

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Baptism of the Lord

12 January 2025

The Baptism of Christ

From the fresco cycle at the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua

Giotto, c. 1303-1305

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 12 JANUARY 2025

PRELUDE | Allegro Assai from Sonata, Op. 65, No. 4
Brett Maguire, *parish organist*

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN



1. Bap - tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Cleansed by the
2. Bap - tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Dead in the
3. Bap - tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Marked with the



blood of Christ our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion, Trust - ing his
tomb with Christ our King: One with his ris - ing, Freed and for -
sign of Christ our King: Born of one Fa - ther, We are his



prom - ise, Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren, Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

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.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you
thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly
King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.
Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got-ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you take a -
way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are seat-ed
at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer -
cy, have mer - cy on us. For you a-lone are the
Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men, a - men.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Ps. 29: The Lord Will Bless His People with Peace

Marty Haugen

The Lord will bless his peo - ple with
peace. The Lord will bless his
peo - ple with peace.

1. Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly powers, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; bow down before the Lord, majestic in holiness.
2. The voice of the Lord upon the waters, the Lord on the immensity of the waters;
the voice of the Lord full of power; the voice of the Lord full of splendor.
3. The God of glory thunders; in his temple they all cry, "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits as king, sits as king forever.

SECOND READING | Acts 10:34-38:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Lent: Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!

GOSPEL | Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

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!

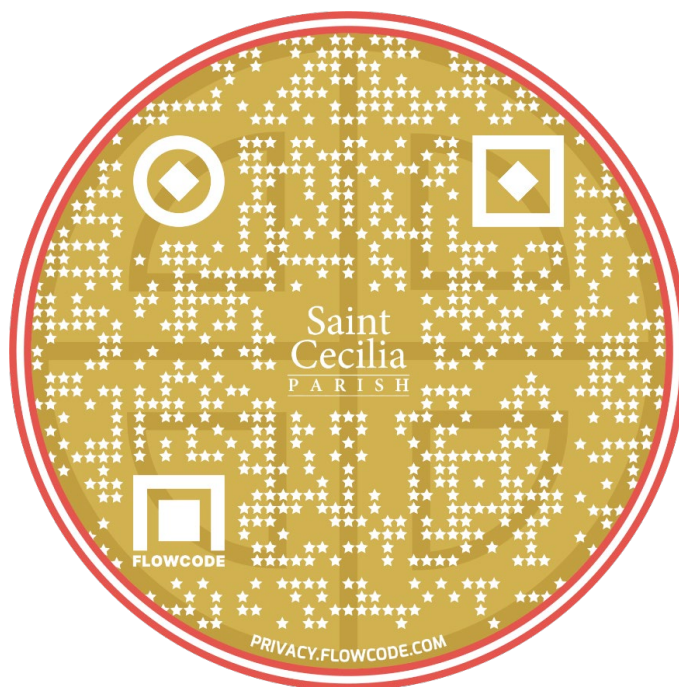
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

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 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?
? come to the Lord.

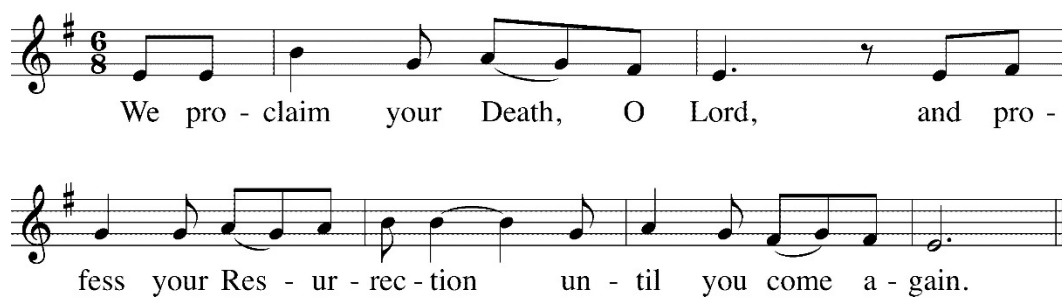
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ✘ 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 | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco

