

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

25 August 2024

"To Whom Shall We Go?" by Pietro da Cortona

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

25 AUGUST 2024

THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Joel Martinson
(b. 1960)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | God is Here! As We His People

ABBOT'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,



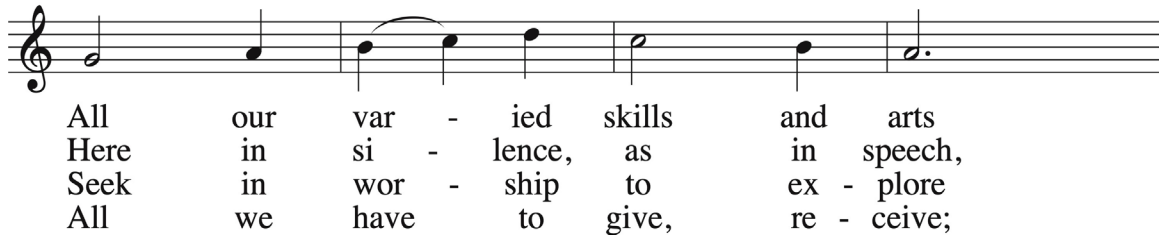
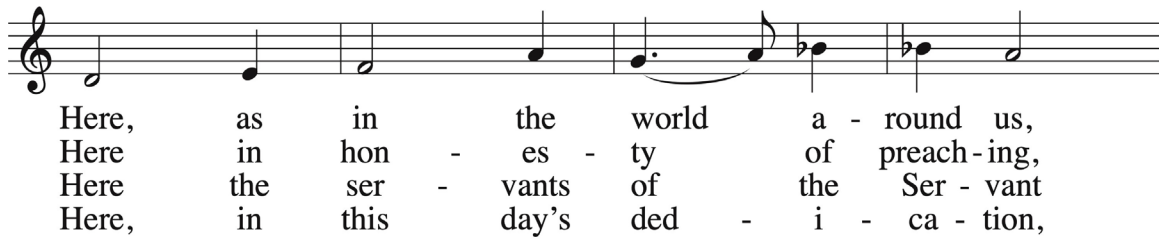
Meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
Of our life - long need of grace;
In the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
In an age of change and doubt,



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.



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.



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
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - men.

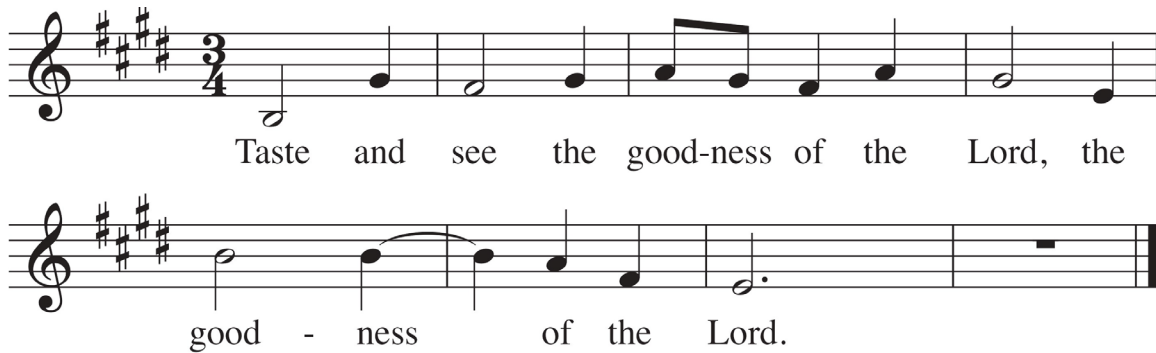
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 34: Taste and See

Marty Haugen



1. I will bless the Lord at all times; praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad.
2. The Lord turns his eyes to the just, and his ears are open to their cry.
The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
3. When the just cry out, the Lord hears, and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
4. Many are the trials of the just man, but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones; not one of his bones shall be broken.

SECOND READING | Ephesians 5: 21-32

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

Tony Alonso



GOSPEL | John 6: 60-69

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!

