

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

by Nikola Saric

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 September 2026

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | In This Place

Trevor Thomson

Verses

1. We are all hun - gry peo - ple, we need
2. All our lives are a mys - t'ry; we see
3. Though the world may tell us to
4. In the bread that is bro - ken is the

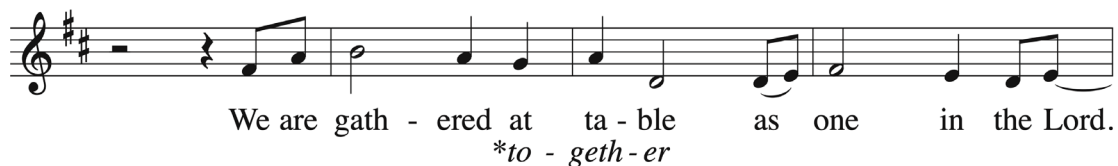
shel - ter and strength. We are one in our
not where they lead. We are asked now to
look at our - selves, we reach out to an -
Christ that re - stores. As we take, now re -

hurt - ing, we are one in our pain. In our suf -
trust you and we know we must be - lieve. As our feet
oth - er where suf - fer - ing dwells. As our hands
ceive him, we find love ev - er - more. As the bread

f'ring and sad - ness, we are saved by the grace
be - come Christ's feet, we go forth with the grace
be - come Christ's hands, we are healed by the grace
be - comes Bod - y, we are filled with the grace



Refrain



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, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est,
 glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and on earth peace to peo - ple,
 peo - ple of good will. *To verses* *Last time* and on earth
 peace to peo - ple, peo - ple of good will.

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

Cantor:
 2. 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
Assembly: *Cantor:*
 sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you
Assembly: *Cantor:*
 take a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer; you are



Verse 3

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.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Sirach 27: 30—28: 7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

Marty Haugen



1. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.
 Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.
2. It is the Lord who forgives all your sins, who heals everyone of your ills,
 who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with mercy and compassion.
3. He will not always find fault; not persist in his anger forever.
 He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults.
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong his mercy for those who fear him.
 As far as the east is from the west, so far from us does he remove our transgressions.

SECOND READING | Romans 14: 7-9



GOSPEL | Matthew 18: 21-35

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

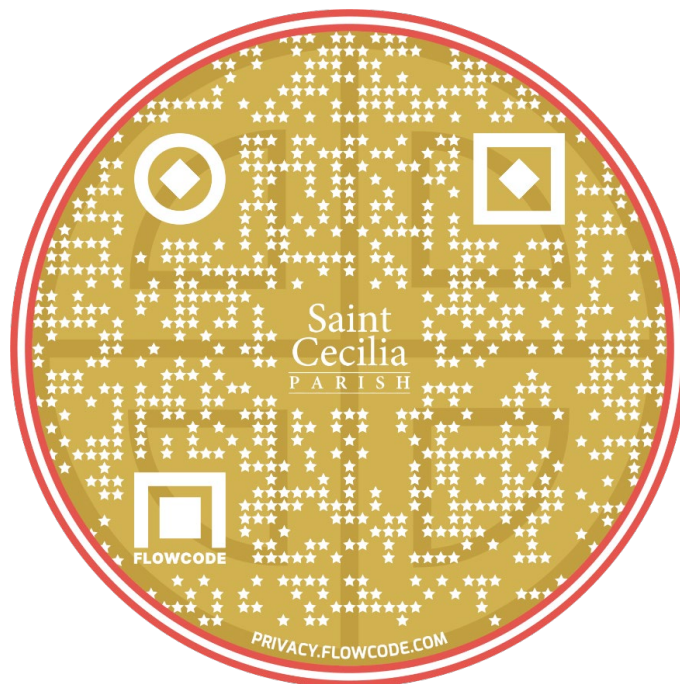
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple

Verses 1, 2, 4 / Estrofas 1, 2, 4



1. Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
2. Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
4. Make me a chan - nel of your peace.

