

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

22 September 2024

Jesus Christ with the Children by Carl Bloch

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

22 SEPTEMBER 2024

THE TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | *Allein Gott in der Höh' sie Ehr'*, BWV 662
Brett Maguire, organist

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

IN BABILONE



1. Lord, whose love in hum - ble serv - ice
2. Still the chil - dren wan - der home - less,
3. As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion,
4. Called from wor - ship in - to serv - ice,



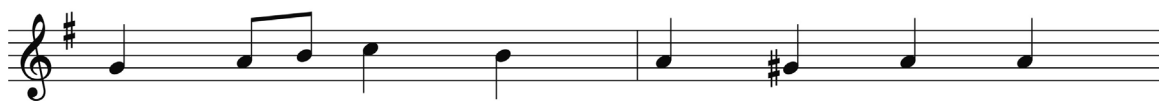
Bore the weight of hu - man need,
Still the hun - gry cry for bread.
Till your love's re - veal - ing light
Forth in your great name we go



Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
Still the cap - tives long for free - dom,
In its height and depth and great - ness
To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed:
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
Dawns up - on our hu - man sight,
Love in liv - ing deeds to show.



We, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion,
Mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens
Hope and health, good - will and com - fort,



Not of voice a - lone, but heart,
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Your com - pas - sion bids us bear,



Con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose
Use the love your Spir - it kin - dles
Stir - ring us to faith - ful serv - ice,
That your chil - dren, Lord, in free - dom,



Ev - 'ry gift that you im - part.
Still to save and make us whole.
Your a - bun - dant life to share.
May your mer - cy know, and live.

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.

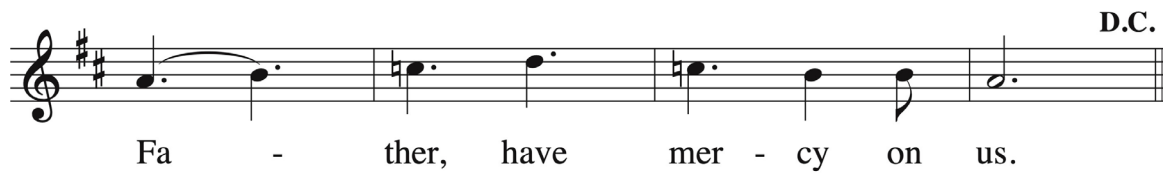


Verse 1



Verse 2





Verse 3



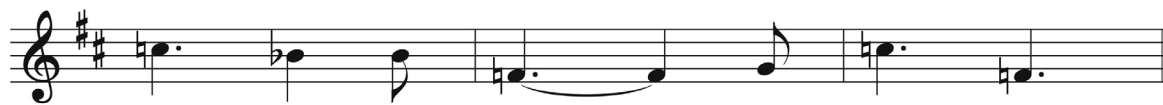
3. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the



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. D.C.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20

The Lord up - holds my life. The

Lord up - holds my life. The

Lord up - holds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name; by your power, defend my cause.
O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.
2. For the proud have risen against me, and the ruthless seek my life.
They have no regard for God.
3. See, I have God for my help. The lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, for it is good.

. SECOND READING | James 3: 16-4:3

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Unity Mass

Norah Duncan IV

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Lent: O glo - ry to you, O Word of God,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Lord Je - sus Christ, Lord Je - sus Christ.

