



# Welcome to Saint Cecilia's

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651.644.4502 [www.stceciliaspm.org](http://www.stceciliaspm.org)

**2017-2018**

## **PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the catholic community of St. Cecilia, as members of the Body of Christ, live the gospel of Jesus Christ in our daily lives by:

- Welcoming and respecting all people in their faith journey
- Praising God in worship and song
- Growing in faith, and
- Acting in charity and justice



Dear Friends,

This community of faith is richly blessed by all the people who make up its membership. We are glad you have chosen us and we hope you will find your faith life enriched and strengthened by your experience with us in worship, faith formation, outreach and fellowship.

In this booklet, please find overviews of our Community Service Teams and various ministry opportunities. If we are truly to be all that we can be as the Body of Christ, we need the gifts and contributions of every member of St. Cecilia's.

St. Cecilia's has experienced many changes over the years and that's a good thing because it means we aren't stagnant. Throughout the years, the essence of who we are has remained the same but the way we live it out will (and should) look different as we grow and mature as People of God – always in service to God's mission. Enclosed are a number of the ministries we've been a part of over the years.

If this sounds like the U.S. Catholic Bishops' document "Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium," that's good. It's a reminder that through baptism each of us is called to holiness, community, service and maturity. As a parish we continue to work at this through our commitment to excellence in ministry in the areas of Liturgy, Community, Social Justice and Faith Formation.

Your membership here is important to the continued growth and vitality of our parish. May you find both joy and satisfaction in sharing prayer, time, talent and your treasure with us. For that reason we will be asking for your gifts and talents at Pentecost where you will be able to sign up and share them with our community. However, IF you feel called upon to contribute sooner than that—feel free to contact the parish office and you will be directed to the right person.

If there is any way we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to ask. May God bless us all.

The Community Building Team

## WORSHIP

The Liturgy team's ministry is to nurture the worship life of the parish. It is responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating the liturgies, prayer, music and worship environment. The team is entrusted to recruit, train and schedule liturgical ministers. The Pastor and the Music Director are members of this team.

One of the key outcomes of the Second Vatican Council was the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. This document contains a strong affirmation of the importance of liturgy in the everyday life of the faithful and the importance of full and active participation in the liturgy by all members of the Church, lay as well as ordained. Our baptism calls us to active participation! It is both our right and our duty to actively engage in liturgical celebrations, enriching them as well as being enriched by them.

Many of our St. Cecilia parishioners cite the quality of Sunday liturgies and the special liturgies associated with feasts like Christmas, The Triduum and Easter as one of the things that draw them to this community. There are many opportunities for parishioners to become involved in the various aspects that contribute to the whole package of liturgy—the sights, sounds, smells, movements that foster our community prayer.

Please join us as we gather each weekend to celebrate the Lord's Day. Our weekend liturgies are Saturday at 4:30pm and Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 10:00. We are formed anew as a community of faith as we share the Word of God and are nourished together at the table of the Lord.

As the seasons unfold throughout the liturgical year, we observe the Church's Holy Days and Feasts at our special liturgies or at other prayer experiences such as All Souls' Evening Prayer, Thanksgiving Day Mass,

Advent Evensong or Lenten offerings such as Stations of the Cross and Taize Prayer.

Our intimate worship space provides a place for us to experience community and establish or renew our connection with each other. We strive to be a hospitable and inclusive community that involves parishioners of all ages. Our worship space is accessible to those with physical challenges and devices are available to assist those with hearing impairment. Hospitality gatherings after Masses provide time for further deepening of our relationships.

Our weekend Masses are also the occasion for communal celebrations of Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, RCIA and Confirmation Rites, Blessings and other moments that mark important transitions in the lives of our members and of the community as a whole.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Saturdays each week from 3:45 to 4:15pm, by special appointment, and at additional times during the seasons of Lent and Advent. The entrance to our Reconciliation room can be found in the southwest corner at the rear of our worship space.

