

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

18 August 2024

Eucharist by Madi Michael

# IN MEMORIAM



REVEREND PETER W. GYVES, SJ, MD

1951-2024

## ANIMA CHRISTI

SOUL OF CHRIST, SANCTIFY ME;  
BODY OF CHRIST, SAVE ME;  
BLOOD OF CHRIST, INEBRIATE ME;  
WATER FROM THE SIDE OF CHRIST, WASH ME;  
PASSION OF CHRIST, STRENGTHEN ME;  
O GOOD JESUS, HEAR ME;  
WITHIN THY WOUNDS, HIDE ME;  
SUFFER ME NOT TO BE SEPARATED FROM THEE;  
FROM THE EVIL ENEMY DEFEND ME;  
IN THE HOUR OF MY DEATH CALL ME,  
AND BID ME COME UNTO THEE,  
THAT WITH ALL THY SAINTS I MAY PRAISE THEE  
FOR ALL ETERNITY.  
AMEN.

THIS PRAYER HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA  
AND IT APPEARS AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS SPIRITUAL EXERCISES.

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

18 AUGUST 2024

## THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Adagio from Sonata, Op. 65, No. 1  
Brett Maguire, organist

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Jesus Shall Reign

DUKE STREET



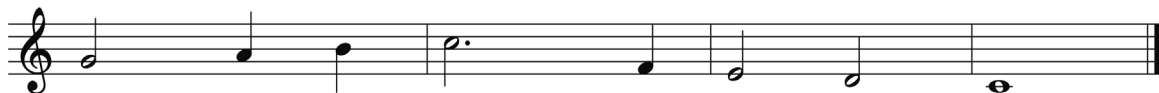
1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun  
2. To him shall end - less prayer be made,  
3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue  
4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns:  
5. Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring



Does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;  
And prais - es thron - to crown his head;  
Dwell on his love with sweet - est song;  
The pris - 'ners leap to lose their chains,  
Bless - ing and hon - or to our King,



His king - dom stretch from shore to shore,  
His name like sweet per - fume shall rise  
And in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim  
The wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest,  
An - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,



Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
And all who suf - fer want are blest.  
And earth re - peat the loud A - men.

## 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.

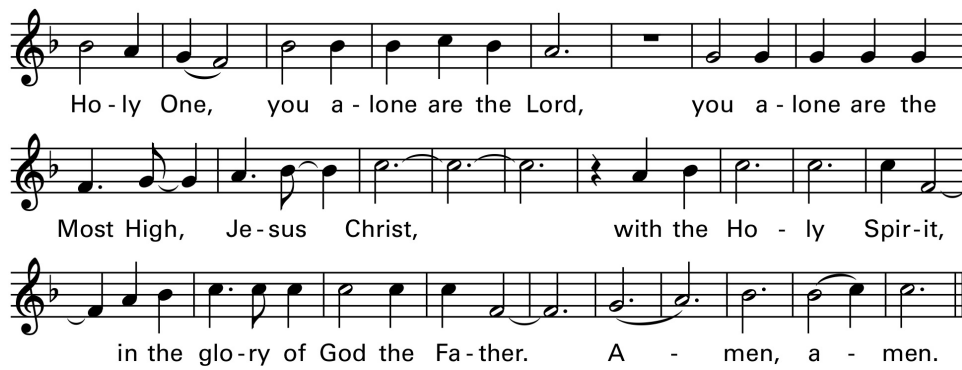
All: And with your spirit.

## GLORIA | Mass of Renewal

Curtis Stephan

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 | Proverbs 9: 1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 34: Taste and See

Joseph Vasinda



1. I will bless the lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad.
2. Glorify the Lord with me, let us together extol his name.  
I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
3. Look for him that you may be radiant with joy. And your faces may not blush with shame.  
When the afflicted man called out, the Lord heard, and from all his distress he saved him.
4. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.  
Taste and see how good the Lord is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him.

