

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



## Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 August 2023

"Jesus walks on the sea and lifts up the sinking Peter."

12th-13th century Mosaic from the Cathedral of the Assumption, Monreale, Sicily

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

13 AUGUST 2023

19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Aria on a Chaconne  
Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Joel Martinson  
(b. 1960)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN



1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That  
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And  
3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found; Was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!  
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

CALL TO WORSHIP



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



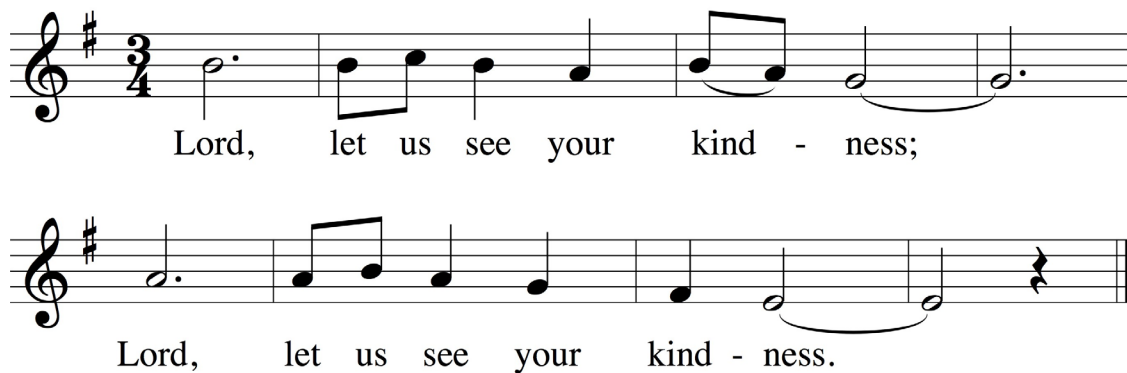
COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 85: Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness

Marty Haugen



1. I will hear what the Lord God speaks; he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.  
His salvation is near for those who fear him, and his glory will dwell in our land.
2. Merciful love and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have kissed.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth, and justice look down from heaven.
3. Also the lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.  
Justice will march before him, and guide his steps on the way.

SECOND READING | Romans 9:1-5

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Remembrance

Marty Haugen



## GOSPEL | Matthew 14:22-33

## 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 PRAYERS



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

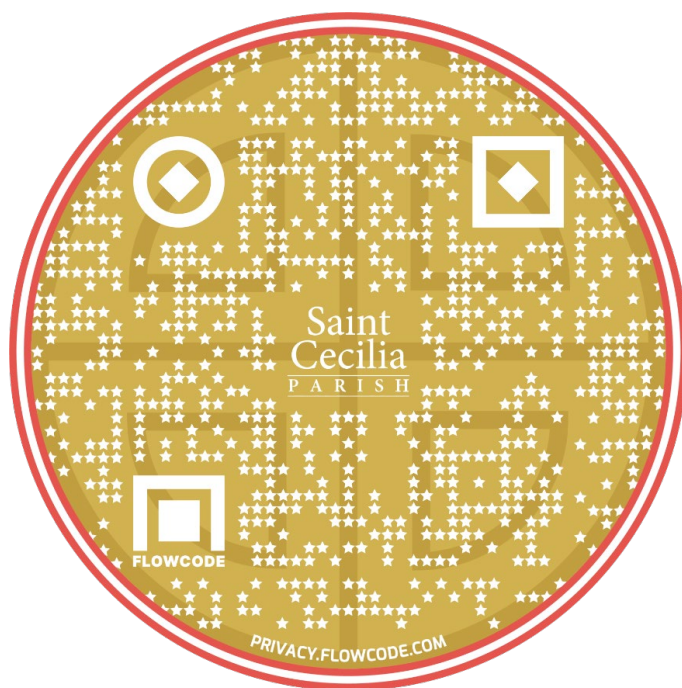
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit [www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston](http://www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston).