Following are some ways to be involved in liturgy here at St. Cecilia's:

***Liturgy Team:*** This team oversees the overall worship life of the parish. Meetings are approximately eight times throughout the year to determine and evaluate the overall liturgical policies and direction of the parish, to do the major planning and preparation for the liturgical seasons and special liturgical celebrations, and to provide ongoing formation for our liturgical ministers and the parish community at large.

***Liturgical Ministers:*** Opportunities are available to serve as lector, Eucharistic minister, cross, book or candle bearers, hospitality minister or sacristan. Training is provided for each of these.

**Environment Team:** This dedicated group of people meets regularly to reflect on the Sunday readings and then coordinate the environment in our worship space to set the tone for our prayer.

## **LITURGICAL MUSIC MINISTRIES**

Sacred song forms a necessary and integral part of the solemn Liturgy, as stated in the church document *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

**Assembly:** The role of the assembly is especially important and is one of the primary ways that the assembly of faithful participates actively in the Liturgy (*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*). As our predecessors did, we take part by singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*). The quality of our participation in such sung praise comes less from our vocal ability than from the desire of our hearts to sing together of our love for God. This common sung expression of faith strengthens our faith when it grows weak and draws us into the divinely inspired voice of the Church at prayer. The whole assembly is actively involved in the music of the Liturgy. St. Cecilia is the Patron Saint of music and we “praise God in worship and song” as stated in our Parish Mission Statement

**Adult Choir Ministers:** As disciples and members of the community, Adult Choir members worship with the assembly, share their faith, serve the community, and express the love of God and neighbor through music. The Adult Choir leads the singing at the 10:00 AM liturgies from September through Pentecost and at other special liturgies throughout the year. They rehearse on Tuesday evenings and on Sunday mornings.

**Cantors:** As with Choir Ministers, Cantors belong to the assembly of the baptized faithful and worship with the assembly at various Masses. They help the assembly to join themselves with the action of Christ and to give voice to the gift of faith through sung prayer. Cantors prepare the music given to them by the Music Director and rehearse before each scheduled Mass throughout the year.

***Instrumentalists:*** Musical instruments in the Liturgy are best understood as an extension of and support to the primary liturgical instrument, which is the human voice. Instrumentalists rehearse the music given to them by the Music Director and then come together for one or more rehearsals before special liturgies.

***Nursing Home Musicians:*** Instrumentalists and singers join residents of the St. Anthony Park Home to celebrate liturgies every other month on Wednesdays throughout the year. They prepare music given to them by the Music Director.

***Youth Musicians:*** When numbers allow, our youth sing at the Advent program each year and for the evening Ash Wednesday service. There are 2-3 rehearsals after the Sunday 10:00 am Masses prior to singing. Youth musicians are also encouraged to participate in any of the other Music Ministries.

***Faith Formation Musicians:*** Instrumentalists and singers occasionally lead the sung prayer at Faith Formation prayer services on Wednesday evenings and for Living Stations.

## **SACRAMENTAL POLICIES**

***Baptism:*** Baptism is the sacrament by which we become members of the church, and so is the basis for all that follows in the life of a Christian. We feel it is so important to understand the nature and implications of this fundamental event that we require attendance at classes held three times each year in preparation of baptism. Communal celebration of this sacrament—at one of our usual weekend Masses—is our normal practice, because in baptism a person enters not only the Church at large, but also our local church and community of St. Cecilia. It is a joyful community event.

***Reconciliation/First Eucharist:*** We typically begin sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and First Eucharist during the child's

second grade year, but can make arrangements to accommodate children of all ages. In addition to regularly scheduled sessions, our preparation programs include retreats and possibly additional sessions to ensure that the necessary material is covered.

**Confirmation:** Our current policy is to offer Confirmation preparation every other year to youth candidates in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. Preparation takes place during our Whole Community Wednesday program from late September to early May. The Confirmation Mass is held at the Cathedral of St. Paul in the spring.

**Marriage:** The Sacrament of Matrimony normally requires a great deal of preparation, even as it relates to Catholic Canon Law and practice. We ask at least six months' notice to be able to fit the event into our parish schedule and complete the normal instructional program. Because marriage has such important social implications, we feel that a couple should be married in the midst of their relatives and friends, and so we require that one of the partners be a member of St. Cecilia's community of at least three months' standing.

**RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program of preparation for adults who wish to become Catholic through the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. Normally this program is held during the fall and winter months leading up to baptism and confirmation at the Easter Vigil in the spring.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

From time to time each of us could benefit from someone walking alongside us during various periods and transitions in our lives, whether it be illness, grief, empty nest, job loss, etc. Some of our offerings include:

**Home Visits for Communion or Anointing:** This sacrament is not reserved only for those in danger of death. If you or someone you know is homebound, hospitalized, facing surgery or other traumas and would



like a pastoral visit, whether it's bringing communion, anointing of the sick, or a BeFriender visit, please contact our Pastoral Associate at 651.644.4502 to arrange for a visitor. Please note that our Pastor is part time, but our Pastoral Associate and office staff are available to coordinate visiting schedules.

***BeFrienders:*** This is a parish based ecumenical program that trains lay people to respond, in the name of the parish community, to the emotional and spiritual needs of individuals. The role of the BeFriender is to listen and care, not to preach, teach, judge or advise. They accept people as they are without telling them how they ought to be; they realize that life can be burdensome and they listen with compassion without giving advice. Contact the Pastoral Associate for more information about BeFriender Ministry.

***Nursing Home:*** Join us each Wednesday at St. Anthony Park Nursing Home at 2237 Commonwealth Avenue in St. Anthony Park. We celebrate a scripture/communion service most Wednesdays and Mass on a bi-monthly schedule. We also welcome you to join a group who brings communion to the residents on Sunday mornings. During Advent we gather for an evening of caroling and refreshments with the residents. This date is determined in the fall and published in the parish bulletin for those who are able to participate.

***Funeral Planning:*** For funeral planning please contact our Pastoral Associate at 651.644.4502.

***Prayer Ministry:*** If you have an intention you wish prayed for, please contact the parish office at 651.644.4502. We are in the process of looking at various ways we can show we care through prayer while honoring and maintaining individual's privacy.

## **OUTREACH/SOCIAL JUSTICE**

The Social Justice Team's ministry is to educate the parish in matters of social justice and to provide parishioners with opportunities to engage in social justice work and other outreach activities. The team is responsible for recommending charitable contributions, organizing the parish's involvement with various outreach ministries, and sharing information on a wide variety of justice issues.

We come to Mass, we participate in the wonderful liturgy, have great music, and hear the words "The Mass is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Then what? We go out into the world. It might be back home to family, or home to peace and quiet, or back to work. Are we different because of our time of gathering, of prayer, of sharing the banquet?

To act justly. To love tenderly. To walk humbly with our God. These words from the prophet Micah and so many other references in the Bible help us know how to be. We are challenged to live the Gospel in our daily lives, and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (sometimes called the best kept secret of the Catholic Church) are there.

We stand for the dignity of everyone. Every one. We know that we're supposed to love our neighbor, and understand that it means not just the ones in Saint Paul or South Minneapolis, but also our neighbors in Syria and Sudan. What happens to the "widows, orphans and strangers" matters, and we can't let others forget that. We recognize the value of the common good – we are in this together. We care about the gift of Creation and what happens to this world. It's about working for change of systems (poor working conditions, people not making a living wage, systems allowing torture) when the current system affects human life and human dignity. It's about peace—collaboration. It's all this, and more.

This is social justice. This is what we are called to do in our lives and as a faith community. It's everyone's work. Sometimes it's prayer. Sometimes it's food or clothing, or packing meals, or helping out at Project Home (temporary housing for families). It might be caroling at the nursing home. It might be writing letters or calling a legislator about immigration issues in Minnesota, or advocating for education. It might even be meeting with a legislator. It might be learning about what we can do about domestic violence – and doing something! It's volunteering at Habitat. It's making a choice to drive less and help the planet. It could be a donation to the Alms Box. It's all this, and more.

At St. Cecilia's –everyone is called to do justice.