GOSPEL | Mark 9: 30-37

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

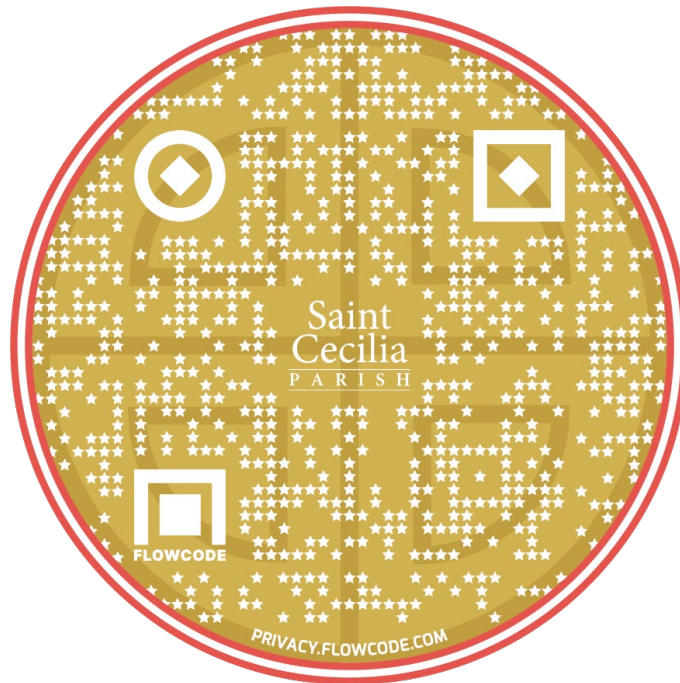
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

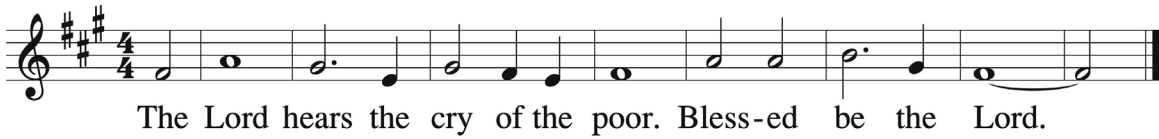
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | The Cry of the Poor

John B. Foley, SJ



Verses

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor.
2. Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas;
and to hearts broken, God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor.
3. Every spirit crushed, God will save; will be ransom for their lives;
will be safe shelter for their fears, and will hear the cry of the poor.
4. We proclaim your greatness, O God, your praise ever in our mouth;
every face brightened in your light, for you hear the cry of the poor.

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 | All That is Hidden

Bernadette Farrell



1. If you would fol - low me, fol - low where life will lead:
2. If you would hon - or me, hon - or the least of these:
3. If you would speak of me, live all your life in me:
4. If you would rise with me, rise through your des - ti - ny:



do not look for me a - mong the dead, for I am
you will not find me dressed in fin - er - y. My Word cries
my ways are not the ways that you would choose; my thoughts are
do not re - fuse the death which brings you life, for as the



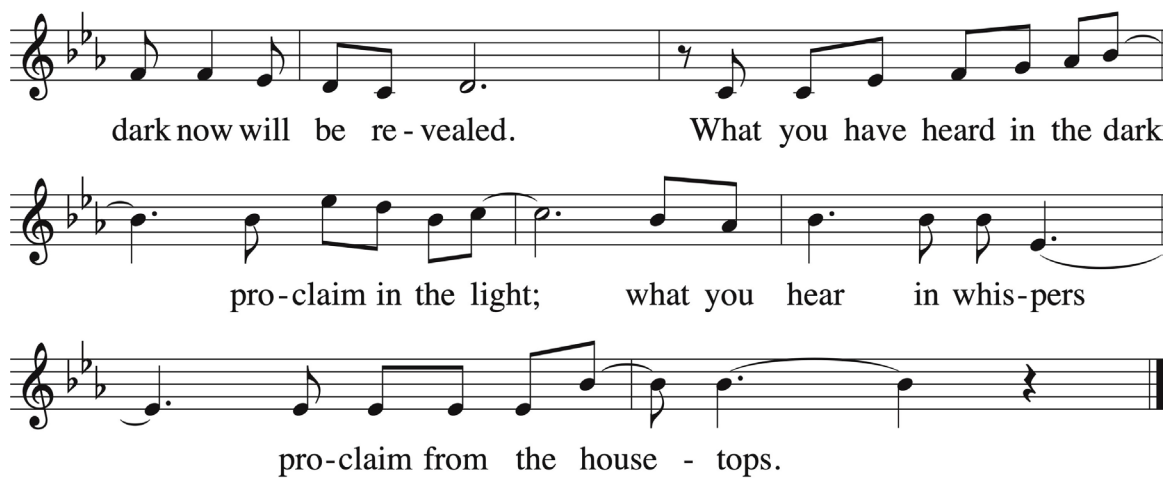
hid - den in pain, ris - en in love;
out to be heard; breaks through the world:
far be - yond yours, as heav - en from earth:
grain in the earth must die for re - birth,