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me  
2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger  
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws  
stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am  
near, When my life is al - most  
near, And the day is past and  
worn.  
gone,  
gone,  
Through the storm, through the  
Hear my cry, hear my  
At the riv - er I  
night,  
call,  
stand,  
Lead me on to the light. Take my  
Hold my hand lest I fall. Take my  
Guide my feet, hold my hand. Take my  
hand,  
hand,  
hand,  
pre - cious Lord, lead me home.  
pre - cious Lord, lead me home.  
pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

## EUCHARISTIC 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.

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.

## GREAT AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

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

## 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.





## 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.

1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you  
 shall not die of thirst. You shall wan-der far in  
 safe-ty though you do not know the way. You shall  
 speak your words in for-ign lands and all will un-der-  
 stand. You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain

Be not a-fraid. I go be-fore you al-ways.  
 Come, fol-low me, and I will give you rest.

Verse 2

2. If you pass through rag-ing wa-ters in the  
 sea, you shall not drown. If you walk a-mid the burn-ing flames,  
 you shall not be harmed. If you stand be-fore the



pow'r of hell and death is at your side,  
know that I am with you through it all. **D.S.**

Verse 3



3. Bless-ed are your poor, for the king-dom shall be  
theirs. Blest are you that weep and mourn, for  
one day you shall laugh. And if wick-ed tongues in -  
sult and hate you all be-cause of me,  
bless-ed, bless-ed are you! **D.S.**

## CONCLUDING RITES

RECESSIONAL | Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris M. Aikers

### Refrain

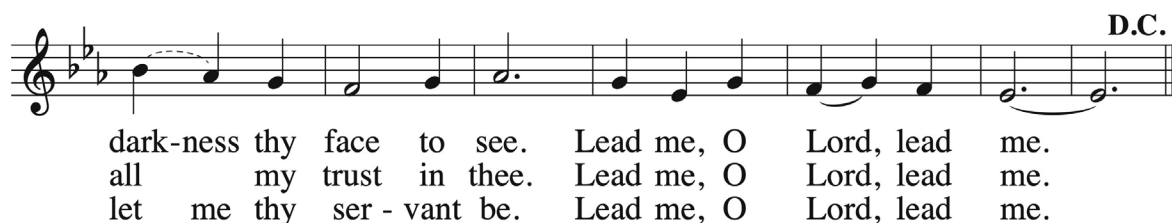


Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you  
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each  
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

### Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r To  
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness. Be my  
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am  
help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the  
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting  
blind with - out thy Light to see. Lord, just al - ways



**D.C.**  
dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

POSTLUDE | Prelude in Classic Style  
Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Gordon Young  
(1919-1998)

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

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

# 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, August 12 | 5:00 p.m.**

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

**Sunday, August 13 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant  
Emily St. Germain, lector

**Sunday, August 13 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant  
Bob Mann, Thomas O'Brien, and Natasha Bolton-Pierre, lectors

**Sunday, August 13 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant  
Virgen Palermo, Mark Richburg, and Ben DeWinter, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Sunday, August 13 | 8:00 a.m.**

John & Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

**Sunday, August 13 | 11:30 a.m.**

John C. Kilpatrick Jr., *1st Anniversary*

## TODAY'S READINGS

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:22-33

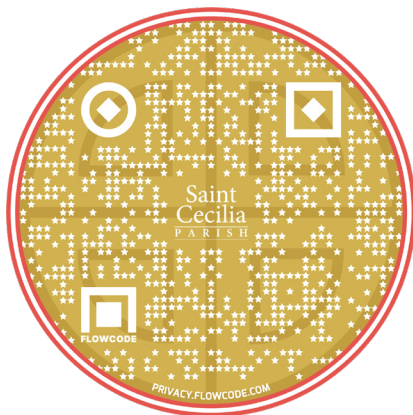
## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