There is also a Social Justice team – a group of thoughtful people who are interested in helping the parish in its own activities of charity and justice. It may include learning more about issues, serving as a sounding board for people with ideas for projects that might involve the parish, advising parish council and staff. All wisdom, questions and ideas are welcome.

As individuals or families, members of our community are active in local neighborhood organizations or schools. Acting together, we respond to needs in our larger metropolitan community or issues that impact us globally. St. Cecilia's provides a variety of opportunities for us to support each other as faithful citizens and stewards of the world's resources.

With the larger church, we also share our resources to promote justice through the American Bishop's Campaign for Human Development and global emergency response through Catholic Relief Services.

Under our Social Justice umbrella you will find a balance of works of charity that provide immediate relief and justice opportunities that work to change the societal structures that allow inequities to exist. Our charity and justice activities are based on the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Here are some of the things we are involved in:

***Sowers of Justice:*** This is a faith based action oriented network whose members work to make a difference by taking collective action that produces real and lasting change. Communicate with legislators to advocate for systemic change to address issues such as health care, poverty, affordable housing, immigration, etc. Check our website for information and links to Catholic Charities in order to join the network.

***Loaves and Fishes:*** We prepare and serve a hot meal at the Dorothy Day Center six times each year.

***Habitat for Humanity:*** Each year, St. Cecilia partners with St. Frances Cabrini, Prospect Park United Methodist Church and Habitat for Humanity. As Habitat's mission states, "we aim to eliminate poverty housing and make safe and affordable housing as a matter of conscience."

**Purpose of Positions:**

1. To help build or rehabilitate a home for a family to purchase.
2. To provide support to the construction team by providing food on site.
3. To support the housing building mission by volunteering throughout the year at one of the two Habitat for Humanity ReStore retail outlets.

**Responsibilities:**

1. Construction volunteers will, under supervision, do on-site laborer work (i.e., painting, roofing, caulking, hauling, etc.)
2. Food volunteers will bring food (home-made or donated) to the construction site for volunteers.
3. Photographer/bulletin board display volunteer.
4. ReStore volunteers serve as cashiers, stock clerks, and donation solicitors.

Qualifications:

1. Interested in providing affordable housing to families in need.
2. Enjoys working on a construction team and learning new skills.
3. No construction experience is required.
4. Retail or marketing experience desired but not essential.

Amount of Time Required:

1. One or more work days during two weeks in the summer (hours are 8:30am-4:00pm).
2. Working one or more four hour shifts a week on a regular or semi-regular basis.

When Ministry is Performed:

1. Monday through Friday, during the summer, usually in late July/early August.
2. Two-day indoor construction project will happen in January or February.
3. Any morning or afternoon shift throughout the year from Tuesday through Saturday.

Length of Commitment:

1. One or more days on construction projects.
2. At least one four hour shift a week for retail service.

Training Provided:

1. Provided onsite by supervisor or others in your construction work crew.
2. Training provided by Habitat ReStore regular staff.

Responsible To:

For construction projects: The site supervisor; Habitat coordinator, food coordinator; and for retail work the ReStore volunteer coordinator and ReStore manager.

Support Provided by:

The appreciation of other volunteers, the Habitat volunteer coordinator, the ReStore manager, the St. Cecilia Social Justice Team, and the people you serve.

***Domestic Violence Education and Awareness:*** St. Cecilia's DVEA group meets monthly to address issues surrounding domestic violence. Throughout the year the team hosts speakers as well as promoting action and awareness to assist those who are victims of domestic violence. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Check out our website for more in-depth information.

***Meals on Wheels:*** Meals on Wheels can help you or your loved one remain independent and living at home. Besides receiving a nutritious meal, Meals on Wheels recipients enjoy daily contact with trained volunteers and a connection to the world outside their home. Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver meals to individuals in St. Anthony Park once a month for a two hour shift. The office can direct you to the Meals on Wheels neighborhood organization.

