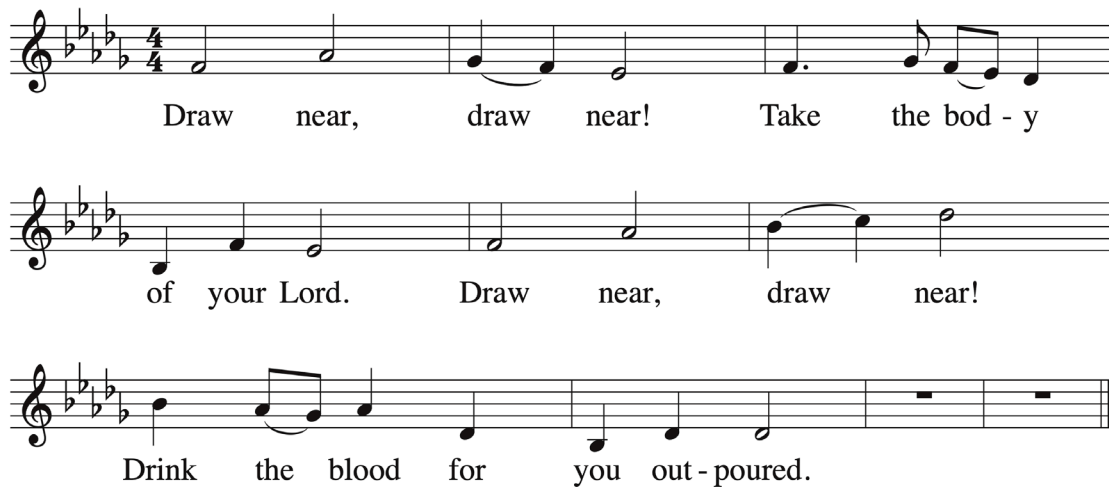
It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an "Act of Spiritual Communion." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

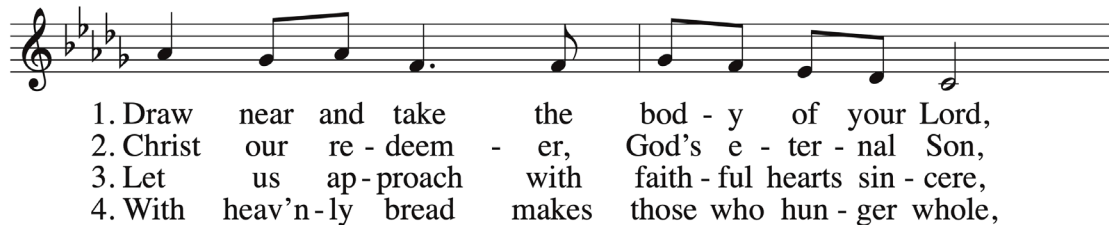
COMMUNION | Draw Near

Steven R. Janco



Draw near, draw near! Take the bod - y
of your Lord. Draw near, draw near!
Drink the blood for you out - poured.

Verses



1. Draw near and take the bod - y of your Lord,
2. Christ our re - deem - er, God's e - ter - nal Son,
3. Let us ap - proach with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,
4. With heav'n - ly bread makes those who hun - ger whole,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out-poured:
Has by his cross and blood the vic - t'ry won:
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here:
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul:



Saved by his bod - y and his ho - ly blood, With
He gave his life for great - est and for least, Him -
Christ who in this life all the saints de-fends, Gives
Judge of the na - tions, to whom all must bow, In



souls re - freshed we give our thanks to God.
self the of - 'fring and Him - self the Priest.
all be - liev - ers life that nev - er ends.
this great feast of love is with us now.

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.



1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2. Lord, you call us to your serv - ice: "In my name bap -
 3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4. Lord, you show us love's true meas - ure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the Church ne - glect its mis - sion
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate treas - ure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



And the Gos - pel go un - heard, Help us wit - ness
 Life a - bun - dant meant for each, Give us all new
 Dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, Ask - ing that the
 All that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 May we serve as you in - tend, And, a - mid the



to your pur - pose With re - newed in - teg - ri - ty;
 fer - vor, draw us Clos - er in com - mun - i - ty;
 world a - round us Share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty;
 mer - cy lead us To a just so - ci - e - ty;
 cares that claim us, Hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty;



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us For the work of min - is - try.