1. Haz - me un ins - tru - men - to de tu paz,
2. Haz - me un ins - tru - men - to de tu paz,
4. Haz - me un ins - tru - men - to de tu paz,



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring
It is in par - don - ing that we are
Don - de ha - ya o - dio lle - ve yo tu a -
Que lle - ve tu es - pe - ran - za por do -
Es per - do - nan - do que nos das per -



love.
hope.
par - doned,
mor,
quier,
dón,

Where there is in - ju -
Where there is dark - ness,
In giv - ing of our -
Don - de ha - ya in - ju - ria,
Don - de ha - ya os - cu - ri -
Es dan - do a to - dos



ry, your par - don, Lord,
on - ly light,
selves that we re - ceive,
tu per - dón, Se - ñor,
dad lle - ve tu luz,
que tú nos das,

And where there's doubt, true faith in
And where there's sad - ness, ev - er
And in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal
Don - de ha - ya du - da fe en
Don - de ha - ya pe - na, go - zo en ti, Se -
Y mu - rien - do es que vol - ve - mos a na -

1. 2. To verse 3 3.

you.
joy.
life.
ti.
ñor.
cer.

Verse 3 / Estrofa 3

3. Oh, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek
3. Ma - es - tro, a - yú - da - me a nun - ca bus - car

So much to be con - soled as to con - sole,
El ser con - so - la - do si - no con - so -

lar, To be un - der - stood as to un - der - stand,
Ser en - ten - di - do si - no en - ten - der,

To be loved as to love with all my soul.
Ser a - ma - do si - no a - mar.

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.

SANCTUS | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and
earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho -
san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

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



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

AGNUS DEI | Mass of Christ the Savior



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

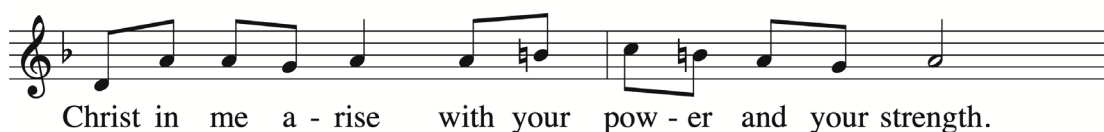
It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an "Act of Spiritual Communion." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of 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

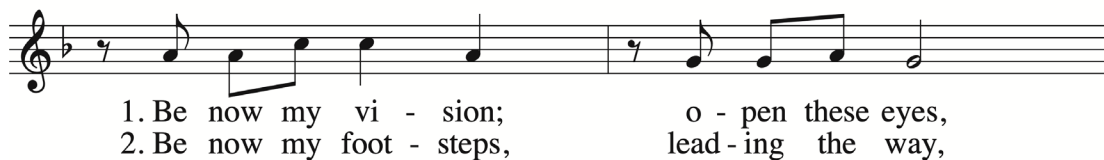
Loving Jesus,
I believe that you
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there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

COMMUNION | Christ in Me Arise

Refrain



Verses



On-ward to the king-dom, you are the way. A -

rise in me and I shall rise with you. D.C.

Bridge

You know my heart and you know my ways, you who

formed me in my moth-er's womb. I live and move in

you, my whole be-ing thrives in you. D.C.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | Create in Me

Terre Johnson
(b. 1959)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit in me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of thy salvation,
and uphold me with thy free spirit. (*Psalms 51*)

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.



1. A place called home with com - fort for the wea - ry:
 2. A place called home where ten - der - ness can flou - rish:
 3. A place called home, a prom - ise for to - mor - row:
 4. A place called home for ev - 'ry hu - man be - ing:



A place called home of nour - ish - ment and rest:
 A place called home, a ha - ven from all harm:
 A place called home, a vi - sion hand - ed down:
 A place called home where arms are o - pened wide:



A place called home that wel - comes in the stran - ger,
 A place called home where chil - dren sleep in safe - ty,
 A place called home for all God's sons and daugh - ters,
 A place called home, where all ex - tend the wel - come,



Where one un - known be - comes a wel - come guest,
 Where hurts are healed, a shel - ter from the storm,
 Where love pre - vails and peace is ev - er found,
 Where none are lost, a - lone or cast a - side,



Where love can find a hu - man hab - i - ta - tion:
 Where peace can find a hu - man hab - i - ta - tion:
 Where hope can find a hu - man hab - i - ta - tion:
 But mem - bers of a sin - gle hu - man fam - 'ly.



God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
 God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
 God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
 God grant us grace to build a place called home.

POSTLUDE

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.



REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

Twenty-five years later, we remember.