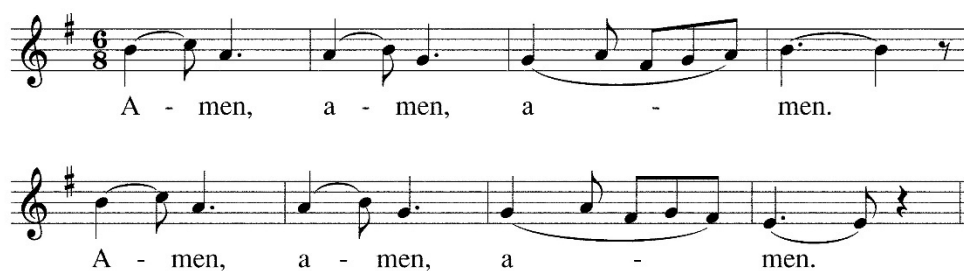
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -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



Two staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the lyrics: "We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -". The second staff contains the lyrics: "fess your Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and dotted notes, with some notes beamed together.

AMEN | Mass of the Angels and Saints

Steven R. Janco



Two staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. Both staves contain the lyrics: "A - men, a - men, a - men." The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with some rests.

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, then all: *Repeat ad lib.*

Have mer - cy on us.

Cantor: *All:*

Grant us peace. 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



To this meal and sac-ri-fice, Lord, you draw us near:



Taste of God's a - bun-dant grace for all gath-ered here.



In your love you sum-mon us; bro-ken now we come. By your



bod-y and your blood, heal us, make us one.

Verse 1



1. May this meal be med-i-cine for the weak,



that we may love as you have loved. At this har - vest of



good-ness, may we feast in u - ni - ty.

Verse 2



2. May this feast bring heal - ing for the poor,



that we may serve as you have served. At this



ta - ble of jus-tice, may we serve in u - ni - ty.

Verses 3–6



3. May our hearts be o - pen to your pres - ence,
 4. May this food be wel - come for the "oth - er,"
 5. May our hands bring com - fort to the sick,
 6. May this bread trans - form our hearts for peace,



that we may share as you have shared. At this
 em - brac - ing all hu - man - i - ty. At this
 em - pow'r - ing all who gath - er here. At this
 re - viv - ing hope for all our days. At this



gath - 'ring of na - tions, may we live in u - ni - ty.
 ban - quet of glad - ness, may we work for u - ni - ty.
 al - tar of heal - ing, may we sing for u - ni - ty.
 tem - ple of mer - cy, may we pray for u - ni - ty.

COMMUNION MEDITATION | This is the Record of John

Orlando Gibbons
 (1583-1625)

This is the record of John,
 when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
 Who art thou?
 And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
 I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
 And he said, I am not.
 Art thou the prophet?
 And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him,
 What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
 What sayest thou of thyself?
 And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
 Make straight the way of the Lord

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. To Jor - dan Je - sus hum - bly came, His
 2. John plunged him in that wa - t'ry grave; Christ
 3. God's thun - d'ring voice the heav - ens rends, The
 4. God names us sons and daugh - ters, too, In



gos - pel mis - sion to pro - claim; On earth, in heav'n, God's
 rose to teach and heal and save, To show us how to
 Spir - it's might on him de - scends; The Word - made - Flesh, with
 font and Spir - it born a - new; In Christ we die, with



will was done By God's be - lov - ed on - ly Son.
 die to sin And share e - ter - nal life with him.
 grace in - fused, A - noint - ed, goes to bring Good News.
 Christ we rise, Through Christ we en - ter par - a - dise!

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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 Massachusett 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.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PARISH MINISTERS & VOLUNTEERS

The Archdiocese of Boston, in compliance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has a vigorous program in place to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse. The goal is to increase knowledge, create and maintain a safe environment for children, and recognize and report potentially dangerous situations.

REQUIREMENT 1—The CORI Process | An Annual Requirement

Each year, all parish clergy, employees, ministers, and volunteers (18 years of age and older) are required to complete a CORI Request Form, giving the Archdiocese of Boston permission to conduct a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check. At Saint Cecilia we do this each January and whenever a new parish employee, minister, or volunteer begins. In 2025, CORI Request Forms should be completed and returned to the parish by February 1. If you are a new parish minister or volunteer and completed a CORI Request Form after July 1, 2024, you do not need to complete another one until January of 2026.