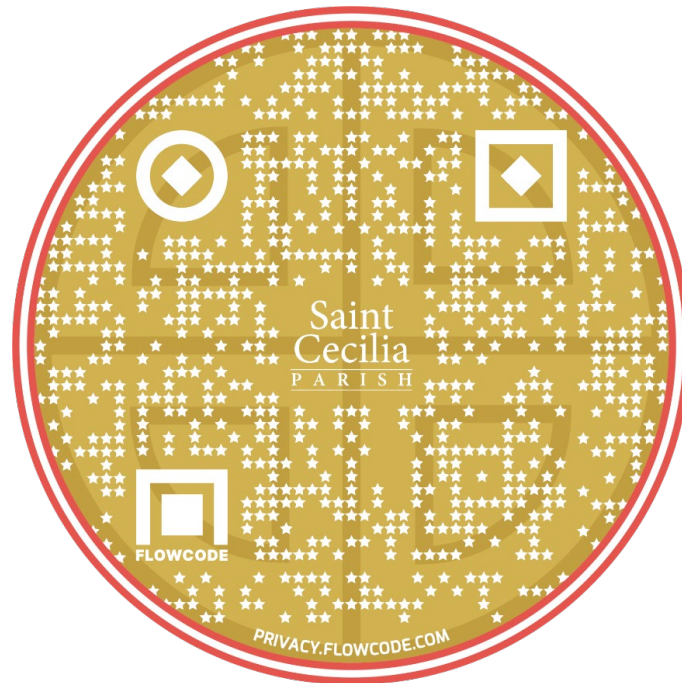
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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.

You can also mail a check to:

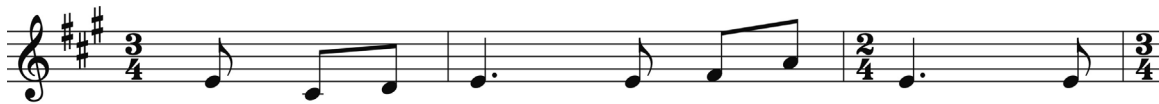
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | We Walk by Faith

Marty Haugen



1., 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight; No
2. We may not touch his hands and side, Nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4. That, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; But in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound To call on you when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you



none e'er spoke; But we be - lieve him near.
we re - joice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near, And seek where you are found:
as you are, With full and end - less sight.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

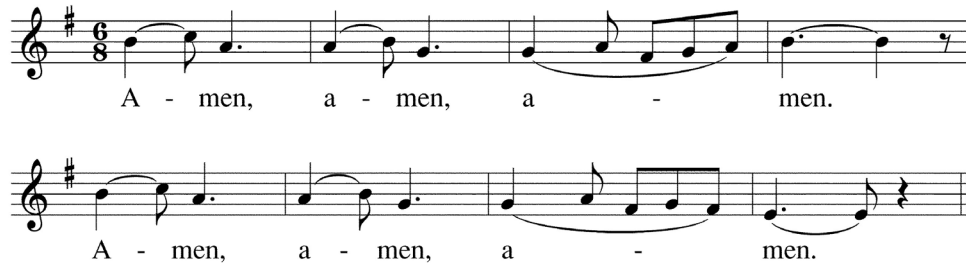
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ 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.