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 18 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Elli St George, lector

Sunday, July 19 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Linda Frayling, lector

Sunday, July 19 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, Tom Comparato, Maggie Giles, lectors

Sunday, July 19 | 11:30 a.m.

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

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

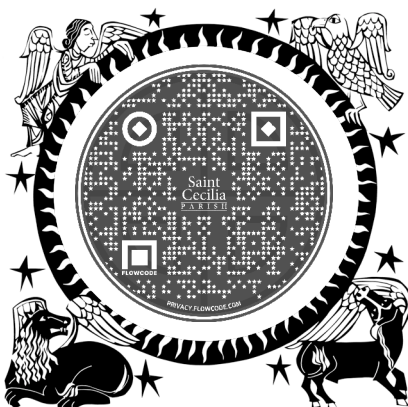
Sunday, July 19 | 9:30 a.m.

Margaret Hinsdale Pometta, *14th Anniversary*
Peter McIntyre-Wheatley, *Memorial*
Dr. Rodney Oudan, *Memorial*
Angela Costa, *Memorial*
Ellen Martin, *Memorial*
Ann Harrington, *Memorial*
Dan Harrington III, *Memorial*
Dr. Michael O'Leary, *Memorial*

Wednesday, July 22 | 8:00 a.m.

Raffaele Santoro, *Memorial*

Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!



TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Mary Jane Kinne died on July 8. Pray for the repose of her soul and for the consolation of her family and friends. The funeral Mass will be celebrated at Saint Cecilia on July 29th at 11:00 a.m. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Blaise Capelli** and **Amanda Fava**, and **Sarah Page**. 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 online, please use the following link: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/venezuela-earthquake-victims-special-collection>.

Remembering the Children of Gaza

In this time of ongoing humanitarian suffering, we continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land and throughout the world. We hold especially in prayer the children and families of Gaza who have endured unimaginable loss, displacement, hunger, and the constant search for safety. As Pope Leo has said, *"From the Gaza Strip, the cries of mothers and fathers rise to the heavens as they hold the lifeless bodies of their children and are forced to constantly move in search of a bit of food and a safer shelter from the bombings."*

Saint Cecilia has been invited to participate in the Children's Shroud, an interfaith memorial in which Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities inscribe the names of children who have died in Gaza. The completed shroud will be displayed during a public prayer vigil in Washington, DC, as a witness to the dignity of every human life and a prayer for peace. We have been entrusted with 500 names. After the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies on July 26 and August 9, parishioners are invited to join us in the Classroom 1 to prayerfully inscribe these names. We hope you'll take part in this simple act of remembrance, prayer, and hope.

Pick Up A Copy of *Magnifica Humanitas*

If you are interested in reading *Magnifica Humanitas*, copies are available in the narthex to pick up. You can also watch last week's panel discussion, *What Makes Us Human?*, on our Youtube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61s8t8XtKq&t=3865s>.

We Remember in Prayer

Pray for Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, 52, and Joan Sebastian Guerrero, 26, children of God whose lives ended tragically. We pray for the repose of their souls, for comfort and strength for their families and loved ones, and for all those who suffer because of violence, fear, and injustice. May God deepen in us a commitment to honor the dignity of every person and to be instruments of peace and healing in our world.

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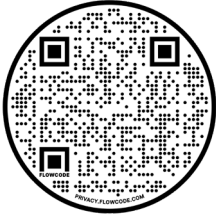
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Illumination from Tacuina Sanitatis (14th Century)

SUMMER CHORAL SESSIONS

SUNDAY, JULY 19 | 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.

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.

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

JULY 19 - 23

SUNDAY, JULY 19

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 8:30am via Zoom
Summer Choir Sunday | 8:30am | Classroom 1
Bereavement Group | 1pm | Community Room
Choral Workshop | 2pm | Classroom 1

MONDAY, JULY 20

Virtual GBIO Parish-Wide Meeting | 6pm via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

GBIO Parish-Wide Meeting | 5pm | Parish Hall

THURSDAY, JULY 23

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 7:30pm via Zoom



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/>.

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 Hinch. Check out their website at www.ivcusa.org/newengland.

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!

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.

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 at gbio@stceciliaboston.org.

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, reach out to us at gbio@stceciliaboston.org.