there is no har - vest with - out sow - ing of grain.
my Word is on your lips and lives in your heart.
if you be - lieve in me my voice will be heard.
so I have plant - ed your life deep with - in mine.



All that is hid - den will be made clear. All that is



COMMUNION MEDITATION | He That Shall Endure from the End from “Elijah”, Op. 70 Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

He that shall endure to the end shall be saved.

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. 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 | Fanfare for the Common Man
Brett Maguire, *organist*

Aaron Copland
arranged by Brison/Maguire

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

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

WELCOME!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An Evening With Journalist and Scholar

Stephanie Saldaña



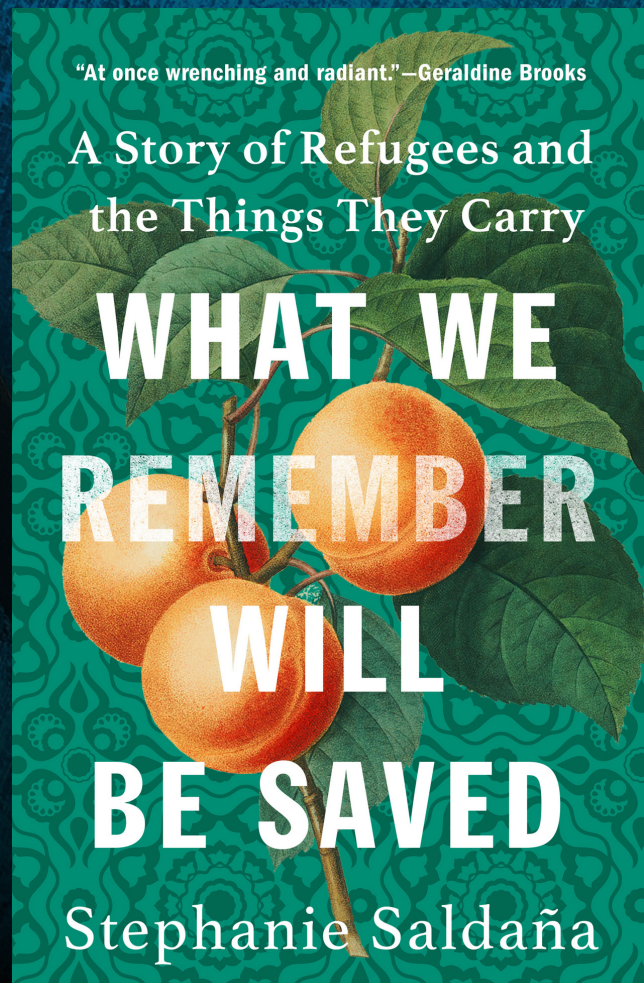
Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 p.m.
Saint Cecilia Church

This presentation will also be livestreamed on the Saint Cecilia YouTube channel.

What happens when the history of a war and its survivors is told not only through books, but through the objects and memories people carry with them?

Join journalist and scholar **Stephanie Saldaña**, who lived in Syria before the war, as she shares her new book *What We Remember Will Be Saved: A Story of Refugees and the Things They Carry*. She will describe her journey across nine countries to meet refugees and learn what they salvaged from the ruins when they escaped. Here, in the narratives of six extraordinary women and men, from Mt. Sinjar to Aleppo to Lesbos, we discover that little things matter a great deal. Saldaña introduces us to a woman who saved her city in a dress, a musician who saved his stories in songs, and a couple who rebuilt their destroyed pharmacy even as the city around them fell apart. Their stories challenge us to reconsider who gets to narrate history and to recognize the power of memory.