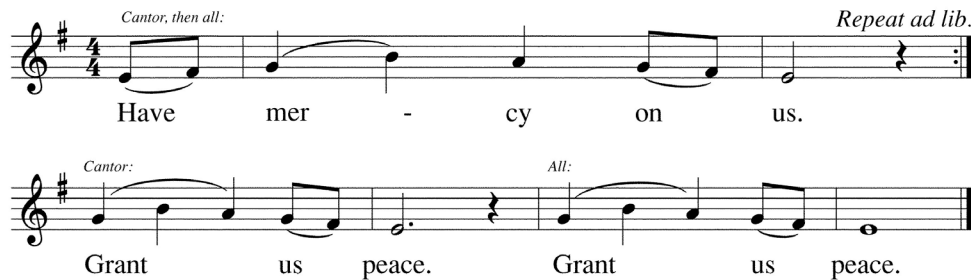


THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

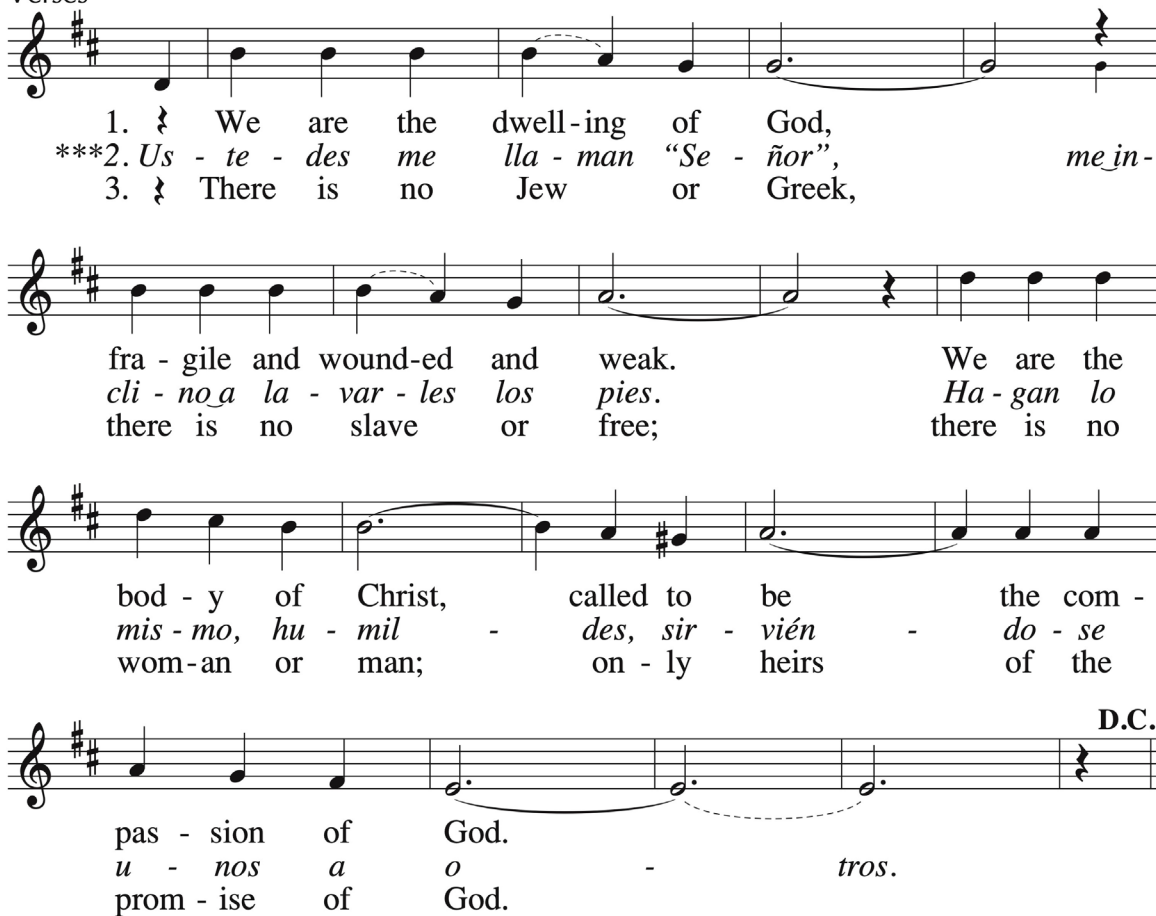
Loving Jesus,
 I believe that you
 are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
 I love you above all things,
 and I desire to receive you into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace you as if you were already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

Refrain



*Pan de Vi - da, cuer-po del Se - ñor,
cup of bless - ing, blood of Christ the Lord.
At this ta - ble the last shall be first, **po -
der es ser - vir, por-que Dios es a - mor.