The results of the CORI are evaluated by the archdiocesan Office for Background Screening to determine whether an individual is appropriate for a particular employment position or a particular ministry service. Results are communicated directly to the pastor of the parish.

REQUIREMENT 2—VIRTUS Training | A One-Time Obligation

All clergy, employees, ministers, and volunteers (18 years of age and older) are required by the Archdiocese of Boston to complete VIRTUS training. This is a *one-time obligation*, unlike the annual CORI process, and can be completed at Saint Cecilia or at any other parish in the Archdiocese of Boston.

VIRTUS is the umbrella term for a three-hour, two-part training session designed to keep children and vulnerable adults safe in the parish setting.

- The first part, Protecting God's Children (PGC) is a training session on how to recognize the signs and symptoms that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused and how to talk with children about these issues.
- The second part is mandated reporter training. All parish clergy, employees, ministers, and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to attend this training.

Please note: both the first and second parts of the VIRTUS training obligation are covered in the one three-hour session which includes videos and group discussion. These VIRTUS training sessions are conducted by members of our parish Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team. Members of the CAP Team have been trained to provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect.

To attend a VIRTUS training session, you must register in advance by creating an account on the VIRTUS website: www.virtusonline.org. Once you register, a permanent record of your participation and completion of the training will be created. You will also then have access to a complete list of VIRTUS training dates taking place throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. The next two dates of VIRTUS training taking place at Saint Cecilia are: Sunday, January 12 at 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, January 11 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Maggie Giles, lector

Sunday, January 12 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, lector

Sunday, January 12 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Julie DesAutels, Zachary Boutin, and
Ben DeWinter, lectors

Sunday, January 12 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Erin Young, Letitia Howland, and
Moirra Macdonald, lectors

Sunday, January 12 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Kevin Dumas, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 12 | 8:00 a.m.

John and Angelina Machado, *Memorial*

Sunday, January 12 | 9:30 a.m.

Teresa Blanford, *Ninth Anniversary*
Paul L. Rossi, *Memorial*
Grace Rett, *Fifth Anniversary*
Ann Cashen, *Memorial*
Casey Bonus, *Memorial*
Reg Settinus, *Memorial*
Walton Burdick, *Memorial*

Wednesday, January 15 | 8:00 a.m.

Don Flaherty, *Memorial*

Thursday, January 16 | 8:00 a.m.

Karen Sullivan, *Memorial*
Erin Van Flandern, *10th Anniversary*

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Acts 10:34-38

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING

All adult parish volunteers are required to participate in a Protecting God's Children training session. The training provides education on how to recognize indicators of possible abuse or grooming, how to create safe environments for youth, and how to report your concerns. The three-hour training session is live and in person and is only required once. Saint Cecilia is hosting a session this Sunday, January 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room. If you volunteer in the parish and have not yet completed this training, please make every effort to attend. We will offer another session here at Saint Cecilia on Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m.

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Peggie Breslin, Mark Brown, Joan Dunphy, Tom Franzago, Jacqueline Lavelle, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, Fred Tufts, and Serena Suglia.

Happy 95th Anniversary!

This weekend we celebrate the 95th baptismal anniversary of **Dr. Bernard Rochon**, a cherished member of the Far-Flung Flock who was baptized on January 6, 1930. May the Lord continue to bless him with the grace to live out his baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Bernard!

Welcome to Saint Cecilia

We are pleased to welcome the following newly registered parishioners: **Diane Lebson** of Camden, Maine; **Kate Wooldridge** of Richmond, Texas; **Catherine Gados** of Vienna, Virginia; **Maryellen** and **Kevin Kiley** and **Katie** and **Sean Colin** of Canton; **Arthur Simen** of Dover; **George Varghese** of Cambridge; and **Emily Wyman** and **Samuel Figueroa**, **Maura Flanagan** and **Cameron Russell**, **Kiernan Dowd** and **Anthony Silva**, **Christine Lawler**, **Lydia Paulo**, **William Elcock**, and **Kerri McKie**, all of Boston. If you have not previously registered, you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Historic First—Woman Appointed Head of Dicastery

In a groundbreaking decision, last Monday Pope Francis appointed the first female ever to lead a Vatican dicastery (a department of the Roman Curia responsible for a specific area of church governance). Sister Simona Brambilla, MC, has been appointed prefect of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. This appointment further increases the number of women in leadership roles at the Vatican. To learn more, please see the article on page 7.

