

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Christ Giving the Keys of the Kingdom to St. Peter, Sistine Chapel

by Pietro Perugino (1481–83)

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 August 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

23 AUGUST 2026

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Prelude on Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | God is Here! As We His People

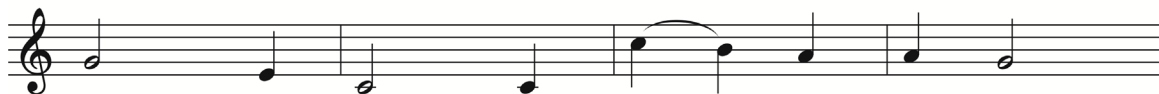
ABBOTT'S LEIGH



1. God is here! As we his peo - ple
2. Here are sym - bols to re - mind us
3. Here our chil - dren find a wel - come
4. Lord of all, of Church and king - dom,



Meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
Of our life - long need of grace;
In the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
In an age of change and doubt,



May we find in ful - ler meas - ure
Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
Here, as bread and wine are tak - en,
Keep us faith - ful to the Gos - pel;



What it is in Christ we share.
Here the cross has cen - tral place.
Christ sus - tains us as of old.
Help us work your pur - pose out.



Here, as in the world a - round us,
Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing,
Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant
Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion,



All our var - ied skills and arts
Here in si - lence, as in speech,
Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
All we have to give, re - ceive;



Wait the com - ing of the Spir - it
Here, in new - ness and re - new - al,
What it means in dai - ly liv - ing
We, who can - not live with - out you,



In - to o - pen minds and hearts.
God the Spir - it comes to each.
To be - lieve and to a - dore.
We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and on earth peace, on earth peace to
peo - ple of good will. A - men.

Verses

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

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 22: 19-23

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 138: Lord, Your Love is Eternal

Tony E. Alonso

Lord, your love is e - ter - nal,

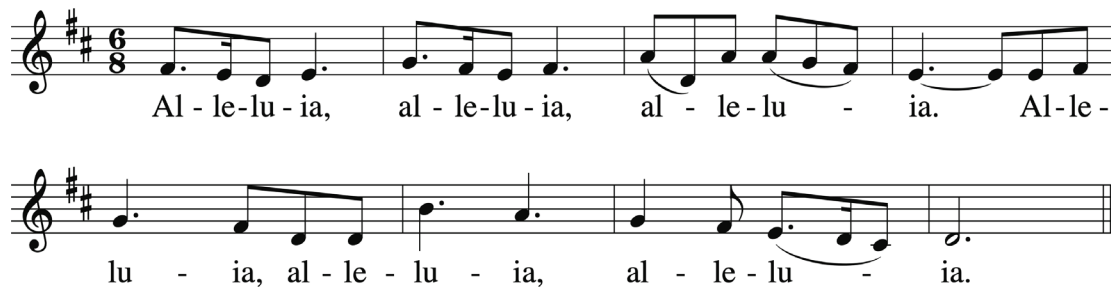
Lord, your love is e - ter - nal;

do not for-sake the work of your hands,

Lord, your love is e - ter - nal.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you. I bow down toward your holy temple.
2. I give thanks to your name for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me; you increased the strength of my soul.
3. The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly; and the haughty he knows from afar.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

