

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 September 2024

*Ephphatha!* Photographed by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.,  
from the National Cathedral in Washington D.C.

# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

8 SEPTEMBER 2024

## THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRELUDE | *Christe, aller Welt Trost*, BWV 670  
Brett Maguire, organist

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | *Amazing Grace*

NEW BRITAIN



1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That  
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And  
3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found; Was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!  
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
All: Amen.

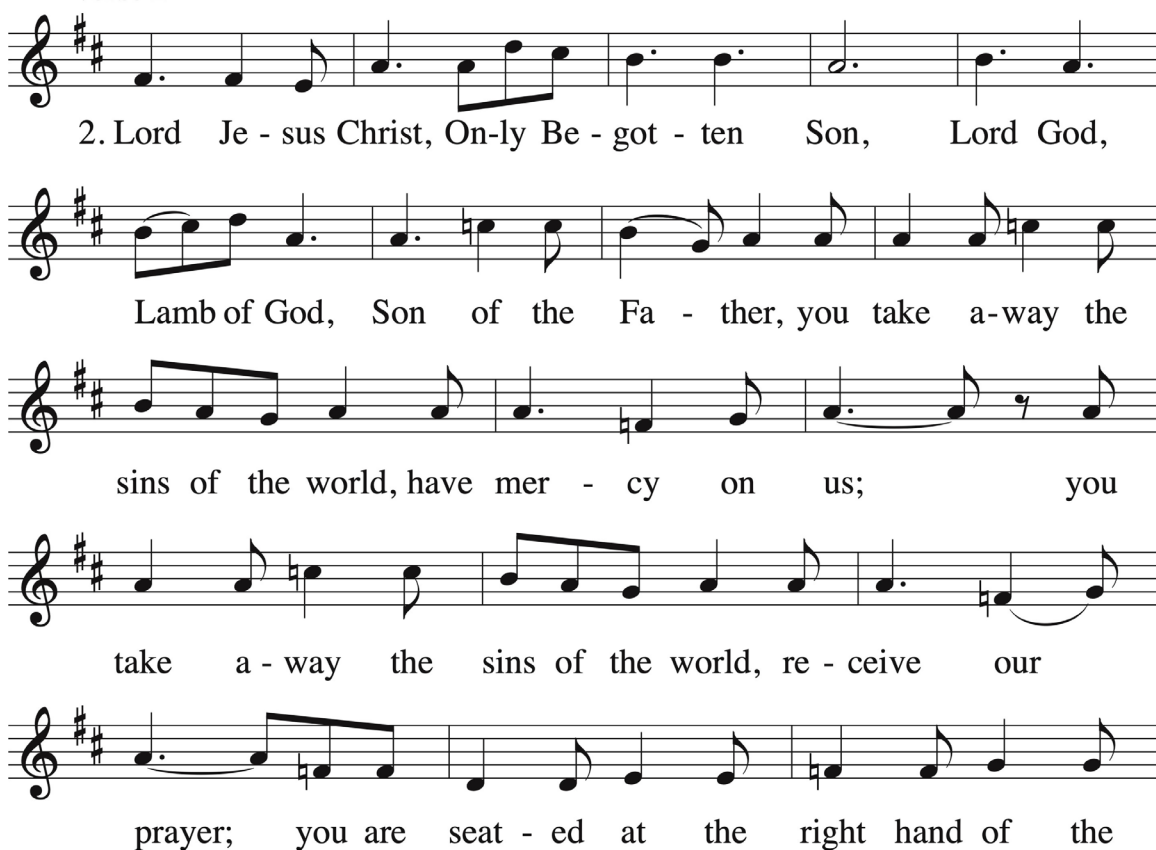
✠ The Lord be with you.  
All: And with your spirit.



## 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 | Isaiah 35: 5-7a





Praise the Lord, my soul!



