

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Happy Jesus – One in Christ

by Fan Pu

## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

17 August 2025

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17 AUGUST 2025

PRELUDE | *Prélude et Trio à deux dessus*

Jacques Boyvin  
(1649-1706)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | 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.

## 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. *To repeat* *Last time*  
A - men.

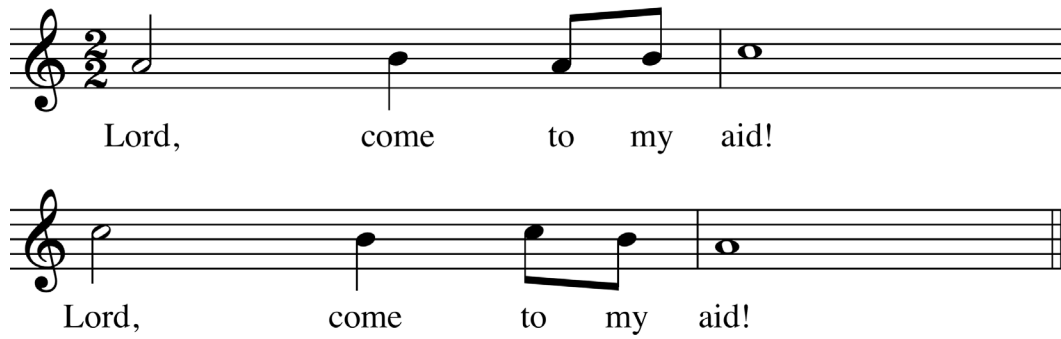
### Verses

- |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. We praise you,<br>we bless you,<br>we adore you,<br>we glorify you,<br>we give you thanks for your great glory,<br>Lord God, heavenly King,<br>O God, almighty Father. | you take away the sins of the world,<br>receive our prayer;<br>you are seated at the right hand of the<br>Father,<br>have mercy on us.                                              |
| 2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,<br>Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the<br>Father,<br>you take away the sins of the world,<br>have mercy on us;                     | 3. For you alone are the Holy One,<br>you alone are the Lord,<br>you alone are the Most High,<br>Jesus Christ,<br>with the Holy Spirit,<br>in the glory of God the Father.<br>Amen. |

## COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10

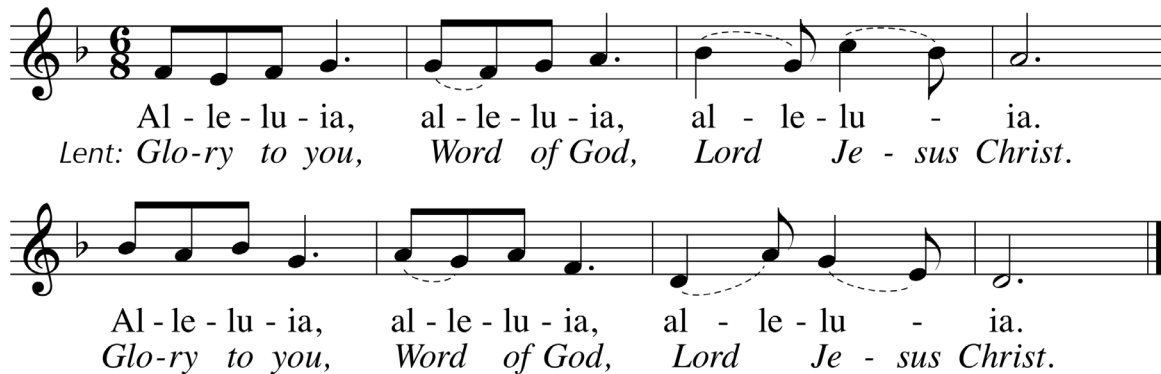


1. I waited for the Lord, and he stooped down to me. He heard my cry.
2. He drew me from the deadly pit, from the miry clay. He set my feet upon a rock, made my footsteps firm.
3. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. Many shall see and fear and shall trust in the Lord.
4. Wretched and poor though I am, the Lord is mindful of me. You are my rescuer, my help; O my God, do not delay.

