

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



## Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 September 2024

Moses and the Ten Commandments by Tetiana Hubar

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

1 SEPTEMBER 2024

## THE TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | *Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit*  
Brett Maguire, organist

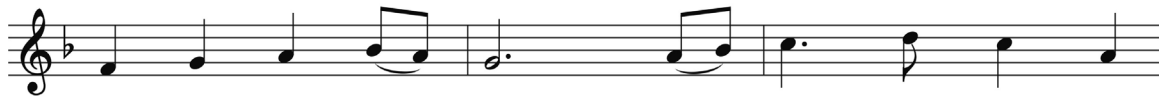
Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | All are Welcome

Marty Haugen



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And  
2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And  
3. Let us build a house where love is found In  
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -  
5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and  
words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren  
wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on  
yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,  
songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -  
dare to seek To dream God's reign a -  
ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice  
serve and teach, And live the Word they've  
taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, Rock of  
new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness And as  
meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, Is re -  
known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger Bear the  
Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, Prayers of

faith and vault of grace; Here the  
sym - bol of God's grace; Here as  
vealed in time and space; As we  
im - age of God's face; Let us  
faith and songs of grace, Let this

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:

All are wel-come, all are wel-come, all are wel-come

in this place.

#### 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.



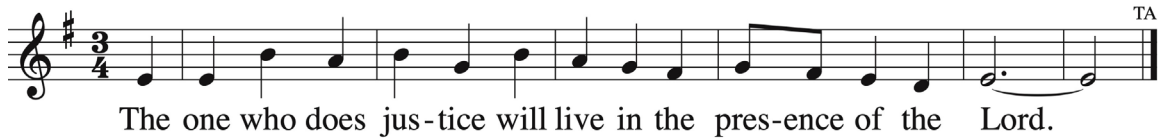
COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 15: The One Who Does Justice

Tony Alonso



Whoever walks without fault;  
who does what is upright,  
and speaks the truth from his heart;  
whoever does not slander with his  
tongue. R̥.

who looks with scorn on the wicked,  
but honors those who fear the  
LORD. R̥.

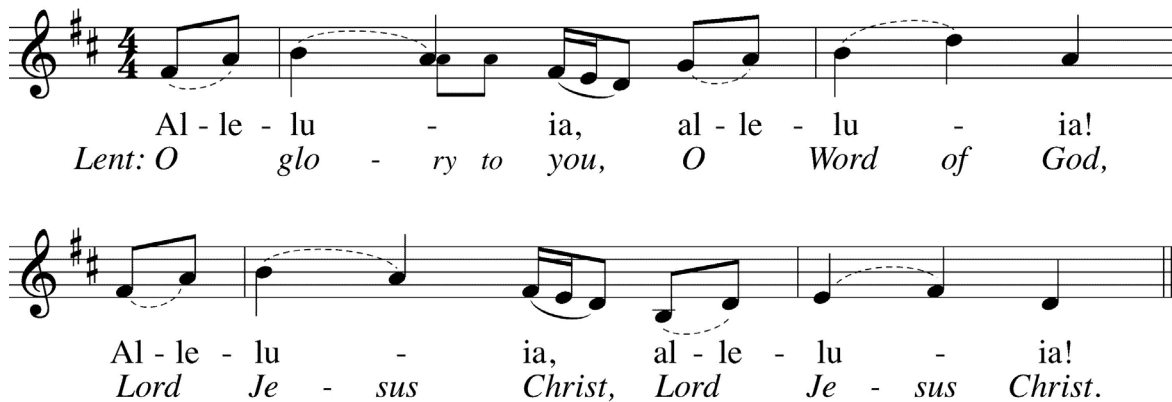
Who does no wrong to a neighbor,  
who casts no slur on a friend,

Who lends no money at interest,  
and accepts no bribes against the  
innocent.  
Such a one shall never be shaken. R̥.

SECOND READING | James I: 17-18, 21b-22, 27

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Unity Mass

Norah Duncan IV



GOSPEL | Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

HOMILY

## NICENE CREED

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

## UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

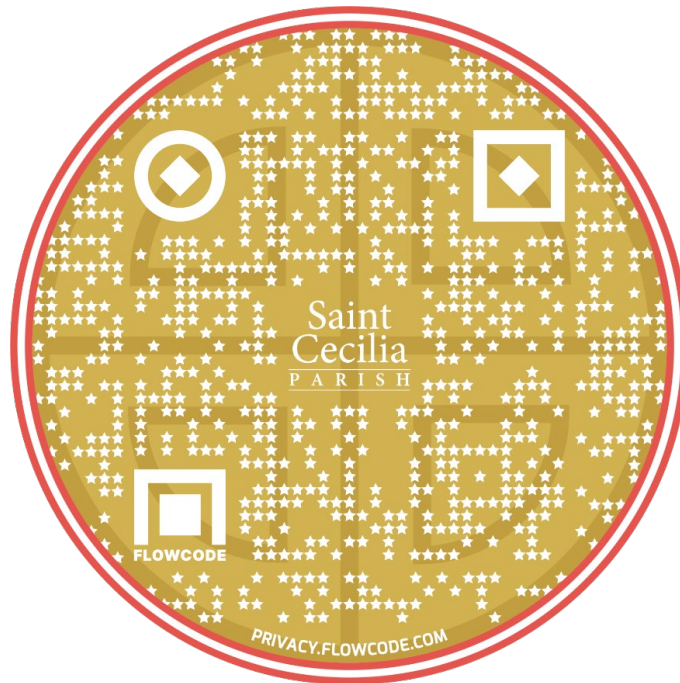
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit [www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston](http://www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston).