SECOND READING | Romans 11: 33-36



GOSPEL | Matthew 16: 13-20

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

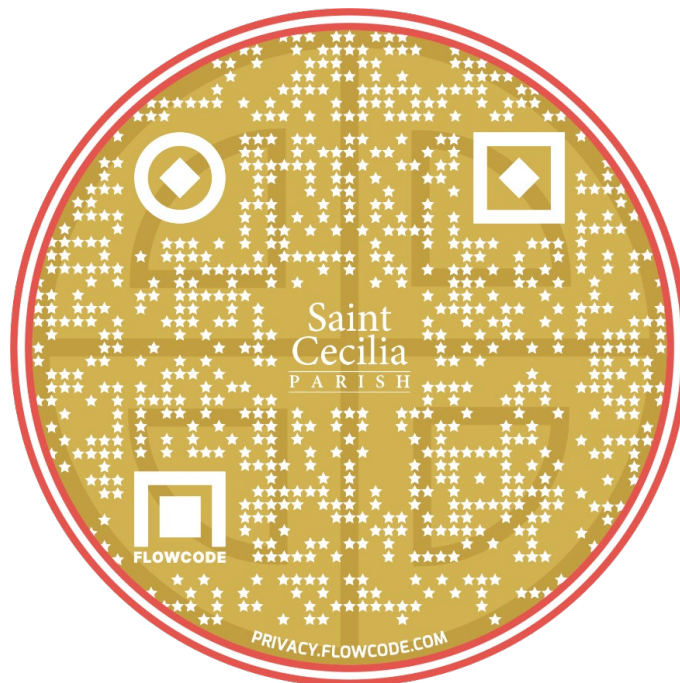
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Bless These Walls

Zach Stachkowski

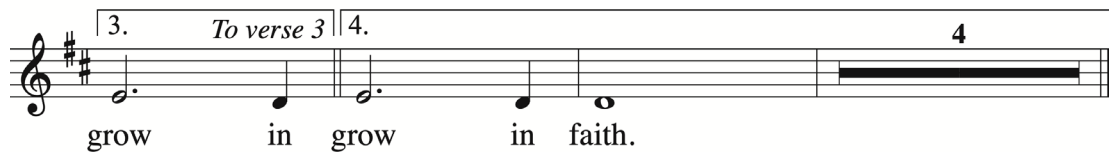
Refrain



Bless these walls, bless this space; find in us a ho-ly place.



Make us new, one in you, gath-ered here to grow in faith.



grow in grow in faith.

Verse 1



1. Gath-ered here in this ho-ly tem-ple, all are here: the great-est and



least. You've pre-pared a place for us to dwell in last-ing peace.

Verse 2



2. May the doors of our church be o-pen to all who hear your call.



O-pen wide the gates and let the love of Christ pour in.

Verse 3
faith.

3. As the spar-row finds a home and the swal-low finds its
nest, our hap - pi - ness is with you, O God.
In your house we shall, we shall dwell. **D.C.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✕ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✕ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✕ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -

fess your Res - ur - rec-tion un - til you come a - gain.



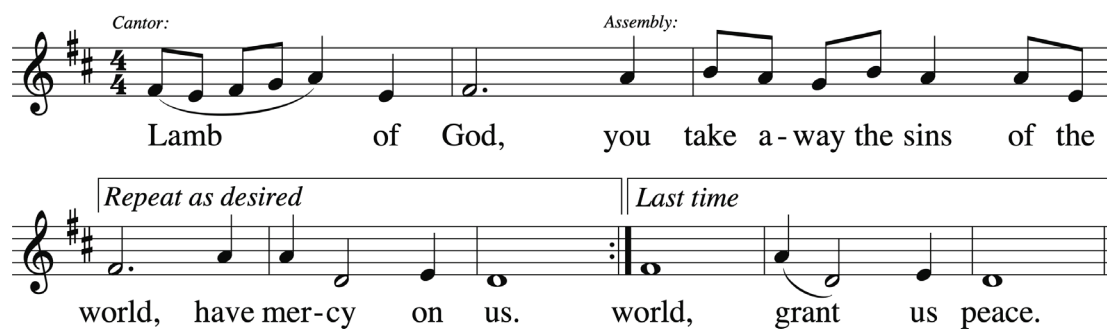
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Joy and Peace



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

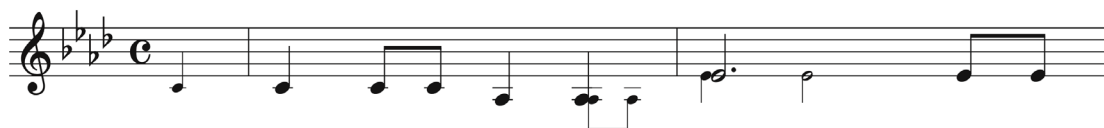
It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an "Act of Spiritual Communion." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION | I Am the Bread of Life