Praise the Lord, my soul!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,



praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord, 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 | James 2: 1-5

## 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 7: 31-37

## 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!

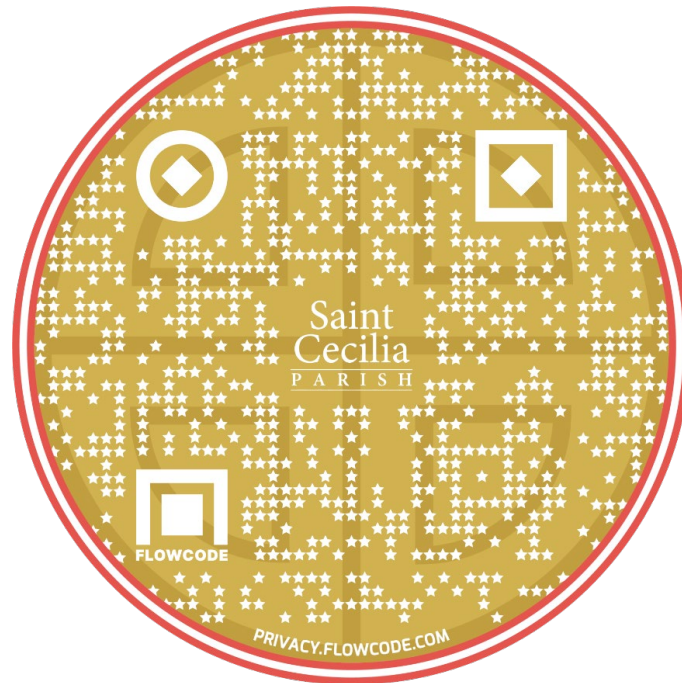
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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](http://www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston).

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish  
18 Belvidere Street  
Boston, MA 02115



# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | Open My Eyes

Jesse Manibusan



1. O - pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.  
2. O - pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.  
3. O - pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.  
4. I live with - in you. Deep in your heart, O Love.



O - pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see. *(To verse 2)*  
O - pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear. *(To verse 3)*  
O - pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love. *(To bridge)*  
I live with - in you. Rest now in me.

Bridge



And the first shall be last, and our eyes are o - pened,



and we'll hear like nev-er be - fore. And we'll speak in new ways,



and we'll see God's face in plac-es we've nev-er known.

D.C.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

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

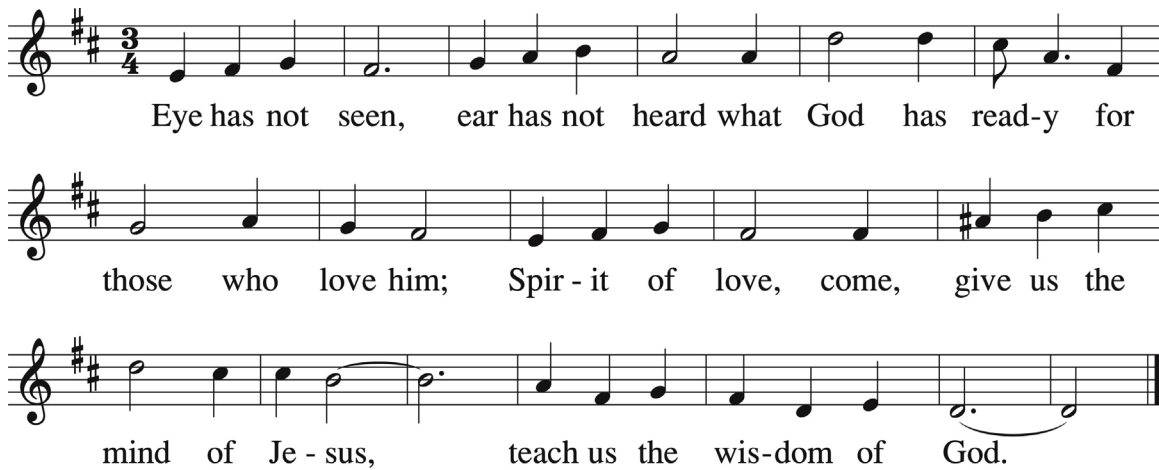
It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an "Act of Spiritual Communion." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of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