You can also mail a check to:


Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Canticle of the Turning


Rory Cooney



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



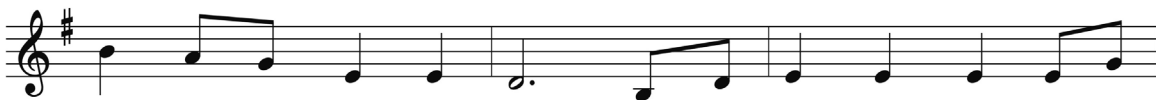
God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the  
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



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



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



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



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

Refrain

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY | *Missa Pacem*

L. Randolph Babin

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | *Missa Pacem*

L. Randolph Babin

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro -  
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

GREAT AMEN | *Missa Pacem*

L. Randolph Babin

A - men, a - men, a - men.  
A - men, a - men, a - men.



## 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 | *Missa Pacem*

L. Randolph Babin

*Cantor or choir:* *All:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
Prince of Peace,  
God of Love,  
Bread of Life,

*Repeat as needed*

world, have mer - cy on us.

*Last time* *Cantor or choir:*

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

*All:*

world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

## ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

### COMMUNION | Christ, Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell



1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.  
2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.  
3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.

1. *Luz* a - ño - ra - mos, *luz* es - pe - ra - mos.  
2. *Paz* an - he - la - mos, *se* tur - ba el mun - do.  
3. *Fal* - ta co - mi - da: mu - chos ham - brien - tos.



Long - ing for truth, we turn to you.  
Long - ing for hope, man - y de - spair.  
Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst.

*Ver* - dad bus - ca - mos, *va* - mos a ti.  
*Fal* - ta es - pe - ran - za, *y el* a - len - tar.  
*Fal* - ta be - bi - da: mu - chos con sed.



Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,  
Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,

*Haz* - nos los tu - yos, *tu* pue - blo san - to,  
*Con* tu pa - la - bra só - lo nos sal - vas.  
*Haz* - nos tu pan, *par* - ti - do por o - tros,



Light for the world to see.  
Make us your liv - ing voice.  
Shared un - til all are fed.

*Luz* pa - ra el mun - do ver.  
*Haz* - nos tu vi - va voz.  
*Has* - ta sa - ciar - los bien.

Refrain / Estribillo

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
 ¡Cris - to, la Luz! Bri - lla en tu I - gle - sia, luz en la

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

Church gath - ered to - day.  
 so - tros jun - tos a - quí.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
 Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
 Make us your building, sheltering others,  
 Walls made of living stone.

4. *Muchos sin casa buscan abrigo.  
 Falta calor: yertos están.  
 Haznos tu albergue, tus piedras vivas  
 Que tu refugio dan.*

5. Many the gifts, many the people,  
 Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
 Let us be servants to one another,  
 Making your kingdom come.

5. *Muchos los dones, mucha la gente,  
 Muchos desean pertenecer.  
 Haznos sirvientes unos de otros.  
 Venga tu reino, oh Dios.*

## 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.

1. I sing the might - y pow'r of God That  
 2. I sing the good - ness of the Lord That  
 3. There's not a plant or flow'r be - low But

made the moun - tains rise, That spread the flow - ing  
 filled the earth with food. God formed the crea - tures  
 makes your glo - ries known; And clouds a - rise and

seas a - broad, And built the loft - y skies. I  
 with a word And then pro - nounced them good. Lord,  
 tem - pests blow By or - der from your throne. Your

sing the wis - dom that or - dained The  
 how your won - ders are dis - played Wher -  
 crea - tures, count - less though they be, Are

sun to rule by day; The moon shines full at  
 e'er I turn my eye, If I sur - vey the  
 sub - ject to your care. There's not a place where

God's com - mand, And all the seas o - bey.  
 ground I tread, Or gaze up - on the sky!  
 we can flee, But you are pres - ent there.

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

# WELCOME!

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

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

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

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

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

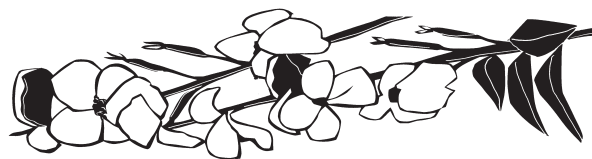
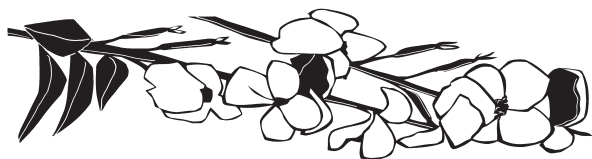
The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was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

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

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



# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, August 31 | 5:00 p.m.**

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Mary Kane, lector

**Sunday, September 1 | 8:00 a.m.**

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Thomas Skorupa, lector

**Sunday, September 1 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. Jay Woods, OFM, celebrant  
Letitia Howland, Natasha Bolton-Pierre, and Rosaria Salerno, lectors