On September 11, we mark the 25th anniversary of the attacks on our nation and remember with prayer all who lost their lives at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

We remember, too, the first responders, rescue workers, and all who ran toward danger to help others. We remember all those who have continued to suffer the effects of that day, including those who have died from illnesses related to the rescue and recovery. And we remember the families, friends, and communities whose lives were changed forever.

As people of faith, we remember not only with sorrow, but with prayer. May we never forget the lives that were lost, the courage that was shown, or the compassion that bound people together in the days that followed. May God grant eternal rest to those who died, comfort to those who mourn, and peace to our world.

Twenty-five years later, we remember—
and we pray that we may never cease to care for one another.

September 11, 2001 – September 11, 2026

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, September 12 | 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, September 13 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Dede Simon, lector

Sunday, September 13 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Kelly McClintock, Virgen Palermo, Cole Young, lectors

Sunday, September 13 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Christopher Brolly, SJ, celebrant
Karen McMenamy, Tom O'Brien, lectors

Sunday, September 13 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Maggie Giles, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 12 | 5:00 p.m.

Angelo and Eugenia Valente, *Memorial*

Sunday, September 13 | 8:00 a.m.

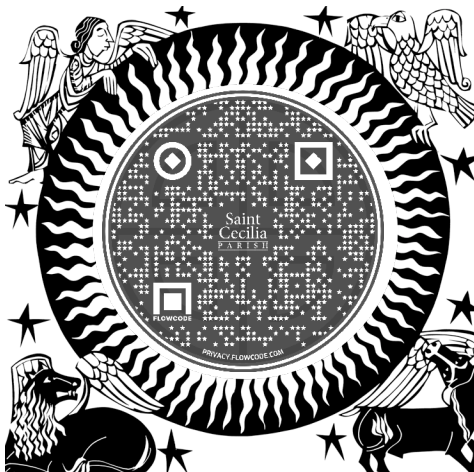
John and Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

Sunday, September 13 | 9:30 a.m.

James "Skippy" Rogers, *Memorial*
Robert DSilva, *Memorial*
David Sullivan, *Memorial*



Scan this code for
offertory giving:



Thank you for your generous
support of Saint Cecilia Parish!

TODAY'S READINGS

Sirach 27:30—28:7

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 55:6-9

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Matthew 20:1-16a

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Kathryn Abe, Priscilla Gonzalez, Mary and Christopher Brackett, Valerie Williams and Steven Ji, Rae and Joseph Cravero, Arabella Notar-Francesco, Robert Page, Janice Young, Clara, Bridget, and Aoife Dahill, and Susan and Mark Chandler.** If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

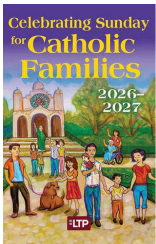
Sunday at Five Kicks Off This Weekend

This Sunday, our evening Mass returns at 5:00 p.m., followed each week by supper. We're making this change not simply to adjust the time of Mass, but to create a new opportunity for our parish community to gather in worship, share a meal, and enjoy one another's company.

A Warm Welcome to Our Far-Flung Flock Friends!

We're happy to welcome members of our Far-Flung Flock community to this Sunday's 9:30 liturgy. This weekend is certain to be a wonderful celebration of faith and connection. Don't miss the chance to catch up with familiar faces and meet new friends at the coffee hour this Sunday.

Pick Up Your Copy of *Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families* This Weekend



As you and your family build new routines this fall, consider adding *Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families* to your weekend Mass routine. This small weekly guide was written with busy families with school aged children in mind. Each page spread includes the Gospel reading for that week and brief reflection about it, related questions to ask your children on the way to Mass and on the way home from Mass to relate the reading to their lives, as well as a suggestion for how to live out the Gospel as a family that week. Please pick up this guide on the center table in the narthex and take it home with you.

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/. 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. If you have any questions or have a second grader you would like to enroll, please contact our Director of Family and Youth Faith Formation Kate Burns at her parish email.

IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Remembering September 11.....	3
This Week's Liturgies.....	4
Prayers and Occasions.....	5
Coming Up At Saint Cecilia.....	7
It's Not Enough to Remember 9/11. We Need To Recommit to Peace. By NCR Editorial Staff.....	11
Parish Resources.....	13

Second Collection September 19/20: Rostro de Cristo



On September 19 and 20, Fr. Jim Ronan and Kieran Rigney of Rostro de Cristo will visit the parish to share about Rostro de Cristo's mission. Fr. Ronan will celebrate the weekend Masses at Saint Cecilia.