Verses



1. We are the dwell-ing of God,
***2. Us - te - des me lla - man "Se - ñor", me in -
3. There is no Jew or Greek,
fra - gile and wound-ed and weak. We are the
cli - no_a la - var - les los pies. Ha - gan lo
there is no slave or free; there is no
bod - y of Christ, called to be the com -
mis - mo, hu - mil - des, sir - vién - do - se
wom-an or man; on - ly heirs of the
pas - sion of God. D.C.
u - nos a o - tros.
prom - ise of God.

*Bread of Life, body of the Lord, **power is for service, because God is Love.

***You call me "Lord," and I bow to wash your feet:
you must do the same, humbly serving each other.

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 | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2. Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er, Let us
 3. Fin - ish then your new cre - a - tion, Pure and

heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us your
 all your life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less, gra - cious Lord. Let us see your

hum - ble dwell - ing, All your faith - ful mer - cies
 turn and nev - er, Nev - er - more your tem - ples
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly in you re -

crown. Je - sus, source of all com - pas - sion, Love un -
 leave. You we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve you
 stored. Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in

bound - ed, love all pure; Vis - it us with
 as your hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise you
 heav'n we take our place, Till we sing be -

your sal - va - tion, Let your love in us en - dure.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in your pre - cious love.
 fore the Al - might - y, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

POSTLUDE | Trumpet Tune in D
Brett Maguire, *organist*

Jeremiah Clarke
(1674-1707)

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.

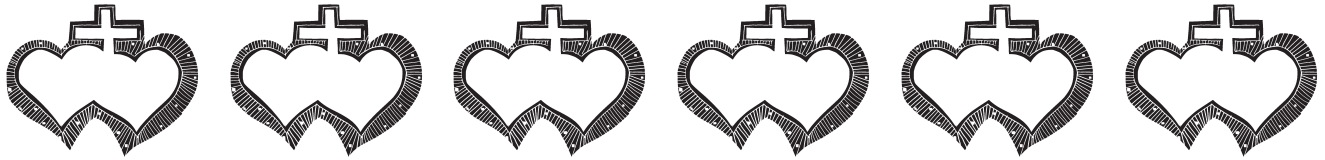
Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two 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 24 | 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, August 25 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Linda Frayling, lector

Sunday, August 25 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Tim McGillicuddy, Kate McGillicuddy, and Erin Young, lectors

Sunday, August 25 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Megan Altendorf, Tom Skorupa, and Laura Melle, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 24 | 5:00 p.m.

Bridie Maloney, *Memorial*

Sunday, August 25 | 9:30 a.m.

Ellen Martin, *Memorial*
Alicia Canniffe, *Memorial*

Sunday, August 25 | 11:30 a.m.

Maria Petruzzello, *Memorial*

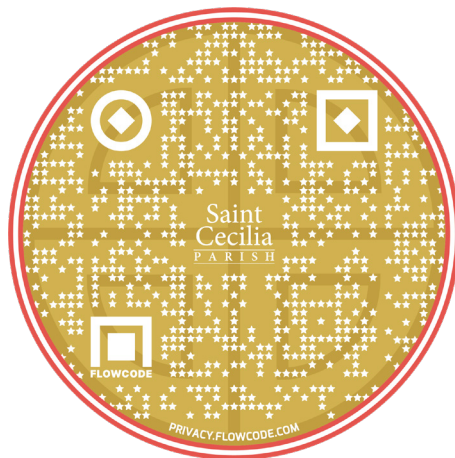
TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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



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



PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

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

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Marissa and Todd Myers** of Boxford, **Sander Depietri** of Boylston, **Sara Ellenbogen** of Somerville, **Ann Burgholzer** of Somerville, **Brittany Diaz** of Chelsea, and **Rylan Scott, Fernando Cordova, Tracy Previlon** and **Jason McDonald, James Helf** and **Kerri Shields, Kevin and Maryellen Callanan**, and **Martha and Ray Joumas**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/.

Coffee Hospitality Pause

We will not have coffee hospitality on Labor Day weekend so we can give our hardworking hospitality staff some time off to enjoy the holiday weekend.