**Sunday, September 1 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. Jim Walther, OMV, celebrant  
Virgen Palermo, Chika Offurum, and Kevin Dumas, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Saturday, August 31 | 5:00 p.m.**

Mary Botosh, *Memorial*

**Sunday, September 1 | 9:30 a.m.**

Joseph Garcia, *Memorial*

Carol Ascrizzi, *Memorial*

William J. Emery, *Memorial*

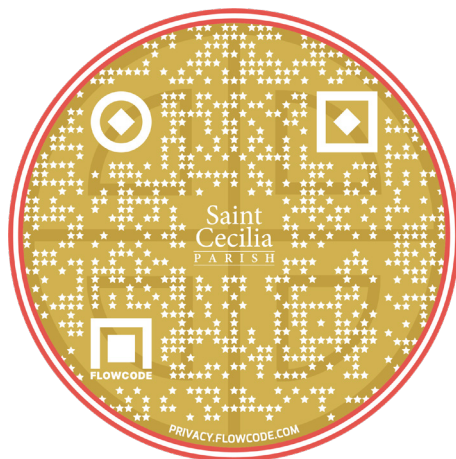
## TODAY'S READINGS

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

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
James 2:1-5  
Mark 7:31-37

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



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

## RECORDANDO AL PADRE PETER

Una vida tan bien vivida merece ser recordada. Únase a nosotros para conmemorar la vida del Padre Peter Gyves SJ MD. Nuestra reunión estará dirigida por la Hermana Barbara Gutiérrez, SND-deN. El sábado 31 de agosto a las 2:00 p. m. en la Iglesia Emmanuel, 15 Newbury St, Boston. Celebraremos la Santa Misa a las 4:00 p. m. seguida de una cena. Para obtener más información o para decirnos que se unirá al recuerdo del Padre Peter, responda a [events@faith-justice.org](mailto:events@faith-justice.org).

# 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: **Mark and Christine Trant** of Stoneham and **Christopher and Claire Magnani** of Cambridge. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/](http://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.

## Parish Offices Closure

Our parish offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

## FAREWELL, CHRISTINE!



We're bidding farewell to Christine Burns, our Digital and Print Media Coordinator, who has been instrumental in maintaining and growing our online presence. Through her diligent work on our print collateral, weekly bulletin, e-blasts, and social media channels, Christine has kept our parishioners and the wider community connected and informed. Her creativity and dedication have been a true asset to Saint Cecilia Parish. While we'll miss her greatly, we wish her all the best in her next adventure! Her last day is September 5, so please be sure to share your well wishes before then.

Christine is pictured here with our Assistant Music Director, Tyler Cesario, at one of our new parishioner welcome events in 2023.

## 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 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.

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

# **PIZZA SUNDAY IS BACK!**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 6-8PM**

**KICK OFF THE ACADEMIC  
YEAR WITH A REFLECTION  
ON GRATITUDE AND HOPES  
FOR THE FALL!**



**FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY 6PM MASS,  
JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS IN THE PARISH HALL  
FOR PIZZA & FELLOWSHIP**





## TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

The Season of Creation spans five weeks—from the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (September 1) to the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4). During this annual season, Christian communities come together to pray and act to protect creation while celebrating our faith in God, our Creator, and our common home.

### INTRODUCTION TO LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM FOR THE PARISH

**Sunday, September 8 | Following 9:30 & 11:30 Masses**

The Saint Cecilia Climate Justice group will be in the parish hall after the morning masses to introduce the process for the Parish Climate Action Plan on the Laudato Si' Action Platform. Please stop by and be part of the conversation!

### CELEBRATING THE 2024 SEASON OF CREATION MASS

**Saturday, September 14 at 1:00 p.m. | Sacred Heart Parish**

You are invited to join the Boston Chapter of the Laudato Si' Movement and Bishop Mark O'Connell at Sacred Heart Parish (16 Follen Road, Lexington) on Saturday, September 14 at 1:00 p.m. Learn more about our call as Catholics to care for our Common Home and all who inhabit it. Hospitality and a program will follow the Mass.

**Questions?** Please contact Jenny Jones at the Climate Justice Ministry email address.

### 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 our young adults. *Please use the St. Cecilia Street entrance and ring the bell to enter.* All are welcome!

### 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!

### PIE SELLERS NEEDED!

As part of our ongoing relationship with Community Servings, we are looking for parishioners willing to assist with their annual Pie in the Sky fundraiser. Every Thanksgiving pie sold feeds a Community Servings client suffering from a life-threatening illness for one week. The delicious pies—apple, pecan, and pumpkin — are the perfect dessert for your Thanksgiving table. If you are willing to help sell pies at Saint Cecilia liturgies as well as to your friends and colleagues through emails and social media, please email Mark Lippolt at our Hunger and Homelessness Ministry email address.





# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

Join Father John and the Saint Cecilia Choirs  
Under the Direction of Robert Duff on a

## 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Italy

June 15-23, 2025



### We will participate in Mass at:

- The Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi
- St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

### The Saint Cecilia Choir will perform two evening concerts:

- The Basilica di Sant'Andrea della Valle in Rome
- The Basilica di Santa Cecilia in Trastevere

### Want to learn more/register?

Visit [www.stceciliaboston.org/italy](http://www.stceciliaboston.org/italy) to learn more and to register! On this webpage, you'll find registration information, the trip itinerary, and a recording of a virtual information session with the hosting company, Music Celebrations International.

