

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by John Everett Millais (19th Century)

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

28 September 2025

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

28 SEPTEMBER 2025

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | Trio Sonata No. 1, BWV 525, *Adagio*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte

Verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them.
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them.



My hand will save. I, who made the
They turn a - way. I will break their
My hand will save. Fin-est bread I



stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you
call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you
lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

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.

GLORIA | *Missa Pacem*

Randolph Babin

Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! Glo - ry to God in the high - est,
and on earth peace to peo - ple of good will.

Verse 1

1. 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.

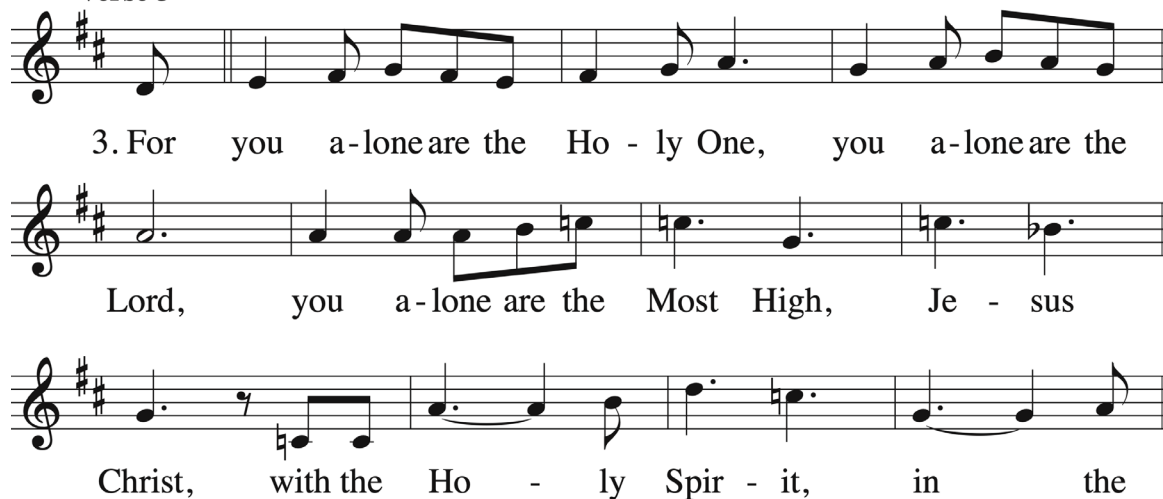
D.C.

Verse 2

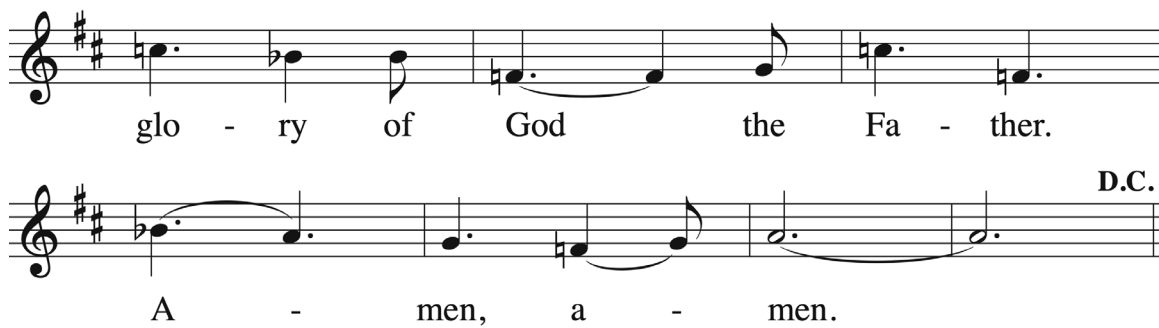


2. Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you
take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our
prayer; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us. D.C.

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



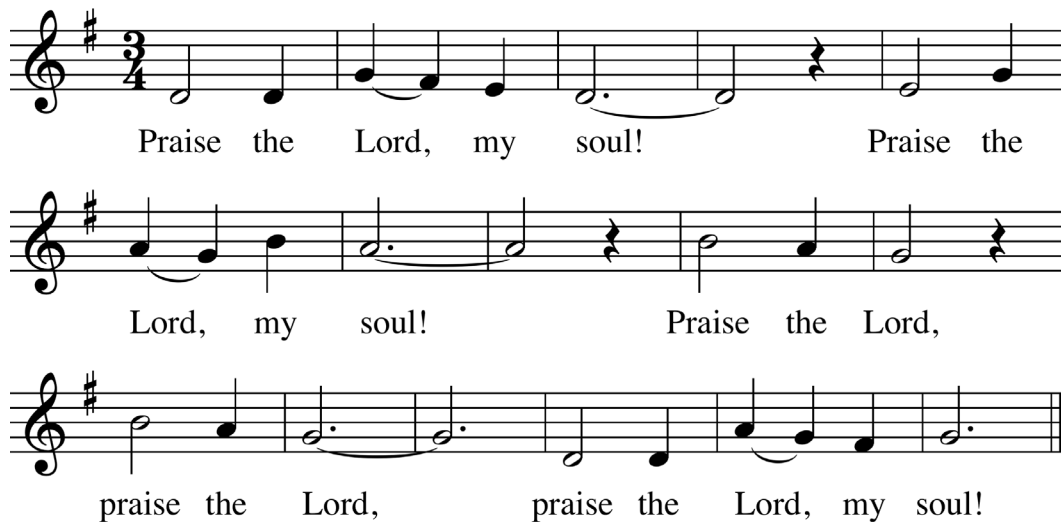
COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Amos 6: 1a, 4-7

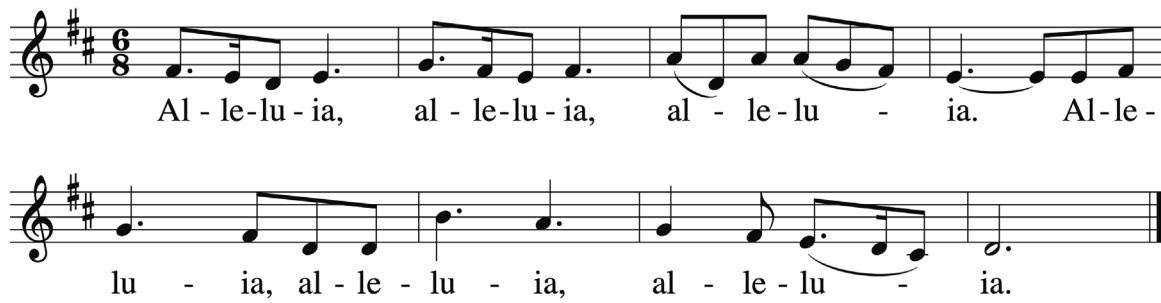
RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 146: Praise the Lord, My Soul!

