



# Church of Saint Cecilia

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

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

## Parish Staff

### Fr. John M. Hofstede

Pastor

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

### Stephen Klein

Parish Operations Coordinator

651.644.4502 x 18  
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### Marge Virnig

Pastoral Associate

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### Linda Whiteneck

Parish Administrative Assistant

651.644.4502 x 10  
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### Jeanne Dold

Music Coordinator/Choir Director

651.644.4502 x 15  
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### Theresa O'Toole

Catechetical Ministry Coordinator

651.644.4502 x 13  
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### Barb Falardeau

Communications Coordinator

651.644.4502 x 11  
[bulletin@stceciliaspn.org](mailto:bulletin@stceciliaspn.org)

### Rose Ryan

Maintenance Coordinator

651.644.4502

### Trustees

Dick McCarthy 651.644.2831

Mary Ellen Ryan 651.746.9227



## Recorded Sunday Liturgies

Our recorded liturgies will be available for viewing late Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings. 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.stceciliaspn.org](http://www.stceciliaspn.org).

## WELCOME

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

## TEMPORARY PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 10:00am to 1:00pm



## The Church of Saint Cecilia

**Foreword to *Still Lives*  
April 26th  
New York Times Special Section**

By Dan Barry

THIS is against our nature: We are meant to be together. Blending voices in worship and clinking glasses in taverns. Line dancing at weddings and standing in line at wakes. High-fiving at ballgames, applauding shamelessly at school concerts, moving as one in packed subways lurching forward.

But a contagious virus, able to transmit death through touch and breath, has forced us to suppress our social tendencies. So we shelter in place, maybe with family or a friend, not knowing when we will breathe freely again. Not knowing when an unmasking will reveal smiles.

It can seem as if time itself has been altered. March vanished into April, which is disappearing into May, with not even the day of the week always clear. The rituals by which we normally mark these days—the proms and graduations, the tournaments and parades—have been cancelled or postponed, inviting anxieties to fill the void.

Will my family be alright? Will I be all right? When will this end? Will it end? And if it does, will life ever be as it was?

But time does not pause. Its petals unfold as always, only now we have the time—yes, the time—to notice what flourishes around us.

The bunny slippers of a child. The belly of an expectant mother. The blurred red of a cardinal in flight. The yellow burst of forsythia against the gray vestiges of winter. A small boy at lakeside, saying he has never felt so alive.

In this unnatural state of isolation, these are the things that bind.

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

**Financial Information ending  
March 31:**

Anticipated Collections	\$272,080
Actual Collections	\$261,006
Major Gifts	\$53,749
Building Fund Contributions	\$15,485
Other Revenues	<u>\$10,630</u>
Total Income	\$340,870
Budgeted Expenses	\$298,875
Actual Expenses	\$270,558
Major Repairs	\$8,499
Principal Payments on Debt	<u>\$11,635</u>
Total Expenditures	\$290,692
Revenue Over Expenses	\$50,177
Debt Outstanding	\$58,879
Alms Box Balance as of April 26	\$1,733.13

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14, 36-41

*Peter, on Pentecost, preaches that "the whole house of Israel should know...that God has made both Lord and Messiah this Jesus whom you crucified." The people must reform and be baptized.*

Psalm (22)23, 14, 1-3, 3-4, 5, 6.

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1 Peter 2: 20-25

*Peter continues his baptismal instruction that the newly baptized follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who brought our sins to the cross. By his wounds we are healed.*

John 10: 1-10

*The opening section of John's well-known "Good Shepherd" discourse. Jesus is the shepherd whose sheep go in and out for pasture.*

**Events Cancelled**

- Nursing Home Mass/Services until further notice
- May 5th Knitting Group
- All Faith Formation activities through the end of the program year (May)
- Choir Rehearsals until further notice



**First Eucharist**

*Our second graders will be receiving the sacrament of First Eucharist one at a time at the recorded Masses over the next few months.*

Congratulations to

**Thomas O.**

(Parents, Kevin & Theresa O.)

who is celebrating the Sacrament of First Eucharist and joining us at the Lord's table.

**PARISH CALENDAR**

Thur	5:00	Finance (tentative)
	6:00	Parish Community Council (tentative)
Sat/Sun		Food Drive

**Prayer Ministry:** 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).

**Bulletin Deadline:** Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Email info to [bulletin@stceciliaspam.org](mailto:bulletin@stceciliaspam.org).