Stephanie Saldaña is a journalist and religion scholar from San Antonio, Texas, who has spent much of the last two decades in the Middle East. She is the author of *A Country Between* and *The Bread of Angels*, with her latest book, *What We Remember Will Be Saved*, earning multiple awards, including the 2024 Religion News Association's Award for Excellence in Nonfiction. Her work has appeared in major outlets like *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *America Magazine*.



OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, September 21 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, lector

Sunday, September 22 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Emily St. Germain, lector

Sunday, September 22 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Jen Kowieski, Christie Hedges,
and Karen McMenamy, lectors

Sunday, September 22 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Virgen Palermo, Catherine Horsley, and Zach Boutin, lectors

Sunday, September 22 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Bobbi Moran, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 22 | 9:30 a.m.

Father Peter Gyves, SJ, *Memorial*
Vjera Mihaic, *4th Anniversary*
Denise Zankowski Winter, *7th Anniversary*
Ann Marie Baratta, *Memorial*
John Robert Germain, *Memorial*

Sunday, September 22 | 11:30 a.m.

George Slover, *Memorial*

*The flowers in front of the altar are given
to the Glory of God and in loving
memory of Denise Zankowski Winter
by her sister, Doreen Zankowski.*



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

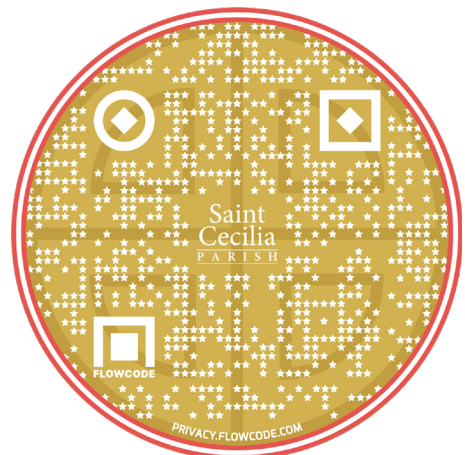


TODAY'S READINGS

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
James 3:16—4:3
Mark 9:30-37

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Numbers 11:25-29
James 5:1-6
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



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

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Peggie Breslin, 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: **Olivia Farin**, and **Carmen Martin** and **Christopher Ugarte**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Register for Children's Faith Formation!

This weekend, we look forward to the return of our faith formation students and their families. As you may recall, classes begin this Sunday, September 22, so please register immediately. Space is limited for some classes, 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>. Please note that the fee to register is \$200.

Faith and Blue Weekend—Sunday, October 6

In two weeks, we'll be welcoming members of the Boston Police Department and the Berklee College Police Department and their furry friends from the K-9 unit for a meet and greet following the 9:30 liturgy on Sunday, October 6 as part of National Faith and Blue Weekend. This provides the perfect opportunity for folks to meet with officers in the spirit of building bridges and breaking biases. We will also bless the officers' canines as part of the Blessing of the Animals! We will see you there!

Coffee Hospitality—Many Hands Make Light Work!

With the return of children's faith formation classes this weekend, the addition of new college students in our midst, and the increased rhythm of the fall season, we need some helping hands in the Parish Café on Sunday mornings. Please don't worry about over-committing yourself—if you can help out once a month or even just once a year, we'd love you to be a part of our Coffee Hospitality Ministry! There are three shifts: 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and clean-up. Responsibilities include serving food and coffee, cleaning up, and most importantly, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere by smiling and engaging with parishioners. For more information or to sign up, please contact our Director of Facilities and Events, Lisa Pickering, at her parish email address.

Happy Autumn!