We will visit Rome, Florence,  
Assisi, and Vatican City.

### Highlights include:

- A visit to La Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze, home to the largest number of Michelangelo sculptures in the world, including *David*
- A walking tour of the medieval town of Assisi, birthplace of Sts. Francis and Clare, including a visit to the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi—one of the most important pilgrimage sites in all of Italy
- A tour of the Vatican Museums which house some of the world's most important collections of art (included will be a visit to the Sistine Chapel)
- A visit to St. Peter's Basilica, including the *Pietà*
- A tour of the Colosseum and its arena floor, the Roman Forum.
- A tentative weekly Papal Audience and Blessing (subject to the Holy Father's schedule)
- Visits to the Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and Trevi Fountain
- Visits to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON  
JOINING US, PLEASE REGISTER  
BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30!



## 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/](http://www.virtusonline.org/). 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!



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

While the beginning of the school year is an exciting time for kids and parents, it can also be stressful. For the families helped by the Mary Ann Brett Pantry in Dorchester, the beginning of the year can be especially intense. In hopes of alleviating stress and making the start of the school year sunnier for these families, Saint Cecilia is once again collecting backpacks and school supplies for the kids.

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

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



In addition, the following items will be used to fill the backpacks: spiral notebooks, 3-ring binders, folders, dry-erase markers, and loose leaf filler paper. There will be bins in the narthex if you want to provide any of the items above. To make it easier to participate in the Back-To-School Drive, you can also access the pantry's wish list here: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11Q1I35W4EGYE?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11Q1I35W4EGYE?ref=wl_share) or using this QR code. Thank you so much for your dedication to improving the kids' lives in Greater Boston!

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

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

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

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## 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.



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 Far-Flung Flock Ministry to confirm your email address.



## 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.

## JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRY!

Our choir reconvenes for the academic year this coming week and will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 5. We are looking for additional singers and instrumentalists to participate in music ministry at the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies, so we invite you to audition and join! Choir rehearsals take place weekly on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the church. If interested, please see our Director of Music, Rob Duff, after Mass or reach out to him via his parish email address.

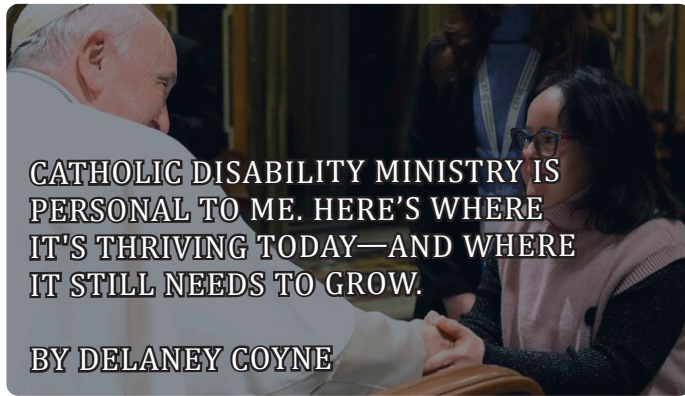
## JOIN OUR BIWEEKLY SIMEON & ANNA SENIORS GATHERING

**Thursday, September 5,**  
**10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.**  
**Every Other Week**  
**Following**



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

**Where?** Saint Cecilia Parish (enter through the doors on St. Cecilia Street and ring the bell to be let in).  
**Questions?** Email Lucy Conroy ([seniors@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:seniors@stceciliaboston.org))



CATHOLIC DISABILITY MINISTRY IS  
PERSONAL TO ME. HERE'S WHERE  
IT'S THRIVING TODAY—AND WHERE  
IT STILL NEEDS TO GROW.

BY DELANEY COYNE

When I visit St. Thérèse of Lisieux Church in Cresskill, New Jersey, people arrive early and families talk to each other. They notice that I am new and ask my name. That is new to me. After moving to New York, I attended Mass at many new churches, and I sometimes felt like a tourist, clumsily entering what felt like a parish-slash-museum where regulars would prefer to worship undisturbed by interlopers like me, thank you very much.

It is nothing like that here, at St. Thérèse's special needs Mass. In this oblong sanctuary that screams of the 1970s, the parish feels fully alive.

About 15 to 20 families regularly attend the Mass, which is held on Sunday monthly at 1:30 p.m. As they trickle in, Patrick Glass, a 28-year-old man with Fragile X syndrome (a genetic condition that causes intellectual disability), dances to a ditty the choir accompanist plays for him. Near the start of the Mass, Patrick exclaims "New York City!" after singing "This Little Light of Mine" with members of the parish's teen choir. Members of the congregation smile.

I watch as people with disabilities fulfill the roles of lectors and soloists and altar servers. At the end, all are invited to the altar at the end of Mass to sing "Rise and Shine (Arky Arky)," a nursery rhyme about Noah's Ark with accompanying choreography. I join in the dance gestures from the pews with other smiling parishioners.