SECOND READING | Ephesians 5: 15-20



## GOSPEL | John 6: 51-58

## 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!

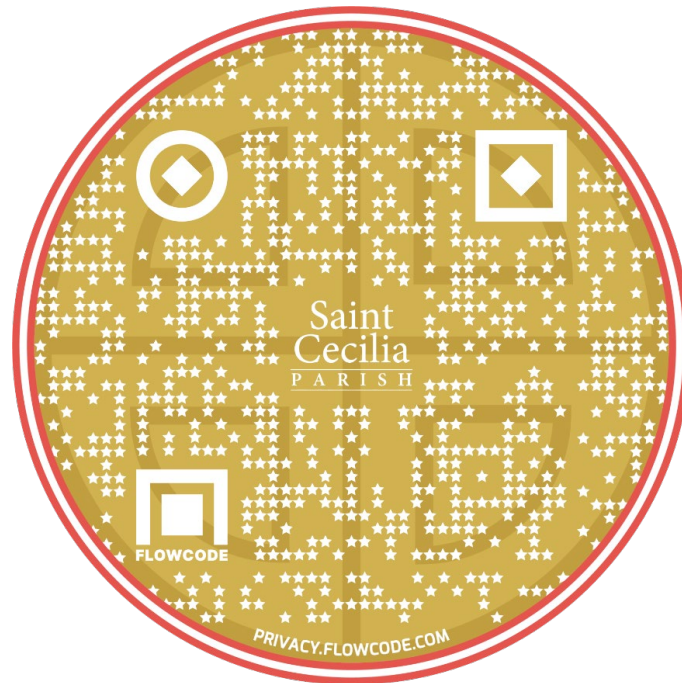
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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



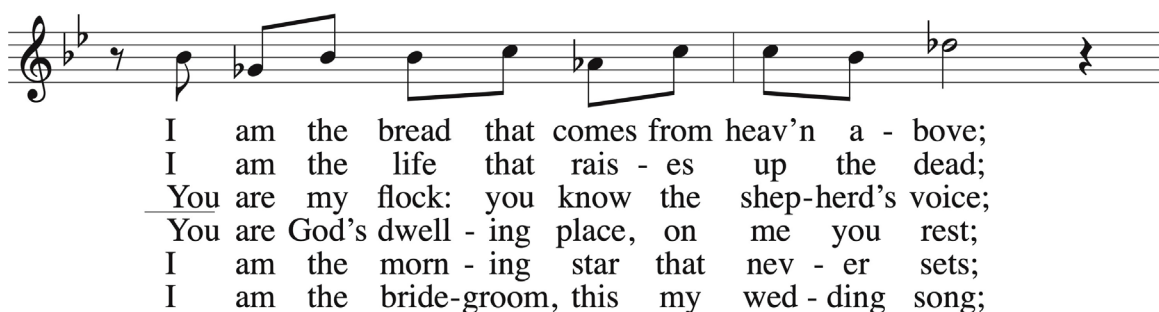
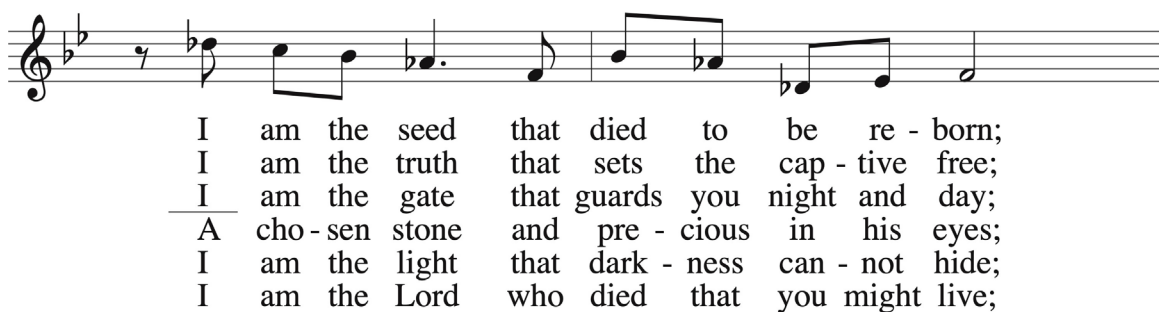
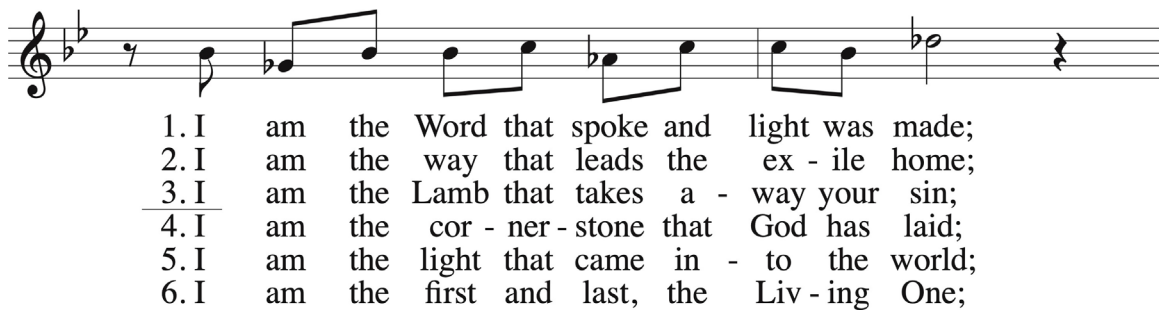
# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Take and Eat

Michael Joncas



## Verses







I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.  
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.  
You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.  
Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.  
Lift up your face, in you my light will shine.  
You are my bride, come to the mar - riage feast.

#### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

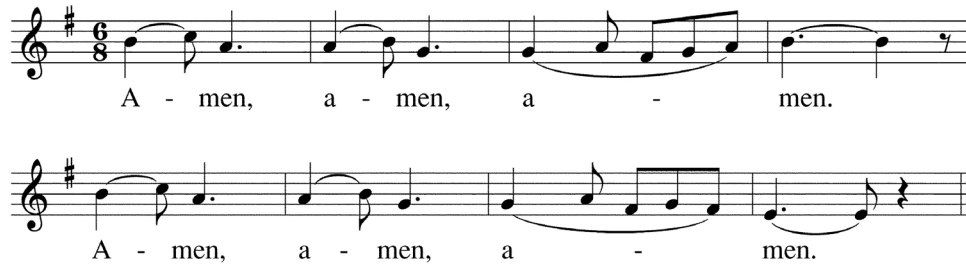
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -  
fess your Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.

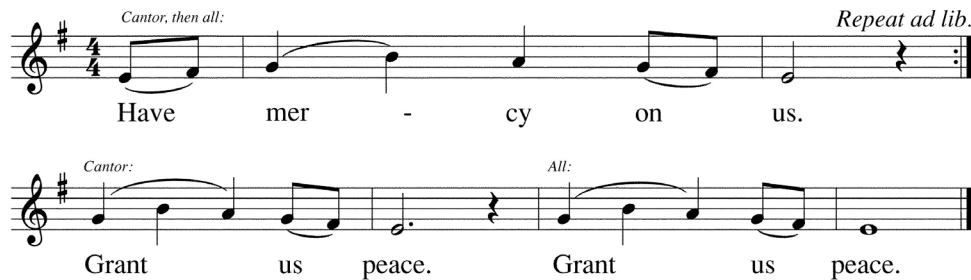


## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## LAMB OF GOD | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



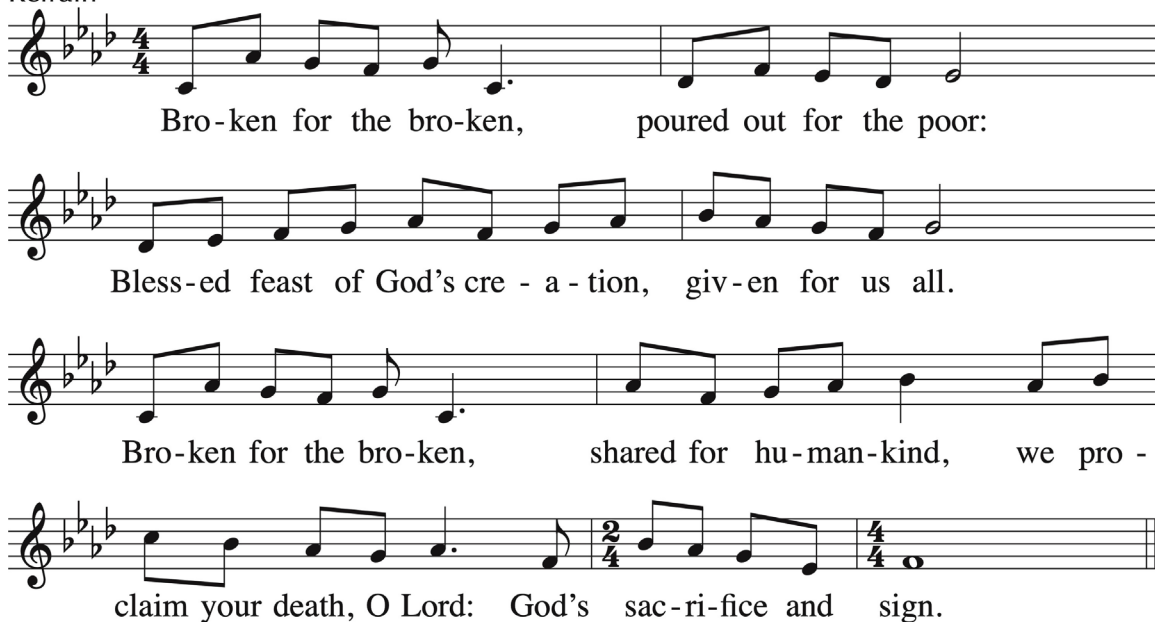
## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.