WELCOME TO OUR DIRECTOR OF FAMILY AND YOUTH FAITH FORMATION, KATE BURNS!



Kate has been an educator for over 10 years and spent most of those years as a middle school Social Studies teacher and department head. Most recently, she served as the Mission and Identity Coordinator at the Nativity School of Worcester. In that role, she supported and encouraged the prayer lives and lived experience of faith for students and faculty including planning

and facilitating student retreats throughout the year. Kate also volunteered as a catechist for several years at St. Ignatius Parish in Chestnut Hill. She is glad to join the Saint Cecilia community and staff! In her free time, Kate loves to sing, travel to visit friends and family around the country, and play board games.

Kate will spend much of her time this summer connecting with parishioners to learn more about what they appreciate about existing Faith Formation programming at Saint Cecilia and how they would like to see the program change and grow. She will also be collaborating with the high school students of the parish and their families to put on events for teens that they find meaningful and engaging. Kate was drawn to St. Cecilia largely due to the community's rootedness in Catholic Social Teaching and looks forward to supporting the parish in forming young people who engage in the world around them with a strong faith in God, an understanding of their own unique gifts, and opportunities to bring those gifts to bear for causes they care about.

A graphic for the 'Back-to-School Drive' featuring various school supplies like pencils, paper clips, and a ruler on a dark background. The title 'BACK-TO-SCHOOL Drive' is prominent at the top.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL Drive

Saint Cecilia is once again collecting backpacks and school supplies for the children of the families helped by the Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry.

In addition to the backpacks, we are requesting items that will be used to fill the backpacks: spiral notebooks, 3-ring binders, folders, dry erase markers, pens, pencils, pencil cases and copy paper.

There will be bins in the narthex if you would like to provide any of the items above.

To make it easier to participate in the Back-To-School Drive, you can scan the Flowcode on the right below.

Thank you so much for your dedication to improving the lives of the kids in Greater Boston.

To access the Amazon Wishlist, scan the Flowcode above or use the following link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11Q1I35W4EGYE?ref=wl_share

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.

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.

BEREAVEMENT ONLINE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 | 6PM VIA ZOOM

When a loved one dies, everything changes. At Saint Cecilia, we believe no one should walk alone in grief and loneliness. Wherever you are in your grief, you're welcome here. No pressure. No timeline. Just an open, steady invitation to join a supportive community. Please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email for the Zoom link.

SPACE TO SHARE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 | 6:30PM
COMMUNITY ROOM

Space to Share is a place for LGBTQ+ parishioners to speak freely about the challenges and joys of being LGBTQ+ and Catholic (or whatever else is on our minds). Whether it's your first visit or you're a biweekly regular, we'd love to have you join us! To learn more, please send an email to the ministry.

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!**

OCIA INFORMATION SESSION

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19 | 6PM VIA ZOOM

Interested in becoming Catholic? Order of Christian Initiation of Adults The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) the primary process for adults to become full members of the Catholic Church. OCIA welcomes inquirers at all levels of knowledge, faith, and intent. The process culminates in the reception of one or more of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. OCIA could be for you if you are an adult who has never been baptized, if you were baptized in another Christian denomination, or if you are seeking First Holy Communion and Confirmation. To learn more or get the Zoom link, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.



LIVING IN THE FIELD OF MAYBE

BY MICHAEL K. MARSH

"Let both of them grow together," says the farmer in today's gospel (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43), referring to the wheat and the weeds. Is that what you do? Do you just let the weeds keep on growing? Does that make sense to you? I'll bet it didn't make sense to the workers who want to gather up and get rid of the weeds.

It doesn't make much sense to me either. I have a hard time letting both the wheat and the weeds grow together. For me, and maybe for you too, it's pretty simple. Wheat is good. Weeds are bad. Wheat feeds and nourishes my life. Weeds take up space and choke life.

Yesterday I was on my knees in the back yard pulling weeds out of my garden. At least, I think they were weeds. I didn't plant them but, honestly, I don't know what they were. And maybe that's the point Jesus is making. We often don't know. It's sometimes difficult to distinguish the wheat from the weeds, whether they're in the garden of our back yard or the garden of our life.

I wonder what's growing in the garden of your life today. What are you classifying as wheat? And what are you classifying as weeds? When you look back on your life have you ever been wrong about which was which? Have you ever changed your mind about what is wheat and what is a weed? Sometimes it's just not as clear cut as we think it is or would like it to be.

