



Church of Saint Cecilia

2357 Bayless Place • Saint Paul, MN 55114
651.644.4502
Fax 651.647.1445 • www.stceciliaspm.org

Weekly Masses:
Saturday 4:30 & Sunday 8:15 & 10:00
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45



Meinrad Craighead

Parish Staff

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Pastor

651.644.4502 x 14

pastor@stceciliaspm.org

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Rose Ryan

Maintenance Coordinator

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Trustees

Dick McCarthy 651.644.2831

Mary Ellen Ryan 651.746.9227

WELCOME

To join the parish,
please call the office at 651.644.4502,
or talk to one of the hospitality
ministers who greets you.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office is open

Monday-Thursday

9:00am to 4:00pm.

The Church of Saint Cecilia

Hamilton by Steve Claas

The d&#! U-Haul was in the alley again. It had been there—intermittently—for days, parked across from our garage, forcing me to make a 27-point turn to squeeze the Subaru in. I knew the crowd living in the rental across the alley hardly at all. We exchanged occasional hellos over trash bins. One guy's name was Dwayne. A woman lived upstairs. For years, a constant flux of different faces and cars came and went at all hours. They hung out in the alley and in a garage so packed with stuff, no car could fit. I harbored no ill will toward them, but they kept to themselves and so did I. They weren't like me, and maybe I was intimidated by them. But this U-Haul was causing legitimate grief; all I could think of was winter and the alley narrowed by piles of snow. I walked over and found a guy I had never spoken to. "Hey, I was wondering how long this truck was going to be here. It's hard to get our car in the garage."

Without hesitation the man replied, "Oh, we can park it on the street."
I'm not sure what response I was expecting, but that was not it. "Thanks," I muttered. "So, you guys moving?"

"The owner decided to sell," the man said. "I was going to buy the place, but... it didn't work out. I lost my daughter."

I was speechless as I tried to connect the dots. Did he just tell me his daughter died? Was the house haunted by painful memories? I wasn't even aware a child had been living there. I mumbled something about being sorry for his loss.

For the next 45 minutes, Hamilton, age 52, born in Guatemala, talked. We shivered in the alley as he held his phone in smudged hands and showed me hundreds of photos of his baby. He played videos of months-old Lizzy rolling on the floor, lost in a sea of toys. After we exhausted the cache of photos on his phone, he sprinted to the house to grab another with hundreds more.

I listened to his outpouring—struggling with his accent and his less-than-linear narrative—and managed to piece together the story: The baby was born in the house, in an upstairs bathtub. Mother and child were rushed to the hospital, eventually returned home, and for a few months all was well. But the unusual circumstances of the child's birth caught the attention of Child Protective Services, and Lizzy was placed in foster care while her parents took the necessary steps to demonstrate their fitness. The morning after the courts authorized the return of their child, they arrived at the foster home to find it surrounded by police cars and an ambulance. Six-month old Lizzy had asphyxiated in her crib the night before.

"Look," he said, pointing to the phone, "that was me just a few months ago. Now look at me." I did. The Hamilton in the photo had a smooth face and jet-black hair. The man in front of me had deep lines around his eyes, his hair now shot through with gray.

"CPS, the police . . . why don't they leave me alone?" He asked the question with such sad intensity, I was afraid he thought I actually had an answer. But he offered his own, "I'm a Hispanic man. I'm from a scary third-world country. I've caused some trouble, but I'm not bad. I spent two and a half years in the US Army—I've still got four bullets in me. I work hard. And I'm a good father."

I was overwhelmed with shame as I stepped through my back gate. All this suffering unfolding feet from my door and I had offered no words of comfort, no messages of hope, not even a lousy Minnesota hot dish. A vague and pernicious sense of "other" had crept into my view of the house next door, and with it came disgraceful ignorance and indifference.

I learned that before we can feed, clothe, comfort, or heal our neighbors, we need to risk more than an occasional hello.

Bulletin Deadline -Wednesday at 9:00am.
Email info. to bulletin@stceciliasp.org.

Prayer Ministry: If you have an intention you wish prayed for, please call Marge Virnig at 651.644.4502 ext. 12 or complete the form on our website.

Stewardship-Fiscal Year July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

As of September 30, 2017

September 30, 2017

Anticipated Collections	\$25,552.00
Actual Collections	\$25,340.78
Less :Actual Expenses	\$23,418.45
Actual Debt Payments	\$1,560.73
Balance	\$361.60

Year-to-Date

Anticipated Collections	\$76,656.00
Actual Collections	\$79,104.16
Less: Actual Expenses	\$79,224.42
Actual Debt Payments	\$4,622.38
Balance	(\$4,742.64)

Parish Bank Debt	\$118,295.33
Alms Box Balance as of Nov. 19	\$540.05

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, December 2, 4:30 pm

Cross:

Book: Scott S.

Candle:

Lectors: Mary V./Pat D.

Host: Geri J.

Cup: Dick M./Kate O.

Hospitality: Colette S.

Sacristan: Linda B.

Sunday, December 3, 8:15 am

Book: Jean W.

Lectors: Beth C./Steve C.

Host: Jeanne L.