Marty Haugen



1. It is the Lord who preserves fidelity forever, who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free.
2. The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger.
3. The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever, the God of Sion from age to age.

SECOND READING | 1 Timothy 6: 11-16



GOSPEL | Luke 16: 19-31

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

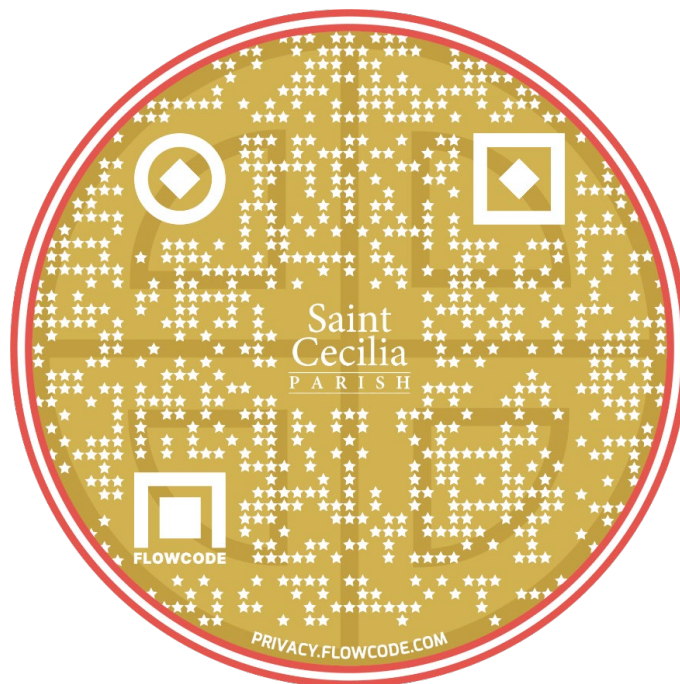
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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

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

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Come to the Water

John B. Foley, S.J.



1. O let all who thirst, let them come to the
2. And let all who seek, let them come to the
3. And let all who toil, let them come to the
4. And let all the poor, let them come to the



wa - ter. And let all who have noth - ing,
wa - ter. And let all who have noth - ing,
wa - ter. And let all who are wea - ry,
wa - ter. Bring the ones who are lad - en,



let them come to the Lord: With-out mon-ey,
let them come to the Lord: With-out mon-ey,
let them come to the Lord: All who la - bor,
bring them all to the Lord: Bring the chil - dren



with-out price. Why should you pay the price,
with-out strife. Why should you spend your life,
with-out rest. How can your soul find rest,
with-out might. Eas - y the load and light:



ex - cept for the Lord?
ex - cept for the Lord?
ex - cept for the Lord?
7 come to the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

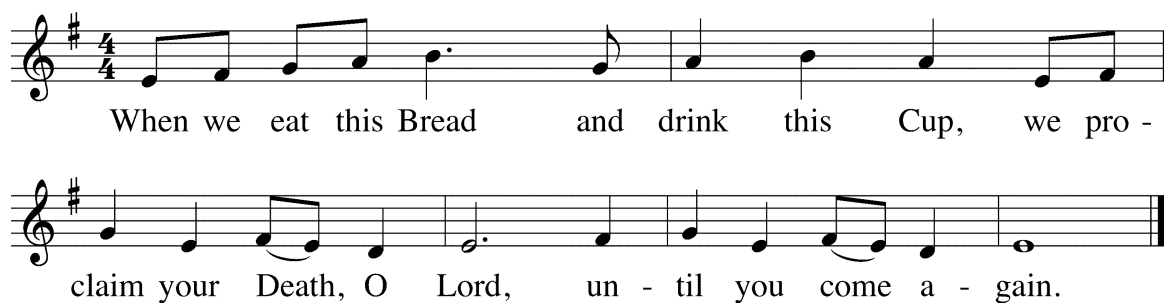
✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

SANCTUS | *Missa Pacem*

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.



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

The musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final half note and a whole note at the end.

AMEN | *Missa Pacem*

Randolph Babin



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

The musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/4 time signature. The melody consists of half notes and whole notes, with a final whole note and a half note at the end.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

Cantor or choir: *All:*

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

world, have mer - cy on us. *Repeat as needed*

Last time *Cantor or choir:*

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

world, have mer - cy on us. *All:* 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.

Refrain

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the

Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the

good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Verses

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.

2. Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me.

3. Wor - ship the Lord, all you peo - ple.

Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;
To - geth - er let us all praise God's name.
You'll want for noth - ing if you ask.

my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord
I called the Lord who an - swered me;
Taste and see that the Lord is good;

for God has been so good to me.
from all my trou - bles I was set free.
in God we need put all our trust.

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.

RECESSIONAL | Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas Dorsey

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws

stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am
 near, When my life is al - most
 near, And the day is past and

worn.
 gone,
 gone,

Through the storm, through the
 Hear my cry, hear my
 At the riv - er I

night,
 call,
 stand,

Lead me on to the light. Take my
 Hold my hand lest I fall. Take my
 Guide my feet, hold my hand. Take my

hand,
 hand,
 hand,

pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

POSTLUDE | Trio Sonata No. 1, BWV 525, *Allegro*
Brett Maguire, *organ*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

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

WELCOME!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, September 27 | 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, September 28 | 8:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, September 28 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Laura Melle, Erin Young, Chika Offurum, lectors

Sunday, September 28 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Maggie Giles, Megan Altendorf, Emily St Germain,
lectors

Sunday, September 28 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Predmore, SJ, celebrant
Elli St George, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 28 | 9:30 a.m.