Pray for the People of Southern California

We extend our heartfelt prayers to all those affected by the devastating wildfires spreading across Los Angeles County. Pray for eternal rest for those who have lost their lives and pray for healing of the injured, comfort for those who have lost homes and businesses, and relief for the displaced. May God keep all of our brothers and sisters safe and bring an end to these fires.

WISDOM & MATURE SPIRITUALITY

Are you in the second half of life? If so, the Wisdom and Mature Spirituality group holds two Zoom gatherings each week: Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 and Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30. While not specifically a book club, participants have conversations informed by shared spiritual reading and discuss ways in which our faith informs and enriches the second half of life. The group is presently reading the classic little book, *The Story of the Other Wise Man* by Henry Van Dyke, and on January 23 will begin Jesuit priest Gregory Boyle's newest book, *Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times*. For more information or to be added to the Wisdom and Mature Spirituality mailing list, please call or email the parish office.



ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

There will be a training session for aspiring youth altar servers next Sunday, January 19 at 4:00 p.m. The training will take place in the church and will be followed by pizza and conversation in the parish café at 5:00. Please contact Mary Wessel in the parish office if you are interested in attending or learning more.





55TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 20 | 9:00–11:00 A.M.
OMNI BOSTON HOTEL AT THE SEAPORT
ENSEMBLE BALLROOM



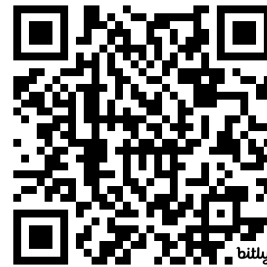
Once again, this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast will be a hybrid event with both in-person and online components. The 2025 theme is: "Freedom Isn't Free" and the keynote speaker will be professor, author, and

activist Angela Davis. This annual breakfast is a time to *gather* to convene, to envision, and to embody the Beloved Community that we yearn for; to *gather* to break bread and to be nourished to undertake the urgent work of justice and equity in our community; and to *gather* to remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose legacy of organizing and leadership continues to inspire and prepare us today for the difficult road ahead as we attempt to build the Beloved Community. The livestream is free, but in order to be emailed the link to the password-protected livestream page you must register by January 19. To register, visit bostonmlkbreakfast.org/breakfast-2025/. Tickets for the in-person breakfast are \$65 and can be purchased by visiting bostonmlkbreakfast.org/breakfast-2025/. There is a possibility of limited onsite ticket sales, however this is not guaranteed so we encourage everyone who wants to attend the breakfast to purchase a ticket prior to arrival.

PARISH CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- *How well does Saint Cecilia Parish care for God's creation?*
- *What do you think should be part of a climate plan for the parish?*

Saint Cecilia is creating a Parish Climate Action Plan and our parish Climate Group would like to obtain as much input as possible from parishioners. During the month of January, we invite you to complete this on-line form with your concerns and ideas: <https://bit.ly/stceciliaplan>. You can also access the form by scanning the QR code below with a mobile device. If you would prefer to have a one-on-one conversation, please email climatejustice@stceciliaboston.org.



LAUDATO SI' GOALS

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

ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

This goal, from the Laudato Si' Action Platform, is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. Actions could include reducing waste by recycling; the adoption of sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transit, active mobility (walking and cycling), and the avoidance of single-use items (e.g., plastic, etc.).

"Purchasing is always a moral—and not simply economic—act. Today, in a word, the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle."