SCAN THIS CODE  
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

## Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Fr. Roman Galadza, Elizabeth Kennedy, Jeff Hommes, Sue Ryan, Tim Finn, Glenn Gallo, John Hosang, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rick Gaillardetz, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.**

## Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: **Donnalee Farris** of Lexington, **Peggy Fornara** of Pleasantville, New York, **Joan Kenney** of South Yarmouth, **Stephen Bornhoft** of Boston, and **Sophie Wyman** of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

## Assumption Day—Mass and Evening Prayer

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Tuesday, August 15. This is a holy day of obligation and, in commemoration of this feast we will celebrate Mass at 8:00 on Tuesday morning. In addition, we will pray Evening Prayer on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. (live on the Saint Cecilia Facebook page and via Zoom). Please email [sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com](mailto:sc.hoursandtaize@gmail.com) for details.

## Missionary Cooperative Plan Update

On July 23, we welcomed the **Most Reverend Peter Paul Angkyier**, Bishop of Damongo in Ghana as part of a weekend appeal. We're pleased to report that the second collection in support of the Church in Damongo raised \$55,489. Thank you for your warm reception of the bishop and for your generous support!

## Good Luck Collegians!

Best wishes and prayers to our students who are preparing to leave for college. We pray that the Lord will guide them during their time away, fill them with wisdom so that they might make wise decisions and choices, and give them the strength they'll need to live out the values they profess.

## NIGHT OF WORSHIP

**Tuesday, August 22 | 7:00—8:00 p.m.**

**In-person at Saint Cecilia Church | Open to: Everyone**

Join the Saint Cecilia Young Adults for an in-person evening of adoration and worship in Saint Cecilia Church. Please enter through the side entrance on St. Cecilia Street, and ring the bell to be let in. All are welcome!

## RCIA BEGINS NEXT MONTH!

**Tuesday, September 12 | 6:30 p.m.**



Are you interested in exploring the process for becoming Catholic, but not sure you want to commit? Were you raised Catholic, but never received Eucharist or Confirmation and now would like to learn more? Join the staff and some parishioners who have gone through the

RCIA process in the past to learn more! A welcome gathering and information session will be held on September 12th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us to see if it's the right time to begin your journey! Contact Tanya Rybarczyk ([trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org)) with questions!



## COME TO THE WATER!

*"Come away with me to a quiet place and get some rest..."* (Mark 6:31) We're delighted to announce an upcoming weekend parish retreat at the beautiful Gonzaga/Eastern Point Retreat House—a place of rare spiritual beauty located on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean in Gloucester, Massachusetts. This retreat will include time for rest, renewal, silent prayer, and worship.

**WHEN:** Friday, November 10 to Sunday, November 12

**COST:** \$175, which includes all meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch. Each retreatant will have a single, recently renovated room with an ensuite bathroom.

Attendance is limited to 35 people, so reserve your space by making an initial deposit of \$75 as soon as possible. The final balance (\$100) will be due on Friday, November 3. If you would like to take part in this retreat but the cost of attendance presents a financial hardship, please send a confidential email to Scott MacDonald ([smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org)) and the parish will help cover the cost.

Interested in the retreat? You can make your deposit here: <https://www.osvhub.com/stceciliaboston/giving/funds/parish-retreat-fee-nov-2023>

For more information about this parish retreat, contact Scott MacDonald at [smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org).

## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED THIS MONTH:

### 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 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: Mark Lippolt, Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA, 02115. *Thank you for your accustomed generosity!*

### DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES



During the summer, many of the families that have been faithful donors to our collection of food items for the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett pantries are away until September. We hope you'll consider participating in this important ministry during the

summer so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The local economy might have improved for some of us, but the working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices. Saint Cecilia is committed to providing these items to the food pantries: Cheerios or cornflakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta and spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, canned tuna fish, canned chicken breast, cooking oil, and tomato sauce. While any canned or shelf-stable items are appreciated, it is particularly helpful when parishioners can help with the staples listed above. Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex.