Ruth Frost, *10th Anniversary*
Marc deSousa, *Memorial*

TODAY'S READINGS

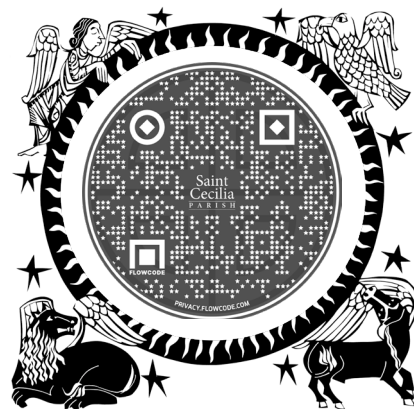
Amos 6:1a, 4-7
1 Timothy 6:11-16
Luke 16:19-31

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Luke 17:5-10



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Thank you for your generous
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PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Pray for all of our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Fred Tufts, Baby Eloise Josephine Mason, Kevin J. Owens, So Kwai Sim, Andrea Surette, Daria, Maureen McLaughlin, and Anne Kenney.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our community: **Maggie Salmon, Bernadette Blashill, Robert Hall, Bryana Clark, Meghan Whalen, Elizabeth Whalen, Eileen Whalen, Alexis Florio, Elizabeth Murphy, Regina Hale, Margie Yuan, Debra Weis, Phillip Cappelli and Lauren Anderson, Cecilia Falcao, Susan and Mark Moynihan, Jill Gaulding, Ileana Moreno and Christian von Preysing, Edward McClain and Alyah Chmiel, and Colin MacDougall and Hilary Gridley.** If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Blessing of Animals

In commemoration of the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, we will bless animals next Sunday, October 5, at the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies.

Faith and Blue Weekend

Next Sunday, we welcome 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 Sunday's 9:30 liturgy, 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!

National Recovery Month

This September, as we observe National Recovery Month, we lift up in prayer all those on the journey of recovery. May they find comfort in God's loving presence and strength in their pursuit of healing. We pray for those who have struggled with addiction, for their loved ones, and for all who support them on this path. May God's mercy and compassion guide them toward wholeness and peace.

Peter's Pence Collection Next Weekend

Next week we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including the charitable works of Pope Leo XIV. These

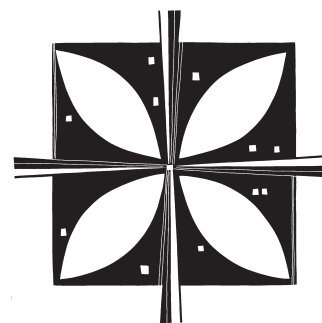
works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html.

Gift Card Donations Needed

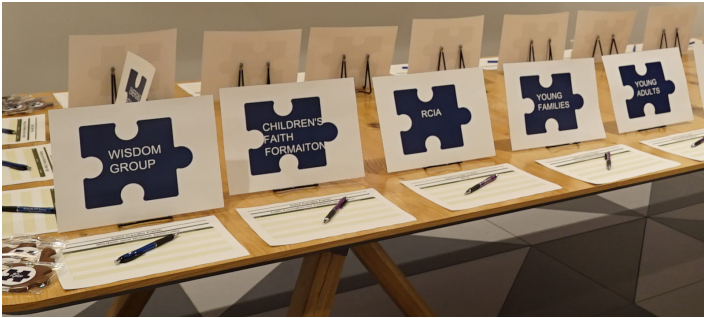
We are presently in need of having our gift card supply replenished. If you would like to help in this way, simply purchase a gift card (ideally in \$10 increments) and drop it in the collection basket at Mass, give it to one of our receptionists, or mail it to the parish office. We would especially like to receive gift cards from Shaw's, Star Market, Dunkin', or Wendy's. Thank you in advance for helping us care for our sisters and brothers in need.

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AUTUMN



DON'T MISS THE MINISTRY FAIR!

THIS SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE 9:30 & 11:30 LITURGIES PARISH HALL

This Sunday following the 9:30 and 11:30 liturgies, come learn more about our many parish ministries, how you can get involved or receive updates on all the activities happening at Saint Cecilia. Between our hospitality, liturgical, service, and fellowship ministries, there's something for everyone!

Please note that in order to accommodate the ministry fair, coffee hospitality will have limited seating and will be scaled down to coffee and croissants.



SEASON OF CREATION PILGRIMAGE AND MASS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 | OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS | PILGRIMAGE AT 11:50AM, MASS AT 1PM

Join us on Saturday, October 4, at Our Lady Help of Christians 573 Washington St. Newton, for a special Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation and celebration of 800th anniversary of the The Canticum of the Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi. Pilgrimage at 11:50 AM, followed by the new Care for Creation Mass at 1 PM, celebrated by Bishop Cristiano Barbosa. At 2 PM, a reception will offer conversation on Laudato Si' resources, parish initiatives, and opportunities for networking and advocacy. Co-sponsored by the Boston Catholic Climate Movement and the Archdiocese of Boston, this joyful gathering invites all who care for Creation to walk, pray, and celebrate together during the Season of Creation. If possible, register at tinyurl.com/SoC-OL.

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CERTIFICATION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 | 9 AM – 4:30 PM | PARISH HALL CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED

Just as CPR helps you assist someone in a medical emergency, Adult Mental Health First Aid equips you to support someone facing a mental health or substance use challenge. This **7 ½-hour** course will teach you how to:

- Recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use distress
- Understand some common mental health challenges
- Use a practical 5-step action plan to respond effectively and compassionately in both crisis and non-crisis situations

Whether you're a minister, community leader, or caregiver, this training gives you the confidence to step in and make a difference when it matters most.

Spots are limited. Please register online at <https://rcabrisk.org/mhfa/> or contact Mary Wessel at her parish email.