In the Northern Hemisphere, the Autumnal Equinox arrives this Sunday—at 8:43 a.m. in Boston. Over the next several weeks, our New England landscape will burst forth with the vibrant colors of fall. As the temperature continues to drop and the days grow shorter, be sure to take some time to enjoy the beauty and grandeur of God's creation.

Don't Miss the Saint Cecilia Ministry Fair!

Next Sunday, September 29, following the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies, come learn more about our many parish ministries and how you can get involved. Between our hospitality, liturgical, service, and fellowship ministries, there's something for everyone! Please note: in order to accommodate the ministry fair, coffee hospitality will have limited seating and will be scaled down to coffee and croissants.

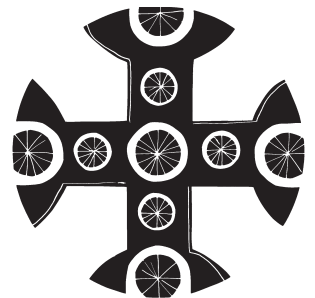
Help Care For Those in Need

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 Market Basket. 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.

Andiamo! We're Going to Italy!

This is a last call for those folks who are interested in joining Father John and the Saint Cecilia Choirs (under the direction of Robert Duff) on a 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Italy the time is now to register! As you may recall, we will visit Rome, Florence, Assisi, and Vatican

City. We will participate in Mass in two locations and our choir will perform at two evening concerts. While this trip will take place from June 15–23, 2025, hotel and airline contracts have to be signed on October 1, so if you would like to be part of this wonderful opportunity, you must sign up before Monday, September 30. You can learn more and register on our website at: www.stceciliaboston.org/italy/



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 the Hunger and Homelessness Ministry address.



***The Saint Cecilia Climate Justice group will meet
on Sunday, October 6, at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall.
All are welcome to attend!***

Parish Climate Action Plan

Each month, Saint Cecilia will focus on a different goal from the Laudato Si' Action Platform as part of the effort to create a Parish Climate Action Plan. The goals include: responding to the cry of the Earth and that of the poor; ecological economics; adopting sustainable lifestyles; ecological education; ecological spirituality; and building community resilience and empowerment.

Response to the Cry of the Earth

This goal calls for the protection of our common home for the wellbeing of all, with an equitable approach to addressing the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. Actions include adopting renewable energy, implementing energy efficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and ensuring access to clean water. As with other large buildings in Boston, Saint Cecilia Church is required to reach NetZero emissions by 2050, and the parish acknowledges its responsibility to take action sooner if feasible.

CARES RETREAT

Saturday, September 28 | 9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

All are welcome to join us for a day retreat at Saint Cecilia on the topic, "Palliative Care and Active Listening for Patients with Serious Illness." The presenter will be Kathleen Doyle, MD—an attending physician at Mass General Hospital and Director of the Harvard Interprofessional Palliative Care Fellowship. This retreat is open to all parishioners. There is no cost and lunch will be provided. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien at her parish email address by Wednesday, September 25.

THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

Join the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay's Homelessness Task Force for a public forum, "Increasing Housing Affordability to Reduce Street Homelessness," on October 9 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Rabb Auditorium at the Copley Square Branch of the Boston Public Library. With housing costs continuing to rise nationwide, Massachusetts is facing a particularly severe crisis, with some of the highest real estate and rental prices in the country. This forum will explore how the affordability crisis is affecting street homelessness and discuss potential solutions.

The event will feature a panel discussion moderated by Jenifer McKim of WGBH, providing key insights into how we can come together to tackle this growing issue. The forum is free and open to the public—your presence can make a difference as we work toward a more affordable and compassionate community.



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 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!**



ENJOY A LOCAL CONCERT THAT
BENEFITS WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE!

Sunday, October 6, 2024 | 7:00–9:00 p.m.