## SECOND READING | Hebrews 12: 1-4

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony E. Alonso



## GOSPEL | Luke 12: 49-53

## 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!

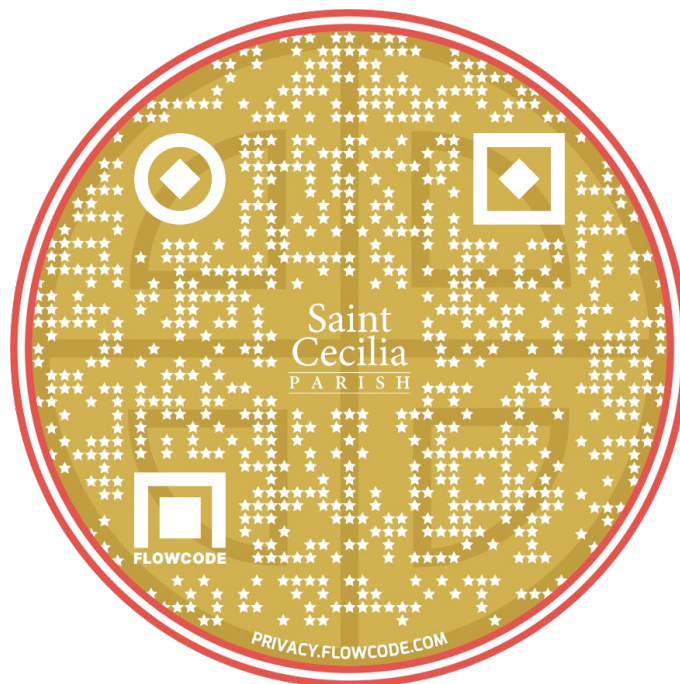
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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](http://www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston).

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



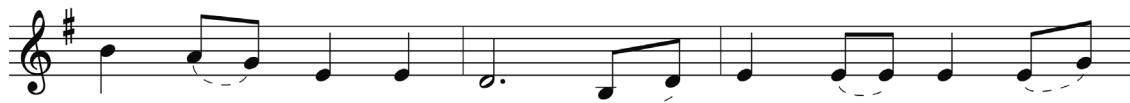
# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the  
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the  
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the  
dawn draws near, And the world is a - bout to turn!

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.

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.

## AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

## THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

## AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



## 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.



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,  |
| mor -  | tal tongue | can   | tell:   | Whom | all        | the   | world |
| 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.    |

D.C.

## CONCLUDING RITES

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

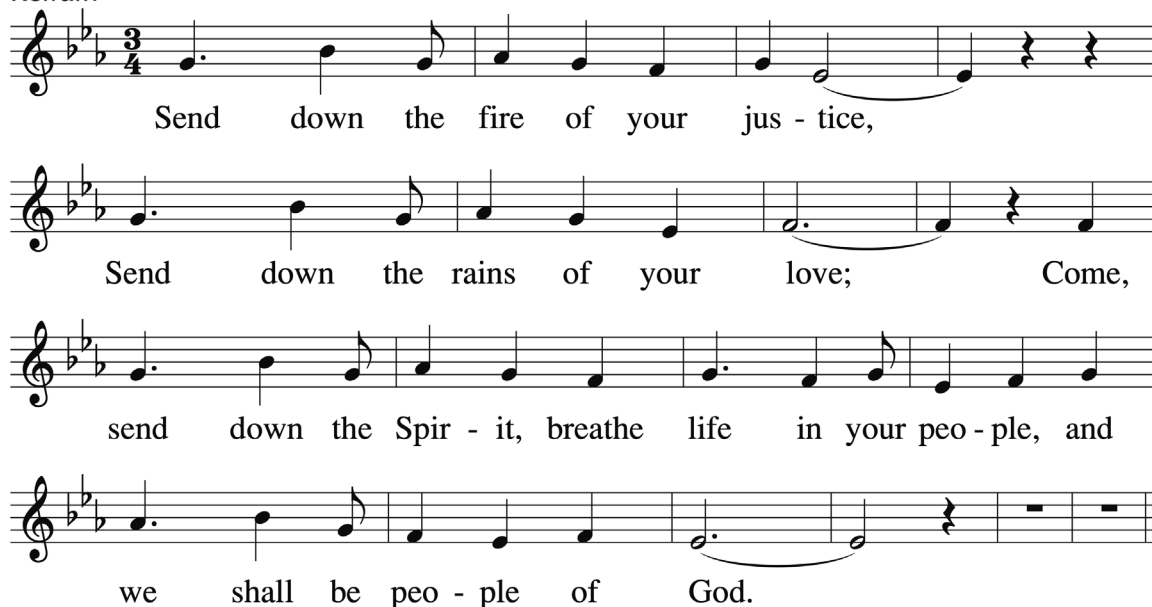
✠ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