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 | 7PM | UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (485 COLUMBUS AVENUE, BOSTON)

Join the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) at Union Combined Parish on Sunday, October 5th at 7pm for our next Delegates Assembly! We are calling on leaders from all member institutions to be part of a conversation about how this year's learnings can set us up for a Listening Session/House Meeting Campaign to build our power further.

What are house meetings? They are a crucial step in the community organizing cycle that builds a winnable campaign that changes our communities for the better. House Meetings are when people come together and share stories about what matters to them and why. They are facilitated to deepen relationships, identify leaders, and understand interests. In a turbulent political moment, these meetings help us get clarity about the pressures and priorities of our base.

Register for the Delegates Assembly and be sure to invite anyone who would be interested in this discussion. To sign up, please visit: tinyurl.com/Delegates-Assembly.

FFF COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 | 4PM EST VIA ZOOM

Please join us for fellowship and sharing about the FFF weekend and parish retreat that was held on Sept. 12-14. We are looking forward to hearing from those of you who were able to participate as well as sharing highlights with those who could not attend. Folks from around the US and local parishioners spent an engaging time with each other. From pizza trivia night on Friday, presentations and conversations on Saturday, a service project to assist Boston Catholic Charities' Refugee and Migrant Ministry, a delightful dinner, and worship on both Saturday and Sunday mornings; it was a varied and full weekend. Please join us to hear more and to share your ideas for next year!

If you wish to attend please send an email to the ministry. There is no need to sign up again if you have already done so.



NIGHT OF WORSHIP

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 | 7 PM | SANCTUARY

All parishioners, regardless of age, are invited to spend an hour with the Lord at our monthly Nights of Worship. Praise and worship music led by the Young Adult ministry will guide your meditation and enrich your prayer in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please enter from the side door on Saint Cecilia Street and ring the bell to be let in. Can't join us in person? We'll be live-streaming our worship service over Zoom. To receive a Zoom link each month, please visit: tinyurl.com/stc-night-of-worship. Come and join us at the altar!

SIMEON AND ANNA SENIORS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 | 10AM | PARISH HALL

The next Simeon and Anna Seniors Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9th. From 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. there will be coffee/tea and conversation, and at 10:30 there will be time for prayer. All parish seniors are invited to participate.

A SPACE TO SHARE

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 | 6:30PM
COMMUNITY ROOM**

Members of the LGBTQ+ community are invited to A Space to Share - a place for any member of the LGBTQ+ community to speak freely about the challenges and joys of being LGBTQ+ and Catholic. Whether it's your first visit or you're a regular, we'd love to have you join us!

A Space to Share meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Our second session will be held on Thursday, October 9 and pizza will be served. When you arrive, please use the St. Cecilia Street pavilion entrance, press the bell, and tell the receptionist that you are attending A Space to Share.

CALLING ALL MARRIED COUPLES! OUR MARRIAGE MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Since our Marriage Ministry's reboot in 2018, our Parish has provided bi-annual marriage prep courses for engaged couples planning to marry in the Church. These hybrid courses, held on two consecutive Saturdays, are offered every October and March. The next course is on October 18 (Zoom) and October 25 (in person). Saint Cecilia's course is based on the archdiocese's Transformed in Love model, in which married couples in the parish serve as witnesses that lead engaged couples through the coursework.

To shepherd young couples through this significant process, our Marriage Ministry needs your help! Whether you've been married for a short time or for decades, we'd love you to share your knowledge and experience with our group. Again, our next course is in October; commitment time is flexible, and we will provide guidance on how to relay your experience and wisdom. This is a wonderful opportunity to inspire future couples and nurture your own marriage!

Also—this year we hope to expand our Marriage Ministry with additional gatherings, and activities such as speakers, book clubs, and a marriage mentoring program. We need help to get these new initiatives up and running, so please reach out if you're interested!

Please contact Julianne and Michael Lavelle at the ministry email to learn more. We hope you will join us in this rewarding ministry!



COMING UP AT SAINT CECILIA

SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 4

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Simeon and Anna Seniors | 10am | Parish Hall

Theology On Tapas | 6:30pm | Parish Hall

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Wisdom Group | 8:30am via Zoom

Ministry Fair | Parish Hall

Healthcare Workforce Support Group | 1pm

Classroom 1

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Belvidere Midday Tuesday | 12pm | Community Room

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Wisdom Group | 7:30pm via Zoom

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Mental Health First Aid Workshop | 9am | Parish Hall

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH



The Greater Boston Food Bank's 2025 study, *The Cost of Hunger in Massachusetts*, was conducted in collaboration with Mass General Brigham and supported by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Among the study's findings: "Over the last five years, food insecurity among Massachusetts households has steadily increased, rising from 19 percent in 2019 to 37 percent in 2024 based on this survey data. Rates of very low food security, indicating the experience of food insecurity with hunger, have quadrupled during this time, from 6 percent in 2019 to 24 percent in 2024. These increases are likely driven by the lasting impacts of the pandemic, surging food and housing expenses, and rolling back of pandemic-era increases in federal financial and food assistance programs such as the Child Tax Credit and expansions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)."

Saint Cecilia's response to this crisis, through our Hunger & Homelessness Ministry, includes our support of two Dorchester food pantries: the Catholic Charities' food pantry at the Yawkey Center and the Mary Ann Brett Pantry. Please consider a donation of one of the following items, which you can leave in baskets in the narthex:

- corn flakes or Cheerios
- tomato sauce
- canned tuna fish
- macaroni and cheese
- white flour pasta
- peanut butter
- cooking oil
- canned chicken breast

If you are unable to attend Saint Cecilia Parish in person, a few of the options to order and have delivered include: *target.com*, *amazon.com*, and *walmart.com*. Items purchased on-line should be sent to:

Mark Lippolt
Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

RAINBOW MINISTRY MOVIE NIGHT

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 | 6PM: PIZZA, 6:30PM: MOVIE
PARISH HALL**

Join us for a showing of *1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture*, a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946.



THE MISTRANSULATION THAT SHIFTED CULTURE

What if the word Homosexual
was never meant to be in the Bible?