Suzanne Toolan



1. _____	I	am the Bread of	life.	You who
2. The	bread that	I will	give	is my
3. Un -	less _____	you _____	eat	of the
4. _____	I	am the Res - ur -	rec - tion,	_____
5. _____	Yes, Lord,	we be -	lieve	that _____
1. _____	Yo	soy el Pan de	Vi - da.	A mí
2. El	pan que	yo da -	ré	es mi
3. _____	Si	us - te - des no	co - men	la _____
4. Yo	soy la	Re - su - rrec -	ción,	_____
5. _____	Sí,	Se - ñor, cre -	e - mos	que _____



come	to me shall	not	hun -	ger; _____	and who be -
flesh	for the life	of the	world,	_____	and if you
flesh	of the Son	of	Man _____	and _____	
I _____	am	the	life. _____	If you be -	
you _____	are	the	Christ, _____	the _____	
ven -	gan: _____	no ten -	drán	ham -	bre. _____
car -	ne, la vi -	da del	mun -	do. _____	Los que
car -	ne del Hi -	jo del	Hom -	bre, _____	y no
Yo _____	soy la	Vi -	da. _____	Si en	
tú e -	res _____	el	Me -	sí -	as, _____
					el _____



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat of this bread, you shall live for
drink of his blood, and drink of his
lieve in me, e - ven though you
Son of God, Who has

cre - an: no ten-drán sed. Na - die vie - ne a
co - men de es - te pan vi - vi - rán por
be - ben de su san - gre, no be - ben de su
mí us - te - des cre - en, aun - que ha - yan
Hi - jo de Dios, que has ve - ni - do al



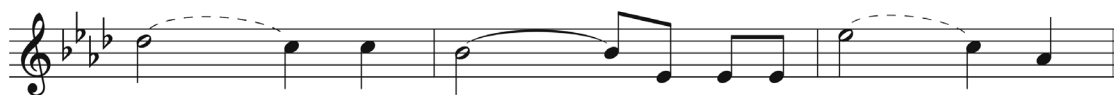
me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons.
ev - er, you shall live for ev - er.
blood, you shall not have life with - in you.
die, you shall live for ev - er.
come in - to the world.

mí si mi Pa - dre no lo a - tra - e.
siem - pre, vi - vi - rán por siem - pre.
san - gre, no po - drán te - ner mi vi - da.
muer - to, vi - vi - rán por siem - pre.
mun - do pa - ra re - di - mir - nos.

Refrain / Estribillo



And I will raise you up, and I will
Yo los re - su - ci - ta - ré, Yo los re -



raise you up, and I will raise you
su - ci - ta - ré, Yo los re - su - ci - ta -



up on the last day.
ré en el dí - a fi - nal.

CONCLUDING RITE

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Amen.

RECESSIONAL | The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA



1. The Chur-ch's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her
2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the
3. Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her
4. Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in



Lord; She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter
earth; Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one
war She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for -
One, And mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose



and the Word. From heav'n he came and sought her To
faith, one birth. One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par -
ev - er - more Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her
rest is won. O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord,



be his ho - ly bride; With his own blood he
takes one ho - ly food, And to one hope she
long - ing eyes are blessed, And the great Church vic -
save us by your grace That we, like saints be -



bought her, And for her life he died.
press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
fore us, May see you face to face.

POSTLUDE | *In Dir ist Freude*, BWV 615
Brett Maguire, organ

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

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

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

WELCOME!

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children's faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus' teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids ("Irish working out girls") and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings. Our church building resides on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket and Massachusetts tribal nations.