RECESSIONAL | Send Down the Fire

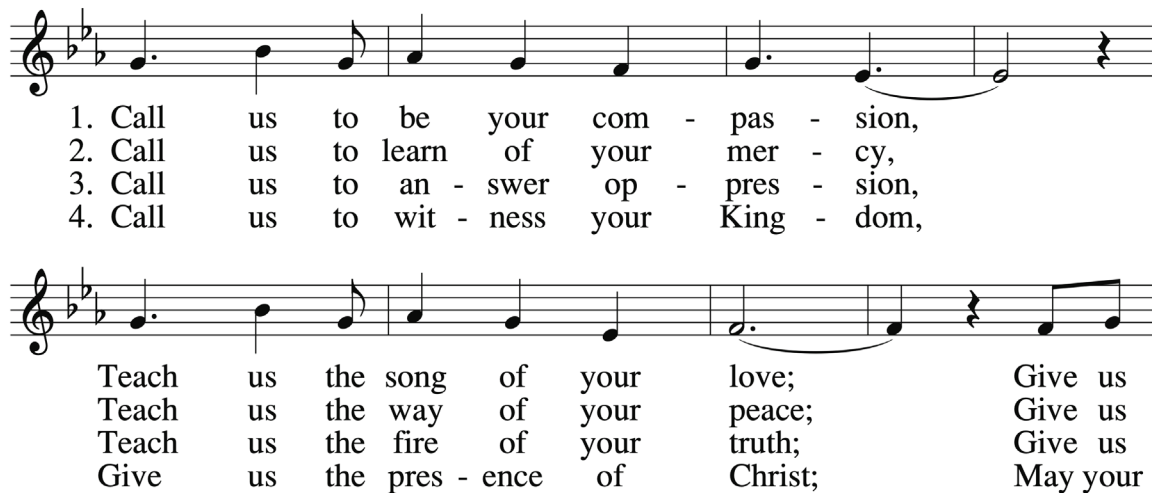
Marty Haugen

### Refrain



Send down the fire of your jus - tice,  
Send down the rains of your love; Come,  
send down the Spir - it, breathe life in your peo - ple, and  
we shall be peo - ple of God.

### Verses



1. Call us to be your com - pas - sion,  
2. Call us to learn of your mer - cy,  
3. Call us to an - swer op - pres - sion,  
4. Call us to wit - ness your King - dom,  
Teach us the song of your love; Give us  
Teach us the way of your peace; Give us  
Teach us the fire of your truth; Give us  
Give us the pres - ence of Christ; May your



hearts that sing, Give us deeds that ring, Make us  
 hearts that feel, Give us hands that heal, Make us  
 right - eous souls, 'Til your jus - tice rolls, Make us  
 ho - ly light Keep us shin - ing bright, Ev - er

D.C.



ring with the song of your love.  
 walk in the way of your peace.  
 burn with the fire of your truth.  
 shine with the pres - ence of Christ.

POSTLUDE | *Grand Diologue à quatre Choeurs*  
 Brett Maguire, organ

Jacques Boyvin

*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 16 | 5:00 p.m.**

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

### **Sunday, August 17 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. Jim Shaughnessy SJ, celebrant  
Linda Frayling, lector

### **Sunday, August 17 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Maggie Giles, Tom Skorupa, Bobbi Moran, lectors

### **Sunday, August 17 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Kate McGillicuddy, Tim McGillicuddy, Kevin Dumas, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

### **Sunday, August 17 | 9:30 a.m.**

Cedric Osborne, *1st Anniversary*  
Elise Mamone, *1st Anniversary*  
Drew Keegan, *5th Anniversary*  
Sister Barbara Higgins, *Memorial*  
Barbara Faubert, *Memorial*  
Richard Giordano, *Memorial*  
Jeanne Ann Kelley, *Memorial*  
Joan Marie Walsh, *Memorial*  
Paul McCabe, *Memorial*

### **Sunday, August 17 | 11:30 a.m.**

Bill Doran, *2nd Anniversary*

## TODAY'S READINGS

Wisdom 18:6-9  
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19  
Luke 12:32-48

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10  
Hebrews 12:1-4  
Luke 12:49-53



# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

## Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Fred Tufts, Baby Eloise Josephine Mason, Kevin J. Owens, So Kwai Sim, Andrea Surette, Daria, and Maureen McLaughlin.**

## Welcome to Saint Cecilia!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Matt and Susan Rockwood** of Grand Rapids, MI, **Katherine McKnight** of Rumford, RI, **Vincent Tran** of Lowell, and **Elizabeth O'Neill, AJ Mansolillo** and **Lisa Sheldon, Gerry Wawryznek** and **Michael Powers, Brigitte Suerig** and **Charles Pigott**, and **Katharine Ellis** and **Brendan Connors**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org).

## Assumption Day—Mass

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Friday, August 15. This is a holy day of obligation and, in commemoration of this feast we will celebrate Mass at 8:00am on Friday morning. Please note this Mass will **NOT** be livestreamed.