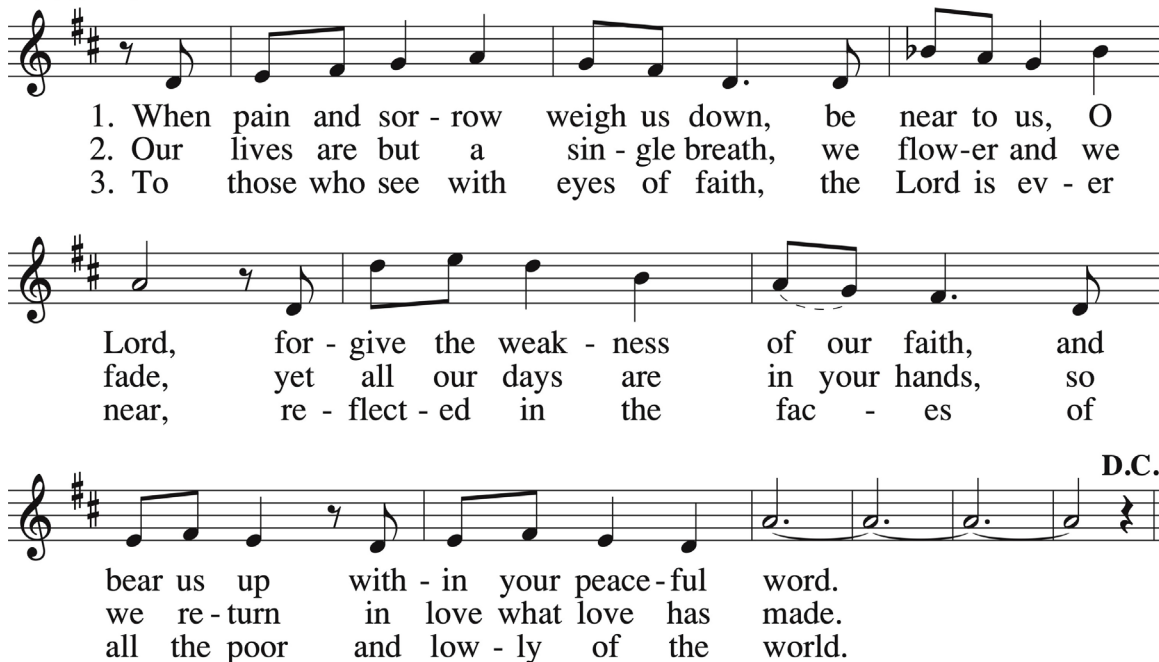
COMMUNION | Eye Has Not Seen

Marty Haugen



Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has read-y for  
those who love him; Spir - it of love, come, give us the  
mind of Je - sus, teach us the wis-dom of God.

Verses 1-3



1. When pain and sor - row weigh us down, be near to us, O  
2. Our lives are but a sin - gle breath, we flow-er and we  
3. To those who see with eyes of faith, the Lord is ev - er  
Lord, for - give the weak - ness of our faith, and  
fade, yet all our days are in your hands, so  
near, re - flect - ed in the fac - es of  
D.C.  
bear us up with - in your peace-ful word.  
we re - turn in love what love has made.  
all the poor and low - ly of the world.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ inside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
O may I reach heaven's joy's O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

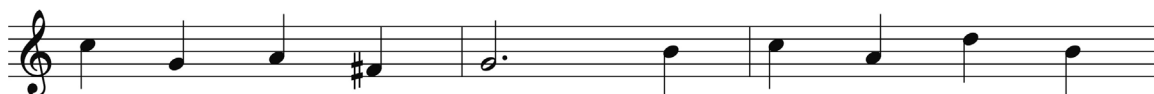
Christ beside me, Christ to guide me,  
Christ the Ruler of all!

## 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. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our  
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne Your  
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or  
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight Are  
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Bears  
 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our



hope for years to come, Our shel - ter from the  
 saints have dwelt se - cure; Suf - fi - cient is your  
 earth re - ceived its frame, From ev - er - last - ing  
 like an eve - ning gone, Short as the watch that  
 all our years a - way; They fly for - got - ten,  
 hope for years to come, Still be our guard while



storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home.  
 arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
 you are God, To end - less years the same.  
 ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
 as a dream Dies at the o - p'ning day.  
 trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home.

POSTLUDE | *Allegro maestoso e vivace* from Sonata, Op. 65, No. 2  
 Brett Maguire, organist

Felix Mendelssohn  
 (1809-1847)

*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](mailto:RDuff@stceciliaboston.org).