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius' life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We've been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God's love makes all things new.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, August 22 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Emily Bogert, lector

Sunday, August 23 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Clare Gillis, lector

Sunday, August 23 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Christopher Brolly, SJ, celebrant
Tom Comparato, Jerry McElroy, Jen Kowieski, lectors

Sunday, August 23 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Christopher Brolly, SJ, celebrant
Moira Macdonald, Virgen Palermo, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 22 | 5:00 p.m.

Raffaele Santoro, *1st Anniversary*
Bridie Maloney, *Memorial*

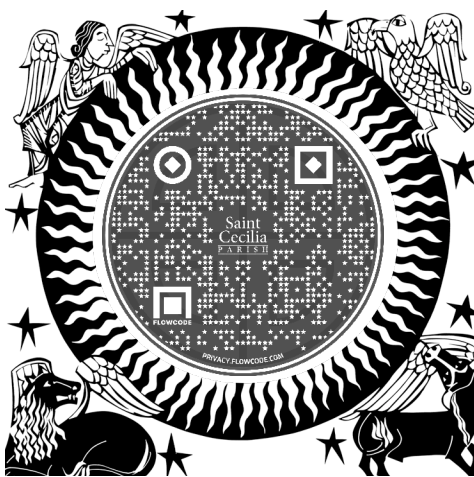
Sunday, August 23 | 9:30 a.m.

Dorothy Williams Flynn, *13th Anniversary*
Des Brennan, *Memorial*

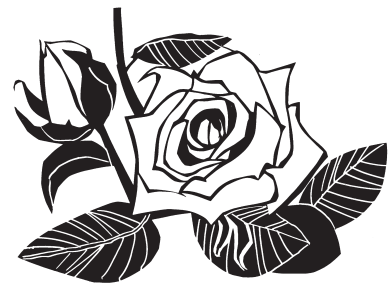
Sunday, August 23 | 11:30 a.m.

Michael Conlon, *Memorial*
Maizie Mullen, *Memorial*

Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!



*The floral arrangement in front of the
altar is given for the glory of God and
in loving memory of **Raffaele Santoro**
by his wife Barbara Santoro.*

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 22:19-23
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 20:7-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

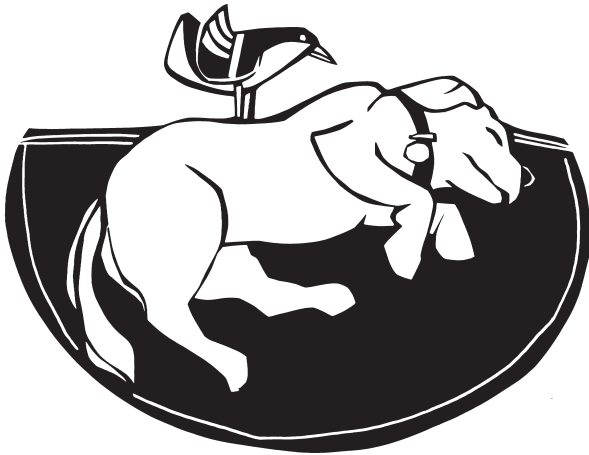
PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Caitlin Seluzicki, Lucas Harty, Marie and Samuel Russell, Adelyn Capone, Brittany Danielewski and Ryan Collins, Margaret Sabe and Raul Walker, Joselyn Huaman, Sophia Nicol, Joe Creedon, Judy Johnson, Isabelle Belleza and Soham Kale, Shannon Bergin and Alexander Mazzeo, Lorraine O'Donnell, and Mary Kariotis.** If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Registration for Children's Faith Formation 26/27

Registration for 2026-2027 Children's Faith Formation is now open! To register, head to www.stceciliaboston.org/cff-reg/. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Family and Youth Faith Formation Kate Burns at her parish email.



