

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Large Figural Scene Stencil Print

Sadao Watanabe c.1962

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6 July 2025

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

6 JULY 2025

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | *Veni Creator, Récit de Cromorne*

Nicolas de Grigny
(1672-1703)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Lord, You Give the Great Commission

HYMN TO JOY



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.

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 66: 10-14c

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 66: Let All the Earth

Marty Haugen

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for 'Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord;'. The second staff contains the melody for 'Let all the earth cry out in joy to the'. The third staff contains the melody for 'Lord! Lord! to the Lord!', with a repeat sign and first/last endings indicated above the staff.

Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord;

Let all the earth cry out in joy to the

Lord! Lord! to the Lord!

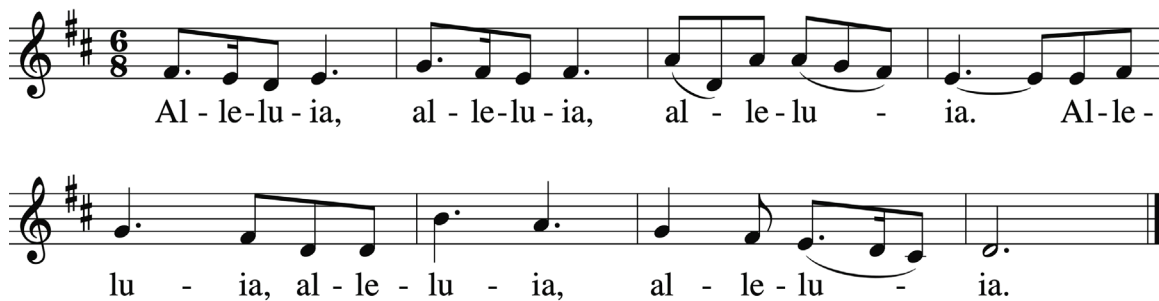
Verses

1. Cry out in joy to the Lord, all peoples on earth,
sing to the praise of God's name, proclaiming for ever,
"tremendous your deeds for us."
2. Leading your people safe through fire and water,
bringing their souls to life, we sing of your glory, your love is eternal.
3. Hearken to me as I sing my love of the Lord,
who answers the prayer of my heart. God leads me in safety, from death unto life.

SECOND READING | Galatians 6: 14-18

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony E. Alonso



GOSPEL | Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20

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!

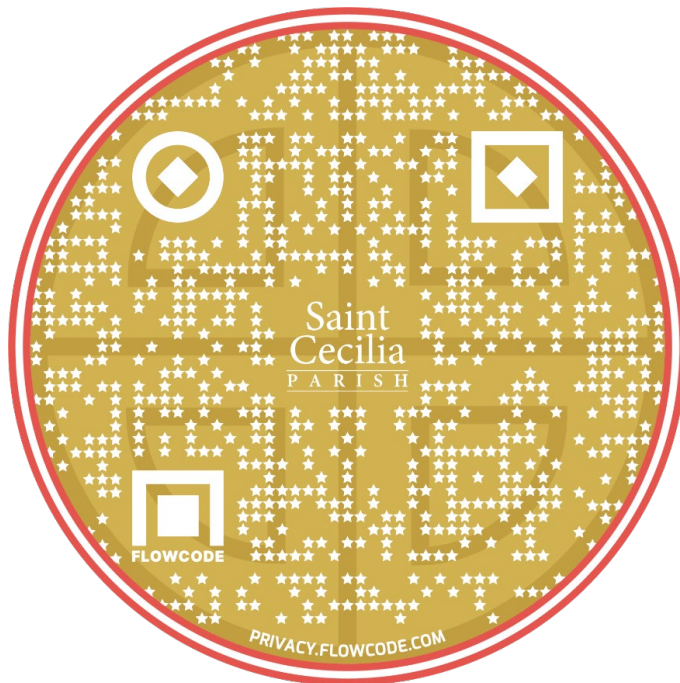
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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



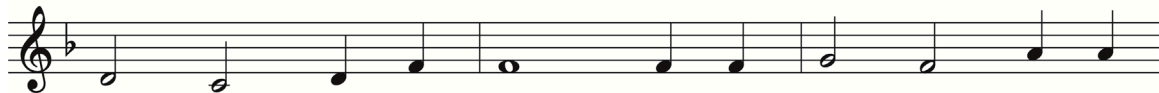
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | As a Fire is Meant for Burning

BEACH SPRING



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are
3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a



bright and warm-ing flame, So the Church is meant for
pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are
sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of



mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name.
giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay.
one - ness Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hues.