### Reflections on the Gospel Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

Art Zannoni

*It is suggested that you read John 10:1-10*

Today's Gospel reading is not a resurrection story. Instead, it is "a figure of speech." In John's Gospel, there are no parables, as are found in the other three Gospels. For today's Gospel passage, the Fourth Gospel uses a technical Greek word *paroimia*, meaning "a figure of speech." It is sort of a way of talking about things.

Also, we encounter twice the words "*Amen, Amen, I say to you.*" It can also be translated as "very truly I tell you." The obvious implication being that what Jesus is saying is the truth. Earlier in the Gospel of John, we learn from Jesus, "*And you will know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" (8:32)

#### Images in the Story

The three images in the story are the shepherd, the sheep, and the gate. Since practically none of us have experienced a shepherd and sheep, we need to have some background information about these "figures of speech."

It is good to remember that the imagery of sheep and shepherds appears quite frequently in the Bible. Shepherds keeping watch over their flocks would have been a common sight in the ancient land of Israel and stories in the Bible. Many of the patriarchs of ancient Israel were shepherders, including Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as well as king David and Moses. Moses meets God in the burning bush "*while tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro.*"

The Bible applies the image of the attentive shepherd to God caring for his flock understood as the people of God in Psalm 23, "*The Lord is my shepherd...*" It also applies this image of the shepherd to Israel's kings and other religious leaders, who were to be shepherds of their people, just as God was. But not all of them were. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus is confronting the Pharisees on not being good shepherds of the people of God. Jesus is not anti-Semitic, just critical of their ministerial style.

By contrast, Jesus, most notably in the Gospel of John, is imaged as the Good Shepherd. He is so described in the next verse that follows today's reading in the Gospel of John. Jesus proclaims *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.* (John 10:11). It is Jesus' voice that his followers hear. Jesus is also the gate of the sheepfold. In the biblical world of the day, the sheepfold was typically a small or low stone fence/wall that is open to the sky with a slightly narrow open entrance. The proper way to enter it is through the narrow gate. Often nomadic shepherds, after the sheep were herded in, would lie across the opening. In so doing, they not only kept the sheep in but protected them from wild animals and thieves or robbers. Jesus says that he is the gate, and no one has access except through him. This is a multivalent "figure of speech." On the one level, one only gains access to God through Jesus. On another level, Jesus provides by his resurrection the gate for the sheep to enter through to eternal life. This is marvelously expressed in the last sentence of the Gospel reading where Jesus tells us, *I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.*"

This final sentence should give us pause, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Are we being led astray by contradicting voices? Do we have the faith needed to follow the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd? Do we recognize in this spring and Easter season that Jesus is the gate through which we are to pass to be saved? Jesus always hears our voices; do we listen to his? Ponder how you experience Jesus' shepherding care in your life.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Mulch, mulch!

Looking for something to do outside? We've been using brown colored mulch around our plantings in front of the church and parish center. They are generally on sale at garden centers and grocery stores like Cub. Pick up a bag or two and spread them around. Don't just drop them off for someone else to spread, though. Our pastor writes, "I may be an old goat, but my doctor said to stay off the slopes for awhile."

#### Helping Others

If you know of someone in our community who needs help with grocery shopping, a phone call to stay connected, etc., please call the parish office at 651.644.4502. Thank you.



#### Food Drive

Next weekend, May 9th/10th is our May food drive. At this time we are only accepting monetary donations for our neighborhood food shelf. Checks payable to St. Cecilia with a notation of "food drive" may be mailed to the parish office at 2357 Bayless Place, St. Paul, MN 55114. Thank you.

#### Thank You

Dear St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, Please accept my warmest thanks for your gift of \$800 on April 6th to Catholic Charities. The current health crisis has impacted everyone's lives, and I am especially grateful for your thoughtfulness and support at this time. You are demonstrating true compassion for the most vulnerable men, women, and children in our community who depend on us.

Tim Marx

President and Chief Executive Officer

*Editor's note: St. C's Loaves and Fishes was unable to serve at the Dorothy Day Center on April 8th but provided funds for the meal to be prepared and served.*

#### Graduates

We're planning to recognize our high school/college graduates in an upcoming bulletin. If you would like your name with school published, please let us know by Monday, May 18th. Email [bulletin@stceciliaspn.org](mailto:bulletin@stceciliaspn.org) or call the parish office at 651.644.4502.



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