Register for Children's Faith Formation!

We are delighted to share that registration for our Children's Faith Formation classes for the coming year is now open. Space is limited for some 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.

UPCOMING ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY SEPTEMBER ONLINE COURSES

Christian Faith and Moral Character

September 18 - October 22 | 5-Week Online Course | Registration Required | \$60.00

Liturgy Essentials

September 18 - October 22 | 5-Week Online Course | Registration Required | \$60.00

Paul's Letter to the Romans

September 18 - October 29 | 6-Week Online Course | Registration Required | \$60.00

For further details or to register for these events, please check the STM Online: Crossroads website: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads/course-schedule.html#tab-september>

PYNE LECTURE ON MINISTRY WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

From Friends to Allies: Forming Relationships Between People With and Without Disabilities

Presenter: Thomas Murphy, PhD Candidate, Boston College Clough School of Theology and Ministry, and national staff member, L'Arche USA

Friday, September 20 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET

Hybrid | Corcoran Commons, Heights Room, Chestnut Hill Campus | Registration Required | Free

For further details or to register for these events, please check the STM Online: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education/featured-events.html>

CELEBRATION OF THE PRIESTHOOD DINNER

This year's Celebration of the Priesthood dinner will take place on Wednesday, September 18 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport. We are purchasing a table, and you are invited! If you are interested in attending, please send an email to Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien (nobrien@stceciliaboston.org) no later than Monday, September 9, indicating how many seats you would like. If you have attended this dinner in the past, you know what a lovely event this is, as we honor the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston.

SEPTEMBER FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, September 8 at 4:00 p.m. ET | Zoom

The Far-Flung Flock is pleased to have Geoff Edwards, Saint Cecilia's audiovisual specialist and livestream videographer, as their September online coffee hour guest. Whether you're participating in Mass in person or remotely, we all know just how integral Geoff's creative and professional work has been to the parish's growth and vibrancy.



Geoff grew up on Long Island where he attended Sayville United Methodist Church, where he began honing his videography skills by recording church services. After completing a music degree at Keene State College, Geoff pursued a master's degree in music theory at Boston University. In the fall of 2021, Geoff revisited his interest in A/V services when he began working as a multimedia technician at Harvard University and as our livestream videographer. Today, Geoff provides A/V and production services for a variety of organizations and institutions, including the Longy School of Music of Bard College, Regatta Bar, and the Blue Man Group. Geoff continues to pursue his interest in music through conferences, performances, and online teaching. Please join us for a behind-the-scenes look at the technology used to inform and inspire us every Sunday.

If you have not registered for any online coffee hour in the past, please register for the FFF email list with this link: (<https://bit.ly/45pDVRa>). There is no need to re-register if you've attended in the past. If you have registered but are not receiving Far-Flung Flock email notifications, please email the ministry to confirm your email address.



Earlier this month, members of our Hunger and Homelessness Ministry were pleased to serve dinner at Pine Street Inn's Men's Inn. **194 men were fed!** We're so blessed to have a group of folks who regularly lend their time and talents to serve our neighbors in need.

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 continued generosity!

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 parish email address. Thank you!

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

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/. 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!

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 their parish email 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 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 at their parish email address.

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.



NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Tuesday, September 3, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

(First Tuesday of the Month) Saint Cecilia Sanctuary

Open to Everyone!

Join the Saint Cecilia Young Adults for their monthly Night of Worship and Adoration. Come find rest and healing in God's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, with praise and worship music led by the Young Adult Ministry. *Please use the St. Cecilia Street entrance and ring the bell to enter.* All are welcome to join us!

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FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to contribute sanctuary flowers on a particular Sunday in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving to God, please contact Mark Donohoe at his parish email address a few days in advance of the weekend.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring becoming Catholic or receiving the Sacraments of first Eucharist and Confirmation, we have the group for you! We're holding an RCIA informational gathering on Tuesday, September 17 from 6:30—8:00 p.m. for those inquiring. Parishioners who have gone through the RCIA process in the past will be there to share their knowledge of the process and answer any questions you may have. At the first meeting you will learn more about the process and receive the year's calendar as well as a notebook with our readings. You will also be able to register at this time. Join us to see if it's the right time to begin your journey!