## Refrain



Bro-ken for the bro-ken, poured out for the poor:

Bless-ed feast of God's cre - a - tion, giv-en for us all.

Bro-ken for the bro-ken, shared for hu-man-kind, we pro -

claim your death, O Lord: God's sac-ri-fice and sign.

## Verses



|           |                      |                            |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. For    | the hun - gry ones,  | for the thirst - y ones,   |
| 2. For    | the ones a - bused,  | for the ones con-fused,    |
| 3. For    | the voice-less ones, | for the help-less ones,    |
| 4. For    | the wound-ed ones,   | for the shat-tered ones,   |
| 5. For    | the ones in chains,  | for the ones in fear,      |
| 6. For    | the ail - ing ones,  | for the hurt - ing ones,   |
| 7. As     | we break this bread, | as we take this cup,       |
| 8. As     | we trust your word,  | as we live your way,       |
| 9. Change | our hearts, O Lord,  | give us will - ing hearts, |

|                             |                         |           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| for the lone - ly ones,     | you call us to serve,   | to be     |
| for the ones re - fused,    | you call us to love,    | to be     |
| for the home-less ones,     | you call us to speak,   | to be     |
| for the ti - red ones,      | you call us to help,    | to be     |
| for the ones in debt,       | you call us to give,    | to be     |
| for the dy - ing ones,      | you call us to care,    | to be     |
| as we share this meal,      | you call us to change,  | to be     |
| as we walk by faith,        | you call us to share,   | to be     |
| hearts that rec - og - nize | the cour - age to serve | and share |

D.C.



1.-8. Christ for each oth - er, bro - ken for the world.

9. Christ with each oth - er, bro - ken for the world.



## 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.
- ✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.  
All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL | Jesus Christ, by Faith Revealed

DIX

1. Je - sus Christ, by faith re-vealed In your gath-ered  
2. Je - sus Christ, by faith re-vealed In the ho - ly  
3. Je - sus Christ, by faith re-vealed With us now in  
4. Je - sus Christ, by faith re-vealed In all deeds of

Church at prayer, In the Spir - it, giv - ing thanks  
Word pro - claimed— Truth en - kind - ling mind and heart,  
sa - cred sign— Cleans-ing wa - ter, heal - ing oil,  
jus - tice done, Mer - cy shown to weak and poor,

For all bless - ings of your care: God-with - us as  
Gos - pel wis - dom here ac - claimed: God-with - us as  
Gift of self in Bread and Wine: God-with - us as  
Wel - come warm with - held from none: God-with - us as

life, we pray, Make your pres - ence known to - day!  
light, we pray, Make your pres - ence known to - day!  
grace, we pray, Make your pres - ence known to - day!  
love, we pray, Make your pres - ence known to - day!

POSTLUDE | Fugue in C, BWV 545  
Brett Maguire, *organist*

Johann Sebastian Bach

*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 17 | 5:00 p.m.**

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Maggie Giles, lector

**Sunday, August 18 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant  
Jim Dougherty, lector

**Sunday, August 18 | 9:30 a.m.**

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

**Sunday, August 18 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. John Unni, celebrant  
Karen McMenamy, Zachary Boutin, and Jen Kowieski, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Sunday, August 18 | 9:30 a.m.**

Jean Collins, *Memorial*  
Frederick McMahon, *Memorial*  
Michael Conlon, *Memorial*  
Maisie Mullon, *Memorial*

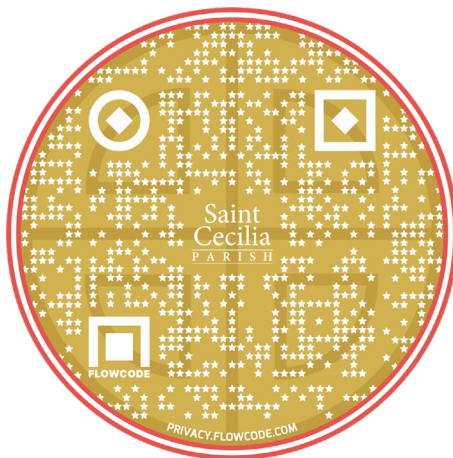
## TODAY'S READINGS

Proverbs 9:1-6  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b  
Ephesians 5:21-32  
John 6:60-69

**PLEASE SCAN THIS CODE  
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!**





# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

## Our Deceased

The parish mourns the loss of **Fr. Peter Gyves, SJ**, who died unexpectedly on August 7. Pray for the repose of the soul of Father Peter, as well as for the consolation of his Jesuit confrères and his family and friends. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Fr. John Grimes, David Kennedy, Jacqueline Lavelle, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, and Fred Tufts.