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE: BACKPACKS

While the beginning of the school year is an exciting time for kids and parents, it can also be stressful. For the families helped by the Mary Ann



Brett Pantry in Dorchester and the newly-housed families living in the Catholic Charities Inn in Brighton, the beginning of the year can be especially intense. In hopes of alleviating stress and making the start of the school year sunnier for these families, we're collecting new backpacks. We would love donations of new backpacks for kids aged 5 to 12. You can leave these donations in the baskets in the narthex or mail them to us via Amazon or another online retailer. You can send donations to Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115, c/o Mark Lippolt. Thank you so much for your dedication to improving the lives of the kids in Greater Boston!





## ASSUMPTION WINDOW

This Tuesday, the Church observes the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you are one of our local parishioners, be sure to take special notice of our great Assumption window located in the choir loft. The major architectural feature added during the church's 1954 renovation, the window is striking in its beauty and is filled with Marian symbolism. In the window, Mary is depicted above her tomb being assumed (rising bodily) into heaven. Her tomb is decorated with lilies and roses. In Christian iconography, lilies symbolize virginity and purity, and roses are often associated with Mary because they are regarded as the "queen of flowers." The eleven apostles (sans Judas) are shown observing the empty tomb and gazing heavenward as Mary is crowned with a diadem of twelve stars. This represents the Fifth Glorious Mystery of the rosary, the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is referenced by John in the Book of Revelation, "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." (Revelation 12:1) On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which we celebrate each year on August 15. This dogma states that at the end of her earthly life, Mary was assumed, body and soul, into heaven.

The Assumption window was a gift of Susan C. Regan in memory of her parents James and Mary McNamara and was dedicated on September 8, 1954—the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



## JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

As we look toward the fall, we're looking for folks to join our music ministry! In particular, we are looking for additional singers and instrumentalists to participate in music ministry at both the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies. Choir rehearsals take place weekly on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the church. If you are interested, please see our Director of Music, Rob Duff, after Mass or email [rduff@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:rduff@stceciliaboston.org).



## JOIN SAINT CECILIA CARES!

*"...I was sick and you visited me..."*

*Does your heart stir at the idea of visiting the sick or elderly, but you feel nervous about what to say or how to pray? Would you like to bring the compassion and communion of Saint Cecilia Parish to those who can no longer physically attend Mass? Do you feel called to bring Christ's presence to others through the Eucharist?*

Saint Cecilia's CARES Ministry serves the sick and homebound of our Parish through friendly visits, prayer, and the Eucharist. To learn more, please contact Tanya Rybarczyk, Pastoral Associate and head of our CARES Ministry. She can be found at: [trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org); 617-536-4548 X117.



## WHERE ARE WE GIVING GOD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO US?

BY BRIAN CHING, C.S.C.

I had the blessing of being director of our college seminary program for six years, which meant that I was in charge of helping college-aged men discern and prepare for life as a possible Holy Cross religious and priest. It was really a fun task and one in which our first reading from the Book of Kings today was used a lot. It's, in fact, used so much that many of our Holy Cross religious have chose that first reading for reading in their own first vows or final vows masses. It's a reading that we speak about and refer to all the time. And the reason why is that it really is one of the best examples in all of scripture of helping us think about how the Lord is making His voice and His presence known to us in our world. The truth of the matter is I think all of us fall into this trap of expecting God to work for us in our own ways—that we want to see God in the grandiose and kind of intense actions of our life. And we place these expectations upon God of how He should act, or is supposed to act, in our life:

*God, if you hear me, you'll make this happen. This person will be cured. This event will be prevented. This desire of mine will come to fruition.*

And when those things don't happen, it's easy for us to think that God is perhaps not hearing us, not listening to us, or just frankly wants nothing to do with us. And the reading from the Book of Kings this morning reminds us that God speaks to us in ways much broader than we expect. That the life of faith really does require on us, for us, of us, an attentiveness to God's presence, certainly here in the sacraments, in the scriptures, but also in those more subtle ways—to think about how we see the Lord in a good conversation with a friend, in the beauty of creation, when we're out for a walk and see a beautiful sunset, to think about how the Lord might be speaking to us in those chance encounters in the supermarket, or on the street, or where the Lord might be present to us in our own studies, our own life of faith, or our own recreational life.