It chronicles the discovery of never-before-seen archives at Yale University which unveil astonishing new revelations, and casts significant doubt on any biblical basis for LGBTQIA+ prejudice. Featuring commentary from prominent scholars as well as opposing pastors, including the personal stories of the film's creators, *1946* is at once challenging, enlightening, and inspiring.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED – ADULTS AND CHILDREN (GRADE 3 AND UP)

Do you feel called to serve at the Lord's Table? We are inviting both adults and children (3rd grade and older) to become altar servers. This ministry is a beautiful way to participate more fully in the Mass, grow in faith, and serve our parish community.

Training will be provided—no prior experience necessary. If you or your child is interested, please contact Mary Wessel at mwessel@stceciliaboston.org.

Come and share in this meaningful ministry of service to God and God's people!



WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE SPAGHETTI DINNER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 | 6 PM
THE FAIRMONT COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL

For decades, Spaghetti Dinner has been at the heart of Women's Lunch Place's fundraising. It brings the community together in a shared commitment to nourish women facing hunger and hardship with dignity, compassion, and connection.

This year, under the theme "At the Table Together," the agency celebrates the deep sense of belonging that comes from a shared meal. Together, on October 9 at the Copley Fairmount Hotel, they will raise funds to support their Healthy Meals Program, which ensures every woman who walks through the shelter's doors receives a warm, made-from-scratch meal in a place that feels like home.

To learn more or purchase tickets, please head to: <https://womenslunchplace.org/all-events>.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 1PM | CLASSROOM 1

Saint Cecilia Mental Health Ministry is a monthly drop-in open to parishioners who are struggling with their mental health during challenging times. This is NOT a therapy group, but a place to come together once a month to talk about mental health through the lens of Scripture and faith. To get on the distribution list, please contact Mary Wessel.

SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES BOSTON AT RIDE FOR FOOD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 | 5:30 - 10:30 PM
NOBLES & GREENOUGH SCHOOL, DEDHAM

On Sunday, October 5th Catholic Charities Boston will participate in the RIDE FOR FOOD organized by Three Squares New England. This outstanding event takes place each year and includes a 25, 50 or 62.2 mile bike ride -OR- a 5K walk which all begin at Nobles & Greenough School in Dedham. Event day also includes entertainment and refreshments.

More than just a walk or bike ride, this event is a meaningful opportunity to take action against hunger in our communities. As rising costs and changes in federal policies continue to strain the social safety net, our food pantries are experiencing unprecedented demand. Your participation can help stock our shelves and provide nutritious meals to families struggling to put food on the table. Every dollar raised by the Catholic Charities' Ride for Food Team will go directly to our pantries in Dorchester, Brockton, Lynn and Lowell which serve these four cities and surrounding communities.

We hope you will consider supporting our team. Whether you ride, walk or donate, you'll be making a very real difference for our neighbors most in need!

To join the team or to donate, please visit: <https://ride.threesquaresne.org/team/684111>



CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF CAPUCHIN MOBILE MINISTRIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 | 6:30 PM
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, CHESTNUT HILL

Please join us on this special night to celebrate five years of Capuchin Mobile Ministries. Back in 2020 we set out with the simple but powerful idea of bringing quality spiritual care to the streets of Boston and Cambridge. Since then, CMM has blossomed into a thriving ministry. We will gather for dinner on Thursday, Oct. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Church of the Redeemer. During the evening we will celebrate the accomplishments of the last five years.

We will be joined by Dr. Jim O'Connell, founder and president of Boston Health Care for the Homeless, who will share from his point of view the importance of street care and the impact CMM makes daily. We will also be presenting our annual volunteer award to a very special person! Come and enjoy the company of old and new friends. Come and share what CMM has meant to you over the years, and bring others to join in this meaningful ministry.

Tickets are \$125, which can be purchased here: <https://secure.ggiv.com/for/cmmgg/event/celebrating5years/>. For sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to Amanda Grant Rose at agrantrose@capuchin.org.

SHELTER MUSIC BOSTON'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 3 PM
THE ALLEN CENTER, NEWTON

We are excited to learn that Shelter Music Boston's 15th Anniversary Concert will have Dr. Eileen Reilly as its honoree. One of the founders of Women's Lunch Place and a physician with Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, Dr. Reilly's lifelong commitment to our unhoused neighbors has been extraordinary.

Each month, Shelter Music Boston performs live chamber music concerts at community partners, including Pine Street Inn and Women's Lunch Place. The transformation in their audiences is immediate and palpable. After a recent concert for women who are unhoused, one listener reported, "Music helps my depression and anxiety. I felt happier and loved the music."

Their 15th Anniversary Concert will be held on Saturday, November 15 at 3:00 pm. The concert, including dessert reception, will be held at the Allen Center in Newton. Tickets

are \$100, which you can purchase here: <https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E343965&id=80>.

For more information or to learn about concert sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to Sarah Leaf-Herrmann at sarah@sheltermusicboston.org.

TUTTI MUSIC COLLECTIVE: A CELTIC CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 8PM | SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

Join us on Nov. 8th at 8pm at St. Cecilia Church, Boston for a festive journey through music and stories of Ireland! The Tutti Music Collective will join with the contemporary Irish folk band, Ishna for an evening featuring new and traditional works exploring the rich tapestry of Celtic music. Expect a blend of choral and instrumental music featuring traditional Irish and orchestral instruments. Tickets are now on sale, visit: https://CelticCelebration_IshnaTMC.eventbrite.com



Congratulations, Mark Lippolt!

Mark Lippolt was named Catholic Charities Boston's **2025 Volunteer of the Year** this past Sunday at their Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast!

Finally, maybe I was just a bit too quick, even arrogant, to judge myself as the rich man and him as Lazarus. Given what I saw those may be accurate labels or descriptions for today. What about six months ago? What about tomorrow? They may not have been accurate labels one, five, or fifteen years ago. They may not be accurate next week or three years from now. Circumstances and situations change. Stuff happens. At some point in our lives we have probably all been both the rich man and Lazarus. We can all name times when life has been good, full, and easy. Likewise we can name times when it has simply left us destitute, broken, and in sorrow and suffering. I don't think this parable is asking us to make judgments about who is the rich man and who is Lazarus. Instead, it is asking us to acknowledge and deal with the gates and chasms that separate us from each other.