# WELCOME!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Saturday, September 7 | 5:00 p.m.**

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

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

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant  
Esteban Vanegas, lector

**Sunday, September 8 | 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. Ron Coyne, celebrant  
Virgen Palermo, Bobbi Moran, and Karen McMenemy, lectors

**Sunday, September 8 | 11:30 a.m.**

Rev. Ron Coyne, celebrant  
Mark Richburg, Pat Scofield, and Cynthia Wanner, lectors

**Sunday, September 8 | 6:00 p.m.**

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant  
Maggie Giles, lectors

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Saturday, September 7 | 5:00 p.m.**

Betty Botosh, *Memorial*

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

John & Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

**Sunday, September 8 | 9:30 a.m.**

George Mahon, *1st Anniversary*  
William Ruggiero, *1st Anniversary*  
David Feeley, *3rd Anniversary*

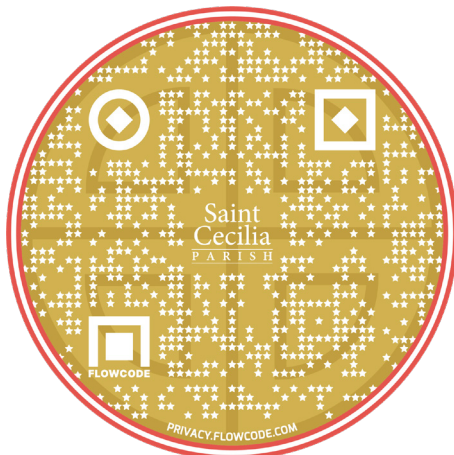
**Wednesday, September 11 | 8:00 a.m.**

Donald Foss, *Memorial*

**Thursday, September 12 | 8:00 a.m.**

Margaret Cunnane, *Memorial*

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



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

## TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 35:4-7a

James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 50:5-9a

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35



# PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

## Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Geri Avery, 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: **Peter and Patricia Gibson** of Chatham, **Katherine Gourley** of Brookline, and **Robbie Fishel** of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at [www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/](http://www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/).

## Register for Children's Faith Formation!

Registration for our Children's Faith Formation classes for the coming year is now open. Space is limited for some classes, and so please register as soon as possible to ensure your child(ren)'s/ teen's place in the class. To register, visit <https://stceciliaboston.org/cff-reg>. Classes begin on Sunday, September 22. Please note that the fee to register is \$200.

## Help Care For Those in Need

Occasionally we give gift cards to our sisters and brothers in need. We need to replenish our supply of gift cards to Shaw's Supermarket, Star Market, and MarketBasket. If you would like to help out in this way, simply purchase a gift card and place it in the collection basket at Mass, give it to a member of the staff, or mail it to the Parish Office. We are very appreciative of your help as we attempt to offer some assistance to our neighbors in need.

## For Those Returning to School

Pray for all those who are returning to the classroom. On September 8, we will resume our six o'clock liturgy and are looking forward to welcoming back our college students.

## Happy Anniversary!

This past week we celebrated the baptismal anniversary of **Bridget Tooher** who was baptized on September 3, and **Tessa Tooher** who was baptized on September 6. May the Lord continue to bless them with the grace to live out their baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Bridget and Tessa!

## Clergy Trust

Each September, the Clergy Trust allows us an opportunity to "Give Thanks for our Priests" in various ways. You may already be a part of their Prayer Challenge that is happening

right now. Another way to give thanks for priests is to participate in next week's special collection that benefits the Clergy Trust so that they can continue to provide health and wellness programs and support for all of our active and senior priests in good standing. If you want to learn more about the prayer challenge or if you want to make your gift to the collection today, visit [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org).

## For Pope Francis During Historic Asia Pacific Trip

Pray for Pope Francis as he begins his 45th international trip—a twelve-day Apostolic Journey to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and Singapore. This is the Holy Father's longest trip since becoming pope. May this pilgrimage inspire us to bring the joy of the Gospel to all peoples, and may it strengthen the faith of those he visits, convert hearts, foster unity, and bring hope to humanity.

## 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.

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

# **PIZZA SUNDAY IS BACK!**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 6-8PM**

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



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



## TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

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

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

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

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

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

### CELEBRATING THE 2024 SEASON OF CREATION MASS

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

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

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

## A WAY TO HELP THE CHILDREN AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES INN

Our friends at Catholic Charities provide temporary, supportive housing for families working to get back on their feet and under their own roof. Each program is staffed 24/7 with qualified and trained workers to help provide safety and consistency to families and/or individuals. Under the direction of Vice President of Basic Needs, Beth Chambers, case managers assess the needs of the guests and together they determine the best path to rebuild, strengthen their families, and move toward self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities Inn and Safety-Net Shelters opened in Brighton in 2023 in response to the growing humanitarian crisis facing families experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts. Residents are referred directly through the state's emergency shelter system.