Rostro de Cristo is an international Catholic mission program for young adults, founded by Fr. Jim Ronan of Boston. Rostro supports and prepares young adults to spend a year or more living among communities experiencing poverty and serving alongside local organizations responding to unmet needs. Mission fellows live in intentional Christian community and, through prayer, participation in the local Church, and the simple act of being neighbors, are transformed by their experience and return to the United States inspired to lives of faith and service.

For 35 years, Rostro de Cristo served in Ecuador. Today, Rostro works in Consuelo, Dominican Republic, in the Diocese of San Pedro de Macorís, alongside ASCALA and other local partners to serve Haitian migrants and Dominicans of Haitian descent living in poverty and working on the country's sugarcane plantations.

Through the second collection, you can help support this mission and the fellows who live and serve alongside these communities. Your support helps make it possible for Rostro de Cristo to continue this work of presence, service, and solidarity in the Dominican Republic. To learn more, please visit www.rostrodecristo.org.

SUNDAY AT FIVE



Mass at 5:00.
Supper afterward.
Everyone is welcome.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY DROP IN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 | 1PM | CLASSROOM 3

The Mental Health Ministry at Saint Cecilia exists to provide compassionate support, understanding, and spiritual accompaniment to individuals and families whose lives are touched by mental health challenges. While not a therapy group, we seek to create a safe, welcoming, and judgment-free community where people can share their experiences, find hope, and discover that they are not alone. For more information, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

PUMPKIN PALOOZA RETURNS!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

AFTER 9:30 & 11:30 LITURGIES | PARISH HALL



Pumpkin Palooza Sunday is here! The Knitting and Crochet Ministry will have their hand knit and crocheted pumpkins, on display in the Church Cafe from 9:30-12:30 or until the last pumpkin is taken home. Cash donations are accepted.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 | 1 PM | CLASSROOM 3

The Saint Cecilia Mental Health Ministry offers a safe and supportive space for healthcare professionals to share the burdens, challenges, and emotional realities of their work. Rooted in prayer, compassion, and the teachings of our Catholic faith, we come together to listen, encourage, and support one another while nurturing our spiritual well-being. Together, we seek to find strength, hope, and meaning in our calling to care for others. For more information, please contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

The Saint Cecilia Choir is looking for new members beginning this fall. The choir leads congregational singing at the 9:30, 11:30 and 5:00pm liturgies weekly. Weekly rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7-9pm in the sanctuary. In addition to singing during the liturgy, 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 Festival of Lessons and Carols that takes place in Advent. If you're interested, please contact our director of music Robert Duff to arrange for a vocal hearing.

COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

SEPTEMBER 13 - 17

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 8:30am via Zoom

Pumpkin Palooza

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

Mental Health Ministry Drop In | 1pm | Classroom 3

Sunday at Five | Mass at 5pm, Supper to follow

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Wisdom & Mature Spirituality | 7:30pm via Zoom

THE GAZA CHILDREN'S SHROUD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | 12PM

CHURCH CENTER FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

This summer, 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, please contact Martha Miller.

IN-PERSON BEREAVEMENT GROUP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 | 1PM | CLASSROOM 1

The death of a loved one can feel confusing and isolating. No one should suffer alone. The bereavement group at Saint Cecilia supports anyone coping with loss. Feel free to grab some coffee and food and join us for an informal group discussion and prayer.

For more information, please reach out to Mary Wessel at her parish email.

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES PRAYER SERVICE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 | 6:00 PM

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH | MATTAPAN



On the eve of the 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, St. Katharine Drexel and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes invite the wider community to gather in prayer and solidarity. A World Day of Migrants and Refugees prayer service will take place on

Saturday, September 26, at 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 1548 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan Square. The following day, Sunday, September 27, the Church will observe the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. For this year's observance, Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme, "Even Just One of These Children" (Matthew 18:10).