Throughout this parable chasms are the one constant. From beginning to end the parable is full of divisions and separations. Remember the gate at the beginning? On one side of the gate lies Lazarus, dressed in sores and dog spit, hungry, and unable to get up and walk. On the other side the rich man, dressed in fine linen and purple, sits at his table and feasts every day. Remember the chasm at the end? On one side of the chasm Lazarus sits comforted in the bosom of Abraham. On the other side the rich man stands tormented in the flames of Hades.

The gate and the chasm are the same thing. The chasm that separates Lazarus and the rich man in the next world is simply a manifestation of the gate that separated them in this world. The rich man carried it with him into the next world. It was a part of him. The gate that separates and divides us in this world is not a condition of circumstances or categories: rich or poor, black or white, gay or straight, Muslim or Christian, or any other category you might add to this list. That gate is a condition of the human heart. The gate that becomes a chasm always exists within us before it exists between us.

That means we must each examine our own heart to find the gates that separate us from ourselves, our neighbors, our enemies, those we love, and ultimately God. What are those gates for you? For me? For this parish? For the United States of America? What gates do we live with? Fear, anger, greed, pride, prejudice, loneliness, sorrow, addiction, busyness, indifference, apathy, hurt, resentment, envy, cynicism. You get the idea. There's a lot of possibilities for the gates within us. We all have them. That's not how we are intended to live. That's certainly not how Jesus lived. Gates destroy relationships. They unmake God's creation.

I don't know what gates you carry within you but I know this. Every time we love our neighbor as ourselves, every time we love our enemies, every time we see and treat one another as created in the image and likeness of God, gates are opened and chasms are filled. I can't give you detailed instructions on how to do those things. It is something we must each live our way into. It's a choice set before us every day. It can happen in our marriages and families, at work and school, on the corner of parking lots, and in our prayers for the world. It can happen in the most intimate of relationships, or with strangers, and even with our enemies. It is not easy work but it is possible. Jesus demonstrated that in his life, death, and resurrection. Gates were opened and chasms were filled. Christ's love, mercy, grace, and presence make it possible for us to open our gates and insure they do not become chasms.

Let your gates be opened and your chasms filled. This is our work and the salvation of the world. It's what the kingdom of God looks like. We already have everything we need. That was Abraham's point in not sending Lazarus to the rich man's brothers. Abraham was not denying them anything. Nothing was lacking. They already had everything they needed. The word of God that opens gates and fills chasms is the same word of God proclaimed by Moses and the prophets, the very same word embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the image of our opened gates and our filled chasms, the image of who we most truly are and who we are to become.



Originally published on Michael K. Walsh's blog Interrupting the Silence on September 29, 2013.

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, [https:// interruptingthesilence.com](https://interruptingthesilence.com), a place for spiritual reflection, guidance, and growth, offering practical spirituality grounded in the contemplative tradition. We are always grateful to Father Mike for his gospel reflections and sermons.



FATHER JAMES MARTIN ON ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX, HIS FAVORITE SAINT (SORRY IGNATIUS!)

BY JAMES MARTIN, SJ

In commemoration of the upcoming feast day of St. Thérèse of Lisieux on October 1st, Father James Martin offers a reflection from My Life with the Saints.

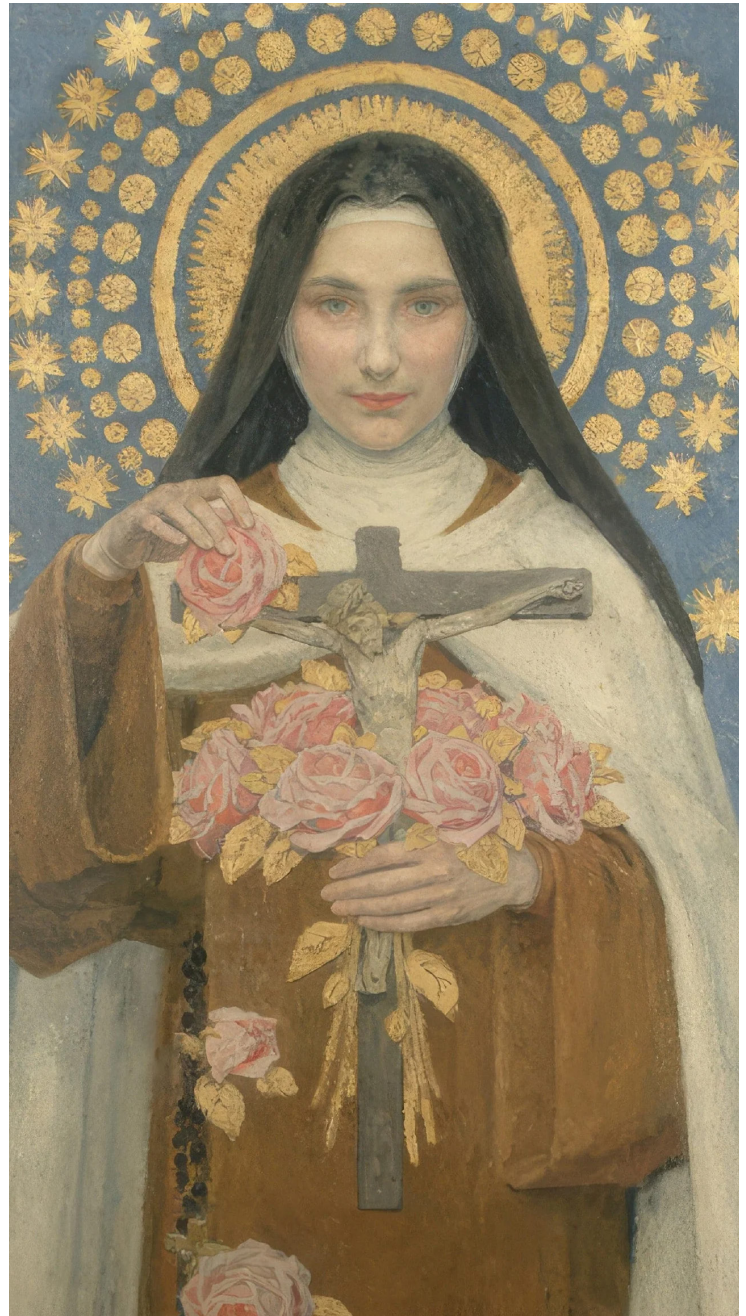
On January 2, 1873, Marie Françoise Thérèse Martin is born in Alençon, France, to Louis and Zélie Martin, two devout Catholic parents. Louis, a watchmaker, had earlier in his life presented himself to a monastery but was refused permission, because of his lack of knowledge of Latin. Zélie was similarly rejected by a local order of nuns called the Sisters of the Hôtel Dieu; she becomes, instead, a lacemaker. But the couple's intense love for Catholicism and for religious life will be passed on to their children.