The Mass is followed by fellowship in the school next door. As I enter the packed hall, I see a spread of juice boxes, homemade cannolis and cookies provided by the special needs Mass's hospitality committee, staffed by many parishioners who have no connection to the disability community except for their desire to support it.

Many families travel to St. Thérèse for the special needs Mass, including Patrick and his parents, Gerry and Lori Glass, who drive half an hour each way from Fort Lee, N.J.

There is nothing like this at their home parish, Lori tells me. They said that they found a community at this Mass where their son could express himself through music.

Catholic worship is often focused on "talking, talking, talking," Lori explains, which can be inaccessible for Patrick, whose verbal abilities are limited. "But here," she says, "the music is so uplifting, and everyone can sing."

I ask Patrick if he enjoys coming here. "Yes, ma'am," he tells me, with a big thumbs-up.

"I don't know who started it," Gerry says of the special needs Mass. "Whoever they are, they're a saint."

That would be Samuel Citero, O.Carm., the pastor at St. Thérèse, who was inspired to organize the Mass after a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2015. "It didn't take a lot to convince our parish," he said, thanks to its longstanding commitment to social concerns; since then, parishioners have consistently volunteered to support the Mass.

Unlike many U.S. parishes, Father Citero's has seen growth in recent years, including a handful who joined St. Thérèse because of their welcoming stance toward people with disabilities. "We're not trying to steal people's parishioners, but we do what we do," he says.

"They come from far away because they say they don't feel comfortable in their churches," says Sheri Minetti, the music minister at St. Thérèse.

"Some of them are refused sacraments, so we take on that responsibility," Father Citero explains. Some people with disabilities are denied the Eucharist if the pastor believes they cannot "distinguish the body of Christ from ordinary food," as instructed by the Pastoral Statement of U.S. Bishops on Persons With Disabilities, published in 1978. But many parishes lack catechesis for people with disabilities to begin to grasp the mystery of the Eucharist. (And few neurotypical adults face similar scrutiny about their understanding of transubstantiation.)

Maureen Millett tells me about her son, Bryant, whom she described as a multiply disabled man. She says their family faced refusals from local pastors many years ago when they asked if Bryant could make his first Communion when he was about 16, and they searched for a place where he would be accepted. Their search led the family to join St. Thérèse, where Bryant received his first Communion from Father Citero.

Bryant died in his sleep in November 2022 at age 36, but the family remain parishioners at St. Thérèse. They attend the special needs Mass each month with their entire family, including Bryant's sister, Breanne, and her 11-year-old son, D.J., who was an altar server alongside a boy with Down syndrome at the Mass I visited. "Our hearts are still with these kids," Ms. Millett says, pointing to the dog tags she and her husband, Geoffrey, wear with Bryant's face and "forever in our hearts" etched into the silver metal.

Masses like the one at St. Thérèse offer safe spaces for people with disabilities to worship, where no one blinks an eye if they have an outburst or need to step out for a moment. They might also offer sensory adaptations. The Masses include people with disabilities among the liturgical ministers, which reminds the rest of the congregation that people with disabilities have abundant gifts to share with the church.

Beyond offering Masses for people with disabilities, the parish has the potential to be a place where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who often struggle to make friends in adulthood, can find a community that welcomes them, affirms their dignity, and makes space for them to offer their gifts and talents. Disability ministry thrives at the parish level because of the relational, individualized nature of such work. However, the local nature of the ministry sometimes restricts its growth, because a few organizations with limited resources shoulder the massive responsibility of providing centralized information about Catholics with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the United States.

Most dioceses do not have offices specifically designated for disability ministry. Instead, the responsibility often is shared among different offices, which can make it difficult for families and pastoral staff to find resources.

I spoke with ministers who offer programs that help facilitate catechesis, sacramental life and fellowship for people with disabilities to find out both where disability ministry is thriving today and what it might need to grow in the future. My investment in the topic is both professional and personal.

### **Why Is Disability Ministry Necessary?**

My younger sister, Charlotte, is a 21-year-old with intellectual disabilities, and she enjoys going to church with our family. She will tell you that Jesus loves her, and she especially enjoys attending a Mass at our parish in Chicago for people with disabilities like the Mass at St. Thérèse, but she does not wish to receive the Eucharist regularly. She received her first Communion, but walking to the front of

the church is extremely anxiety-inducing for Charlotte, so when my family attends Mass, she stays in the pew while the rest of our family go up to receive.

In 2020, Pope Francis made headlines by affirming "the right of all persons with disabilities to receive the sacraments, like all other members of the church." Perhaps I was naïve, never having faced pushback from a pastor because my sister never tries to receive Communion, but I was shocked that even needed to be said.

But then I thought back to Charlotte's experience growing up in the church. When she was confirmed alongside a few other eighth graders with disabilities, the experience was overwhelming to her, and she ran out of the sanctuary crying, my mother and I trailing closely behind. The bishop followed us, cornered her in the parish lobby and anointed her with the chrism as she bawled. Charlotte was hardly "properly and reasonably seek[ing]" confirmation that day, as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' guidelines instruct, but I don't entirely blame the bishop either—I don't think he knew what to do in that moment. After all, the church is not the only institution that has struggled to understand people with disabilities.