Using a national prayer service prepared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a guide, the gathering will offer an opportunity to pray for and stand in solidarity with migrant and refugee neighbors and to hear the stories and experiences of those whose lives have been affected by the circumstances they now face. Attendees are invited to bring national flags representing the many countries and cultures that enrich our communities. Those interested in sharing a personal story during the prayer service, or who would like additional information, may contact engler@bc.edu. We hope you'll join us as we gather in prayer and solidarity with our migrant and refugee sisters and brothers.

COME FOURTH SUNDAY: YOUNG ADULTS

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 | 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 September, we're featuring the Young Adult Ministry. Stop by after Mass to meet members of the community and learn more about their spiritual, social, and service opportunities. If you'd like more information on ministries, please reach out to Mary Wessel at her parish email.

Pray for the OCIA



On Sunday, we will welcome 53 people into the Inquiry Period of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) process. Among those beginning the process are 19 non-Christians who are discerning full initiation into the Christian faith and 34 Christians who have been baptized in other traditions and are discerning entering into full communion with the Catholic Church. Please remember these women and men in your prayer as they begin this journey toward becoming fully initiated Catholic Christians. Pray also for our OCIA team, who will accompany them along the way.

WORSHIP NIGHT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 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. When you arrive, please head to the side entrance at 30 St. Cecilia St, buzz "1" on the intercom, and let the parish staff know you are here for the SCYA Night of Worship. 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.

CURIOUS ABOUT RELIGIOUS LIFE? JOIN FIAT

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 7 | 7PM VIA ZOOM

Join *Fiat*, a virtual gathering for women exploring God's call. On October 7, at 7:00 PM EST, hear the inspiring faith journeys of women in the Bible and discover what they can teach us today. For details and the meeting link, contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ, at 617-746-2025.

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

**Let's end
hunger
together**

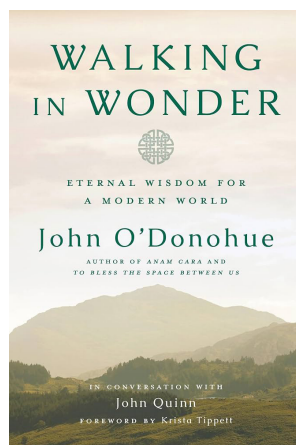
The Feeding America network has designated September for an annual nationwide campaign created to inspire people to take action and raise awareness of hunger in the United States.

According to the Greater Boston Food Bank in 2025, a record 40% of Massachusetts households experienced food insecurity, meaning that at some point during the course of a month a family would not know where their next meal would come from. The high cost of living and federal policy changes are forcing families to make impossible decisions between paying for food and utilities, childcare, and gas.

But together, we have the power to end hunger here. Every action makes a difference. Saint Cecilia and our parishioners combat food insecurity through our weekly support of Catholic Charities' food pantry in Dorchester and the Mary Ann Brett Pantry, as well as other non-profits including Pine Street Inn, Community Servings, Capuchin Mobile Ministries, and Women's Lunch Place.

JOIN THE WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY MINISTRY

**WEEKLY ZOOM MEETINGS ON THURSDAYS AT 7:30PM
AND SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM**



The Wisdom and Mature Spirituality group is happy to invite you to read our next book selection, *Walking in Wonder: Eternal Wisdom for a Modern World* by mystical theologian John O'Donohue which we'll start at the end of September or so after we finish Pope Francis' book, *Hope: The Autobiography* by Pope Francis. We read a chapter or two at a time. We are loving Pope Francis' book, and it's never too late to join the conversation. We'll

be discussing chapter 19: "Walking Through the Valley of the Shadows of Death" and chapter 20: "Your Rod and Your Staff, They Comfort Me." Both titles are available in audiobook.

Feel free to join us anytime at our weekly meetings on Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30pm or Sunday from 8:30 to 9:30am. For more information, please send an email to the ministry.

CAPUCHIN MOBILE MINISTRIES BENEFIT: HOLY PRACTICE, HOLY WHEELS

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 | 6:30PM - 8:30PM
OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH CENTER
39 BROOKSIDE AVENUE, JAMAICA PLAIN**

For six years, Capuchin Mobile Ministries has traveled the streets of Boston and Cambridge, offering spiritual accompaniment to people who too often walk alone. Join us to celebrate this milestone and honor the many wheels that keep this ministry moving, including you, your friends, and our partner communities who make this holy work possible.