When Thérèse is four her mother dies. Shortly afterwards, the family moves from Alençon to Lisieux. As a young girl Thérèse leads a cosseted existence, living under the loving care of her devoted father and being treated with great tenderness by her four older sisters. By most accounts Thérèse is her father's favorite daughter. (Indeed, in some biographies the young Thérèse is portrayed as a spoiled little girl.)

Perhaps because of this supportive environment Thérèse is a sunny child and a naturally religious one as well. "I loved God very much," she would later write about this period, "and offered my heart to him very often." She is attracted to almost any expression of religiosity: the First Communion of her sister Céline she describes as "one of the most beautiful days in my life."

As early as the age of two, Thérèse discovers within herself the desire to be a nun. Her two sisters' entrance to the Carmelite monastery in Lisieux only intensifies her desire to enter a religious order. Faced with the sad prospect of having to wait until the age of 16 to enter the monastery, an adolescent Thérèse travels to Rome with her father to petition the pope for a special dispensation to enter earlier. Her request is granted a few months later by the local bishop, and Thérèse enters the "Carmel" on April 9, 1888, at age 15.

Her life within the monastery walls is short and unevent-



St Therese of Lisieux by Edgar Maxence (c.1930)

ful: “lacking in outward drama,” as Robert Ellsberg says in his book *All Saints*. Within a year of entrance she receives her habit. The next year she officially enters the novitiate and is assigned to care for the refectory and sweep the corridors. In 1890 she makes her profession of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. In 1891 she is named aid to the sacristan. In 1893 she paints a fresco in the oratory, and is named “second portress,” that is, assistant doorkeeper.

In 1894, on the morning of Good Friday, Thérèse awakes to find her mouth full of blood. Though she had been praying ardently that she might be accepted for missionary service in far-off Vietnam, Thérèse rejoices that she will soon be in heaven.

Yet the onset of tuberculosis will prove not a quick and painless journey to heaven, but rather three years of intense suffering. During this same year, her father will die, and she will also be asked by her superior to write what would become her spiritual testimony. She titles it *Springtime Story of a Little White Flower Written by Herself and Dedicated to Mother Mary Agnes of Jesus*.

It is this book that will ultimately draw millions of believers to Jesus, through Thérèse. The life lacking in outward drama is revealed to be full of inward drama. Surprisingly, she describes a powerful call to the priesthood: “I would like to perform the most heroic deeds. I feel I have the courage of a Crusader. I should like to die on the battlefield in defense of the church. If only I were a priest!” Thérèse devotes herself to prayer (especially for priests) and to the service of God in the monastery. She suffers small indignities at the hands of her sisters, striving to be as generous as possible even during her illness, always offering all of her “little” efforts to the God with whom she fell in love as a girl. Her book reveals both the pain and joy that accompany a life of faith.

As Thérèse continues writing, her physical condition deteriorates. The last few chapters are written during a period of extreme suffering. On September 30, 1897, at the age of 24, she dies. Her last words are “Oh, I love Him...My God...I love you.”

But even at her death, the ever-dedicated disciple considers her work unfinished. There is so much more to do, by way of intercession for those she leaves behind: “After my death I will let fall a shower of roses. I will spend my heaven in doing good on earth.”

Two years after her death, her spiritual autobiogra-

phy is published as *Story of a Soul* in a sanitized version by her sisters. The work is first passed privately among Carmelite convents but it eventually reaches the outside world, where its success surprises almost everyone. As a result of her “Springtime Story,” Thérèse will become one of the most popular saints in the church—her story captivating, her example inspiring, and her “Little Way” accessible to millions of believers.

In 1925, only twenty-eight years after her death, she is declared a saint. And in 1997 Pope John Paul II declares her to be a “Doctor of the Church,” that is, an eminent teacher of the faith. She is one of only three women to have been so named (along with Saints Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Ávila).

It is, most likely, her deep humility that has rendered her so potent and accessible a model for Christians worldwide. After all, who hasn’t found oneself humbled by life’s burdens? Who hasn’t experienced one’s own limitations? Who hasn’t suffered? Thérèse is a saint that one feels would naturally understand one’s own problems. Thérèse is someone that one can speak with. People feel comfortable with the “Little Flower.”

That term, by the way, gleaned from the original title of her autobiography, would eventually become a sort of saintly nickname. In the garden of God, Thérèse of Lisieux protested that she was only a “little flower,” a small daisy compared to the more magnificent roses that she saw around her. (She called herself *la petite Thérèse*, in order to distinguish herself from her great Carmelite predecessor, Teresa of Avila.) Her famous “little way” is a spirituality that consists of doing small things with love for God, and a way of discipleship that stresses a cheerful humility before the Creator.

But to think of Thérèse of Lisieux as simply a delicate little hothouse flower is to forget the considerable resolve that lay beneath the fragile petals. This was, after all, a person who at age 15 refused to let something as minor as church law stand in the way of her entrance into the monastery: she simply took her case to the pope. And in the face of a terminal illness, when her sense of spiritual equilibrium deserts her and she is faced with inner darkness and desolation, she continues to believe and to pray. (Thérèse would pray for missionary priests in particular: as a result, this cloistered nun is one of the two patron saints of missionaries, along with the peripathetic Saint Francis Xavier). In her Christian resolve, in her calm confidence, she resembles no one so much as her great hero and countrywoman Joan of Arc, whom during her novitiate she portrays in a pageant, dressing up as the Maid of Orléans in makeshift paper armor. One of her Carmelite sisters photographed her in costume—this Joan, however, leans on crutches.