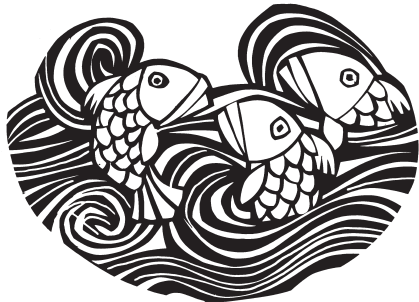
—Laudato Si' 206

TRAVEL-SIZE TOILETRIES

If you travel frequently, you may have extra toiletries left over from hotel stays. We can help! Three of our nonprofit partner agencies have an ongoing need for donations of travel-size toiletries. The following miniature products are always needed: shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, soap, and hand sanitizer. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant (none of which are typically found in hotel rooms) are also always in demand. Donated toiletries must be unused and there are plastic bins in the narthex where you can leave your donations. All contributed items will be donated to Women's Lunch Place, Catholic Charities, and Capuchin Mobile Ministries. Thank you!

SIMEON & ANNA SENIORS GROUP

The next meeting of the Simeon & Anna seniors group will take place next Thursday, January 16. We will have coffee and conversation from 10:00 to 10:30, followed by communal prayer. Newcomers are always welcome!



CONCERT TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 | 7:00–9:00 P.M.
NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY – WILLIAMS HALL

The third Boston concert of Music for Food's 15th season—"The New World"—will highlight works by Dvořák and Ives and include performances by Terra String Quartet. Admission is free with a suggested donation (\$40/adult; \$15/student). No tickets or reservations are necessary. All proceeds will go to support Women's Lunch Place.

DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

We hope you will consider participating in this important ministry during the holidays so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices.

Saint Cecilia has committed to providing the following items to the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett food pantries: Cheerios or corn flakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta/spaghetti, boxed macaroni & cheese, canned tuna fish, canned chicken breast, cooking oil, and tomato sauce. While any canned or shelf-stable items are appreciated, it is particularly helpful when donations are made from the staples listed above. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept donations of produce or baked items.

You may wish to follow the example of some parishioners and have some of the above items delivered to the parish via Amazon or a similar service. If you choose to order donations online, please have your items delivered to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115

THE FAR-FLUNG FLOCK ONLINE COFFEE HOUR

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 | 4:00 P.M. (EST)

The Saint Cecilia FFF Ministry is pleased to welcome back Sebastian Gomes, executive editor of audio and video at America Media, as January's special guest. Sebastian has produced a number of podcasts for America and most recently was part of a group from America Media that traveled to Rome to cover the second Vatican assembly of the global Synod on Synodality—a nearly month-long meeting of clerics and laypeople brought together to discuss the future of the Catholic Church. This Sunday, January 12, Sebastian will speak about key elements of the final document from the Synod, *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission*. This is a good opportunity to hear about where the synod delegates see the Church moving. Participants will have an opportunity to ask Sebastian questions during this coffee hour. To register for the FFF email list, please use this link: bit.ly/45pDVRa.

A WOMAN LEADS A VATICAN OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER. WHY NOW?

BY COLLEEN DULLE

Pope Francis broke one of the Vatican’s “stained-glass ceilings” on Monday, January 6, by appointing a woman, Italian Sister Simona Brambilla, M.C., as the prefect of a Vatican dicastery for the first time.

While most headlines made clear the historic nature of the appointment, the news also features some Vaticanese that may leave some readers scratching their heads: What is a prefect? A pro-prefect? A dicastery?

Here’s an explanation of the details.

What is Sister Brambilla’s new job?

Sister Brambilla, a member of the Consolata Missionaries religious order, has been appointed prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. This is the Vatican office that oversees religious orders—like the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits—and similar “institutes” in the church.

As prefect, she will be the top decision-maker in the office. This is a big deal because no woman has ever been a prefect in any Vatican office. The highest position a woman has held in a dicastery before this was secretary, which is the number-two role under the prefect. Only two women have held that role: Alessandra Smerilli, F.M.A., the secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, a role she was named to in 2021 after a stint as interim secretary; and Sister Brambilla herself, who was made secretary of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in 2023.

Several more women currently serve as undersecretaries, the number-three role in Vatican dicasteries.

What is a dicastery?