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Credit: Pinacoteca di Brera

Saint Peter by Francesco del Cossa (1470)

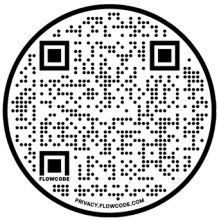
2026 SUMMER CHOIR SUNDAYS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 | 8:30AM | CLASSROOM 1

Join Robert Duff, Brett Maguire and members of the Saint Cecilia Choir at 8:30am to learn a piece of choral music and sing with the choir at the 9:30am Mass. Open to all singers of all ages and experience! We will meet in Classroom 1 at 8:30am.

SUMMER CHORAL SESSIONS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 | 2PM - 4PM | CLASSROOM 1



Join Tyler Cesario and Kayleigh Bennett for the last Summer Choral Session this Sunday! Open to all parishioners, topics include sight-singing, vocal technique, diction, vocal anatomy, harmony and balance, choral stylization, and audition/performance preparation. To

register, scan the Flowcode below or visit www.tinyurl.com/summer-choral-sessions.

COME FOURTH SUNDAY!

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 | AFTER 9:30 & 11:30 MASSES
PARISH HALL**



Ministry work is the heartbeat of Saint Cecilia. Whether you're looking to become better connected to others or to provide outreach, we're introducing "Come Fourth Sunday" on the fourth Sunday of the month, a special opportunity to discover the many ministries that bring our parish to life.

In August, we're featuring the CARES, Bereavement, and Mental Health Ministries. Stop by after Mass to meet those who serve, learn about a ministry mission, ask questions, and explore how your unique gifts might find a place in our community. We look forward to seeing you! If you'd like more information on ministries, please reach out to Mary Wessel at her parish email.

JOIN THE COFFEE HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Curious how our team creates a warm & welcoming environment in the parish hall every Sunday? Join the coffee hospitality ministry! Contact Lisa Pickering at her parish email to learn more.

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

AUGUST 23 - 27

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 8:30am via Zoom

Summer Choir Sunday | 8:30am | Classroom 1

Come Fourth Sunday!

After 9:30 & 11:30 Masses | Parish Hall

Summer Choral Session | 2pm | Classroom 1

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 7:30pm via Zoom

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

SCHEDULE YOUR AUDITION TODAY!



The Saint Cecilia Choir is looking for new members beginning this fall. The choir leads congregational singing at the 9:30, 11:30 and 6:00pm Masses weekly. Weekly rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7-9pm in the sanctuary. In addition to participation in Masses, the

choir will be preparing two choral-orchestral works for Saint Cecilia Day: Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria and Francesco Durante's Magnificat as well as music for our annual Lessons and Carols that takes place in Advent.

If you're interested, please contact our director of music Robert Duff at his parish email to arrange for a vocal hearing.

A SYSTEMATIC READING OF THE ENCYCLICAL "MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS"

TUESDAYS | 8:00AM - 9:00AM VIA ZOOM

Join Fr. John Predmore, SJ, for a chapter-by-chapter reading of Pope Leo XIV's new encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humanity"). Over the course of eight weeks, the group will read and discuss the encyclical together via Zoom on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. A brief study guide with chapter notes will be emailed to participants before each session. If you would like to join the group, please email Fr. Predmore, SJ.

WORSHIP NIGHT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 | 7-8PM | SANCTUARY



All parishioners, regardless of age, are invited to spend an hour with the Lord before the Blessed Sacrament. Praise and worship music led by the Young Adult Ministry will guide your meditation and enrich your prayer in adoration. Can't join us in person? We'll be live-

streaming our worship service over Zoom. To receive the Zoom link each month, visit: www.tinyurl.com/stc-night-of-worship.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 | 6PM VIA ZOOM

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

CELEBRATING SAINT PHOEBE: A PRAYER SERVICE FOR WOMEN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | 6PM | PARISH HALL



Join us as we celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Phoebe, one of the earliest women leaders in the Church and a trusted minister to Saint Paul. In his Letter to the Romans, Paul commends Phoebe for her service to the Church and asks the community to welcome and support her. Together, we will gather in prayer to honor Phoebe's courage, faith, generosity, and leadership—and to celebrate

the many ways women continue to share their gifts and build up the Church today.