IT'S ALMOST PUMPKIN TIME!

The Knitting and Crochet Ministry is excited to welcome the Far-Flung Flock to its second annual parish retreat. The group has hand-knit and crocheted a pumpkin patch for everyone's enjoyment. We invite you to join this ministry in the parish hall on Sunday, September 15 following the 9:30 Mass to take in this lovely array of pumpkins. If you'd like to take a pumpkin home, the ministry is accepting cash donations.

HELP CATHOLIC CHARITIES SUPPORT NEWLY-ARRIVED REFUGEES

For the past seven years, our parish has provided ongoing support to Catholic Charities programs that provide aid to refugees. Just in the past year, Catholic Charities has opened two new shelters to address the Commonwealth's refugee and homelessness crisis. We have offered to provide refugee families with supermarket and general gift cards so that they will have food and household items while their applications for political asylum are processed. If you would like to purchase gift cards to Visa, Target, Market Basket, Stop 'n Shop, and Shaw's/Star Markets—and no more than \$25 per card—please feel free to drop them in the offertory basket or mail them to Hunger and Homelessness Ministry, Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115. The need has never been greater and your accustomed generosity is greatly appreciated.



REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

BY ANNA ROBERTSON

Each of today's readings deal in their own ways with the theme of mutual fidelity between God and God's people. In the first reading, the leaders of the twelve tribes of Israel make a choice to be faithful to the Lord, as they remember God's liberating power and faithfulness to them. The psalmist proclaims glory for the Lord who rescues and watches over the bones of the just, saves the brokenhearted, and destroys evildoers. Even the second reading presents a vision of a kind of mutual fidelity: "Brothers and sisters: Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ." In the Gospel, while many desert Jesus, finding his teachings too hard, too bizarre, the disciples stay by Jesus' side, sensing his faithfulness to them, as they declare—"You have the words of eternal life".

I recently had the chance to reflect on my own experience of God's faithfulness during an eight-day silent retreat. Our retreat leader led us in an opening guided meditation. Let's go there now.

Close your eyes and imagine that you're in the midst of a bustling crowd on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Of all the many people gathered there, Jesus locks eyes with you, walks straight up to you, and asks you, "What is that you ask of me?"

What do you tell him? What is that you ask of Jesus?

For my own part, I was caught off guard by what welled up inside of me in response to Jesus' question. As he gazed on me with eyes of love, his hand outstretched, what I felt was a flash of anger, and the words that came to me were, "I want you to be my *ally*."

In the days before I entered my retreat, Pope Francis' interview on 60 Minutes had aired in which he had said that a little girl growing up in the Church today couldn't dream of one day being ordained a deacon. While a primetime TV interview is by no means official church

teaching, his comments still stung. What of the ongoing global synod process that *he* initiated, which includes a study group that *he* convened, tasked with looking into the question of women's ordination as permanent deacons? Has he already made up his mind before the consultative process had reached its conclusion? Is this the one issue that synodality doesn't apply to? Furthermore, he denied the well-established history of women's ordination as deacons in the past, even while recognizing that women are indeed serving diaconal functions in the church today without the grace of ordination. What gives? While women have been serving God in the Church faithfully for generations, it does not seem like we are receiving the same faithfulness and respect from the Church.

The process of synodality has invited us to reflect and discern about women's roles and equal dignity. At the conclusion of the first phase of the synod a little over a year ago, the Document on the Continental Stage stated that women everywhere are asking the Church to be their ally in every part of life. And it's certainly consistent with Catholic social teaching that the Church *should* be an ally to women, who are, to varying degrees, systematically marginalized, excluded from public life, subjected to sexual violence and all forms of abuse, more likely to live in poverty with its many related vulnerabilities. If we proclaim, with the words of our Psalm, a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, we certainly must include women under that umbrella. We must believe and live as though God is close to the broken hearted.