## 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 visit: <https://tinyurl.com/stceciliachoralworkshops>.

## 2025 Summer Choir Sundays: 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!



*The flowers in front of the altar are given for the glory of God and in loving memory of **Daniel Winterson** by his mother Emily Winterson.*

## IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>This Week's Liturgies.....</b>                              | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Prayers and Occasions.....</b>                              | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Pizza and Trivia Night.....</b>                             | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Fall Retreat.....</b>                                       | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Gloucester Retreat.....</b>                                 | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Coming Up At Saint Cecilia.....</b>                         | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Saint Bernard of Clairvaux .....</b>                        | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Go Set The World On Fire</b><br>By Katie Davis-Crowder..... | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Bulletin Artist Spotlight: Fan Pu.....</b>                  | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Pope Saint Pius X.....</b>                                  | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Parish Resources.....</b>                                   | <b>15</b> |

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

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 | 1PM | COMMUNITY ROOM**

This group is an ongoing meeting throughout this summer to provide spiritual support for those working in the healthcare system in these stressful times. Our next meeting is August 17 at 1 pm in the 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 contact reception at (617) 536-4548 should you need any emails shared.

## LABOR DAY PRAYERS FOR LIBERTY WALK

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 | 9 AM**  
**WALK START: HANCOCK CHURCH IN LEXINGTON**

The Interfaith Prayers for Liberty team, who organized the walk from Lexington to Boston last May, is hosting a walk on Labor Day this year. All people of faith and goodwill are welcome to join us for any or all of the walk.

We will gather on the Lexington Green at 9:00 a.m. There will be interfaith prayers offered at Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge and the walk will end at The Embrace on the Boston Common at 4:00 p.m. where all participants (those who walked the whole way, those who walked just a part of the way, and those who choose to join us only in Boston) will gather for an interfaith prayer service and a call for ongoing work to uphold democracy. For more information and to register, go to [Prayersforliberty.org](https://Prayersforliberty.org).

## KNITTING & CROCHET MINISTRY

The next Zoom Meeting will meet on Monday September 8, 2025 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, please send an email to the ministry.

The next Sit & Knit will be held Sunday September 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We will be Welcoming the Far Flung Flock with the Pumpkin Palooza.



## PUMPKIN PALOOZA

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 | 9:30AM - 1:30PM**  
**PARISH HALL**

The Knitting & Crochet Ministry will have their yearly Pumpkin Palooza on Sunday, September 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m..

Pumpkins will be available in all sizes and shapes. Cash and check donations will be accepted. Monies will go towards purchasing yarns for projects that help support various local charities associated with the church.

## 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.

## LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE GALA

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 | 5:30 PM TO 10:30 PM**  
**THE DCU CENTER, WORCESTER, MA**

One of the Rainbow Ministry's non-profit partner agencies is the LGBT Asylum Task Force, located in Worcester. The LGBT Asylum Task Force welcomes LGBTQ people of all faith traditions from throughout the world. They provide housing, food, and connection to legal, medical and mental resources at other local agencies. Legal asylum seekers are not allowed to work for up to 2 years after arriving in the United States. This vital ministry provides comprehensive support for the entire duration of that two-year period in which it is needed.

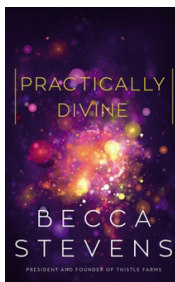
Their annual gala takes place on Saturday, September 27, 2025. 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the DCU Center (Worcester, MA).

Tickets are \$150 each if purchased in August (\$200 if purchased in September) and there will be tables of eight. Purchase tickets at: <https://www.lgbtasylum.org/gala>.

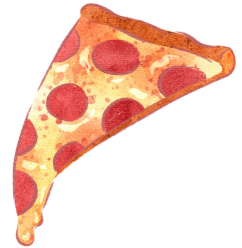
## JOIN OUR WISDOM AND MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group holds two weekly online gatherings via Zoom. We meet Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 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.

We are presently discussing Richard Rohr's latest book, *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom in an Age of Outrage*. Our next book will be Becca Stevens' *Practically Divine*. To request information about our meetings or to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to the ministry.



## GET READY FOR A SLICE OF FUN!



**Join us for Saint Cecilia's Pizza and Trivia Night on Friday, September 12 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

Enjoy some pizza, take part in a trivia showdown with Games with James, and mingle with our FFF friends in town for our Fall Retreat.