Come for a time of prayer, reflection, and wine & cheese and fellowship as we give thanks for the women who have shaped our faith and ask Saint Phoebe to inspire us to recognize and embrace our own call to serve.

THE GAZA CHILDREN'S SHROUD

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | 12PM
CHURCH CENTER FOR THE UNITED NATIONS**

Four weeks ago, Saint Cecilia participated in The Gaza Children's Shroud by inscribing the names of 500 children who have lost their lives in Gaza. The shroud now continues its journey as part of a year-round global movement of witness, prayer, and action. On Wednesday, September 16, the Children's Shroud will be at the Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY.

- 12:00 p.m. — Interfaith Prayer Service
First Floor Chapel
- 12:30–4:00 p.m. — Children's Shroud: Inscribing the Names, Witness, Prayer, and Reflection
Second Floor

The event is organized by Doctors Against Genocide, Priests Against Genocide USA, Justice for All, and partner organizations. For more information, visit GazaChildrenShroud.com/events.

TEACH ENGLISH THIS FALL

HELP IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS BUILD A FUTURE

Every fall, adults across Greater Boston sit down in an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classroom because English stands between them and a job, a doctor's appointment, or a parent-teacher conference. A Faith That Does Justice is seeking volunteers to help bridge that gap. AFTDJ's ESOL program offers free English classes for adult immigrant learners, taught entirely by volunteers. No professional teaching experience or bilingual skills are required. Volunteers receive curriculum, training, and support. Members of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome as both students and teachers.

There are two ways to serve:

- **Teacher:** Lead a class of adult learners through the semester, teaching two 2-hour sessions each week.
- **Teacher Assistant:** Support teachers by working with individuals and small groups.

The Fall 2026 session runs September 21, 2026 through February 3, 2027. Classes are offered Monday and Wednesday evenings (6:30–8:30 p.m.) or Tuesday and Thursday mornings (9:30–11:30 a.m.), either online via Zoom or in person at Emmanuel Church in Back Bay. To learn more and apply by August 31, visit faith-justice.org/esol/.



LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE

LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE GALA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 | 5:30 - 11:00 PM
MECHANICS' HALL, WORCESTER

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.

Tickets are \$150 each if purchased in August (\$225.00 if purchased in September) and there will be tables of eight. Purchase tickets at: <https://givebutter.com/c/tfgala26>. If you purchase a ticket and wish like to sit with Saint Cecilia parishioners, please send an email to the ministry.

TEEN PROGRAMMING SURVEY

If you are a caregiver of a high school student, please take a few minutes to fill out the brief survey listed below about teen programming and ask them to do the same. Thank you!

- **Caregiver Survey:** <https://forms.gle/moh7LXCiRKR8sGDX8>
- **High School Student Survey:** <https://forms.gle/3ewrLwYLufNnYqt28>

LEARN ENGLISH THIS FALL/WINTER

CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 21

A Faith That Does Justice is now accepting applications for the Fall and Winter 2026 cycle of free adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. Classes meet two days per week for 15 weeks. The next session begins the week of September 21. Class sessions are virtual using Zoom, or in person at Emmanuel Church at 15 Newbury Street in Boston's Back Bay. If you would like to be considered for a class, please complete the online application. Once the application has been received, AFTDJ will follow up with next steps and additional details about the schedule. Follow the link to submit an application: www.faith-justice.org/esol/#boxzilla-24204.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL Drive

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

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

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

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

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

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

HELP US SEND A KID TO CAMP

As you may know, Saint Cecilia Parish has a long-standing relationship with the Huntington YMCA and many of the social service programs offered in that facility. Through our combined donations, we would like to see if we can collect enough (\$2,500) to send one inner-city kid, ages 8 to 16, to Y camp this summer. The YMCA overnight camp in New Hampshire is a life-changing experience for those fortunate enough to attend.