As we wit - ness to the gos - pel, We would
By our gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would
As a rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a



build a bridge of care, Join - ing hands a - cross the
show that Christ is light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning
storm is past and gone, May our lives re - flect the



na - tions, Find - ing neigh - bors ev - 'ry - where.
Spir - it, We would live to God's de - light.
ra - diance Of God's new and glor - ious dawn.

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 -

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 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



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

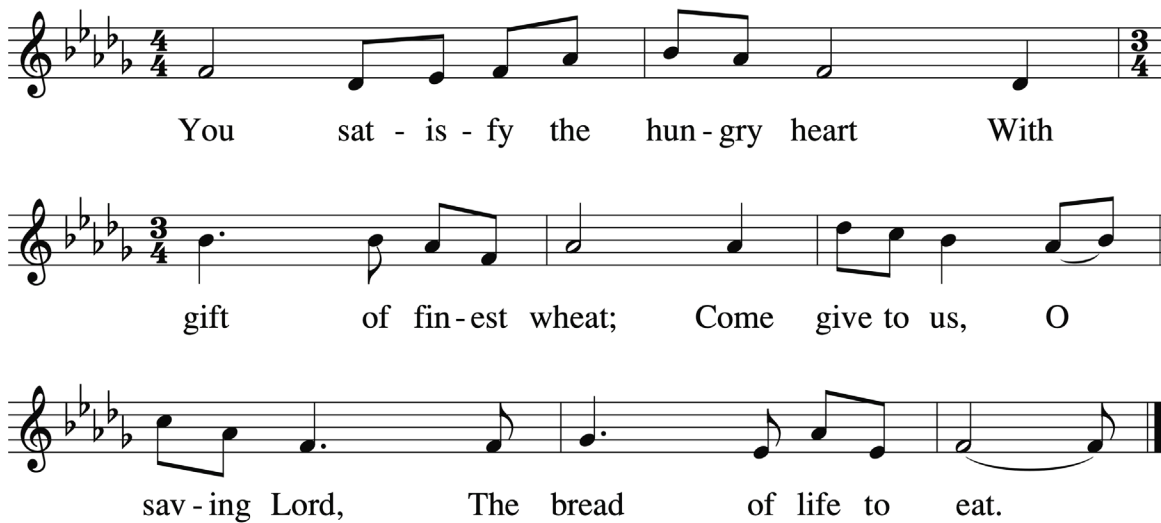
It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an "Act of Spiritual Communion." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of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

BICENTENNIAL



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart With
gift of fin - est wheat; Come give to us, O
sav - ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

Verses



1. As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They
2. With joy - ful lips we sing to you Our
3. Is not the cup we bless and share The
4. The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, No
5. You give your - self to us, O Lord; Then

know and heed his voice; So when you call your
praise and grat - i - tude, That you should count us
blood of Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
mor - tal tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
self - less let us be, To serve each oth - er



fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
in your name In truth and char - i - ty.

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. Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth. Go
 2. Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place. Go
 3. Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless and pray. The
 4. Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, For



preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth, Bap -
 live the Word of God's re - deem - ing grace. Go
 nights of tears give way to joy - ous day. As
 I am with you till the age shall end, When



tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 seek God's pres - ence in each time and space. Al -
 ser - vant Church you fol - low Christ's own way.
 all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"



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

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 5 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Catherine Horsely, lector

Sunday, July 6 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Linda Frayling, lector

Sunday, July 6 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, Jen Kowieski, Maggie Giles,
lectors

Sunday, July 6 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Kelly McClintock, Uma Staehler, Thomas O'Brien,
lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 6 | 9:30 a.m.

LuAnn Santillo, *Memorial*

Friday, July 11 | 8:00 a.m.