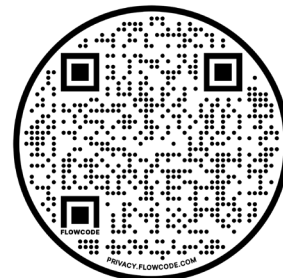
### EVENT DETAILS:

**WHEN:** Friday, September 12th  
 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**WHAT:** Pizza, trivia, and community fun!

**WHO:** All members of our community, both near and far.

### SCAN HERE TO REGISTER:



Or visit:  
[stceciliaboston.org/trivia-night](http://stceciliaboston.org/trivia-night)

# SAINT CECILIA FALL RETREAT WITH LIZ WALKER

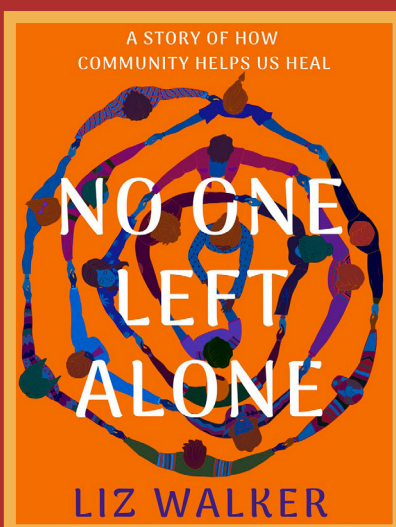
September 13 | 9AM - 3PM | Saint Cecilia Church

Join us for a day of reflection, community, and healing on Saturday, September 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Saint Cecilia.

Rev. Liz Walker will be our guest speaker and will explore “How Community Helps Us Heal in a Traumatized and Polarized World.”

## REGISTRATION DETAILS

- Donation request is \$25
- This retreat is limited to 160 participants
- Registration opens **Friday, August 15, at 9:00 a.m.**



## SCHEDULE

**8:00AM** Optional Mass

**9:00AM** Retreat begins

**3:00PM** Retreat ends

A continental breakfast and boxed lunch will be provided to retreatants.

## SCAN HERE



## TO REGISTER

Or you can visit:  
[www.stceciliaboston.org/  
fall-retreat](http://www.stceciliaboston.org/fall-retreat)

18 BELVIDERE STREET, BOSTON, MA 02115

Saint Cecilia  
P A R I S H

STCECILIABOSTON.ORG | (617) 536-4548

# GLOUCESTER RETREAT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Join us for our annual offsite retreat to Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester, MA!

This retreat will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Friday evening, though retreatants are welcome to arrive any time after 3:00 p.m. The retreat will end after Sunday lunch.

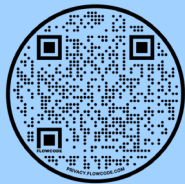
There will be presentations and some faith-sharing opportunities, but the general atmosphere of this retreat will be one of silence.

## REGISTRATION DETAILS

- Eastern Point Retreat House has ocean-facing en suite rooms, three of which are fully accessible for those with any expressed needs.
- All meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch are included.
- Registration for the Gloucester retreat will open at **9:00 a.m. on August 15** and the requested contribution is \$350/pp.
- It is possible to travel to this retreat house from Boston Logan International Airport via the MBTA Commuter Rail system followed by a 4.2-mile UBER trip.
- Due to the size of the house, this retreat is limited to **35 participants**.



SCAN HERE



TO REGISTER

Or please visit:  
[stceciliaboston.org/  
gloucester-retreat](http://stceciliaboston.org/gloucester-retreat)

## HELP CATHOLIC CHARITIES SUPPORT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

For the past eight years, our parish has provided ongoing support to Catholic Charities' Refugee and Immigrant Services programs that provide aid to immigrants and New Americans. We have offered to provide refugee families with supermarket and general gift cards so that they will have food and household items when they resettle in Greater Boston. If you would like to purchase gift cards to Visa, Target, Market Basket, Stop 'n Shop, and Shaw's/Star Markets —and no more than \$25 per card —please feel free to drop them in the offertory basket or mail them to:

Mark Lippolt  
Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115

The need has never been greater and your accustomed generosity is greatly appreciated.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE FOR THE MARY ANN BRETT PANTRY

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, 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, Saint Cecilia is once again collecting backpacks and school supplies for the kids.

And we are requesting items that will be used to fill the backpacks: spiral notebooks, 3-ring binders, folders, dry-erase markers, and copy paper. There will be bins in the narthex if you want to provide any of the items above.

To make it easier to participate in the Back-To-School Drive, you can also access the pantry's Amazon wish list here: [www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11Q1I35W4EGYE?ref=wl\\_share](http://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11Q1I35W4EGYE?ref=wl_share). You can also scan the QR code on the right.