***Project Home:*** Project Home is a program of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches (SPACC) in which dozens of area churches, synagogues and schools donate space each month to provide hospitality for temporarily homeless families. During the month of August we join with St. Anthony Park churches to work with families in need. Evening and overnight volunteer shifts are available.

***Giving Tree:*** Through the Holiday Giving Tree you can provide special holiday gifts to families in our community, many of whom are immigrants. Family/individual names are available for selecting from the tree in the Link (connecting the parish offices to the church) beginning in November. A suggested gift request is available on the tag to assist in your gift giving. Bring your unwrapped gift to the parish by the date specified in order to have it delivered in time for the holidays.

**Alms Box:** The Alms Box is located in the vestibule of the church on the left side of the door as you enter. The cash donations deposited are immediately turned into assistance to those who are destitute. Our policy is not to give cash, but we do provide cards for groceries. Our faith calls us to remember the most vulnerable among us – contributing to the Alms Box is one way to do this. It is also an opportunity to model for our young people and each other the responsibility and privilege we have to care for those less fortunate.

**Ongoing Collections:** Here at St. Cecilia's we have collection bins available for recycling specific items, as well as an ongoing food collection to benefit our neighborhood food shelf. The following items may be dropped off in the entry at the lower level.

- **Children's Books:** Elementary (pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) new and/or gently read books are needed to provide for the students at College Prep Elementary to keep them reading over the summer months. College Prep Elementary is a charter school in our area that serves immigrant children.
- **Clothing:** Gently used clean clothing, shoes, belts and purses are collected and distributed to Joseph's Coat and Hallie Q. Brown Community Center Clothing Closet.
- **Household Items:** Dishes, pots and pans and kitchen utensils are collected and delivered to Bridging (an organization that provides items free of charge to people in need). If you have furniture or other larger household items, please see the information available on the bulletin board in the Link.
- **Food Shelf:** Donations of nonperishable food and toiletries are needed on a regular basis to help those in needs. If you're at the grocery store, consider picking up an extra item to drop in the St. C's collection bin. All donations are delivered to Keystone Community Services.
- **Cell Phones:** Secure the Call Foundation collects unneeded cell phones and reprograms them to be used as free 911 emergency phones. The phones are distributed to domestic violence shelters,

neighborhood watch groups and other agencies with an immediate need for 911 access (chargers and accessories are not needed).

- **Batteries:** Rechargeable, button and alkaline batteries are accepted. Plastic bags are available in the bin for you to place your batteries in.
- **Ink/Toner Cartridges:** Black and color ink/toner cartridges are accepted.

## FORMATION

Our faith formation is structured around the following groups:

***Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) for children 3-6:*** CGS is offered to children who are 3, 4 or 5 by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Children and catechists meet 3-4 times per month during the 10:00am Mass. Classes begin in September and end on Pentecost Sunday. The CGS program operates on a belief that the very young child has been in a relationship with God since birth. Therefore the work of the catechist is to simply support that relationship as it grows. -Students learn about Jesus' life in order to help foster a relationship with Him. Children learn first by observing and then by doing. Children learn in an ordered environment that encourages self-discipline and exploration. The enforcement is designed to encourage children to make their own work choices. - The Atrium, or classroom, is designed to encourage children to make their own work choices. Questions are encouraged but not always answered.

Some of the CGS presentations include prayer, liturgical seasons and their colors, gestures, words and articles used during Mass, sacrament of baptism, kingdom parable and the parable of the Good Shepherd, geography of the Holy Land, infancy and paschal narratives, and celebrations of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

***Elementary and Middle School:*** We offer intergenerational and small group formation activities for every member of the parish including students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades. We gather three Wednesday evenings



each month from late September to early May. We begin the session with a potluck meal and share in prayer and fellowship. During two of these sessions we break into small groups following the meal for faith formation sessions. The children meet with a catechist and focus on the Standards for Religious Education from the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. Once a month we gather to take part in a large group activity. This may include a prayer experience, a service project or a community building activity. We also offer sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. See the Sacraments section for more information.

Some of the offerings for this age group are a Christmas presentation, Living Stations during Lent, and a May Crowning in May.