To make a donation by check -- in any amount -- please make it payable to "YMCA of Greater Boston" and indicate in the memo line: "Summer Camp." Checks should be mailed to:

Hunger & Homelessness Ministry
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



Saint Bernard of Clairvaux August 20



The stained glass window of St. Bernard of Clairvaux 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.

Pope Saint Pius X August 21



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 dioceses of Atlanta, Georgia and Great Falls-Billings, Montana.

SHOW ME YOUR WORK

BY MICHAEL K. MARSH



Credit: The Visual Commentary on Scripture | Archivio Tozzi

Still life with a key by Mario Tozzi (1938)

Do you remember in school when the teacher would come in and say, “Please clear your desks. We’re having a pop quiz today?” That’s how I want to begin this sermon, with a pop quiz.

So what do you think, did Peter get it right in today’s gospel (Matthew 16:13-20) when he said that Jesus is the “Messiah, the Son of the living God?” Let’s have a show of hands. Who agrees that Jesus is the “Messiah, the Son of the living God?” Looks like every one. Anyone disagree? No? Every one agrees with Peter.

Congratulations. You gave the correct answer, but here’s what I wonder: so what?

What does it mean for you today that Jesus is the “Messiah, the Son of the living God?” That question is at the center of a conversation I’ve been having with myself for years but even more so in light of everything that has happened over the last six months. I don’t know about you but I feel an urgency and intensity about everything things days, including this question about who Jesus is. Maybe you feel that too.

So what does it mean for us today to stand with Peter and say that Jesus is the “Messiah, the Son of the living God?” The last six months have held this question before me –

before us – like never before. I think we are discovering a larger and more relevant understanding of what it means for Jesus to be the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Here’s what I mean by that. I thought I knew or had some idea of what it meant for Jesus to be the Messiah. It used to be mostly a Sunday morning kind of question, but now it’s an every day kind of question. It used to be about the future, but now it’s about the present moment. It’s no longer only or even primarily about saving souls, it’s about changing hearts. And if Jesus is not changing your heart and my heart then he is not the Messiah of our lives. And if he is our Messiah then he necessarily changes how we live.

Division and distancing characterize our lives today and yet I have never been more aware of our interconnectedness and the ways we, for better or worse, impact and affect each other. The boundaries of me and mine – my life, my family, my needs, my community, my people – are being expanded. It’s really not all about me, Uvalde, or the United States.

So when the Messiah says something like “love your neighbor” I’m having to redefine who my neighbor is and what that is asking of me. And if I follow this Messiah as “the way, the truth, and the life” what does that ask of me in my marriage and parenting? How does it shape my friendships and other relationships? Am I discerning between the light

and darkness in what I read and post on social media? What happens when his way, truth, and life conflict with the way, the truth, and the life of my friends, my family, my country?

And how many more times must the Messiah say, "Peace be with you," or "Do not be afraid," before I take those words to heart? If he really is my Messiah, then I have to look at the values I hold, the priorities I establish, and the truths I claim for myself and see if they align with his. When he says, "Follow me," or "Come and see," do I go or do I blaze my own path?

It seems there is not a part of my life over which he does not want to be the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Sometimes I take comfort in that, other times I take offense.

Those are the kind of things that come up for me when I think of Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God. What about you? In what ways does it matter or make a difference in your life that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God? Is that just a title we give him or is it asking something of us? Is it changing how we live, and if not, why do we come here Sunday after Sunday?

I ask these questions not just of you but of myself. I ask them because I struggle with that gap between knowing the correct answer, and living that answer. Where does that struggle come up for you? When have you lived in the gap between knowing the correct answer and doing something with it?

I think that's what Jesus has set before Peter today. I think that's what Paul is writing about in today's epistle (Romans 12:1-8) when he warns us about being conformed instead of transformed. And I think Jesus experienced that gap in the Garden of Gethsemane as he struggled with what he knew to be his Father's will.