A dicastery is what the Vatican calls the different offices of the Roman Curia. Prominent dicasteries include the Dicastery for Evangelization and the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. Previously, the Vatican bureaucracy included congregations, dicasteries, pontifical councils and commissions; in his 2022 apostolic constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*, Pope Francis made almost all these separate offices dicasteries.



What is the Roman Curia?

The Vatican’s organization is split into two parts: the Roman Curia and the Vatican City-State. The City-State deals with practical things happening inside Vatican City: It is where you will find the event planning offices, the office in charge of St. Peter’s Basilica, the police, the Vatican Museums and so on. Women have generally risen to power more easily in the City-State than in the Curia, where ordination has traditionally been seen as more central to the exercise of official roles. For example, the head of the Vatican Museums is a woman.

The Roman Curia handles “churchy” matters like doctrine, clergy and religious life but also includes the Secretariat of State, which is in charge of the Vatican’s diplomats, or nuncios. When we speak about women holding top roles in Vatican dicasteries, we’re referring to top roles in the Roman Curia, specifically. (The City-State uses different names for its various offices.)

Why didn’t this happen before?

Before 2022, it would have been impossible for a woman to head a Vatican dicastery. That year, with *Praedicate Evangelium*, Pope Francis overhauled the governance of the Roman Curia. In addition to simplifying the naming of offices (making them all “dicasteries”), he changed the rules to allow people who were not ordained as priests or bishops to run Vatican offices, thus opening the top positions to women for the first time.

(The Dicastery for Communication, established in 2018, is an exception: It has been headed by the same lay man, journalist Paolo Ruffini, since its founding.)

Since *Praedicate Evangelium* came into effect, Vatican watchers have been waiting to see when the pope might appoint a lay prefect. As for why an appointment has taken two and a half years since the constitutional reform, one

possibility could be internal resistance in the Vatican, which Pope Francis has said he faced when appointing women previously.

The appointment of Sister Brambilla might raise some eyebrows in the Vatican specifically because, for the first time, a cardinal will be reporting to her. Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, S.D.B., the former head of the Salesian order, will serve as pro-prefect under Sister Brambilla.

What is a pro-prefect?

“Pro-prefect” is a title that was previously used to describe a non-cardinal who headed a Vatican congregation, one of the types of offices that was simplified to “dicastery” in the 2022 Vatican reform. After that reform but before the appointment of Sister Brambilla, it was only used to describe the top two officials in the Dicastery for Evangelization, and it was used because Pope Francis himself is the prefect of that dicastery.

Its use in the case of Cardinal Artime is unusual. Some have speculated that the cardinal has been made a pro-prefect in case some canonical issues come up within the dicastery that require action by an ordained bishop. (While the powers of Holy Orders and governance are separate in the Curia constitution, they are still intertwined in many places in canon law.) It is possible the Vatican will provide further explanation of the role in the coming days.

What other Vatican offices could be headed by women in the future?

Following the 2022 constitutional reform, most analysts agreed that women could lead almost any Vatican office except for the Dicastery for the Clergy and the Dicastery for Bishops. (Interestingly, the pope did appoint women as members of the Dicastery for Bishops for the first time in 2022, giving them a say in what names are forwarded to the pope for consideration to become bishops.)

The Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, which Sister Brambilla will head, has long been seen as one that could or should be run by a woman, since the majority of members of the orders or institutes of religious life around the world are women.

Likewise, most lay people in parishes are women, so the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life is often named among those that could be headed by a woman in the future. Just after the 2022 constitutional reform took effect, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the prefect of that dicastery,

future. Just after the 2022 constitutional reform took effect, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the prefect of that dicastery, told *America*, “I believe I could be the last cleric in charge of this dicastery.”

—Colleen Dulle is an associate editor at *America* and co-hosts the *Inside the Vatican* podcast.





A Faith THAT DOES JUSTICE

Inspiring faith in action

Peter Gyves, SJ, MD: A Tribute

Priest and prophet. Leader and servant. Together, these characterize the remarkable life of Peter Gyves, SJ MD, who fulfilled each of these roles with conviction, passion and humility.

In his latter years, he devoted his life to A Faith That Does Justice, the interfaith organization he founded in 2015 in San Diego and subsequently moved to Boston. Its purpose: to provide those involved the tangible opportunities to put their faith into action.