During the evening, we will be honored to welcome Dr. Claire Wolfteich of Boston University, who will reflect on the spirituality of accompaniment and the transformative power of presence. We will also present our Volunteer of the Year Award. Your ticket includes dinner, drinks, and an evening of celebration, storytelling, and gratitude. To purchase tickets for \$125: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cmmgg/event/holywheels/>.



**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 to sit with Saint Cecilia folks (or donate a ticket to a parishioner), please send an email to the ministry.

SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS

REFLECT. SHARE. GROW IN FAITH.



Join us this fall! Each week we gather to reflect on the Sunday readings and the three questions Father John poses, exploring how we are called to live out our Catholic faith. Drawing on Scripture, the homily, and our own experiences, we talk honestly about the paths our lives are taking. Come build

community and deepen your faith alongside others on the journey. Both in-person and virtual options are available, and everyone is welcome. Drop in as often—or as rarely—as works for you! For more information, to sign up, or to be added to the Small Group Connections mailing list, please email the parish.



THE SEASON OF CREATION 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

The Season of Creation begins each year on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and concludes on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. During this month-long observance, Christians around the world come together in an ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home. This year's theme, "Living Water," draws inspiration from the prophet Ezekiel's vision of water flowing from the Temple, bringing life and healing wherever it goes (Ezekiel 47:9, 12). Emerging from a time of exile and loss, this powerful biblical image reminds us of God's desire to bring renewal and healing to all creation—and invites us to reflect on our own responsibility to care for the earth, its waters, and all living things.

Bulletin Artist Spotlight: Nikola Sarić



Nikola Sarić is a Serbian artist based in Hanover, Germany. Sarić effortlessly blends his training in the Orthodox icon tradition with his pull towards post-modernism.

During Sarić's first year of studies at the Faculty of Applied Art in Belgrade, he became interested in Byzantine art after becoming transfixed by the Crucifixion fresco at Studenica Monastery in Brezova, Serbia. He was drawn to the calmness of Christ, the figures below the Cross, and the atmosphere of the painting. Sarić realized that this was not just a painting, but a reality beyond any comprehension. He later transferred to the Academy of the Serbian Church for Art and Conservation, where he graduated in 2014.

Sarić's work can be best described as an attempt to convey the intuition of a transfigured world and its everlasting glow, harmony and beauty. His early work surrounding the stories of the Holy martyrs of the Church were adapted into graceful compositions of his own in a highly original and poetic style. In his more recent work, Sarić, while retaining the austerity and purity of his style, has enriched his approach and his subject matter with painterly and material elements that go beyond traditional Orthodox iconography.

- Orthodox Arts Journal & Polites Project

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO REMEMBER 9/11. WE NEED TO RECOMMIT TO PEACE.

BY NCR EDITORIAL STAFF



Credit: King of Hearts | Wikimedia

Tribute in Light is an art installation in New York City created in remembrance of the 9/11 attacks. The annual installation consists of 88 vertical searchlights arranged in two columns of light to represent the Twin Towers.

The 9/11 attacks delivered a one-two punch to our nation. The horrific deaths of nearly 3,000 people on U.S. soil were closely followed by U.S. government-led acts of retaliatory revenge, plunging our nation into a war on terror that continues.

But in that gap — right after the four hijacked planes hit the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and crashed in a remote field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, but just before many took up the rallying cries of "Never again!" — there was a period of silence: a shocked calm, not unlike the eye of a hurricane, taking in what just happened before the next wave took hold.

As a nation, we were not just taking a moment of silence; this was days of relative quiet as Americans held their collective breath and grieved. For at least two days, there were no civilian or commercial flights and major news networks dropped regular programming and commercials to unpack what had just happened. We felt unified, sharing this tragedy by gathering in places of worship or parks, and volunteering or cheering on first responders.

For the rest of September and into October, religious fervor soared. People flocked to churches in large numbers, seeking answers, comfort or maybe a spiritual perspective and connection amid the chaos and the new place of shaken security.

But in the days, and now decades, that followed, we picked ourselves back up. Days after the attacks, air travel resumed, but far differently and it has remained that way. TV shows and commercials were back on within the week, and within a few months, the short-term spike of church attendance returned to previous levels.