And yet, as I entered my retreat, my experience of the Church in relationship to my embodiment as a woman was far from one of allyship. And what I realized with that flash of anger as I encountered Jesus by the Sea of Galilee was that the Church's failure to be an ally to women had undermined my ability to see Jesus himself as my ally. It seemed God wanted to use those eight days to change that.

We need look no further than today's second reading

and the many ways it has been deployed by Christians throughout history for reasons women might doubt the Church's allyship. "Wives should be obedient to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church." I've heard plenty of interpretative gymnastics that seek to liberate this text—that it's remarkable that Paul is addressing women at all; that the passage is about mutual submission; that perhaps Paul is speaking to a very specific situation in Ephesus, and not to women generally.

But perhaps more germane to today's reflection than the original intent of the author is how these lines have been interpreted and used by Christians to harm women. Throughout history and continuing today, these words about wives' obedience have been used to silence women, to keep us in abusive marriages, to justify our oppression. Whatever our efforts to understand and contextualize this passage, it is a text that confronts us. When we reflect on the Scriptures, we must ask: do we find that the good news we are proclaiming is in fact good news for everyone—especially the poor and vulnerable? If not, we should perhaps revisit our reflection.

When I, a woman, read today's readings, am I to hear God's promises of fidelity as being directed at me? Is God close to my brokenheartedness? What about when it arises from the particularity of my experience as a woman? Does Jesus have the words of eternal life for me as well as for my brothers?

Despite a history of undermining itself on the point, our Tradition says that, yes, I, too, am saved by God. God is my ally, not in spite of my particular chromosomal composition and society's response to it but in fact *because* of it. I am reminded of this when I look to the women who followed Jesus. Would they have bankrolled his missions, hosted his parties, washed his feet with their hair, and stayed by his side in moments of great peril if his good news had not pertained to them? Would they have been his ally if he had not been theirs? The fidelity was mutual.

Women have been faithful to the Church, at times at great cost, even when the rhetoric of the Church has been used to push us aside and harm us. Our fidelity has not always been met with mutuality. When the Church's failures to honor my dignity threaten to undermine my sense of God's fidelity to me, as they did on that first day of my retreat, I look to the women who followed and continue to follow Jesus. They—*you* who are listening now—have been leading me back into trust that the fullness of God's promises pertain to me. We do that for one another.

The good news of today's readings is that Jesus' words of eternal life *are* for all of us. Some will choose to stay by his side while others will walk away sad, but his allyship does not discriminate. His invitation is to a relationship of mutual fidelity. As Church, we want to reflect and proclaim an invitation to all into a relationship of mutual fidelity with God. The invitation for those of us with teaching and decision making authority in the Church—which, in a synodal church that welcomes the co-responsibility of all the baptized is increasingly all of us—is to interrogate our sense of the good news and to listen when someone tells us that our way of sharing it is *not* good news for them. In the global synod, the Church has taken the incredible step of beginning to listen to women. The next step is to believe us. I think Jesus would have.

~ Anna Robertson is Director of Distributed Organizer at Discerning Deacons. In the past, she has served as Director of Youth and Young Adult Mobilization at Catholic Climate Covenant and Campus Minister for Retreats at Seattle University, along with various experiences supporting families of women experiencing incarceration, serving in hospital chaplaincy, conducting research on collective memory in El Salvador, and accompanying students on international immersions at the intersection of faith and justice in Latin America. In 2024, she was the inaugural recipient of the Boston College Clough School of Theology and Ministry Young Alumni Leadership in Ministry Award. The common thread running through her work has been a passion for helping people articulate their stories and step into their power as protagonists of transformation toward a more just world.

Anna is a cradle Catholic with an eye toward the threads of mysticism that cut across faith traditions. She was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee and, since graduating from high school, she has called many places home, including Cincinnati, Central America, West Virginia, Boston, and Seattle. She has a Master's of Theological Studies from Boston College Clough School of Theology and Ministry and a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Xavier University in Ohio.



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

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!