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

## BELVIDERE MIDDAY TUESDAY

Tuesdays | 1pm-2pm

First Meeting Begins Tuesday, August 19

This is a weekly "closed" Alcoholics Anonymous discussion meeting centered on the 3rd Step prayer, and will include a period of meditation. The first meeting will begin on Tuesday August 19th from 1pm-2pm at St. Cecilia Parish in the Community Room. Please enter at the glass entrance located at 30 St Cecilia Street.



Thank you again for your fantastic submissions, keep them coming! This is an ongoing project, so take as much time as you need for your answers. We are accepting physical and digital submissions, please see the instructions below if you need a refresher.

As a reminder, the box and notecards are located on the table in the narthex:

1. Think about what Saint Cecilia means to you.
  2. Grab a notecard and let your creativity flow! We want to see it all — a few words, phrases, or even a drawing!
  3. Once you have finished your notecard, place the card into the box for safe keeping.
- \* Feel free to take your notecard to the parish hall or home with you. We will have staff available to collect the notecards downstairs.
  - \* If you have a digital submission or any questions, please email Anastassia Kolchanov at her parish email.

Parishioners of all ages are encouraged to participate!

## COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA AUGUST 14 - 21

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

Summer Choral Workshop | 7pm | Classroom 1  
Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Assumption Day Mass | 8am

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom  
Mental & Medical Healthcare Workerforce Group  
1pm | Community Room

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 1pm | Community Room

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

Simeon and Anna Seniors | 10am | Parish Hall  
Summer Choral Workshop | 7pm | Classroom 1  
Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

# MASSACHUSETTS FAITH COMMUNITY RESISTANCE & NONCOOPERATION TRAINING



**SATURDAY  
13 SEPTEMBER**

**10AM-3PM**

**Cathedral Church of St. Paul  
Boston, Massachusetts**

**MASSACHUSETTS  
COUNCIL of CHURCHES**

**The Cathedral Church  
of Saint Paul**

**ECM**

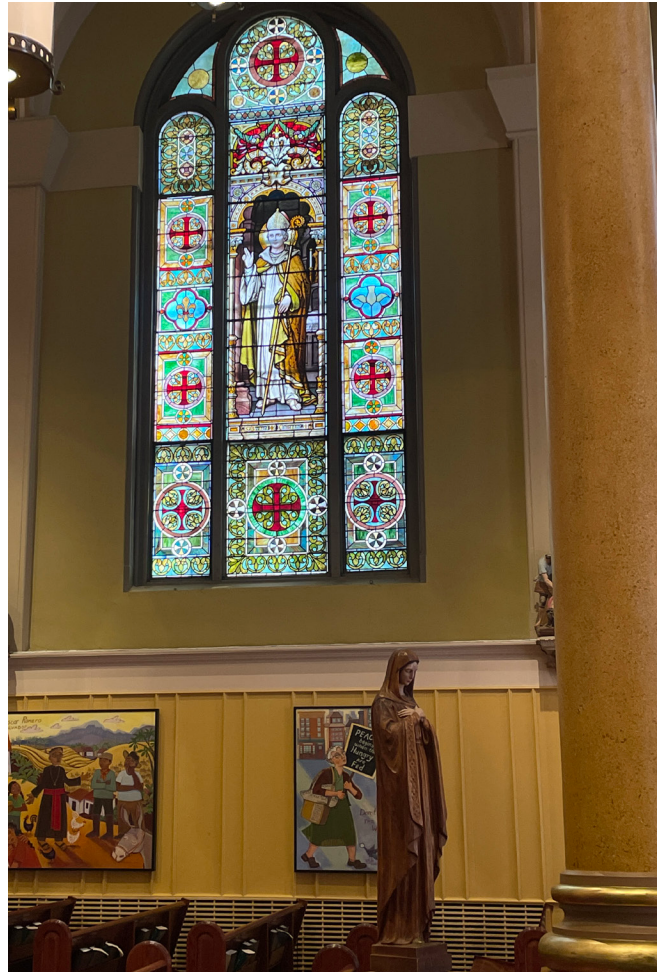
The Massachusetts Council of Churches and Episcopal City Mission invite you to the **MA Faith Community Resistance & Noncooperation Training** on Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont St., Boston, MA).

This in-person gathering will equip faith leaders and community members with tools for nonviolent resistance, faithful noncooperation, and solidarity in times of crisis. Lunch will be provided and registration is required: <http://bit.ly/4ISRn7I> or scan QR code above.



# SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

## AUGUST 20



Our stained glass windows add immeasurably to the beauty of Saint Cecilia Church and they serve an important purpose in reminding us of our communion with those whose lives paved the way for us today. This Wednesday we celebrate the memorial of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, whose stained glass window is on the east side of the church. We have no way of knowing why our forebears chose to honor Bernard with a window, but the 12th century Frankish abbot led a very interesting life.

Bernard was born into the Burgundian nobility and, in 1112, joined the Cistercians, a new order dedicated to the primitive observance of the Rule of St. Benedict. So many joined this new order—including his own father and six

brothers!—that three years later Bernard was sent to found the Abbey of Clairvaux, the first of many. Bernard wrote extensively on the Blessed Virgin Mary and was especially interested in her role as intercessor. He was often called upon by popes to mediate quarrels between kings and to heal schisms.

Bernard died at Clairvaux Abbey on August 20, 1153. He was canonized by Pope Alexander III on January 18, 1174. In 1830, Pope Pius VII declared him a Doctor of the Church. On May 24, 1953, in commemoration of the 800th anniversary of Bernard's death, Pope Pius XII issued an encyclical on Bernard titled, *Doctor Mellifluus*, in which he titled him "*The Last of the Fathers*."

# GO SET THE WORLD ON FIRE

BY KATIE DAVIS-CROWDER



Image: The National Gallery

*Ignatius Writes His Spiritual Exercises at Manresa by Carlos Saenz de Tejada (c. 1958)*

In May, I completed my 16th year in Jesuit education. If you or someone you love has attended a Jesuit school, you know we love our lingo: *magis*, *AMDG*, *cura personalis*, Ignatian contemplation, and the list goes on!

Arguably the most famous Jesuit motto found its inspiration in today's Gospel. St. Ignatius himself signed his letters to the earliest Jesuits, "*Ite inflamate omnia*"; "Go set the world on fire."

Perhaps Inigo also read the words of an earlier mystic, St. Catherine of Siena, who said, "*Be who God meant you to*

*be, and you will set the world on fire.*"

16 years of graduation speeches, Kairos talks, and branded materials allow even the biggest Ignatius fan to lose sight of how radical this call to action is. "Go set the world on fire" is not a pep rally chant, a feel-good catchphrase, or a t-shirt logo. For the sake of my students...my small child...our Church...and our world in 2025, I long to let the power of this appeal sink into my soul again.

What does it look like for us—in this moment—to "go set the world on fire"?

Today's readings remind us that we aren't the first, and we won't be the last to consider this question urgently. "[We] are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses," the epistle consoles. Let's seek strength today in the story of Christian community.

Jeremiah—like most prophets—is deemed *demoralizing* by the powers-that-be. The prophet cannot stop speaking the truth in love, calling out stubborn people who will not hear it. He has been warning Israel and their leaders; unless they stop the injustice and stop making gods of things that are not God, Babylon will destroy Jerusalem. Rather than returning to God's covenant, Israel's leaders instead label Jeremiah a *buzzkill*...not *patriotic* enough...annoying at best, and dangerous at worst.

Throughout the book of Jeremiah, we see that he is not just a downer! The prophet balances warning *and* hope, preaching that God will inscribe the Law—love of God and neighbor—on Israel's hearts. Still, the princes tell the people that Jeremiah clearly wants "their ruin" rather than their "welfare." Because the prophet's words make people uncomfortable, he *must* be the problem! The king absolves himself of accountability, and lets middle management throw Jeremiah into a cistern to die. We're offered a scary sensory feast—dank darkness, squishy mud, hunger, thirst—until an Ethiopian court official pleads with the king for Jeremiah's release.

The psalmist continues this dance of agonizing truth-telling and deep hope in God. We hear of the Lord who stoops toward our suffering and meets us in the mud. Lament and praise are interwoven by the composer, who knows in their heart of hearts that God listens to their needs. *Even now, in the depths, I will keep singing.*

Finally, in Luke's Gospel, Jesus exclaims that he has "come to set the world on fire." *This is essential to my mission... and part of me wishes I didn't have to do it,* Jesus shares. Not only does he name the hope of building something new; he gives voice to the real ache of burning something to the ground first.

*"There is a baptism with which I must be baptized,"* he proclaims.

Fire doesn't just consume; it purifies! But this baptism doesn't conjure a cute little infant in white. It doesn't only recall Jesus at the Jordan, beloved. It reminds us of all the trials that come next.

*"And how great is my **anguish** until it is accomplished,"* Jesus admits.

He acknowledges the **cost** of life in God.

*"Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth?"* Jesus challenges.