In many ways, the country was changed by that day, even as it also moved on from it. An entire generation of young adults knows about 9/11 only through history books rather than personal memory, and this upcoming anniversary has morphed into another culture war battle. But each year, the names of those who died are read aloud at memorial services and we pause and reflect.

Still, 25 years later, we are left wondering what we, as

people of faith, are to make of what happened and are called to grapple with its aftermath.

For starters, we do what everyone does on big anniversaries: We remember. For those who were alive, which is now less than two-thirds of the U.S. population, we remember what happened and solemnly recall those who died on the hijacked planes, or were at work in Washington and New York on that Tuesday pre-fall morning. We remember the resilience of first responders, the firefighters who rushed into the burning buildings in lower Manhattan. We can see in our minds' eyes the images of thousands fleeing New York City by walking across major bridges or getting on ferries. We can picture the hundreds upon hundreds of homemade missing person fliers posted around hospitals and near ground zero that became the very first makeshift memorials of that day. We also now remember the thousands of first responders who died from the fumes of toxic dust around ground zero.

We all have different and likely very specific memories of 9/11, akin to the previous generations' remembering where they were when Pearl Harbor was attacked or when President John F. Kennedy was shot. Even among our staff here at NCR, the memories vary from those who were kids and didn't understand what was going on to those who had to explain what had happened to their children and also report on it.

One staff writer was in New York City for college at the time, living in an apartment in Brooklyn. His cousin, just one day shy of her 25th birthday, was working with a consulting agency at an office on the 96th floor of the World Trade Center and was among those who died that day.

Another, who had just graduated from high school four months before Sept. 11, said several classmates had joined the military after high school. After the attacks, they were sent to Iraq to fight the war on terror and a few of them never came home.

For us all, the memory of what happened that day also blurs into what happened in the post-9/11 frenzy including the uptick in anti-Muslim hate crimes; the passage of the Patriot Act allowing increased government surveillance and access to records; the opening of a prison at the Navy base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for suspected terrorists; and the start of the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration or TSA.

On Sept. 20, 2001, President George W. Bush addressed Congress and the nation, announcing, "Our war on terror begins with al Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated." A few weeks later, the U.S. began its war against Afghanistan with airstrikes on the region. And about a year and half later, we invaded Iraq. The Iraq War lasted nine years and killed 4,492 U.S. service members and more than 200,000 Iraqi citizens.

That's a lot to remember and make sense of, but our Catholic

faith places special emphasis on remembering. The focal point of our liturgy is the words of Christ: "Do this in memory of me." And a core Jesuit spiritual principle, contemplation in action, refers to how our thoughts and prayers should guide what we do and how we move forward in our world.

So for this milestone anniversary, some quiet contemplation in our ever-noisy world seems essential to continue processing the attacks and their aftermath, but also as a starting point to consider how we can advocate for peace in our world.

The anniversary falls during the year when the church celebrates a special Jubilee commemorating the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, described by Pope Leo XIV in his proclamation of the year as "a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace."

Leo has often highlighted the need for peace, speaking about it more than 400 times, in the first year of his papacy.

In a Jan. 10 letter to the ministers general of the Conference of the Franciscan Family, Leo said St. Francis' message of peace was needed now more than ever. "In this age, marked by so many seemingly interminable wars, by internal and social divisions that create mistrust and fear, he continues to speak. Not because he offers technical solutions, but because his life points to the authentic source of peace," the pope wrote.

We can also take our cues from Pope Francis' 2015 visit to ground zero. That visit, unlike any of his other U.S. stops, was essentially silent. The pope prayed with religious leaders inside the memorial's museum and silently prayed next to a candle by one of the memorial's reflecting pools. He then personally greeted family members while the gathered crowd could only hear the rushing water from the deep pools where the Twin Towers once stood.

The memorial at ground zero and the other two sites where people lost their lives that day do not bombard visitors with the devastation and tragedy of 9/11 as much as they invite contemplation with their empty spaces, water, benches and chimes.

For many of us, maybe we can't physically visit these memorials, but we can get to what they evoke by finding a quiet space this Sept. 11 to reflect on what has happened and think about how we can more powerfully commit ourselves to peace.



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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. Christopher Brolly, SJ

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.

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$15, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$15 after 4:00 every day of the week. To get this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our 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.