**New England Conservatory, Williams Hall
290 Huntington Avenue, Boston**

Join us for the first concert of Music for Food's 15th season, *Roots and Reflections*, featuring sacred, folk, and contemporary works from Germany, Armenia, and the U.S. Performers include Don Weilerstein (violin), Vivian Weilerstein (piano), Kim Kashkashian (viola), and others. Admission is free with a suggested donation (\$40/adult, \$15/student), and no tickets or RSVPs are required. All proceeds will benefit Women's Lunch Place.



VISIT OUR FAMILY FLEX CENTER!

As we gather to celebrate Mass, we are reminded of the importance of community and the shared experience of worship. However, we understand that attending Mass with young children can sometimes be challenging. That's why we encourage you to visit our Family Center, located to the left of the parish café and underneath the staircase on Saint Cecilia Street. Here, parents can watch Mass as their children play, and nursing mothers can enjoy a quieter, more private space. If you have any questions about the Family Center, please contact our Director of Facilities and Events, Lisa Pickering at her parish email address.

**SAINT CECILIA FAR-FLUNG FLOCK
ONLINE COFFEE HOUR**

Sunday, October 6 at 4:00 p.m. ET | Zoom

The next Far-Flung Flock online coffee hour offers a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and connection. Whether participants attended the recent retreat or not, this interactive gathering provides a chance to reconnect with others and hear how the weekend's events and speakers have impacted them. The session will also feature program highlights and an update on the ongoing service project to assemble care kits for Boston's Health Care for the Homeless Program. Everyone is welcome to join the conversation.

Those who haven't previously registered for a coffee hour are encouraged to sign up for the Far-Flung Flock email list using the following link: <https://bit.ly/45pDVRa>. There is no need to re-register if they've participated in the past. If someone is not receiving notifications, they should contact the Far-Flung Flock Ministry email address to confirm their email address.



**Introducing...the 2023-2024
Saint Cecilia Parish Impact Report**

For the first year, we're pleased to share our annual impact report, which summarizes the past year by highlighting the work of our ministries within the walls of our church and beyond!

We invite you to read this report by scanning this QR code. Copies of this impact report are available in the narthex if you'd like to take one home.

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 Ministry email address.



NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Tuesday, October 1 | 7:00–8:00 p.m.

(FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Saint Cecilia Sanctuary | Open to all!

Join the Saint Cecilia community for our monthly Night of Worship and Adoration. From 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., spend time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament with praise and worship music led by the Young Adult Ministry. All are welcome to come to the altar.

***Please use the St. Cecilia Street entrance
and ring the bell to enter.***

JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRY!

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 email him at his parish email address.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY SEPTEMBER ONLINE COURSES

Ignatian Spirituality

October 2 - November 12 | 6-Week Online Course | Registration Required | \$60.00

Mission and Spirituality: A Xaverian Journey

October 2 - November 12 | 6-Week Online Course | Registration Required | \$60.00

The Joy of the Gospel

October 2 - November 5 | 5-Week Online Course | Registration Required | \$60.00

Effective Preaching: Homily Preparation

October 16 - November 12 | 4-Week Online Course | Registration Required | \$30.00

Gospel of Luke

October 16 - November 5 | 3-Week Online Course | Registration Required | \$30.00

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>

BOISI CENTER FOR RELIGION AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

Religious Enemies of Liberalism and Christian Realist Defense: The Battle for the Soul of American Democracy

Presenter: R. Ward Holder, St. Anselm College
Tuesday, September 30 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
**Boisi Center for Religion and American Public
Life, 24 Quincy Rd., Chestnut Hill, Conference
Room | Luncheon | RSVP requested | Free**

For further details and to RSVP: <https://events.bc.edu/event/religious-enemies-of-liberalism-and-christian-realist-defense-the-battle-for-the-soul-of-american-democracy>





SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

"With exorbitant living costs, increased grocery prices, and the end of pandemic-era supports in

2023, 1 in 3 Massachusetts adults reported household food insecurity," according to the latest annual statewide study from The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB). The study estimates approximately 1.9 million adults in Massachusetts are food insecure, an increase from last year's estimated 1.8 million adults. Hunger exists in every county across the Commonwealth, with Western Massachusetts and the Boston area seeing the highest levels of food insecurity—Berkshire, Bristol, Hampden, and Suffolk Counties report over 45% of adults experiencing food insecurity in 2023.