The spirituality of Thérèse of Lisieux is usually illustrated by her self-denial and her willingness to accept the reproaches of her sisters in the convent. But this is still too narrow a view of Thérèse, who was able to embrace life fully because she fully understood its sufferings. “Neither do I desire any longer suffering or death, and still I love them both; it is love that attracts me,” she writes in *The Story of a Soul*. Taking her inspiration from St. Paul, who compared the Christian community to a body with many parts, Thérèse boldly declared that she would be the heart.

During her bout with tuberculosis, Thérèse struggles greatly and even flirts with suicide—pointedly telling her Carmelite sisters that medicines should not be kept near the bed of sick persons. Yet, though she struggled, wept and raged, as almost any of us would, she continued to believe—drawing from a deep well of trust filled by the springs of a lifelong love affair with God. As the church historian Janice Farnham, a sister of the Religious of Jesus and Mary, has written, “The way of Thérèse is a way that pierces the darkness, not a ray of light.”

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, or to use the name chosen on the occasion of her profession of religious vows, Thérèse de l’Enfant Jesus et de la Sainte Face, is now found on small holy cards that portray her staring out frankly at the viewer, clad in a brown-and-white Carmelite robe, typically holding a bouquet of multicolored roses and a crucifix. She can be found in churches large and small around the world, standing silently in the identical pose as a polychromed plaster statue, a figure in brilliant stained glass or a portrait in a faded fresco. She can be found in the millions of copies of her autobiography, in countless languages and editions, scattered in homes, apartments, rectories and religious communities. And she can be found in the hearts of those who feel that she, above almost all the saints, understands what it means to be a human being who suffers and rejoices in everyday life.

Her life—simple and complex, clear and opaque, childlike and mature, humble and bold, joyful and sorrowful—speaks to millions of people. And it speaks to me.

Some days when I pray to Thérèse of Lisieux, I think of people who critique her spirituality harshly: too naïve, too childlike, too simplistic, too pious, too kitschy. But Thérèse had heard similarly harsh comments in the monastery, from sisters jealous of her youth, confused by her sanctity, and baffled by her charity. Such misunderstanding was part of her life.

And I imagine Thérèse in heaven, smiling a little at this misunderstanding. Smiling at those who still see her as too naïve, too humble or too pious. Smiling at those who underestimate the power of humility. Smiling at all of these people. Smiling, and praying for them.



Originally published in America Magazine on October 1, 2010.

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., is a Jesuit priest, author, editor at large at America and founder of Outreach.



St Thérèse of Lisieux

SAINT CECILIA PARISH LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN

PREPARED BY THE CLIMATE JUSTICE MINISTRY

Laudato Si'

The encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* is the appeal from Pope Francis addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. Pope Francis called the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. This encyclical is written with both hope and resolve, looking to our common future with candor and humility.

The title is taken from the first line of the encyclical, "Laudato si', mi Signore," or "Praise be to you, my Lord." In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

While *Laudato Si'* is the first encyclical to focus on the environment and its destruction in such a comprehensive way, its foundation rests in a long history of Church teaching on God's Creation. https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Laudato Si' Action Platform

The Vatican created the website <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/> with the intention that all parishes, parishioners, and institutions will develop and act on plans to address the crisis.

OUR PARISH ACTION PLAN 2025 - 2026

Response to the Cry of the Earth

- **Plan for Utility Systems** - Use the inventory of current utility equipment, type, and model numbers, installation dates, and expected lifespans to research and plan for replacement with equipment that uses more more efficient renewable resources.



Response to the Cry of the Poor

- **Support Migrants** - As the global temperature increases, parts of the world will become impossible for human life, other parts will be hit with climate disasters and people will be forced to migrate in numbers never seen before. Develop linkages with other churches to provide support and service for new immigrants.

Ecological Economics

- **Ethical Investment** - Educate parishioners on ethical investment and financial choices. Read *Mensuram Bonam* on Catholic investing.



Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

- **Green the Kitchen and Hospitality** - Analyze the use of the kitchen and the hospitality needs, report on the current situation, and suggest ways to reduce the amount of waste and improve resource usage.

Ecological Education

- **Annual Climate Event** - Hold an event during the Season of Creation in September that provides education about caring for creation and climate issues.
- **Read *Laudato Si'*** - Offer a book group discussion of *Laudato Si'*.



Ecological Spirituality

- **Prayer in Nature** - Offer nature and prayer walks, such as a Fall Foliage Walk through the Fens in October.
- **Information on Ecological Spirituality** - Develop bulletin items on Catholic spiritual and biblical teachings on care for creation.

Community Resilience and Empowerment

- **Outreach to Other Groups** - Collaborate with Catholic, ecumenical, and secular efforts in Boston and beyond (including, Boston Catholic Climate Movement, Boston Interfaith Climate Allies, Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light, Mothers Out Front, Sierra Club Massachusetts, Boston Climate Action Network, Friends of the Earth)
- **Advocacy** - Develop ways for parishioners to be more involved in advocating for support of care for creation from Church leaders and their government representatives.



For more information contact: Climatejustice@stceciliaboston.org

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115

Hours | Seven days a week, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781

Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support

Rev. Mr. Christopher Brolly, SJ, Deacon

Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate

Robert Duff, Director of Music

Anastassia Kolchanov, Digital and Print Media Coordinator

Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility

Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations

Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events

Mary Wessel, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV

Rev. John Predmore, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music

Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist

Brett Maguire, Parish Organist

Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show

Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer

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., and 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.

Baptism for Infants

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

Parking

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

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Pastoral Director of Operations, Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

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

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

Marriage

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

Care of the Sick

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

Order of Christian Funerals

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

Joining Our Community

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

Please note:

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