Joseph Kane, *5th Anniversary*

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 66:10-14c
Galatians 6:14-18
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 9

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 30:10-14
Colossians 1:15-20
Luke 10:25-37



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, and Maureen McLaughlin.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Susan Zabel** of Rice Lake, WI, **Kathleen Hanlon** and **Michael Larimore** of Bedford, **Colin Forbes** and **Quynh Vo** of Needham, and **Philip O'Rourke, Renata Ferrari, Brenna Husk, and Harrison Ahearn**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

No Coffee Hospitality (July 6th)

There will be no coffee hospitality in the parish hall this Sunday (**July 6th**) as we want to give our hardworking hospitality team time off to enjoy the holiday!

2025 Summer Choir Sundays: July 20th & August 24th

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!

Summer Choral Opportunities at Saint Cecilia

This summer the parish will present a series of eight Thursday evening workshops, open to all parishioners, focusing on singing and choral music. From July 3 to August 28, explore various aspects of music and performance, including:

- Introduction to Sight Singing
- Vocal Technique
- Diction and Language
- Vocal Anatomy
- Achieving Harmony and Balance
- Choral Stylization Techniques
- Audition and Performance Preparation

There is no cost to attend one, a few, or all of these enriching sessions. Workshops will take place from 7 to 9 P.M. and participants must sign up at least 24 hours in advance. To sign up, please scan the Flowcode:



Catholic Appeal

There's still time to respond in faith, hope, and charity by making a gift to this year's Catholic Appeal. Your contribution supports ministries and outreach services that bring Christ's love to those in need.

You can donate by scanning the QR code below or by visiting: <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate1/>. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!



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SIMEON AND ANNA SENIORS

THURSDAY, JULY 10 | 10AM | PARISH HALL

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

FFF COFFEE HOUR: TOM DWYER FROM *A FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE*

SUNDAY, JULY 13 | 4PM VIA ZOOM

Join us for our next online FFF Coffee Hour, where we'll welcome Tom Dwyer, president and executive director of A Faith That Does Justice (AFTDJ). Founded in 2015 by the late Father Peter Gyves, SJ, MD, AFTDJ is an interfaith organization that inspires intentional faith in action, fostering a deeper experience of the Divine through service to others. Tom will speak about the mission of AFTDJ and lead a thought-provoking conversation on two essential questions: "Who is our neighbor?" and "How do we respond when neighbors come to us in need?" We'll explore how living beyond ourselves and on behalf of others can be transformative, leading to an encounter with the Transcendent. Whether you're local to Boston or joining from anywhere in the world, we invite you to tune in and learn about opportunities to participate in the mission of AFTDJ, both in person and remotely. We look forward to a lively and enriching discussion!

To register, please email the ministry and include your name and address.

JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY

**SATURDAY, JULY 12 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
PARISH HALL**

Join fellow parishioner, Glenn A. Sōrei Pereira, an instructor of chado, the Way of Tea, for the art of the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Through this carefully choreographed experience, learn how it's more than a ritual for drinking tea but has spiritual roots designed to foster harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility. Through mindful preparation, precise movements, and the appreciation of simple elements, the ceremony aims to cultivate inner peace and a deeper connection with oneself and one another. Please RSVP by emailing Mary Wessel at her parish email.



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

SUNDAY, JULY 20 | 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 meetings are July 20 and August 17, the third Sunday of the month, at 1pm (Community Room). 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. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mary Wessel, Michael Murphy PhD, or Kathy Sanders MD. Please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) if you need any email addresses shared — our receptionists will be happy to help!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

**INFORMATION SESSION: WEDNESDAY, JULY 16
6PM VIA ZOOM**

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring becoming Catholic or is a baptized Catholic who would like to complete your Christian initiation by reception of the sacraments of reconciliation, confirmation, and Eucharist, perhaps this is the time to learn more about the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA, formerly known as RCIA). OCIA is a communal process of discernment and support where participants share their stories, witness to their faith, and help one another grow in their love of God and the Church. OCIA includes study, faith sharing, and prayer, marked by liturgical rites and accompanied by the support of the parish community.

If you are interested in growing in relationship with Jesus Christ and learning more about what it means to follow him as a Catholic Christian, please join us for an introductory Zoom meeting on Wednesday, July 16, at 6:00 p.m. For more information or to obtain the Zoom link, please email Mary Wessel at her parish email.

