



# Church of Saint Cecilia

2357 Bayless Place • Saint Paul, MN 55114  
651.644.4502  
Fax 651.647.1445 • [www.stceciliaspm.org](http://www.stceciliaspm.org)

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



Lazarus, come out!

## WELCOME

To join the parish, please call  
the office at 651.644.4502.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
9:00am to 4:00pm

## PARISH STAFF

### John M. Hofstede

Pastor  
651.644.4502 x 14  
[pastor@stceciliaspm.org](mailto:pastor@stceciliaspm.org)

### Stephen Klein

Parish Operations Coordinator  
651.644.4502 x 18  
[stephen@stceciliaspm.org](mailto:stephen@stceciliaspm.org)

### Marge Virnig

Pastoral Associate  
651.644-4502 x 12  
[marge@stceciliaspm.org](mailto:marge@stceciliaspm.org)

### Jeanne Dold

Music Coordinator/Choir Director  
651.644.4502 x 15  
[jeanne@stceciliaspm.org](mailto:jeanne@stceciliaspm.org)

### Linda Whiteneck

Parish Administrative Assistant  
651.644.4502 x 10  
[linda@stceciliaspm.org](mailto:linda@stceciliaspm.org)

### Theresa O'Toole

Catechetical Ministry Coordinator  
651.644.4502 x 13  
[theresa@stceciliaspm.org](mailto:theresa@stceciliaspm.org)

### Barb Falardeau

Communications Coordinator  
651.644.4502 x 11  
[bulletin@stceciliaspm.org](mailto:bulletin@stceciliaspm.org)

### Rose Ryan

Maintenance Coordinator  
651.644.4502

## Trustees

Dick McCarthy 651.644.2831 & Mary Ellen Ryan 651.746.9227

## The Church of Saint Cecilia

### What does being a “good” Catholic look like in the time of the coronavirus? ...a pastor’s epistle

Our expectations about what we value and what we can safely do are forcing us to make some radical changes and adjustments to our behavior and thinking. Like you, I look for direction from medical and scientific authorities as well as our civil and religious leaders. Then the burden for each of us is to listen, interpret and apply responsibly as we are able. Sadly, the actions we have determined are central to our functioning as a church, namely assembling on the Lord’s Day, hearing the Word of God together and offering our prayer of the Eucharist which bids us to take and eat are those actions which will prove to be deadly.

As a sacramental church, we define ourselves by the ways we fully engage our bodies and our senses in communicating and experiencing the faith. Because we have created so many means to “go through the motions” of our faith expression, we have also discovered ways of *not* being fully present and aware when we are engaged in our practice. Someone wrote recently, “More than we think, we don’t know what else to do if we don’t do Mass, liturgy, adoration or catechism. In this Christianity of ‘doing’ things, are we not materialists of the interior life?”

Well before this crisis, though, I have felt that some of our members seem to have been increasingly determined that in order to “count” as a Catholic, the more pious practices one can pile on, the more one can be assured of true worthiness in God’s eyes. Once I’ve determined how satisfying those exercises can be, I can also proceed to determine that others who don’t do as I do are likewise less worthy. Perhaps as a church, we have developed a market for those who find security in knowing that tuning in to Relevant Radio, watching only EWTN, praying the Divine Chaplet—as nice as those things may be—are necessary components of being a valued member of the church. Whether we like it or not, the virus may either bring us back to the essentials of our faith or may accelerate the proliferation of private devotional practices to the detriment or our communal witness.

The values of the liturgical renewal which intended to foster “the full and active participation” of the faithful are in real danger of being supplanted by what I’ve experienced as an increasing cluttering of the liturgical environment and experience. I’ve felt this in recent years before the appearance of the virus. It seems we have the need to pack more things into the experience to assure ourselves that we are really doing something worthy or sacred. Of course, we have had all kinds of things in our historic and liturgical closets to draw from. From a “less is more” aesthetic, we have jumped fully to a “more is more” one.

The value of streaming the mass in our own church is not a satisfying substitute for being physically present with each other in making a live event of our speech, song and actions. I find it odd, though, that we feel the need to add private devotional prayers or activities into the recordings to suggest that they will enhance the value of what we’re being deprived of. I find it odd that at the end of a few of the recorded masses I’ve seen, some have felt the need to end the broadcast by bringing out a monstrance and placing it on the altar for a display of the reserved host, as if the “real presence” of the Eucharist is now being validated or enhanced by our viewing the host as an object.

The church has been attempting to help us grow in our awareness that we are nourished at the table of the Word *and* the table of the Eucharist. Because we have culturally privileged values that are private and personal over those that are communally held, we have also minimized the value of the assembled body as an expression of the real presence of Christ. Whatever in Word or Sacrament we have been commanded to “take and eat” is also what we are commissioned to support each other to share outside church

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### Stewardship-Fiscal Year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

#### Contributions Update:

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| December’s Budgeted Revenue | \$24,264.00  |
| Amount Received To Date     | \$32,667.38  |
| Remaining to Achieve Budget | \$(8,403.38) |

#### Financial Information ending

##### December 31:

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Anticipated Collections | \$195,740 |
|-------------------------|-----------|

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Actual Collections | \$185,943 |
|--------------------|-----------|

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Major Gifts | \$44,245 |
|-------------|----------|

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Building Fund Contributions | <u>\$12,840</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Total Income | \$243,028 |
|--------------|-----------|

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Budgeted Expenses | \$198,750 |
|-------------------|-----------|

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Actual Expenses | \$181,301 |
|-----------------|-----------|

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Major Repairs | \$8,499 |
|---------------|---------|

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Principal Payments on Debt | <u>\$7,682</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------|

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Total Expenditures | \$197,482 |
|--------------------|-----------|

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Revenue Over Expenses | \$45,546 |
|-----------------------|----------|

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Debt Outstanding | \$62,832 |
|------------------|----------|

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Alms Box Balance as of March 15 | \$722.13 |
|---------------------------------|----------|

### Scripture Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37: 12-14

*God will raise his people from the grave, place his spirit within them, and settle them upon their land.*

Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8.