**Youth Ministry:** Our Youth Group is open to students from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades for faith-based discussion, service projects, fundraising, and fun. We generally meet once a month on the second Sunday around 5:30pm to 7:30pm for dinner and discussions (either at St. Cecilia's or in a home), and once a month for a service project, with times scheduled to accommodate the project and general availability. We typically meet from October to May, with at least one mission trip to St. Mary's Mission on the Red Lake Reservation each summer. For more information or to join, please contact the parish office.

**Adult Faith Formation:** Some of the opportunities we offer for adult faith formation include:

- **Sunday Forums:** One Sunday each month after the 10:00am Mass we invite a speaker to come and present on a topic issue with time for discussion and questions. Some of the topics have included The Joy of the Gospel, the constitutions and decrees of Vatican II, Voting Our Conscience, Christian/Muslim Dialog, The Year of Mercy in Luke's Gospel, and the Year of Mercy in the Hebrew Scriptures, etc. This year we hope to spend the year on Conscience Formation and how to ask the "right" questions.

- **Movie Nights:** One Saturday evening a month we gather after the 4:30 Mass for a light supper and a movie. After the movie we share reflections and conversation about faith issues that we noticed. We try to use contemporary movies so we can “practice” faith reflection in our everyday lives.
- **Just Faith:** This year we will participate in two separate eight week Just Faith Modules – one on Immigration issues and one on Christian/Muslim dialog.
- **Small Group and Book Club:** Sticking with our theme of conscience formation we will offer small group discussion and book studies.

**Parish Library:** St. Cecilia’s parish library is located in the upper level of the Link (connecting the parish offices to the church). The library is open year round and you are encouraged to take home whatever appeals to you and bring it back when finished. We have books on scripture, social justice, sacraments, holy men and women, inspiration, and church history, just to name a few of the categories. During the seasons of Advent and Lent, we have special displays set up with suggested reading materials. Every two or three years we put together a book sale to raise funds. We also accept donations – if there are duplicates or books that can’t be used, we will donate them to the prisons and/or to a nursing home in the heart of St. Paul that serves many low income accident victims and elderly citizens. We welcome you to stop by and peruse the many offerings. We ask for your suggestions, ideas, and ways to improve our collection.

## COMMUNITY

Community spirit is developed and promoted among parishioners by sponsoring shared meals, seasonal celebrations and other activities that bring members of the community together to share good times, support and to get to know one another. We gather after our Sunday Masses in our Fellowship Hall for coffee and donuts most of the year. Potluck

brunches are shared periodically to welcome new members. Special celebrations occur at various points in the year's calendar that promote our growth as a community to help us support and encourage each other as people engaged in a common mission.

You aren't going to want to miss the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil repast complete with hummus either!

***Community Building Team:*** The ministry of this group is to recognize and identify the gifts and charisms of parishioners, as individuals and as church, and to empower each person to use his or her time, talent and treasure in service and gratitude. We believe in, and depend on, the ministry of all the baptized, and need everyone's gifts to make us the vibrant parish we are called to be. This team is responsible for conducting an annual survey of service opportunities and parishioner interests, and for working with individuals who wish to share their talents with the community of St. Cecilia's and beyond.

St. Cecilia's has a long history of parishioner involvement and we're grateful for this. Ministry forms are available for you to complete and indicate areas where you are interested in serving. All the members of the Community Building team take responsibility for this ministry. You can get contact information by calling the parish office at 651.644.4502.

***Community Events:*** The Community Events Group promotes fellowship among parishioners and coordinates various social gatherings throughout the year that bring members of the community together to get to know each other and share good times.

***Annual Parish Event:*** Our annual parish event is a great opportunity for parishioners to come together to build community with each other as well as welcome guests, share a meal, eat some pie and have a great social time. Besides dinner, there's a great silent auction, a raffle and games for kids. It's a good time of conversation, celebration and an opportunity to meet those folks who attend one of the other weekend

Masses. The event now finds its home on the last Sunday in April each year.