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 social service programs offered in that facility, especially the Families in Transition program. What you may not know is that the Huntington Avenue Y is the oldest in the United States and the cornerstone for the 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, aged 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: *Hunger and Homelessness Ministry, Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115*. Thanks as always for your accustomed generosity

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!



COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

JULY 3 - JULY 10

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Summer Choral Workshop | 7pm | Classroom 1

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

FRIDAY, JULY 4

Independence Day | Parish Office Closed

Daily Mass | 8am

SUNDAY, JULY 6

No Coffee Hospitality

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

Simeon & Anna Seniors | 10am | Parish Hall

SAVE THE DATE!

2025/2026 Parish Retreat Schedule

FALL RETREAT

Sept. 13 | 9am - 3pm | Saint Cecilia Church

Registration Opens: August 15

Requested Contribution: \$25/pp

GLOUCESTER RETREAT

Nov. 14 - 16 | Eastern Point Retreat House

Registration Opens: August 15

Requested Contribution: \$350/pp

ADVENT RETREAT

Dec. 13 | 9am - 3pm | Saint Cecilia Church

Registration Opens: November 14

Requested Contribution: \$25/pp

LENTEN RETREAT

Mar. 13 | 9am - 3pm | Saint Cecilia Church

Registration Opens: February 13

Requested Contribution: \$25/pp

HOW TO PUT OUR 'BIG DREAMS' ON THE RIGHT PATH

BY BOB GOFF

I have a neighbor who invited me over to see the house he'd been building for nearly eight years with no sign of being completed anytime soon. I had wondered what was taking so long and was curious to see inside. In addition to a number of odd, incomplete features, what I saw in the basement took the cake. There were tiny twinkle lights all over the ceiling. I asked about them, and get this—it was the arrangement of the cosmos on the day the owner was born. It made my birthday candles look a little meager by comparison. This place isn't quite the Winchester Mystery House, but check back in with me in a couple of years and I'll let you know if the construction is complete and he's irrigating his lawn with Perrier water. I'm not bitter.

Would it surprise you to hear that you might be doing the same bizarre things with the life you've been constructing? Here's what I mean. You build and build and prepare and prepare some more but never really move into your ambition. Is everything going to fall magically into place? Of course not. It's going to take some detail work, but don't spend all your time trying to get the stars to align before you start making moves on your ambitions. Sometimes things will line up, and other times they won't. Keep making moves anyway. There's just something about *action* that makes the world want to straighten the path and flatten the road beneath your feet so it's easier to travel.

It won't always be a walk in the park. As you make some moves, you're going to face some resistance. I read somewhere that resistance to something new is like a universal constant. That rings true to me. Anyone trying to create something new, to bring an ambition into existence, will face pressures working against them. Here are a few of them.

Procrastination and Lethargy

We've identified your big ambitions (and probably a lot of small and medium-sized ones too). We've captured a working list of opportunities to explore and cleared the path. With all this readiness, who would want to procrastinate or twiddle their thumbs? The truth is, a lot of people. You might be one of them. If so, take some time to figure out why.



Image: Orange Observer

Portrait of Bob Goff

Self-sabotage

Another dynamic I see with people who are having trouble moving toward their ambitions is self-sabotage. They don't go so far as to slash their own tires so they can't make the meeting or interview. It's usually much less obvious, but it's equally disabling. They take the nap instead of making the call. They head to the movies instead of going into the marketplace. They show up late to someone offering to help—or they don't show up at all. They might be afraid of what will happen if their ambitions start to take shape, because all the excuses will be removed. The hunt will be

over. It's the moment when the dog catches the bus it's been chasing. We can't be all bravado and chasing. We need to have a plan for when things start to go right. When you blow the foam off the top, people who subconsciously sabotage their own ambitions are usually afraid of succeeding and what it will cost them in terms of security and comfort when they do.

Naysayers and Haters

This might be the most common resistance you'll encounter. If you have an established group of friends or co-workers, they've come to expect certain behaviors and accomplishments from you. They see your life following a certain trajectory that doesn't make them feel threatened. Perhaps you've been in the same orbit around a peer group for years. If you remain in that place, it makes them feel like you are safe and predictable. When you change your trajectory, it can trigger a host of feelings in your friends or coworkers they may or may not yet understand as they reflect on their own dissatisfactions or lack of momentum. As you make progress, all of a sudden you can feel like you've become the enemy. It's not true, of course. You're just breaking out of the orbit you've been in. You're no longer a moon; you've become a comet.