Cup: Stacia P./Mary Pat R.

Sacristan: Pat K.

Sunday, December 3, 10:00 am

Cross:

Book: Jack S.

Candle:

Lector: Colleen S./Preethi T.

Host: Paul C.

Cup: Mary M./Mary Kay M.

Cup: Monica R./Maureen R.

Hospitality: Ken S. & Rosie F.

Sacristan: Julie M.

COMMUNITY NEWS

You're Invited to:
Advent Evensong
Sunday, December 3rd
7:00pm

Church of St. Cecilia

Please come join in singing the Psalms, "Tableprayer", "Magnificat" and more with the Choir, Cantors and Violins

A reception will follow
 All are welcome!

Caroling. Please come and share your gift of singing Christmas carols on Saturday, December 2nd, 6:00pm at the St. Anthony Park Nursing Home (2237 Commonwealth Ave.) Song sheets provided. Then join us afterwards at St. C's for **Game Night** at 7:00pm (please bring beverages/snacks to share).

Parishioner Published Book

Looking for a new Christmas story to share with kids? Parishioner Anne Neuberger's **THAT BABY IN THE MANGER**, recently published by Paraclete Press, is available through Amazon, or the author's website at www.anneneuberger.com. For PreK-Gr. 4, this picture book has been described as "a wonderful starting point for family discussions on race, ethnicity, and faith."

Flowers for the Christmas Season

We will decorate our sanctuary with flowers throughout the Christmas season. We invite you to make a donation for flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of someone special. Forms are available in the back of church and are to be returned to the parish office by Monday, December 11th if you would like your name with intention published in our Christmas program.

Marriage Enrichment. "We don't feel close anymore." "We only have time for the kids." "All you do is work." "You don't care about my dreams." Do you recognize yourself, or your spouse, in any of these statements? If so, Dr. John Gottman and his wife, Dr. Julie Schwartz Gottman, say you shouldn't be surprised. Read their book 10 Lessons to Transform Your Marriage available in our parish library.

Pope Francis Wants to Hear from Young People!

Young people (aged 16-29) regardless of how active you are in the practice of the faith, are invited to give online feedback as part of an international listening process that will help him and the world's bishops better understand the realities, hopes, and concerns of youth and young adults. You are invited to go online and fill out the Vatican survey: <http://youth.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html> (click on "Respond to the Questionnaire" then use the drop-down box in the upper right-hand corner to translate survey to English). The online survey is open until 11/30/17.

FAITH FORMATION

Advent Program & Young Voices Children's Choir Schedule

All practices will follow 10:00am Mass. Young Voices Choir will meet immediately following Mass in the choir rehearsal room. Advent program families can grab a quick donut and plan to meet at 11:15 in the church.

December 3rd - Second Practice & Young Voices Rehearsal

December 10th - Dress Rehearsal (Young voices will sing during Rehearsal)

December 17th - Advent program during 10:00am Mass.

Upcoming WCW Events - Join us!

All are welcome to join our adults for Meditative Yoga on Wednesday, November 29th and Wednesday, December 13th. We also invite you to join us for our Advent Party on Wednesday, December 20th. Potluck at 5:30pm, activities to follow at 6:15pm. Hope to see you there!

PARISH CALENDAR

Tue	7:00	Choir
Wed	10:30	Nursing Home Service
	5:30	WCW Potluck/Classes
Sat	11:00	Environment Advent Set Up
	6:00	Nursing Home Caroling
	7:00	Game Night
Sun		1st Sunday of Advent
		Giving Tree Gifts Due
	11:00	Immigrant Support TF
	11:15	Advent Prgm. Practice
	7:00	Advent Evensong



Gifts Due by Next Weekend!

Thank you to everyone who selected tags off the giving tree for the families at College Prep Elementary and Holy Rosary.

Please return the gifts to the link (unwrapped w/the gift tag securely fastened) by December 3rd.

Monetary donations are still being accepted which allows our team to purchase extra gifts (where needed) for the families. Checks payable to St. Cecilia Church with a notation of "Giving Tree" may be placed in the regular collection basket during Mass.

Thank you!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Monthly Sanctuary Prayer Vigil

The monthly prayer vigil held by the University Area Coalition of Sanctuary Churches, is scheduled for Sunday, December 3rd at 7:00pm at First Congregational United Church of Christ (500-8th Ave. SE, Mpls). Please join members from six different faith communities.

Monthly Task Force Meeting—

December 3rd. St. Cecilia's Immigration Support Task Force meets on Sunday, December 3rd, in the Soft Room ten minutes after the 10:00am Mass. All are welcome to attend to find out what's happening on immigration issues and the development of the statewide faith agenda. Questions? Bob Kessler at 651.334.2289 or email bobkessler45@gmail.com.

OUT AND ABOUT

Blue House Boutique. Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 9:00am-3:00pm, and Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 9:00am-1:00pm, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (2136 Carter Avenue)) will host the Blue House Boutique. All proceeds benefit the Blue House orphanage in Uganda, Africa. See www.Blue-House.org/boutique for info.

Hymn Numbers:
 574, 319, 35, 543, 723, 865