*Did you believe discipleship would be pretty?*

*Comfortable?*

*Instantly gratifying?*

*Immediately unifying?*

*No!*

*The leap to which I am calling you will hurt.*

*It will mean leaving your old story behind for the sake of love and justice.*

*Not everyone you've loved will feel called or able or ready to go with you.*

*And that reality will sting badly before it heals.*

*There will be family and community members*

*who will not support the burning before the rebuilding,*

*the death before the rising,*

*some who will be too terrified*

*to give up the illusion of certainty and control*

*to trust Love.*

Jesus knows better than most how hard it is to hold loss and hope simultaneously. The Paschal Mystery begins with the devastation of Good Friday that must precede the astonishment of Easter Sunday.

If we truly want to rise anew, we simply cannot skip the pain.

Looking around in 2025, many of us are struggling with how to be hope-filled truth-tellers in the face of profound human suffering and sin.

We are witnesses today to the same rejection of covenant values about which Jeremiah warned Israel,

the same rejection of God's love and justice for which Jesus gave his life:

poverty and violence,

racism and misogyny,  
homophobia and transphobia,  
consumerism and individualism,  
eco-cide and genocide.

*"Go set the world on fire"* challenges us to speak truth in love like Jeremiah did, even if it makes soldiers and princes uncomfortable...even if it lands us in a cistern.

*"Go set the world on fire"* empowers us to remember the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us and to take bold, countercultural risks like they did.

*"Go set the world on fire"* calls us to trust that the divisions we might exacerbate today are not signs that we should calm down, or make nice, or agree to disagree.

*"Go set the world on fire"* means we build resilience in community to withstand the divisions of the moment because we cannot abide the sort of dehumanization being inflicted on us and so many of God's children, sometimes even in Jesus' name.

*"Go set the world on fire"* enables us to hold on to the hope of the Resurrection without denying the darkness of this Good Friday era in our country and world.

Much of the time, I feel terrified of this moment.

**And** I have hope

that my students

and my toddler

will someday find inspiration and solidarity

in so great a cloud of witnesses,

just like we can,

like Ignatius and Catherine did,

like Jesus did,

like Jeremiah and the psalmist did.

While this truth of our ancestors cannot prevent the pain, it assures **we will never be alone on the way to the rising.**



*Originally published in Catholic Women Preach on August 17, 2025.*

*Katie Davis-Crowder is a former high school theology teacher and campus and youth minister based in Chicago, IL. Katie now collaborates with faith-justice communities as a presenter, retreat leader, singer, and writer. Certified by Midwest Jesuits, she also accompanies people in spiritual direction and in St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises.*

## BULLETIN ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: FAN PU



*Feed the Five Thousand*

Fan Pu (b.1948) was born in Nanjing and raised by her father the Rev. Fan, a well known calligraphy artist and a leader in the Little Flock movement. Fan Pu was seventeen when she joined her classmates in the Xinjiang Autonomous region during the Cultural Revolution as a part of the "Down to the Countryside" movement. They worked as low level farm laborers who missed the opportunity to pursue higher education. Although Fan Pu could not train formerly in art, she kept her creativity alive by creating traditional folk papercuts.

She moved back to Nanjing fourteen years later where she joined the Amity Christian Art Center, a hub of Chinese Christian artistic creation. Through the center, Fan Pu visits rural papercut artists in remote provinces in order to provide them with an outlet for their work and a steady income to improve their standard of living. Her lifelong dedication to the art of papercut has made her one of the most well known Christian artists in China.

# POPE SAINT PIUS X

AUGUST 21



Prior to our renovations fourteen years ago, the last major renovation of the upper church at Saint Cecilia occurred in 1954. It was during that same year that Pope Pius X, born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, was canonized and so our side altar on the east side of the church was re-dedicated in his honor.

Pope Pius X (1835-1914) restored Gregorian Chant to prominence over Classical and Baroque music during the liturgy. He was also known for his devotion to Mary and for his pastoral nature. Above the statue of Pius X on the side altar, there are two paintings that depict important reforms he initiated. One painting



shows him instructing children, commemorating the fact that he instituted Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) for children in every parish. The other painting, which prominently features a chalice and the Eucharist, honors Pius X for promoting the frequent reception of Holy Communion and for lowering the age of first Communion for children because, as he said, "Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to Heaven."

Saint Pius is the patron saint of first communicants and the U. S. dioceses of Atlanta, Georgia and Great Falls-Billings, Montana.

# PARISH RESOURCES

## Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115  
Hours | Seven days a week, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781  
Website | [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org)

## Parish Staff

**Rev. John J. Unni**, Pastor  
**Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ**, Pastoral Support  
**Mark Donohoe**, Pastoral Associate  
**Robert Duff**, Director of Music  
**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 Pastoral Director of Operations, Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien.

## Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, 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.