Catholic teaching has long affirmed the inalienable dignity of all people, regardless of ability, but the church's ministry to people with disabilities is still developing. Lori Weider, the chair of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability's Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the mother of two adults with disabilities, said, "Nationally, I feel like there's been a lot of improvement in accepting and welcoming and including people with disabilities, but there's still a lot of work to be done."

The N.C.P.D. was founded in 1982 to carry out the mandate of the U.S. bishops' pastoral statement from 1978. It focuses on educating and providing resources on disability ministry to parishes, dioceses, ministers and laypeople. The N.C.P.D. maintains a list of affiliate dioceses around the United States, including diocesan directors, providing a vital point of contact for many families. It has also advocated for expanded programming for the Catholic disability community, including Masses for people with disabilities like the one at St. Thérèse. N.C.P.D.'s main goal is to "move from inclusion to belonging," ultimately aiming at "communion...where everyone is the same," Ms. Weider said.

The N.C.P.D. has commissioned national surveys by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate to assess the needs of Catholics with disabilities; the latest one, "Disabilities in Parishes Across the United States," was



commissioned by the N.C.P.D., Potomac Community Resources, and the Archdiocese of Washington and was published in 2016. CARA and the N.C.P.D. are currently in the process of conducting a new one.

The 2016 report relied on responses from parish staff, so it reflects the staff's ability to take the pulse of the disability community, and that can vary depending on the parish and the type of disability. The 2016 report found that pastors serving larger parishes are 33 percent more likely to be aware of a parishioner with an intellectual disability and 47 percent more likely to know of a parishioner with autism than pastors serving smaller parishes.

Still, these surveys have the potential to drive change in the church: One such survey, according to Charleen Katra, the executive director of the N.C.P.D, was the impetus for the publication of "Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments With Persons with Disabilities." The guidelines were first published by the U.S. bishops in 1995 and were updated in 2017.

Ms. Weider said that much of the responsibility to minister to people with disabilities falls to individual parishes, but parishes located in dioceses with offices for disabilities benefit greatly from the additional support. In the 2016 report, fewer than half of responding pastors (48 percent) said that they were aware of opportunities in their diocese for parish staff to access training to accommodate people with disabilities, and only 28 percent said staff had attended such trainings, whether they were offered by the archdiocese or another organization. But of those who attended, 83 percent said that the training was at least partly sponsored by the diocese or archdiocese.

Most efforts start locally, according to Anne Masters, the director of the Office for Pastoral Ministry With Persons With Disabilities of the Archdiocese of Newark. "If the pastor in particular isn't on board, it isn't going to get anywhere," she said.

Dr. Masters's work lately focuses on facilitating a "conversion of mindsets" in parish communities. She explained that including people with disabilities in the parish community demands greater "interpersonal identification" from parishioners, specifically from parish leaders.

Disability ministry relies on getting to know people by name, Dr. Masters said, and making changes based on what would be helpful to *that individual* and their spiritual development. She said she's heard people say things like, "I've got this Down's kid that needs to prepare for the Eucharist," which identifies people by their diagnosis, and

that can be dehumanizing. Even among people with the same diagnosis, the needs of people with disabilities vary widely. A broad look at "disability access"—without careful attention to each person with disabilities—may fail to meet these parishioners' individual needs.

The 2016 N.C.P.D. report found, for instance, that 85 percent of pastors said their parish at least "somewhat" offers a way to include students with disabilities in its religious education program, with 58 percent responding "very much." Only 16 percent said they use the same catechetical resources for all without accommodations. But because the data does not distinguish among types of disability, it is unclear how many of the accommodations that are provided are tailored to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### **Pastoral Outreach to Parishioners**

Mary Catherine Widger, S.L., has been involved in expanding access to catechesis for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1976. She currently serves as the assistant director of special religious education for the developmentally disabled in the Archdiocese of Denver. She said that implementing a religious education program for a child with disabilities begins by "talk[ing] to the pastor, to be sure he is open to that."

She explained that if the pastor is not the one making the request, it often comes from parents or even family friends, who might ask on behalf of the parents of a child with disabilities. "So many times, [parents] are a little hesitant to reach out, because they've been told 'no' so many times, and that just shouldn't be happening in that area." Sister Widger's office uses the U.S. bishops' "Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments With Persons With Disabilities" to remind pastors and leaders of their responsibilities toward their parishioners with disabilities.

Once Sister Widger's team makes sure the pastor is on board, the team and pastor connect with parish leaders who can help with outreach, "and that's usually some of the good women who are holding the parish together anyway," Sister Widger said. They then begin reaching out to families, which can take "quite a bit of time," since some families do not know that their child has a right to catechesis and the sacraments.

"We just keep trying to find those people that need to be reached out to—the



parents that are agonizing, not because they have this child, but because they can't share what means the most to them, which is their faith," she said.

Sister Widger explains to parents that an inability to thrive in a traditional classroom religious education setting does not mean a person is unable to receive the sacraments: "There's a big difference between 'I can go and sit in somebody's class and just not get it because I don't understand the language,' and 'I can receive the living God, my parents have loved me, I know what love is, and this is what's happening in that sacrament and all the sacraments, actually.'"