**Coffee and Donuts:** Hospitality follows our 8:15 and 10:00am Sunday Masses in Fellowship Hall. We invite you to join us. Coffee and donuts are served from September through May and cookies along with lemonade and coffee is served during the summer months. Volunteer hosts are needed. We have a signup sheet posted on the kitchen door in Fellowship Hall. Directions for hosting are posted in the kitchen. We're talking maple glazed donuts (oh my!) and even some chocolate ones with sprinkles. You know you want to sign up, so contact the parish office or just put your name on the sheet in Fellowship Hall. See you on Sunday!

**Funeral Lunch Ministry:** Volunteers are needed as we prepare to bury our dead. The funeral lunch meals are now catered but help is needed in setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Many of those who are honored this way are those we sat next to or shared communion with or worked together on one project or another. Here at St. Cecilia's we're small enough to get to know each other and look forward to doing it.

**Catholic School Parents' Association:** If you are sending your child(ren) to a Catholic K-8 school, the St. Cecilia's Catholic School Parents' Association invites you to become a member. Since our school closed, we at St. Cecilia's have maintained a commitment to Catholic Schools. The purpose of CSPA is to provide families of the parish an opportunity for a grant program to offset their tuition costs. CSPA families must be registered and contributing members of the parish. Parents must identify themselves and join the CSPA. Call the office with any questions or to join.

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** There is a weekly AA meeting at St. Cecilia's at 7:30pm on Thursday evenings. For more information contact the parish office at 651.644.4502.

**Marriage Enrichment:** This is a monthly support and enrichment program designed for couples who have a good marriage and want to

make it better; for couples whose marriage needs a little extra attention; and for couples who are experiencing some of the challenges that accompany every normal marriage.

The purpose is to encourage and enrich one another by our presence and by sharing the wisdom gained from our experience as married persons. None of us is an expert and none of us has a perfect marriage. We are married people who share common experiences, common problems, common hopes, and common fears. We believe that every couple needs encouragement and support and that a good marriage takes time, attention and tender loving care.

The group meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm. There is no registration fee. Married couples may attend regularly each month or occasionally from time to time depending on their availability and interest.

## **PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

St. Cecilia's has long had a Parish Council which collaborated with the Pastor in developing the Parish Mission Statement and overseeing its implementation through various committees and organizations. The current parish community council (PCC) was established in 2015 with a smaller leadership board of five total members. The Council meets most months along with the Pastor and the two parish trustees.

Another responsibility began in 2016—creation of a yearly parish assembly. Ideas that arose from our last assembly in June 2017 may be pursued and acted upon. The next parish assembly will likely be held in June of 2018—date to be confirmed later.

If you are committed to the immediate and future vitality of the parish, as outlined in the parish mission statement, and are interested in parish activities along with visioning and management and are able to work as part of a team, consider submitting your name. When positions become available we use a parish community sign up and selections are made by discernment process for a 2 or 3 year term.

**Finance Team:** The parish Finance Team develops the parish budget and reviews adherence to it. In managing all parish assets there is a goal to create a sub team to oversee the parish building and grounds. Please go to the parish website to see our usual and customary expenses.

### ***Parish Support Options***

- **AHC:** The Church of St. Cecilia encourages its parishioners to take advantage of the option to debit their checking or savings accounts each month for their regular contribution to the operating budget of the parish or the building fund. To accomplish this, please complete the direct deposit form and return it to the parish office at 2357 Bayless Place, St. Paul, MN 55114. Call the office at 651.644.4502 to obtain forms or download one from the website.
- **Electronic Funds Transfer:** Most banking institutions have a process by which you can authorize them to issue a check to St. Cecilia or in some cases an electronic funds transfer to St. Cecilia's operating account. You should make contact with your bank if you wish to do this. You can contact the Administrative Assistant in the parish office to obtain the bank routing number and account number for the appropriate St. Cecilia account to do the electronic funds transfer.
- **Parish Offering Envelopes:** Contribution envelopes are provided through periodic mailings to registered parishioners who do not choose the Direct Deposit or Electronic Funds Transfer methods but prefer to make their contributions during the offertory collection at Mass.
- **Planned Giving:** You don't need to be wealthy to include the Church of St. Cecilia in your plans for your estate. One option is to list the parish as the beneficiary of a percentage or specific dollar amount of your retirement plan, IRA or life insurance policy. Another option is to remember the parish through a gift in your will or revocable trust. Individuals with more substantial means might consider establishing a charitable trust or annuity. Talk with your estate planning attorney to determine the best option for