***“With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.”***

Romans 8: 8-11

*The Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us and will bring our mortal bodies to new life.*

John 11: 1-45

*For God’s glory and for the sake of greater faith among his disciples. Jesus calls Lazarus back to life.*

### Recorded Sunday Liturgies

Our recorded liturgies will be available for viewing on Sundays by 11:00am. The link will be included in the weekly parish wide email or you may also find it on the homepage of our website at [www.stceciliaspj.org](http://www.stceciliaspj.org).

walls or private homes. In our relationships and in our engagement with our larger community and world we demonstrate how closely we are allied to the faith of our church in the ways we love each other.

A recent article brought home a few basic points: "Jesus is (already) present in us." "My room is the basic place of prayer." (Mt 6:5-6) and "Every table is a sacred place" where we are challenged to "*be eucharistic* (giving thanks and praise) *each day*." If we can't get to church, we can still be church.

John Hofstede

### Let's Stay in Touch

We plan to keep publishing our weekly parish bulletin during these difficult times. You'll find it posted on our website each week. We also plan to continue our weekly parish email. This is the best way for us to share links to our recorded Sunday Mass and Holy Day services and any other content of interest or importance that we can attach there.

You can help us spread the information by forwarding emails to those who may not yet be on our list. Tell anyone who wants to be on our list to send their email address to [bulletin@stceciliaspm.org](mailto:bulletin@stceciliaspm.org). If you or someone you know does not have a computer or email access, call the parish office and we will add them to a mailing list.

We may be reducing our office hours and taking other cost-cutting measures as we adjust to economic realities. Your on-going financial support is appreciated! The contributions you mail in or the commitment you make to sustain us through automatic withdrawal from your financial accounts will allow us to continue.

### Improving the quality of our recorded Liturgies

Thank you for the many responses and suggestions you've sent us. Please be aware that the camera and recording equipment we have do not interface well with the amplified sound in the church. Our camcorder, for example, does not have the capacity to receive an external audio source. We want to explore our options and the cost of upgrading or switching to other equipment/formats before we invest in them. The Liturgy is a live event and transferring it in an effective way that approximates our experience in real time will take us some time. If you have access to equipment or experience to share, send Theresa O'Toole an email. She is the most tech savvy on our staff. Meanwhile, we'll keep experimenting to make sharing this gift of the liturgy more worthwhile.

### Welcome Stephen Klein to our parish staff!

Our parish committee with members of our parish Finance Committee and Parish Community Council recently recommended the hiring of Stephen to fill our open position of Parish Operations Coordinator. I confirmed that appointment with a letter of acceptance. His official start date is April 1. Stephen worships (when we are able) with us at 8:15 and has an extensive history in church administration.

You may ask why are we proceeding now with this position. We will need his skills more than ever as we navigate these times of economic turmoil. Most of our staff is in the category of most in danger of being seriously affected by the virus due to our age. We are mainly partly part-timers who each handle different levers of our parish operations. It is important that we develop back-up strategies that will help us be nimble in adjusting to our future.

John Hofstede

### 'Come Join Us' — for Oktoberfest

Due to our current situation, we will postpone the parish event until next fall and will combine it with Oktoberfest. We will have much to celebrate! For now, stay home and stay safe.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### St Cecilia's Applied Research Project

The St. C's Parish Community Council and St. Cecilia Parish is participating in the University of St. Thomas' MBA Applied Business Research class for this spring. With our participation, four students are researching our demographics as a parish and the community that surrounds us. They are looking at current engagement and potential new members using scholarly research and journal articles, demographic information about our Twin Cities community, and interviews/focus groups of parish members and former parish members. In a few weeks, they will also be sending out a quantitative survey to all members of the parish with email addresses and paper copies for those who do not. We would appreciate participation in these efforts to help our parish understand our current state, future possibilities, and helping four students with their project. This research for St. C's will be presented at the Parish Assembly on June 14. Some people have been asked to be interviewed and some interviews have taken place. More interview subjects for parishioners under 40 who are active and inactive church goers are needed. If you have potential names to pass along for the project, including your own, or any questions about the research project, please send them to [info@stceciliaspm.org](mailto:info@stceciliaspm.org). All interviews and surveys are maintained by the utmost confidentiality and will be anonymous in the project presentation.

Thank you.

## PARISH CALENDAR

| Sun  | Fifth Sunday of Lent |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Prayer Ministry:</b> If you have an intention you wish prayed for, please call the parish office at 651.644.4502 or complete the form on our website (Community/Prayer Ministry tab). |                      |
| <b>Bulletin Deadline:</b> Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Email info to <a href="mailto:bulletin@stceciliaspm.org">bulletin@stceciliaspm.org</a> .  |                      |

**Hymn Numbers:**  
87, 195, 475 (vs. 1,4,5), 391, 871 (vs. 1, 2)