Today's parable reminds me of an ancient Chinese story¹. It goes something like this.

Once upon a time there was a farmer who lost a horse. It ran away. His neighbors came that evening and said, "That's unfortunate." And the farmer said, "Maybe."

The next day the horse returned and brought with it seven wild horses. The neighbors came back and said, "That's great, isn't it?" And the farmer said, "Maybe."

The next day the farmer's son was attempting to tame one of the wild horses when he was thrown and broke his leg. Again, the neighbors came to the farmer and said, "Well, that's too bad, isn't it?" And the farmer said, "Maybe."

The next day the conscription officers came looking for people for the army but they rejected the farmer's son because he had a broken leg.



The Parable of the Weeds by Domenico Fetti

The neighbors came around that evening and said, "Isn't that wonderful?" And the farmer said, "Maybe." Is that wheat growing in your garden? Maybe. Or is it a weed? Maybe. Is that wheat growing in the garden of another? Maybe. Or is it a weed? Maybe.

I wish life was as simple as weeds or wheat. I wish it was as easy as getting on my knees and pulling some weeds. But it's not. I have wheat and weeds growing in the garden of my life. I suppose you do too. More and more, however, I'm finding my life to be an intertwined and complicated maybe.

It's so easy and tempting to categorize events, experiences, others, even parts of ourselves as either wheat or weeds. Listen to the rhetoric of our politicians, read the posts on social media, pay attention to your opinions and judgments

Credit: Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

of yourself and others. It's usually either wheat or weeds and we're pretty darn sure which is which. Haven't you done that? I have.

That's what the workers are doing in today's parable. They want to pull some weeds. They are sure they can tell the difference between the wheat and the weeds. But the weeds referenced in the parable aren't just ordinary weeds. It's what is sometimes called false wheat. It grows alongside wheat and it looks like wheat. Its roots and the roots of the wheat intertwine. You can't really tell the difference until both plants mature. Until then, it's a maybe.

That's why the farmer tells the workers, "In gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let them both grow together." The farmer knows that with maturity the workers will see the difference between the wheat and the weeds. And I'm not talking about the maturity of the plants only. I'm also talking about the maturity of the workers, your maturity and mine. Haven't there been times when you said or thought, "I wish I knew then what I know now"? With maturity our seeing changes. We have the benefit of more experience, a deeper understanding, and greater wisdom. And the world today sure could use more of that. So could I. What about you?

So what would it be like and what would it take to live more in the maybe of life than in the separation of wheat and weeds? What if maybe is what holds the door open for the future?

Maybe keeps us from claiming to know more than we really do or can know. It's slow to make a final judgment or conclusion. It asks us to be willing to be surprised and live with curiosity. It offers another and ourselves the benefit of the doubt. It allows time for growth, change, and new possibilities. Maybe keeps our hearts soft and our eyes open.

Maybe is a field of possibilities and hope. Maybe it's a field of wheat. Maybe it's a field of weeds. Maybe tomorrow will be better. Maybe tomorrow will be worse. I don't know but I want to show up and find out, don't you? I want to give life a chance. I want to give you and others a chance. I want to give myself a chance. I want to give God a chance.

I don't want to be too quick to assume that I know who or what are the wheat and who or what are the weeds.

What if you, I, and this parish, were to live in the tension between the wheat and the weeds? Is it wheat or a weed? Yeah, maybe. And what would it be like to offer your maybe to the world, others, and yourself? I wonder what possibilities and hope that might offer.

When you look at the garden of your life today – all the things that look like wheat, all the things that look like weeds, all the things you are unclear about – what's the

maybe for you? What's the maybe you need today? To whom or what do you need to say, "Maybe"?



Originally published on Interrupting the Silence on July 23, 2023.

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

¹ *The story of the Chinese farmer is often attributed to Alan Watts. Though he used it in his teaching, it comes from the Huainanzi, an ancient Chinese text from around 139 BCE.*



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
Kate Burns, Director of Family and Youth Faith Formation
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
tcesario@stceciliaboston.org
Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist
Brett Maguire, Parish Organist
bmaguire@stceciliaboston.org

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show
Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer
Christian Chanderdatt, Audio Engineer

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.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Director of Family and Youth Faith Formation, Kate Burns.

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.

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.