## Don't Wait: Registration for Children's Faith Formation 2024-2025 Is Now Open!

We are delighted to share that registration for our Children's Faith Formation classes for the coming year is now open. Please note that space is limited for a number of classes, and so please register as soon as possible to ensure your child(ren)'s/ teen's place in the class. To register, visit <https://stceciliaboston.org/cff-reg>. Classes begin on Sunday, September 22. Please note that the fee to register is \$200.

## Help Care For Those in Need

Occasionally we give gift cards to our sisters and brothers in need. We need to replenish our supply of gift cards to Shaw's Supermarket, Star Market, and MarketBasket. If you would like to help out in this way, simply purchase a gift card and place it in the collection basket at Mass, give it to a member of the staff, or mail it to the Parish Office. We are very appreciative of your help as we attempt to offer some assistance to our neighbors in need.

## THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA

AUGUST 18 - AUGUST 25

### Sunday, August 18

Wisdom Group, 8:30-9:30 a.m. | Zoom

### Monday, August 19

SCYA Women's Group, 7:30-8:30 p.m. | Zoom

### Wednesday, August 21

SCYA Men's Group, 7:30-8:30 a.m. | Zoom  
Mass, 8:00 a.m.

### Thursday, August 22

Mass, 8:00 a.m.  
Seniors Group, 10:00-11:30 a.m.,  
Church and Parish Hall  
Communion Circle, 4:00-5:00 p.m. | Hale House  
Wisdom Group Meeting, 7:30-8:30 p.m. | Zoom

### Friday, August 23

Mass, 8:00 a.m.

### Sunday, August 25

Wisdom Group, 8:30-9:30 a.m. | Zoom  
Young Families Ministry, Following the 9:30 Mass,  
Family Flex Center  
SCYA Contemplative Prayer Group, 2:00-3:00 p.m.,  
Community Room

## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

**VIRTUS Training | Sunday, September 8, 2:00 p.m. | Community Room**

VIRTUS is the umbrella term for a two-part training designed to keep children safe in the parish setting. The Archdiocese requires this two-part training of all volunteers and staff who have the potential for direct contact with children or the vulnerable due to their involvement in the parish. The first part, Protecting God's Children (or PGC), is a training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms that a child is being abused and how to talk with children about these issues. The second part is a mandated reporter training. All parish staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to attend this one-time training. If you intend to volunteer in the future and haven't attended this training before, please join us. Please note that both parts will be covered in Sunday's session and the training will be approximately 3 hours, including videos and group discussion. Help us by officially registering for this course at [www.virtusonline.org/](http://www.virtusonline.org/). Doing so will create a permanent record of your participation and completion of the training. If you can't register online, please join us anyway and come a few minutes early so you can be registered in the system. Thank you so much, and we look forward to seeing you!

## DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES



With summer here, many of the families that have been faithful donors to our collection of food items for the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett pantries will be away until September. We hope that you will consider participating in this important ministry during the summer months 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 has 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. You may wish to follow the example of some of our parishioners and have some of the items above delivered to the parish via Amazon or a similar service. If you choose to, please have them delivered to *Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115*. Thank you!

### JOIN OUR WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality Group holds two online gatherings each week on Zoom. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. to share ways faith informs and enriches the second half of life. They're not a book club, but their conversations are often informed by shared spiritual reading. Their next book is "When the Trees Say Nothing," a collection of Thomas Merton's nature writings edited by Kathleen Deignan. To request information about meetings or to be added to the Wisdom mailing list, please email the ministry at this parish address.

## 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.

The Brett Pantry has asked that we provide backpacks for the following school grades:

- Grades K-4
- Grades 5-8
- Grades 9-12



In addition, the following items will be used to fill the backpacks: spiral notebooks, 3-ring binders, folders, dry-erase markers, and loose leaf filler 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 wish list here: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11Q1I35W4EGYE?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11Q1I35W4EGYE?ref_=wl_share) or using this QR code. Thank you so much for your dedication to improving the kids' lives in Greater Boston!

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## JOIN US FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL FAR-FLUNG FLUNG PARISH RETREAT

**Friday, September 13—Sunday, September 15 | Parish Hall**

Whether we live in the Boston area or around the world, members of the Saint Cecilia community are committed to responding to our shared responsibility to live out our Christian calling. Last year's Far-Flung Flock weekend retreat was so well received that we're doing it again! This year, however, in addition to being open to members of the FFF, the retreat will be open to local parishioners. This year's retreat theme is, "Praying, Listening, & Sharing; Ways to Live Out Our Faith Together." Come spend a weekend in fellowship and prayer as we listen to guest speakers encouraging us to respond to the needs of others around our world. To participate in this year's retreat, please register online here: <https://www.stceciliaboston.org/fff-retreat/>. Please note: we have limited space and there is a \$50 registration fee. If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact the FFF Ministry.

## LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE GALA

**Saturday, September 28 | 5:30 p.m.—10:30 p.m.**

**DCU Center in Worcester, Massachusetts**

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 connections 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 those two years it is needed.

Their annual gala takes place on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the DCU Center in Worcester, Massachusetts. Tickets are \$125 each if purchased in August (\$140 if purchased in September) and there will be tables of eight. Purchase tickets at: <https://bit.ly/46Hbe3B>. If you plan to attend and would like to sit at the Saint Cecilia table, please email the Rainbow Ministry. It is also possible to purchase a ticket so an asylum seeker can attend the event.



### JOIN OUR BIWEEKLY SIMEON & ANNA SENIORS GATHERING

**Thursday, August 22, 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.**  
**Every Other Week Following**

*Join us for coffee, sweets, and conversation,  
followed by prayer and song!*

\* The first 30 minutes are open for folks to arrive,  
be welcomed into the space, and for hospitality.

**Where?** Saint Cecilia Parish (enter through the  
doors on St. Cecilia St. and ring the bell to be let in).

**Questions?** Email Lucy Conroy ([seniors@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:seniors@stceciliaboston.org))

## A WAY TO HELP THE CHILDREN AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES INN

Our friends at Catholic Charities provide temporary, supportive housing for families working to get back on their feet and under their own roof. Each program is staffed 24/7 with qualified and trained workers to help provide safety and consistency to families and/or individuals.

Under the direction of Vice President of Basic Needs, Beth Chambers, case managers assess the needs of the guests and together they determine the best path to rebuild, strengthen their families, and move toward self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities Inn and Safety-Net Shelters opened in Brighton in 2023 in response to the growing humanitarian crisis facing families experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts. Residents are referred directly through the state's emergency shelter system.

Many children are living in this shelter and here's a link to an Amazon Wish List so that they can be fully prepared for the start of the school year: <https://amzn.to/4dAFRKe>

Thank you for your generosity!



[illegible]

Please be assured that, even with a modest surplus of \$4,085, the parish continues to enjoy a very stable financial position. This is a direct result of your continuing generosity. Please know how very much you are all appreciated for enabling Saint Cecilia to play such a positive role in our community.

Father John Unni, Pastor • Matt Maguire, Chair  
Bonnie Blanchfield • David Castaldi  
Alicia Cooney Mark Duggan • Jason Grapski • Cole Young  
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance  
Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations



# SAINT CECILIA PARISH

## FISCAL YEAR 2024 Q4 BUDGET

### OPERATING STATEMENT

|   | Quarter Ending<br>June 30, 2024 | Quarter Ending<br>June 30, 2024 |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|   | ACTUAL                          | BUDGET                          |
| <b><u>INCOME</u></b>                    |                                 |                                 |
| Sunday Offertory Income                 | \$ 2,012,037                    | \$ 2,050,000                    |
| Special Donations Income                | \$ 920,848                      | \$ 987,000                      |
| Operating Income                        | \$ 354,129                      | \$ 333,500                      |
| Miscellaneous Income                    | \$ 107,509                      | \$ 127,500                      |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                     | <b>\$ 3,394,523</b>             | <b>\$ 3,498,000</b>             |
| <b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>                  |                                 |                                 |
| Personnel Expenses                      | \$ 1,367,662                    | \$ 1,380,527                    |
| Office Expenses                         | \$ 224,992                      | \$ 217,750                      |
| Liturgy Expenses                        | \$ 107,271                      | \$ 107,650                      |
| Building Expenses                       | \$ 1,097,223                    | \$ 1,077,000                    |
| Other Expenses                          | \$ 593,290                      | \$ 564,938                      |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                   | <b>\$ 3,390,438</b>             | <b>\$ 3,347,865</b>             |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>       | <b>\$ 4,085</b>                 | <b>\$ 150,135</b>               |
| <b>TRANSFER TO CAPITAL REPAIRS ACCT</b> | <b>\$ (150,000)</b>             | <b>\$ (150,000)</b>             |
| <b>FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS</b>   | <b>\$ (145,915)</b>             | <b>\$ 135</b>                   |