Many children are living in this shelter and here's a link to an Amazon Wish List so that they can be fully prepared for the start of the school year: <https://amzn.to/4dAFRKe> Thank you for your continued generosity!

### PIE SELLERS NEEDED!

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

## CELEBRATION OF THE PRIESTHOOD DINNER

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



# Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

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

## *2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Italy*

**June 15-23, 2025**



### **We will participate in Mass at:**

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

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

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

### **Want to learn more/register?**

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

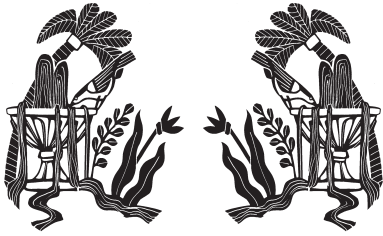
**We will visit Rome, Florence,  
Assisi, and Vatican City.**

### ***Highlights include:***

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

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





## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

**Sunday, September 8, 2:00 p.m.**

**Community Room**

VIRTUS is the umbrella term for a two-part training designed to keep children safe in the parish setting. The Archdiocese requires this two-part training of all volunteers and staff who have the potential for direct contact with children or the vulnerable due to their involvement in the parish. The first part, Protecting God's Children (or PGC), is a training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms that a child is being abused and how to talk with children about these issues. The second part is a mandated reporter training. All parish staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to attend this one-time training. If you intend to volunteer in the future and haven't attended this training before, please join us. Please note that both parts will be covered in Sunday's session and the training will be approximately 3 hours, including videos and group discussion. Help us by officially registering for this course at [www.virtusonline.org/](http://www.virtusonline.org/). If you can't register online, please join us anyway and come a few minutes early so you can be registered in the system. Thank you so much, and we look forward to seeing you!

## JOIN OUR WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

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

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

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

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

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

In addition, the following items will be used to fill the backpacks: spiral notebooks, 3-ring binders, folders, dry-erase markers, and loose leaf filler paper. There will be bins in the narthex if you want to provide any of the items above. To make it easier to participate in the Back-To-School Drive, you can also access the pantry's wish list here: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11Q1135W4EGYE?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11Q1135W4EGYE?ref=wl_share) or using this QR code. Thank you so much for your dedication to improving the kids' lives in Greater Boston!



**SCAN ME**

## JOIN OUR BIWEEKLY SIMEON & ANNA SENIORS GATHERING



**Thursday,  
September 19  
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**  
*Every Other Week  
Following*

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

**Where?** Saint Cecilia Parish (enter through the doors on St. Cecilia Street and ring the bell to be let in).

**Questions?** Email Lucy Conroy ([seniors@stceciliaboston.org](mailto:seniors@stceciliaboston.org))

## 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' parish email address.

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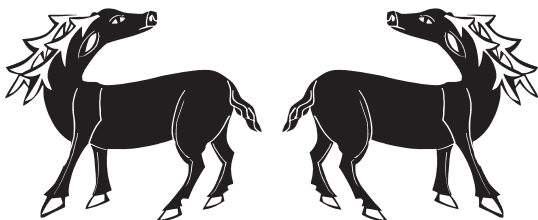
## SEPTEMBER FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

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

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



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



## JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRY!

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




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## INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

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

## IT'S ALMOST PUMPKIN TIME!

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



## THE OLD MAN WHO WAS ONCE A BOY ON THE ALTAR

BY PATRICK REARDON

The year is 1962 and a tall, drowsy boy opens the front door of his family's crowded two-flat to the gray darkness of near dawn. The sidewalk along Leamington Avenue is empty as he heads the half block south to the church. The Chicago neighborhood of cops, mechanics, firemen, cemetery workers, city workers, truck drivers and janitors is asleep. It's a quarter to six.

The church is filled with a darkness that would be oppressive except that the sanctuary lights, turned on for this early weekday Mass, provide a welcoming warmth. In the back and near the side altars, banks of candles flicker.

The boy goes to the door to the left of the altar and enters the sacristy. He selects a long, black cassock and works his way down the dozen or so buttons. Over this, he puts a plain white cotton surplice and walks down the corridor to the priest's side of the sacristy. He fills one cruet with water and the other with wine, its over-ripe smell always a curiosity for him.