you and your family. Provide your attorney with the following information: Legal name: St. Cecilia Catholic Church. Federal Tax ID Number 41-0829141. The Church of St. Cecilia is a not for profit incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota with its primary office located at 2357 Bayless Place, St. Paul, MN 55114.

## **OUR HISTORY AND OUR FUTURE**

The St. Paul neighborhood now known as South St. Anthony Park was first settled in the 1880's. Catholics living in the park walked to St. Mark's Parish for Mass. In 1908 the "Catholic Mission of St. Anthony Park" was founded from St. Mark's and Sunday Mass was celebrated in the Odd Fellows Hall at 977 Raymond Avenue with priests from St. Mark's presiding. In July 1912, the Rev. Francis X. McDermott was appointed pastor of the newly constituted "Church of St. Cecilia." In May of 1913 the first Mass was celebrated in the new church building which is still serving our parish today. Archbishop John Ireland dedicated the Church of St. Cecilia on October 12, 1913. The first rectory was purchased in 1915 at 2350 Bayless Place. In 1919 the rectory was sold and the home at 923 Bayless Avenue became the new rectory in 1974.

Since the early days of the mission, deacons from the newly named Saint Paul Seminary came weekly to teach Sunday school. They continued to do so until the fall of 1915 when the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet took responsibility for the religious education of the children. The church built and opened St. Cecilia's school in 1924. The school closed in 1968.

The first and second world wars as well as the depression in the 30's had a dramatic effect on the small parish. In 1938 when the church celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year there was no joy to celebrate. In the 1950-60's the parish was to change even more with the development of industry in

the Twin Cities Midway area that dramatically changed the neighborhood's complexion.

The growth of the automobile and other motorized vehicles brought development to the surrounding area and nearby University Avenue was lined with dealerships and production facilities. The urban centers of Minneapolis and St. Paul continued to grow and reach their population peak in the post WWII fifties and early sixties. An era of change in the 1960's meant population shifts and the growth of suburbs. That dramatic change was also experienced and amplified within the Catholic Church with the Vatican Council II.

Changes in familiar religious structures and practice begun in this era continue to influence parish life and affiliation. For some these have been a source of dismay, disruption and displacement. For others, a new awakening and awareness of the riches of our faith tradition has emerged as well as the challenge to find new ways to form and build communities of faith.

The largely European immigrant groups that built our cities and parishes have largely moved on. Our area is quickly becoming populated by a richly diverse population reflecting the world's colors, races and languages. Bringing and receiving the Gospel values reflected in these peoples remain our mission as we face the future.

Our community has been nourished culturally and educationally by its close proximity to both the Twin Cities campuses of the University of Minnesota. Also nearby are the Catholic university campuses of St. Thomas and St. Catherine and the other nearby private colleges, universities and seminaries that continue to provide resources that enhance our membership.

The clergy and religious serving St. Cecilia's parish (which has always had a relatively small population by comparison to its larger neighbors) have generally also served in some additional capacity in other agencies or ministries of our local church or educational community. This has



meant the need for lay community members to play an active role. Lay leadership, then, remains crucial in providing on-going parish vitality.

While our parish members are drawn from many urban neighborhoods of St. Paul and Minneapolis as well as the suburbs, our church is rooted in our St. Anthony Park community. With ready access to the metro freeway system and the completion of the nearby Green Line light rail, a new era of development has been sparked. We are seeing greatly expanding housing density, the arrival of new retail and entertainment venues and a changing technology and service corridor that is replacing the industrial and manufacturing sites that once characterized our area.

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