Sometimes people get really antsy when they see others hurtling toward their dreams. Parents, friends, coworkers, even spouses . . . anyone who feels threatened by your new adventure may do things that feel like they're shutting you down. That's not their intent, and they probably don't even know they're doing it. You're picking up on the reverberations of your successes ricocheting off their own lives. They're processing what they are trying to understand out loud, using your ambition as an inflection point.

If you're married, sort it out. If you're not, practice now for the important relationships you'll have in the future. I know it will be hard, but every minute you spend on understanding your relationships is worth it. Don't try to co-opt them into your dream; help them understand where yours came from. They still might be puzzled in the end, but at least they'll understand you better. They might offer to help, or best of all, they might be inspired to do some dreaming of their own. A beautiful ambition is more contagious than the worst cold.

There's a famous moment in human history where the haters and naysayers were pegging the volume needle. On December 17, 1903, after years of tinkering and experimenting, two brothers named Wilbur and Orville Wright changed history by making a successful powered flight over the sands of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The

place was actually called Kill Devil Hills, but someone figured they wouldn't sell much merch a hundred years later with that name, so they changed it in all the books. After a coin toss, it was determined that Orville would fly the airplane they had built in their garage.

Historians say others were first to fly, but the precise moment in time when Orville pulled away from the earth was 10:35 in the morning. It was the moment we knew sustained flight was possible. Before that minute, no one knew what would happen. Nearly everyone doubted it could be done. I've always wondered to myself what Orville and Wilbur were thinking a minute before they launched at 10:34. We all wonder the same thing about our ambitions at some point. Will our ambitions fly, or will they crash and burn?

Nobody lives at 10:35. You don't, and I don't. We all live our lives and execute our ambitions at 10:34. We don't know how our lives will turn out, much less whether our ideas are going to work or not. I meet so many people in my travels, good people with great ideas, but many of them never take their ideas out of the hangar. The reason is simple. They're afraid of what they'll do if it works or afraid they'll look bad if it doesn't.

Perhaps it's validation that has you stopped a minute early. Maybe you're concerned about a big public failure, or maybe the thought of an even bigger private failure is keeping you from trying. Somehow the clock became frozen at 10:34 in your life. The good news is this: 10:35 is only a minute away from happening for each of us. That one minute is a small amount of time, but it can represent a huge shift in your life. It just requires a willingness to fail.



From Dream Big: Know What You Want, Why You Want It, and What You're Going to Do About It by Bob Goff.

Bob Goff is a lawyer, speaker, and author. Bob currently works with Love Does, a nonprofit organization he founded that is dedicated to freedom, human rights, and improved educational opportunities.



POPE LEO AND OUR SHARED SEARCH FOR TRUTH

BY THE EDITORS OF AMERICA MAGAZINE

More than two months have passed since the election of Pope Leo XIV, but the promise and excitement that many felt at his accession to the chair of St. Peter—especially from the people of the United States and Peru, his homeland and adopted home—have hardly dissipated. Like Francis before him, Pope Leo has captured hearts in the honeymoon period of his papacy. As the church and the world adjust to this new pontificate, what can we expect in the future?

The historically minded can be sure that a pope who took the name of Leo will have a strong and welcome focus on Catholic social teaching. From *“Rerum Novarum”* to Pope Francis’ *“Fratelli Tutti,”* the social doctrine of the church has been a primary concern of numerous popes since the last Pope Leo wrote the first “social encyclical” in 1891, but the challenge of how to break out of the echo chamber remains a real one. The desire of Leo XIV to link his own papacy to the development of Catholic social teaching was made clear the day he was elected, when papal spokesperson Matteo Bruni said his choice of name was a “direct recall of the social doctrine of the church and of the pope that initiated the modern social doctrine of the church.”

What will that look like in terms of papal teaching and practice? In a world plagued by violations of human dignity and a growing sense that technology and globalization will destroy worker autonomy, an encyclical on the rights of labor is a likely first step. The role that the development of artificial intelligence is playing in eroding workplace security is also a concern of the new pope. Many American politicians and corporations may not like what Leo will have to say on the subject—*“mater sí, magistra no”* remaining an unspoken conviction for many at the top of the global economy—but perhaps nowhere else is the church’s teaching authority and credibility more needed than on questions of human dignity and a just economy.