Saint Cecilia's response to this crisis includes our support of Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett food pantries in Dorchester. Please consider a donation of one of the following items, which you can leave in baskets in the narthex: cornflakes or Cheerios, tomato sauce, canned tuna fish, macaroni and cheese, white flour pasta, peanut butter, cooking oil, or canned chicken breast. If you would like to donate to the Catholic Charities' food pantries, there are envelopes on the table in the narthex. Please add "Dorchester Food Pantry" to the subject line if you will be sending a check.

Painting from The Corporal Works of Mercy series by Nancy Marek Cote, currently on view in the Saint Cecilia parish hall.



SAVE THE DATE: HEALTH EQUITY INTERNATIONAL 2024 CELEBRATION

The 2024 Celebration will take place on Wednesday, October 30, at Saint Cecilia Parish. This year's event will explore how HEI's work helps the people we serve find peace, safety, and health. We will also celebrate co-founder Fr. Gerald Osterman for his lifetime of dedication and service to the organization.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets or sponsorships, please visit: www.healthequityintl.org/2024celebration. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the agency at gala@haitihealth.org.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring becoming a baptized Catholic Christian, or if you are a Catholic who has not received the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist, we have just the group for you! Last Tuesday, we held our first RCIA inquiry session of the season. If you think you might be interested but were unable to be with us, it's not too late. We meet in the parish hall on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 and welcome anyone who is interested. Perhaps this is the right time to begin your journey! **Questions?** Please contact Pastoral Director of Operations, Nicole Pascarelli-O'Brien, at her parish email address.

JOIN OUR WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

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



BECOMING OUR BETTER SELVES

BY MICHAEL K. MARSH

“On the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest” (Mark 9:34).

How do you imagine that argument went? Today’s gospel (Mark 9:30-37) doesn’t tell us what the disciples said but it’s not difficult to imagine. We need only recall the times we’ve argued about and striven to be the greatest.

- Maybe Simon or Andrew started it by claiming that one of them is the greatest because they were the first disciples called (Mark 1:16-17) and seniority matters.
- Maybe Peter argued that it should be him because he’s the only one who correctly answered Jesus, “You are the Messiah” (Mark 8:29). Being right and having the answers should count for something, right? And maybe the others countered, “No way is it you, Peter. Jesus rebuked you and called you Satan. That’s not so great.” (Mark 8:33)
- Maybe Peter, John, and James said it was one of them because they got to go up the Mount of Transfiguration and the others didn’t (Mark 9:2). Besides that, those left behind ones couldn’t even cast out a demon from a young boy (Mark 9:18). Shouldn’t the greatest be successful?
- Maybe Peter touted himself as the greatest because he walked on water (Matthew 14:28-30). I imagine the others rolling their eyes and saying, “Yeah, and you sunk like the rock that you are.” (Matthew 14:30) After all, the greatest is only as good as his or her last accomplishment.
- And I’ll bet it was an eleven-to-one vote against Judas. They all knew he was a thief (John 12:6). Morals are important to greatness. (At least we say they are.) It’s lucky for Peter and Judas that when the argument took place they had not yet denied or betrayed. That’s not what the greatest disciple would do.

- Maybe John argued that he was the greatest because he was the beloved disciple who laid his head on Jesus’ breast (John 13:23-25). The greatest are always well-placed and connected in high places.

- And what about those other disciples who are not quoted in the gospels and have no gospel named after them? It couldn’t be them. Surely, the greatest disciple would at least be published.

I can easily imagine each disciple making a case for his own greatness and a case against the greatness of the others. Do you know why that’s so easy for me to imagine? Because it’s often the conversation I have in my head with myself. Maybe you do too.