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET

### FYE JUNE 30, 2025 BUDGET OPERATING STATEMENT

|  | FISCAL YEAR ENDING<br>June 30, 2024 | FISCAL YEAR ENDING<br>June 30, 2025 |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  | ACTUAL                              | BUDGET                              |
| <b><u>INCOME</u></b>                     |                                     |                                     |
| Sunday Offertory Income                  | \$ 2,012,037                        | \$ 2,050,000                        |
| Special Donations Income                 | \$ 920,848                          | \$ 933,000                          |
| Operating Income                         | \$ 354,129                          | \$ 374,135                          |
| Miscellaneous Income                     | \$ 107,509                          | \$ 108,350                          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                      | <b>\$ 3,394,523</b>                 | <b>\$ 3,465,485</b>                 |
| <b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>                   |                                     |                                     |
| Personnel Expenses                       | \$ 1,367,662                        | \$ 1,526,978                        |
| Office Expenses                          | \$ 224,992                          | \$ 253,250                          |
| Liturgy Expenses                         | \$ 107,271                          | \$ 106,750                          |
| Building Expenses                        | \$ 1,097,223                        | \$ 798,000                          |
| Other Expenses                           | \$ 593,290                          | \$ 630,263                          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                    | <b>\$ 3,390,438</b>                 | <b>\$ 3,315,241</b>                 |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>        | <b>\$ 4,085</b>                     | <b>\$ 150,244</b>                   |
| <b>TRANSFER FOR CAPITAL REPAIRS ACCT</b> | <b>\$ (150,000)</b>                 | <b>\$ (150,000)</b>                 |
| <b>FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS</b>    | <b>\$ (145,915)</b>                 | <b>\$ 244</b>                       |



## THE SPIRITUAL AND RELATIONAL ACT OF LAUGHTER

BY DANIEL P. HORAN, OFM

Thirteen years ago, I arrived at Old Mission Santa Barbara where I would stay for a month praying, reflecting, sharing and dialoging with the other friars who, like me at the time, were preparing to profess our solemn vows later that summer. Over the course of a weekend, about half a dozen friars from around the country arrived at the retreat center. We began getting to know each other over meals and sharing stories, recognizing that what we shared in common was greater than whatever our differences may have been in terms of age, ethnic background, place of origin or respective home province (the Franciscans have restructured into one US province since then).

The last friar to arrive experienced some terrible travel delays and showed up late on the first full day together. He settled in fairly quickly but after dinner, when we as a group began a nightly custom of sitting together and talking or playing board games, this friar looked right at me and said: "You are not what I expected!"

I was a little taken aback and confused. He went on to explain that he had read several of the academic articles on medieval Franciscan theology I had written with appreciation, and envisioned the author being someone whose demeanor was more staid, maybe even somber or uptight, or some stereotype of a "serious person."

What he encountered was nothing like that at all. I often describe myself as a goofball, as someone who likes to laugh and make others laugh, who tells jokes and delights in bad puns. I enjoy comedy in a variety of forms, especially the more absurd kind. And this particular friar liked that about me, but it took him a moment to adjust what he had assumed about me in the abstract to align more with the lighthearted and funny person he now knew.

To be clear, I am in many ways a serious person. I take my work seriously, my faith seriously, issues of justice and

peace seriously, but I try not to take myself too seriously.

All these years later, that encounter has stayed with me for a couple of reasons. For one, it offered a little insight into how quick we can be to presume we know someone based on the limited information we have from afar. We can be so quick at times to assume we know what a person is like just because we read their work or follow their social media or see them on television without ever meeting them in real life. It is tempting to want to assess, categorize and judge people without taking the effort to get to know them.

The other reason this exchange stayed with me was that it illustrates something about how some people think about the relationship between humor and spirituality. Comedy and laughter are, from this vantage point, inherently unserious and maybe even diametrically opposed to the practice of one's faith.

I think this perspective is wrong and often leads well-meaning people of faith to look down at things like comedic movies and television shows, stand-up comedy performances and perhaps even the telling of jokes.

There is something inherently spiritual and relational in the act of laughing. Laughing, maybe second only to eating, requires a distinct kind of vulnerability. One must let their guard down, feel comfortable enough in the presence of others—including strangers in a movie theater, stand-up comedy club or in the office break room—to allow oneself to be swept up into a shared moment of levity, which results in an instinctive physical, emotional, mental and—I would argue—spiritual response.