At the same time, Pope Leo has made it clear that the promotion of Catholic social teaching requires dialogue and attention to economic realities, noting that the church’s social teaching “seeks to encourage genuine engagement with social issues. It does not claim to possess a monopoly on truth, either in its analysis of problems or its proposal



Image: CNS/Vatican Media

Pope Leo XIV waves to the crowd from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on May 11, 2025.

of concrete solutions.”

That conviction that the church has a role to play in creating just structures will feed into what is likely to be a second major focus for Leo: synodality. Whether he pursues it in the same style as Francis or not, Leo made it clear that synodality would continue. Early administrative moves by Leo, including the appointment of Tiziana Merletti, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, as the first high-level appointment of

his papacy, suggest that he will follow Francis' lead in continuing to recalibrate curial governance. At the same time, he may take a more friendly and less chiding tone than Francis in his relationship to the Curia, which he described as "the institution that preserves and transmits the historical memory of a church."

Leo has also made it clear that "synodality and ecumenism are closely linked" in his discussions of the celebration of the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. Any continuing rapprochement with the Eastern Orthodox churches will require some rethinking on the part of Rome regarding structures of governance, so another welcome consequence of a continued focus on synodality might be greater steps toward Christian unity.

Leo's comments on Catholic social teaching, synodality and ecumenism all share another common thread, one perhaps unexpected when coming from a pope but welcome nonetheless: an emphasis on our shared search for the truth. Some of Francis' detractors made it clear that they found his pontificate a source of "confusion," and that they hoped for greater emphasis on doctrinal precision from his successor. The first days of Leo XIV's papacy have not lacked for clarity, but rather than correcting Francis, Leo has endorsed his teaching, describing him as "masterfully and concretely set[ting] forth" the path for the universal church following the Second Vatican Council in his first apostolic exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium."

In his remarks on May 13 to the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation, founded by Pope John Paul II in 1993 to disseminate the church's social teachings, Leo remarked on the relationship between dialogue and doctrine. While for many the two seem incompatible, doctrine does not have to mean only "a set of ideas belonging to a religion." It can also, he said, "be seen as the product of research, and hence of hypotheses, discussions, progress and setbacks, all aimed at conveying a reliable, organized and systematic body of knowledge about a given issue." The church's social doctrine, in other words, can be understood as "a common, collective and even multidisciplinary pursuit of truth."

Because of that commitment to a common and collective pursuit of the truth, Pope Leo called "indoctrination" an immoral act, one that "stifles critical judgment and undermines the sacred freedom of respect for conscience, even if erroneous. It resists new notions and rejects movement, change or the evolution of ideas in the face of new problems." With regard to the church's social teaching, he said, doctrine "aims to teach us primarily

how to approach problems and, even more importantly, how to approach people. It also helps us to make prudential judgments when confronted with challenges."

To be clear: The pope was speaking in this context of the church's social teaching, not suggesting a universally applicable model for interpretation and development of doctrine. However, the connection he makes between dialogue and doctrine as aspects of a shared search for the truth could have broad implications for how he teaches and how the church receives his teaching. For those whose instinct is to treat challenging questions about church teaching as tantamount to formal dissent, it may ask them to develop greater openness to processes of dialogue. For those whose instinct is that contemporary questions point to a need for change in church teaching, it may ask them to deepen their appreciation for doctrine as a collective, systematic and reliable body of knowledge.

Of course, the church and the world learned over the last 12 years that whatever we might expect of a new pontiff, the only guarantee is that we will be surprised. So, too, this time around, we should be prepared for most if not all of our expectations and predictions for Pope Leo to be insufficient to the man and the office.

In his homily for Pentecost on June 8, Pope Leo suggested his own yardstick for measuring the work of the church: our openness. "We are truly the church of the Risen Lord and disciples of Pentecost if there are no borders or divisions among us," he preached, "if we are able to dialogue and accept one another in the church, and to reconcile our diversities; and if, as church, we become a welcoming and hospitable place for all."



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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
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.
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 (VIR-TUS). 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.