As the Mass starts, Father Fitzpatrick places the green-draped chalice on the altar and returns to the foot of the stairs where the boy is kneeling. The priest, in his forest green vestment, turns to the altar, bows and, making the sign of the cross, begins. "In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen. Introibo ad altare Dei."

The boy, bent double, his head down nearly to the step in front of him, responds from memory in a rush: "Ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam." ("A dayum qweelay teefecot yooven tootem mayum.")

Later, at the consecration, Fr. Fitzpatrick prays over the round, thin wafer of tasteless, paper-like bread, whispering the words of consecration with a dry, urgent exactitude. Then, as the priest raises the newly consecrated host, the boy presses a small keyboard on the step above him, creating five round, deep tones that reverberate through the silence and stillness of the church, all the way back to

the vestibule.

There is something perfect for the boy at this moment.

He is kneeling in the midst of beauty, from the delicately colored terra cotta saints, angels and symbols set in the marble of the altar to the deep, rich, dark wood backdrop topped by even more saints, from the intricately worked lace altar linens to the gold thread and bright color of Fr. Fitzpatrick's vestments. He is astonished at being so close to the wonder-filled richness of the altar, at being so near to the host, at being a part of this central ritual of his community. Like Saint Peter, he feels the wish to set up tents and live here forever.

Now, more than 60 years later, a tall, overweight man in his mid-70s walks up to the altar at Sunday Mass to give the first reading from the book of Exodus and then returns to his pew on the far left side of the congregation. Something in the moment gets him thinking about the wonder he felt as an altar boy.

He saw the altar then as the focus of faith. Now, six decades later, he sees the Mass in an even wider context.

He has come to understand that faith is lived in the world amid the billions of other humans, or it's not lived at all. Faith is a living thing, he's learned. It's not locked away, like a security bond, but shared in the rough and tumble of life.

And this rough-and-tumble life—a life of love and risk—is at the heart of the message Jesus brought. Jesus didn't celebrate the Last Supper and then remain in the upper room. He went out to play his role in the drama of existence.

Having faith, the old man in the side pew has come to learn, is about being open to the fullness of life. He has learned this especially from his wife, and from their two children, both now adults with kids of their own.



The altar is not a jeweled treasure, nor is it a hideaway. It is deeply a part of the world—like the airport, the grocery store, the house next door.

What happens in this place is not purer than what happens elsewhere in life. It shares the messiness that is life. It can be boring, yes, as an airplane ride can be boring. But it can be transcendent, too, as in the moment when you look out your window and watch a half dozen sparrows chitter around the bread crumbs left on the sidewalk.

And it is something that is done in and with the community. Back six decades ago, the boy felt that he and Father Fitzpatrick were in a bubble of holiness. Now the old man in the side pew knows that he shares this moment with all the other people in the pews, some of whom are his friends, others unknown to him.

The altar, in fact, extends out the full length of the church, and all of those present are taking part in the consecration of the host—and the consecration of their lives.

Even more, the altar extends beyond this building, beyond this city, to encompass the entire world. That is where the old man in the pew lives and where everyone else in the congregation lives. That is where the fullness of faith takes place.

At the store, in traffic, online, on a walk, in a crowd—in every interaction in life—this is where, like Jesus, the old man and everyone else gathered around this altar will play their role in the drama of existence. Holiness isn't a bubble; it's a smile.

*~ Patrick G. Reardon is a former priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago (1966-1976), a criminal defense lawyer and the father of two wonderful adult daughters.*



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

### BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY SEPTEMBER ONLINE COURSES

#### **Christian Faith and Moral Character**

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

#### **Liturgy Essentials**

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

#### **Paul's Letter to the Romans**

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

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

### PYNE LECTURE ON MINISTRY WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

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

**Friday, September 20 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET  
Hybrid | Corcoran Commons, Heights Room,  
Chestnut Hill Campus | Registration Required  
Free**

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

### BOISI CENTER FOR RELIGION AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

#### **Postwar Stories: How Books Made Judaism American**

**Presenter:** Rachel Gordan, University of Florida  
**Tuesday, September 10 | 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://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/centers/boisi-center/events/archive/fall-2024/postwar-stories-how-books-made-judaism-american.html>

# PARISH RESOURCES

## Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115  
Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment  
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781  
Website | [www.stceciliaboston.org](http://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 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!