Today, A Faith That Does Justice offers ESOL programs to immigrants and new migrants in Boston and two food programs, one for participants in the ESOL programs and the other for those experiencing homeless and/or food insecurity. Father Peter participated each week in the latter, purchasing the ingredients for sandwiches, assembling them and greeting each visitor personally. In addition, he offered a weekly Mass in Spanish to non-English speaking residents of Boston, followed by dinner; over time, participants created a close-knit community. Beyond these, A Faith That Does Justice offers a range of educational and faith-based programs to raise awareness of social justice issues.

As a Catholic priest in the Christian tradition, Father Peter was noted for his exceptional homilies, each delivered without notes or hesitation, educating participants in the liturgy about the historical context and spiritual meaning of the scriptures, before exhorting the congregation to put their faith into action. He often said, “Dogma and devotion are good, but they are insufficient without action.”

As in the Jewish tradition, Father Peter was an exemplar of Tikkun Olam, a concept that has come to connote the repair and improvement of the world. Like the great prophets, Father Peter could deliver harsh truths, to authorities, to his congregation and to public audiences. He did so with both confidence and compassion, seeking to inspire each person to seek opportunities to walk with love and solidarity with those who are suffering, with the ultimate goal of achieving justice.



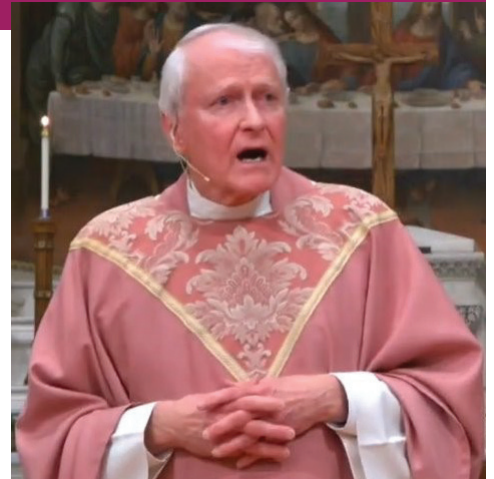
“Love is fulfilled in acts
of justice.”

~Peter Gyves, SJ, MD



Father Peter's success in recruiting such a diverse, accomplished and committed group of volunteers to A Faith That Does Justice flowed directly from his leadership style. He was, above all, a servant leader, putting the needs of others ahead of his own, and in the process he set a powerful example of the values and empathy he sought to instill in others,

Those who came to know Father Peter have been extraordinarily blessed by his life and his example. The volunteers of A Faith That Does Justice are deeply committed to carrying on his extraordinary legacy.



Father Peter: Student, Physician, Jesuit

The third of eleven children, Father Peter lived what he called a life of privilege, and he thrived in his pursuit of education. After years of study, during which he earned a BS from Boston College, an MD from Georgetown University, and an MA in Theology from Boston College, his education took a dramatically different course.

In 1989, while serving as a research scientist at the National Institutes of Health, a world away, six Jesuits and two female co-workers were assassinated in El Salvador, then in the midst of a civil war, for their work with and advocacy for the poor.



Father Peter was so profoundly moved by this injustice that he acted instinctively, traveling to El Salvador to join the Salvadoran people in their suffering and struggle for justice. His experience was transformational. In offering people health care and companionship in war zones and oppressed communities, Dr. Gyves acknowledged that he learned and received exponentially more in this role than from all his years of academic study. He realized, not just intellectually but viscerally, that the living conditions of most people in this world “prevent them from achieving their human potential or sharing fully in the abundance of God’s creation.”



This experience and the influence of his Jesuit education, which by then included a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Weston School of Theology and an MPH from Johns Hopkins University, ultimately let Dr. Gyves to join the Society of Jesus, known more familiarly as the Jesuits and in his founding and leadership of A Faith That Does Justice.

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

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

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
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
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., & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.
* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Hearing Assistance in Church

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

For Those with Celiac Disease

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

Building Accessibility

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

Parking

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

Baptism for Infants

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

Faith Formation for Children

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

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, MD 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 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.