The full scope of disability ministry includes ministry to—and in collaboration with—people with disabilities at all stages of their lives. "Participation in the full life of the church is not just about sacrament participation," said Dr. Masters, but she said the calls her office receives reflect the fact that "child sacrament preparation is still our predominant focus as a church." Therefore, creating models of religious education that empower people with disabilities to receive the living God and recognize God's love has been a point of focus for leaders in disability ministry.

### **An Alternative Model of Religious Education**

A special religious development program (the acronym is Spred) is one used to catechize people with disabilities. Spred programs operate in 19 dioceses in the United States, as well as 17 dioceses across Africa, Europe, Australia, North America and South America. Rather than emphasizing instruction in a classroom, Spred aims to cultivate authentic relationships in "communities made up of eight catechists and six 'friends' with intellectual and developmental disabilities," said Joseph Quane, the executive director of the Spred program of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The relational charism behind Spred comes from the Rev. Eucharist Paulhus, who brought the Spred method to Chicago from France with the Rev. Jean Mesny. The basic line of thought goes: "Our friends are educable in the faith because they can form relationships with people," explained Mr. Quane. "If they can form relationships with people, they can form relationships with God."

During a two-hour session, participants with disabilities begin by unwinding and settling into prayer through a creative activity. Then they move to the "sacred space" where catechists help participants to find God using a symbol for a particular theme. For example, a glass of water on a hot summer day might be used as a metaphor for spiritual renewal. Participants and catechists discuss the

theme and read Scripture; then a message is delivered to each participant, one by one. Afterward, the group leaves the room and they share a light snack or meal, mirroring the Eucharistic feast we share at the Mass. Spred Masses and other programs engage participants in the broader life of the parish.

The Spred model has empowered many people with disabilities to receive the sacraments, including Molly Gallagher, a 15-year-old girl with Down syndrome from Palos Park, Illinois, who is nonverbal. Her father, Michael Gallagher, the director of vicariate operations for the Archdiocese of Chicago (he also serves on the board of directors of Mamre Inc., which raises money for Spred), said that Molly was not able to join the religious education program at their parish. She received her first Communion "one-on-one" with the pastor, but after that, there was a "void" in her religious education that Spred filled. Molly celebrated her confirmation this April at St. Cyril and Methodius in Lemont, Illinois, with other teenage Spred participants.

With a four-to-three volunteer-to-participant ratio, the Spred program in Chicago is volunteer-intensive, and different age cohorts are distributed across a network of parishes with Spred ministries. Despite varying abilities, participants find community with others who are going through similar life experiences.

At Spred, Mr. Gallagher said, Molly enjoys interacting with three other teenagers with disabilities. "It's not just prayer, it's also social," he said, which helps Molly develop her relationship with church.

Because Molly is nonverbal, "communication is a little limited," Mr. Gallagher explained, "but she's always very happy to go to Spred. She's happy when she comes out of Spred." He expressed confidence that Molly now has a strong faith life, rooted in the community at Spred.

Mary Ann Galeher also spoke highly of Spred. She was once told that her daughter Mary Kate, who has autism, would "never achieve confirmation" because she struggled to learn in a traditional youth catechesis setting. Mary Ann said that some people made her feel she was making a mistake with her daughter's religious life by pulling her out of catechesis. Now, Mary Ann calls those concerns "silly." She connected with Mr. Quane, and Mary Kate was confirmed at age 21 with her Spred group at St. Barnabas in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago.

Now Mary Kate is 30 and works as a transporter at a hospital in Evergreen Park, Illinois. She speaks fondly of her

time in Spred, and her faith remains a sustaining force in her life, even if her work schedule sometimes prevents her from attending Sunday Mass. When she has panic attacks at work, she said, “I kind of just say a bunch of Hail Marys and Our Fathers and then...[I] realize everything is going to be OK.”

Mary Ann said that her daughter’s experience partially inspired her to begin volunteering for St. Cajetan Parish’s Spred group one year ago as “something to get me involved in the parish besides registering there,” but it has also connected Mary Ann to other families in the parish with disabilities and deepened her faith. “When those kids came up to join us in a prayer circle, it just blew me away. I’ve never felt such happiness [in] walking with Christ than I did at that moment.”

Spred continues to grow because it retains its volunteers. Mr. Quane said that he began volunteering for Spred 15 years ago, and “for the most part, every volunteer has stayed” in his parish group. He said that the community fostered through the program is life-giving for both the disabled participants and the volunteers alike.

### **Richer Models**

Bridget Brown, a 38-year-old woman with Down syndrome, is an advocate for inclusion for people with disabilities. She serves on the N.C.P.D. Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, where she helps advise congregations on how they can better include their members with disabilities. She acknowledged the strides that have been made toward inclusion but argued that, as a church, “we have a long way to go.”

Inclusion can make a measurable difference—the 2016 N.C.P.D. report found that parishes where people with disabilities serve in ministerial roles or on parish committees are more likely to offer significant accommodations for parishioners with disabilities. Thomas Gaunt, S.J., a co-author of the report and the executive director of CARA, said that most parishes do not have “any deliberate intent to exclude,” but parishes that succeed at ministering to their parishioners with disabilities have a “positive intent to include.”

Ms. Brown expressed frustration that in her work as an advocate, she rarely sees people with disabilities included in discussions that directly pertain to their experience.