And these are really important because when we place our expectations on how God should act and is supposed to act in our world, we become real myopic in the life of faith, right? We force God to work on our terms. We force God

to work the way that we expect Him to work, and we want Him to work. But one of the primary truths of faith is that God is much bigger than we are. He's much bigger than our expectations. He's much bigger than our limitations. He's much bigger than the way we think the world ought to work.

And so humility calls us as Christians, friends, to be attentive to how the Lord is speaking to us in the ways that are perhaps unexpected, that aren't as grand, that aren't as grandiose, to not see God only in the moments of earthquake and fire, but to really listen for that small whispering sound, Or as a previous translation calls it “the still small voice of God,” because these, too, have the power to convey God's presence. Now, the trick is they're also really easily overlooked. It's easy for us to become so wrapped up in our own lives, our own drama, our own worries and cares and concerns that we miss how God might be speaking to us in those still small ways. When we're so consumed by what we need to do and what we need to get done, and how busy we are, and what tests we need to study for, and what paper we need to write. When all of those things occupy our life it's really hard for us to make space to listen to God, to make space in our life for God to speak to us.

And so our readings invite us this morning to consider how we're making space for God's voice in our life, to ask ourselves, *where are we giving God the opportunity to speak to us?* Yes, we're all busy. Yes, all of us have a lot to do, but the reality is we do have some time each day, even if it's just a few minutes, even if it's just stopping in the chapel on your way out the door, even if it's just arriving to mass a few extra minutes early. We all have some opportunity to quiet ourselves, to be open and attentive, to be thoughtful about who we are and what's going on in our life, and to intentionally look for how God might be working in us.

You know in the moment that conversation with that friend may have seemed completely inconsequential but when we returned to it later in the day we might realize that our friend was really trying to tell us something, or more importantly, that God was really trying to tell us something through that friend, through that moment of uncomfortability. In that



time a professor challenged us or pushed us to go a little bit deeper in our line of thought or line of argumentation. But one of the primary things that allows us, or gives us license to run from God's voice or to hide from God's voice, as we hear in today's gospel, is fear.

Now what's astonishing about today's gospel is that we always focus on the fact that Peter's faith waned, that Peter was afraid and he began to sink. But really, friends, we should be thinking about the fact that Peter walked on the water at all, that Peter's faith was so great that he took that first step out of the boat and began to run to the Lord in the first place. Walking on water, even for just a few small steps is no small feat. It's only when Peter loses his focus and begins to recognize the danger that's around him, that his attention is drawn away from the Lord. That fear kicks in and he begins to sink.

So what the readings might invite us to consider is how fear might be inhibiting us from seeing and hearing God's still small voice in our life. Fear of the unknown, fear of what lies ahead, fear of how we'll do, fear if we'll be successful or not. All of those anxieties, all of those concerns, all of those worries, all of those things can push their way into our life and crowd out the space that we should be making for God. To crowd out that space and that time when God desires to speak to us.

But friends, I'll be honest, there's always much to fear. There's always gonna be moments of uncertainty in our life. There's always gonna be a test that we're not know how we're gonna do. There's always gonna be a moment where we're not sure of how well we'll perform. There'll always be times when we're unsure of how we're gonna fit in to a new office environment, to a new group of friends, to a new set of classmates.