Perhaps it will not surprise regular readers of my column that I am inclined to invoke the great 20th century Jesuit theologian Fr. Karl Rahner, who wrote a short essay on laughter. He, like me after reflecting on that encounter with my brother friar, considered whether or not laughter and humor were opposed to authentic spirituality. He was thinking about what he called "real laughter, resounding laughter, the kind that makes a person double over and slap his thighs, the kind that brings tears to the eyes; the laughter that accompanies spicy jokes, the laughter that reflects the fact that a human being is no doubt somewhat childlike and childish."

With this uproarious sense of laughter in mind, he wrote:

The question is only this: whether or not the spiritual person must rightly call this laughter into question, whether or not he has to attack it as incompatible with the dignity of a spiritual person.

No! Not at all! Let us explain and justify this laughter. When we do so, laughter shall smilingly tell us very serious things.

Rahner goes on to share that laughter is, first and foremost, an affirmation of our humanity. He notes that scripture proclaims that "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh" (Ecclesiastes 3:4) and that each of these actions is a legitimate expression of our full humanity and a form of praise of God because "it lets a human being be human."

He also says that laughter is a sign of love, because to laugh requires a form of sympathy. We must relate to those telling the jokes, sharing the story, acting in a comedic or entertaining way—and our response through laughter is an expression of solidarity and love.

God laughs, too, Rahner asserts. God "laughs the laughter of the carefree, the confident, the unthreatened." This makes sense, of course, because God delights in the world and has given us a share in that divine joy that we can see reflected in the truly humorous and joyful experiences of laughter. Rahner says that laughter is also spiritual in this sense, because our laughter is a "gentle echo of God's laughter."

Laughter is a gift from God and a reminder that we are meant to be witnesses of God's joy in the world, not merely echo chambers of misery, division and gloom. This is something we need not only in broader society, but also in our church. Seriousness and faithfulness do not preclude humor and laughter. Pope Francis has modeled this so often in his public addresses and spontaneous interactions, especially with children (who definitely do not take themselves too seriously) and with other joyful people.

There are also abundant illustrations throughout scripture and Christian history of how humor and laughter have been integral parts of our spiritual tradition. A great introduction to some of these themes are presented in Jesuit Fr. James Martin's 2011 book, *Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life*. What Rahner lays out as a foundational theology of laughter, his Jesuit brother Martin develops in an accessible and, of course, humorous way.

As we continue to face many difficulties, divisions and challenges in our world and within our faith community today, I believe it's a good idea to take some time to laugh, especially with other people.

Maybe it's over the summer barbeque or during a family reunion while telling funny stories about loved ones.

Maybe it's having a drink with friends and colleagues after a workday and recounting a silly event at a meeting or in the office.

Maybe it's going to the local comedy club to hear people tell jokes and stories to total strangers with whom you also embrace a shared vulnerability in letting yourself laugh with delight.

Maybe it's reading a funny book or watching a comedy or some other form of entertainment that allows you to let down your guard and laugh with the fullness of your humanity.

Whatever you do, remember that laughter is a deeply spiritual act and is also a form of praising God, which is something we should do as often as we are able.

~ Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, is the director of the Center for the Study of Spirituality and professor of philosophy, religious studies and theology at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. He is also affiliated professor of spirituality at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. His most recent books are *Engaging Thomas Merton: Spirituality, Justice, and Racism* (Orbis Books, 2023) and *Fear and Faith: Hope and Wholeness in a Fractured World* (Paulist Press, 2024).



## RETURNING CITIZENS MINISTRY: LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Previously known as our Prison and After Ministry, the Saint Cecilia Returning Citizens group meets every other Monday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. to provide a safe, welcoming space for men transitioning back into society following prison or jail. Each meeting consists of an opportunity to discuss challenges (and wins!) and gain support, followed by a shared meal. In particular, we welcome individuals from Coolidge House (the federal release center on Huntington Avenue) and Brooke House (the state release center in the Fenway). We are looking for more men to join us, so, if you know anyone who could benefit from this group, please personally invite them to join. You can refer any questions to the ministry's email address. Please remember that your quick referral could make a significant difference in someone's life!

# 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  
Website | [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org)

## Parish Staff

**Rev. John J. Unni**, Pastor  
**Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ**, Pastoral Support  
**Christine Burns**, Digital and Print Media Coordinator  
**Mark Donohoe**, Pastoral Associate  
**Robert Duff**, Director of Music  
**Joe Ebbert**, Director of Emerging Adult Ministries  
**Carly-Anne Gannon**, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation  
**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

## Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

## 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  
**Vasily Izumchensky**, Livestream Sound Engineer

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 Faith Formation, contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Carly-Anne Gannon, at her parish email.

## 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 (VIRTUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, Kathy Sanders, MD, or Erin Young if you have any questions. The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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.

## 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.

### 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 ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists would be happy to pass along the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online!