It seems we are always establishing pecking orders of greatness. Look at the pecking orders in our world and country today. They are all around us. We live with and participate in them even if we did not create them.

Citizens are greater than resident aliens who are greater than illegal aliens. The educated are greater than the under or uneducated. The rich are greater than the poor. The employed are greater than the unemployed. English speakers are greater than non-English speakers. Men are greater than women and straight people are greater than gay or lesbian people. White or light-skinned people are greater than dark-skinned people. The gifted and talented students are greater than the students in shop class. Christians are greater than Jews who are greater than Muslims. And the list could go on and on.

I wonder what pecking orders govern your and my life today. Who are the winners and losers in those pecking orders? In what ways are you and I striving for greatness? What arguments or conversations about who is greatest are we having with ourselves or others?

I obviously don’t know what the disciples said or how their

argument about greatness really went but I'm convinced it did not bring out the best in them. Striving to be and arguing about who is the greatest rarely brings out the best in us. That may just be the greatest humanitarian crisis in our world today. We strive to be the greatest human being instead of bringing out the best in our humanity.

But what if we have completely misunderstood what greatness is really about? What if Jesus is reversing everything we thought we knew or had been told about greatness?

"Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." That's how Jesus understands greatness. Last place? Really? I don't think I've ever argued about or striven to be in last place. Have you? Last place is the last place I want to be and I suspect that's true for you too.

What if greatness in Jesus' mind is not about how much we have or what we have accomplished, but about what we've offered and done for others? What if greatness is not about the position or place we occupy, but about the space and place we offer others?

What if we stopped arguing about and striving to be the greatest, and we sought to discover or recover and bring out the best in ourselves and each other? What would that look like in your life today?

Here's another way of getting at that. Who is the best person you've ever met? I am not asking about the greatest but the best. Why did you pick her or him? What qualities or characteristics make her or him the best?

I'm guessing it wasn't their fierce competition or their indifference to the well-being of another. I doubt it was because of the position they hold or their reputation. And it probably wasn't because they praised you or told you what you wanted to hear. And chances are it wasn't because they were rich, powerful, or successful. And I'll bet you didn't review his or her resume before naming them as the best person you've ever met.

I'm betting it was because of her or his authenticity, honesty, and integrity. What you saw is what you got. You could count on them. They had your back. They were there when you needed them. They saw you, respected you, and listened to you. They took your life as seriously as and sometimes more seriously than their own.

They spoke truth even when it hurt because they cared about you. They saw more in you than you often saw in yourself. They believed in you and committed themselves

to you. They offered wisdom and insight into your life that was more than just telling you what to do. They cared and made a difference.

They enlarged your life and world. They inspired you. They were your strength, hope, and faith when you were weak, despairing, and unbelieving. They made space and place for you in their life. They made you feel that you were important and mattered to them.

They loved and accepted you. They didn't judge, compare, or compete. They forgave you. They freed you from the pecking orders of your life and world. They brought out the best in you.

The bottom line is that they put your life and well-being ahead of their own. They called you into your better self. They helped you recognize the way you want to be and live and if you already knew this they helped you remember when you had forgotten.

What about you and me? I wonder what others are saying about us. Are you and I the best person someone has ever met or are we just arguing about our greatness? Jesus is always naming and calling forth the best in us. For God's sake, for the sake of the world, for the sake of ourselves and one another, let's stop arguing about who is the greatest.

If you were to be the best person someone has ever met, what would you want them to say about you? What qualities or characteristics would you want them to describe? Pick a couple of things or ways you would want to be. How are you going to become that? What parts of your life need strengthening in order to become that and what parts need changing in order to become that?

What would it take today to offer another the very best of yourself?

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



PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

Joe Ebbert, Director of Emerging Adult Ministries

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

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer

Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.

Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m., & 6:00 p.m.

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

Building Accessibility

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 after 4:00 every day of the week. To get this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Carly-Anne Gannon, at her parish email.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and around the world. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.

Please note:

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