It's not enough to just give the correct answer. I learned that from my math teacher. I don't remember what grade I was in but I remember how excited I was when I got my first math book that had the answers in the back. Do you remember that? I had always struggled with math and I thought to myself *this year is going to be different*.

My homework didn't take long that first night. When the teacher gave it back to me every answer was correct. But there were no stars or smiley faces, and I didn't get a 100. I got an F and a red ink note that said, "Show me your work."

I wonder if that's why Jesus "sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah." Maybe he is less interested in our answer and more interested in seeing our work. Maybe Jesus is saying to us, "Show me your work."

Maybe Jesus is saying to us, "Show me what the kingdom looks like in your life, in your relationships, in your context." The kingdom comes locally, temporarily, intermittently, episodically in our particular circumstances through what we bind and what we loose. The kingdom comes, is actually here, is really real, whenever we love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, pray for those who abuse us, turn the

other cheek to those who strike us, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive our offender, give to the beggar. (John Caputo, *Cross and Cosmos: A Theology of Difficult Glory*, 138)

"The kingdom is not a reward for these works; the kingdom is these works." (John Caputo, *Hoping Against Hope, Confessions of a Postmodern Pilgrim*, 61-62) Wherever these works are happening, there is the kingdom. The kingdom is about what we do and how we live. The kingdom is what life looks like when we respond to what God is calling for. (Ibid., 119) The kingdom comes every time you and I give existence to the insistence of God.

Have you ever thought of yourself as having the responsibility of giving existence to the kingdom? Have you ever thought that God might need you as much as you need God?

We can stand up every day and declare that Jesus is the "Messiah, the Son of the living God" but what difference does that make if we are not loosing people from injustice, racism, hunger, poverty, guilt, shame, fear, anger? What difference does that make if we are not loosing people to go in peace? What difference does that make if we are not binding ourselves to each other in love, compassion, forgiveness, hospitality, healing, hope, prayer? What difference does that make if we are not binding up the broken hearted?

I don't want to just give the right answer. I want to be the right answer and to do the right answer, don't you?

We've each been given the keys of the kingdom, the power to bind and the power to loose. What are you doing with that in your life today? What are you unlocking for yourself? And what are you unlocking in the life of another? In what ways are you binding yourself to the life of another for his or her well-being?

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

"Show me your work."



Originally published in Michael K. Marsh's blog Interrupting the Silence on August 23, 2020.

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

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

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

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Kate Burns, Director of Family and Youth Faith Formation
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development
Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities Operations & Events
Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music
Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist
Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Audiovisual Support

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

Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, and 11:30 a.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.
* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Father Jim Shaughnessy, SJ is available by appointment for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To schedule an appointment, please call the Parish Office.

Hearing Assistance in Church

The church is equipped with an assistive listening system. If you would like to use one of the small receivers, please ask one of our greeters.

For Those with Celiac Disease

If you have celiac disease, please let us know. We have a supply of low-gluten altar bread available for those who cannot tolerate gluten.

Building Accessibility

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

Baptism for Infants

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

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.

Faith Formation for Children

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

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Letitia Howland, or Erin Young if you have any questions. The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

This is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation. For more information, contact Mary Wessel in the Parish Office.

Marriage

Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

Care of the Sick

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the Parish Office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

Order of Christian Funerals

The parish is prepared to celebrate the Vigil (wake) in the church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our parish offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics from many neighborhoods in and around Boston; we also have friends from around the country and the world. We invite local individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter your present status in the Catholic Church, current family or marital situation, gender or gender expression, sexual orientation, personal history, age, race, or self-image, you are invited and will be welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected here at Saint Cecilia. We are here to accompany and serve you.

Please note:

According to online safety guidelines released by the Archdiocese of Boston, we have removed email addresses from our online parish bulletin to avoid the danger of potential phishing scams. If you need a staff member's email address or a ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists will be happy to share the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online.