But the way we encounter those moments of fear is to rely on our ability to hear God's voice, to trust in the fact that whether we hear Him or not, or want to hear Him or not, that God is always speaking to us, that God is always present in our life, and that God is always trying to convey to us His love, His mercy, His compassion. We're reminded today that the question isn't whether or not God speaks to us or not. He does. He always speaks, rather, the question is, do we have the trust to listen? Does our faith allow us to spend some time each day seeing how God might be speaking to us in our life? Do we have the openness, the willingness, to make room in our life, to see where God might be present in those moments that aren't particularly pious, that aren't particularly holy? Not necessarily those moments we spend in adoration or praying the rosary, but those less obvious moments when we're just hanging out with friends or in

class or doing our homework. Even then, even there, God speaks to us. God seeks to tell us something about Himself and help us learn something about ourself. And it's that trust in God's ability to speak to us, even when we don't want to hear from Him, even when we would rather not see Him, even when we're unsure if we're hearing Him. It's that trust that allows us to live courageously in the life of faith, to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, to run to Him, even in the midst of fear, even in the midst of danger, even in the midst of uncertainty.

And so as we prepare to receive Eucharist this morning, as we prepare to receive the ultimate sign of God's love, the ultimate sign of God's promise in His body and blood, soul and divinity, let's simply ask God for the grace, the grace to listen well, the grace to humbly place ourselves in front of him and open our hearts, our ears and our minds to the way He is making himself known in our world. And when we do that, when we place ourselves at His feet and open ourselves to His word, then we know that He can't but help draw us into His loving embrace all the days of our life.

~ Rev. Brian Ching, C.S.C., currently serves as Rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame.



## WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group invites you to join us in reading Richard Rohr's 2019 title, *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe*. Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. "God loves things by becoming them," he writes, and Jesus's life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God—except by its own negative choice. When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes less about proving Jesus was God, and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us, and in everyone we meet. We are always happy to welcome new members who are in the second half of life. We meet every Sunday morning at 8:30 via Zoom. On the first Sunday of the month, we also meet in person at 1:00 in the Community Room. Though our time together we deepen our spiritual lives, encounter the God who loves us deeply, create friendships, and, when moved by the Spirit, discuss social justice issues. Feel free to drop in at any time. For more information, please email Deb Garcia at [sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com](mailto:sc.wisdomandmaturespirituality@gmail.com).



# PARISH RESOURCES

## Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

E-mail | [info@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:info@stceciliaboston.org) /// Website | [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org)

## Parish Staff

**Rev. John J. Unni**, Pastor

**Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ**, Pastoral Support

**Christine Burns**, Digital Media Coordinator

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**Tyler Cesario**, Assistant Director of Music

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**Mark Donohoe**, Pastoral Associate

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**Olivia Hastie**, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

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**Daniel Lamoureux**, Vigil Organist

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**Scott MacDonald**, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

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**Brett Maguire**, Organist

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**Colleen Melaugh**, Director of Finance and Development

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**Lisa Pickering**, Director of Facilities and Events

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**Tanya Rybarczyk**, Pastoral Associate

[trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org)

## Assisting Clergy

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

## Audiovisual Support

**Maureen Deery**, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

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

**Geoffrey Edwards**, Livestream Videographer

[gedwards@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:gedwards@stceciliaboston.org)

**Vasily Izumchensky**, Livestream Sound Engineer

[vizumchensky@berklee.edu](mailto:vizumchensky@berklee.edu)

## Reception

**Keith Brinkley, Eli Geruschat, Joe O'Brien, & Corey Ortiz**

[reception@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:reception@stceciliaboston.org)

## Schedule for Liturgy

**Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday** | 8:00 a.m.

**Lord's Day** | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30\*, 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

**Holy Days** | 8:00 a.m.

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

## Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 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.

## 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.

## Building Accessibility

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

## 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.

## Baptism for Infants

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

## Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at [ohastie@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:ohastie@stceciliaboston.org).

## 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 ([maria.roche15@gmail.com](mailto:maria.roche15@gmail.com)), Letitia Howland ([L\\_howland@hotmail.com](mailto:L_howland@hotmail.com)), or Erin Young ([erin.t.young@gmail.com](mailto:erin.t.young@gmail.com)) 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.

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 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.

## 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 both local and long distance 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.