“I wish that at conferences...people with disabilities were there—people with lived experience,” Ms. Brown explained. “Most of the time it is just intellectuals talking about people with disabilities, but not inviting them to the

table and listening to their stories.”

“Charity is different than justice,” Ms. Brown said. “Charity is giving someone money or food, but justice is sitting at the table with each other and sharing a meal.”

“People with disabilities are often lonely, isolated, marginalized and pushed aside,” Ms. Brown continued, and it takes intention to show them that they are welcome and have gifts to share with the community. She suggested that sensory-friendly Masses should be offered for the entire congregation in the main church, with people with disabilities serving as liturgical ministers, so the entire congregation can get to know its members with disabilities and grow in fellowship. She also said that activities outside of Mass—like Bible studies or dinner groups—can facilitate stronger relationships among parishioners of all abilities and build a tighter-knit community.

My sister has experienced the power of this connection, too. After my family joined Old St. Patrick’s Church (where Ms. Brown also attends Mass), we learned the parish hosts a monthly “special friends Mass,” where people with disabilities serve as lectors, gift bearers and music ministers.

I asked Charlotte about it when I returned for Christmas this year. She described it in characteristically curt terms: “I like it. Maureen is nice,” she said, referring to Maureen Barney, an Ignatian Volunteer Corps member who helps coordinate the special friends Mass.

While I was home, Charlotte received a card in the mail from Ms. Barney wishing her a Merry Christmas; inside was a Starbucks gift card. “I can get a pink drink!” she rejoiced. Throughout the day, Charlotte asked our family, “Don’t you love Maureen?” And though I had never met her, I had to say that yes, I do.

Ms. Barney began by sending cards for Christmas and participants’ birthdays, but during the pandemic, she started sending them more frequently, hoping to connect with the community outside of Mass. She’s kept at it.

“I send them something every week,” Ms. Barney said of the 15 or so special friends Mass participants, “a postcard, a letter, a gift.” My sister checks the mail every day; she cannot read, but she can scan for names, and when a letter comes in for her, it makes her feel cared for, special.

“Each of the participants makes the community, and without them, we would not have that sacramental life that we have,” Ms. Barney explained. She strives to remind



each of them of their vital place in that community.

Each month's special friends Mass also includes a service activity, like assembling hygiene bags for Chicago's homeless population, so "the participants know they are being served, but they also have something to bring to others." Thus, people with disabilities are reminded that they are not objects of charity; they have a part to play in the church's work of bringing about justice in the city and the world.

In speaking to people at various dioceses and in programs like Spred, it is easier to see a way forward, to see a church in which there is a seat at the table for each of our friends, regardless of their abilities, surrounded by people ready to listen. I pray others share this vision.

*~ Delaney Coyne is a graduate student in theology at the University of Notre Dame. She is a former Joseph A. O'Hare, S.J., fellow at America.*



### 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 Returning Citizens email address.

### 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, Chest-  
nut 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>



# 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

E-mail | [info@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:info@stceciliaboston.org) /// Website | [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://www.stceciliaboston.org)

## Parish Staff

**Rev. John J. Unni**, Pastor

**Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ**, Pastoral Support

**Christine Burns**, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

[cburns@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cburns@stceciliaboston.org)

**Mark Donohoe**, Pastoral Associate

[mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org)

**Robert Duff**, Director of Music

[rduff@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:rduff@stceciliaboston.org)

**Joe Ebbert**, Director of Emerging Adult Ministries

[jebbert@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:jebbert@stceciliaboston.org)

**Carly-Anne Gannon**, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

[cgannon@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cgannon@stceciliaboston.org)

**Scott MacDonald**, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

[smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org)

**Colleen Melaugh**, Director of Finance and Development

[cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cmelaugh@stceciliaboston.org)

**Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien**, Pastoral Director of Operations

[nobrien@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:nobrien@stceciliaboston.org)

**Lisa Pickering**, Director of Facilities and Events

[lpickering@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:lpickering@stceciliaboston.org)

## Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

## Music Ministry

**Tyler Cesario**, Assistant Director of Music

[tcesario@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:tcesario@stceciliaboston.org)

**Daniel Lamoureux**, Vigil Organist

**Brett Maguire**, Parish Organist

[bmaguire@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:bmaguire@stceciliaboston.org)

**Pendexter Macdonald**, Assistant Organist

## Audiovisual Support

**Maureen Deery**, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

[mdeery@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:mdeery@stceciliaboston.org)

**Geoffrey Edwards**, Livestream Videographer

[gedwards@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:gedwards@stceciliaboston.org)

**Vasily Izumchensky**, Livestream Sound Engineer

[vizumchensky@berklee.edu](mailto:vizumchensky@berklee.edu)

## Reception

[reception@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:reception@stceciliaboston.org)

## 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.

## 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 \$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 [cgannon@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:cgannon@stceciliaboston.org).

## 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 ([maria.roche15@gmail.com](mailto:maria.roche15@gmail.com)), Letitia Howland ([L\\_howland@hotmail.com](mailto:L_howland@hotmail.com)), Erin Young ([erin.t.young@gmail.com](mailto:erin.t.young@gmail.com)) or Kathy Sanders, MD ([sanderno2010@gmail.com](mailto:sanderno2010@gmail.com)) 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.