



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

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

Lenten Schedule of Events

Living Stations

Wednesday, April 5th
5:30pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Living Stations
Presentation



Lazarus Come Out

Claudio Pastro

PARISH STAFF

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The Church of Saint Cecilia

If We Believe; Then We are Called... Reflection by Bob Kessler

The raising of Lazarus is a remarkable story that reveals Jesus as the Son of God; "The one who raises the dead and gives them life again. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies like everyone else, shall live again." (John 11:25) God's promise of eternal life is a key precept of our Christian faith; but this promise comes with a challenge to live our lives as Jesus taught. Time and time again we are called...

When Jesus went to Bethany to see Lazarus he was responding to a dire request for help from Mary and Martha to help their brother whom Jesus loved. In going to where Lazarus lived Jesus knew he was putting himself in danger of being captured by the Jewish authorities who were threatened by his teachings, and the great number of followers he had amassed during recent months by healing the sick and the blind, and feeding the hungry. Jesus' message of love and compassion for the poor, the sick, and the outcast was threatening to the ruling elite. The Chief Priests and Pharisees began plotting against Jesus because he threatened the social order. Today the message of compassion is still calling us to threaten the social order.

In Bethany Jesus stood up against the authorities in the face of persecution and death to raise his friend, Lazarus, from the dead. This was a challenge that few of us will ever face; nevertheless, we have many less dangerous opportunities to stand up for "those who suffer unjustly today including: immigrants, refugees, the abused, the impoverished, the drug addict, the mentally ill, and the alienated." (Art Zannoni, 3-12-17). To come together to protect immigrants and refugees is a calling...

Some question whether helping undocumented immigrants is appropriate considering that many entered the country illegally. Jesus never made a judgment on who to help based on government labels and determinations. He helped those who needed help and believed in him. It was as simple as that. After all, we have restricted immigration in the United States for more than 120 years and people still come here "illegally" by fleeing repression and seeking a new life with opportunities for them and their children. It just happens that the ruling class today continues to be threatened by downtrodden immigrants and views them as unworthy. Many view them as a threat to the social order.

We have an opportunity, as Christians, to answer God's call, in the words of David Haas: "to be hope for the hopeless, so all hatred and blindness will be no more!" To me it is a simple choice, when I hear about parents being detained by immigration officials leaving their children behind, I hear the words of David's hymn in my mind, over and over gain:

"We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly, we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God."

Reflection by Chad Gillard

I don't recall ever paying much attention to the verses that describe Jesus' mindset as he learns of his friend Lazarus' death and prepares the group to return to Judea; it turns out that I have always focused on Lazarus' resurrection. As I read this passage again this past weekend three things struck me as I pondered Jesus' mood as he decides to go back to Jerusalem:

- First, it was clear that Christ was clearly emotional about and motivated by love of his friend Lazarus. He took action from a place of love.
- Second, Christ was fearless in action because of the confidence that he was walking in the light. The disciples remind him that the Pharisees wanted to kill him.
- Third, Christ knew that performing this miracle would be a powerful demonstration that would convert hearts. Even the hearts of his disciples that lived so close to him.

May we as a parish emulate Christ as he made one of the most important decisions of his life, to return to Jerusalem, as we discern how we will act to protect our immigrant brothers and sisters and determine if we will declare that we are a sanctuary church.

May our actions ever be rooted in love.

May we be fearless knowing we walk in the light of the gospel.

May we be a powerful example of living the gospel and convert hearts.

On a personal note, I speak as one of those hearts that has been converted by this dialogue in our parish. I have spent the last few years personally struggling with and distancing myself and my children from a Church that has acted contrary to the call to minister to the meek. In the past weeks, I have been amazed and inspired by dozens in our parish who are responding to the call to live the gospel through acts that protect our immigrant brothers and sisters. I believe St. Cecilia's is re-creating the loving, compassionate, fearless Church that is worthy of passing on to the next generation, and our children are watching and learning from us.

'Come-Join-Us' Parish Community Celebration

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on Sunday, April 30th for our community celebration! The festivities take place from 11:00am-2:30pm (Dinner is served until 2:00pm and the raffle drawing and silent auction wrap up happens at 2:30pm). This celebration is the major fundraiser of the year for St. C's with a net goal of \$20,000 to support our current budget. **Please stop by the link this weekend to pick up your packet containing information about the event, raffle tickets to buy or sell, and a dinner order form.** New this year, if you'd like to buy your raffle tickets "on the spot" someone will be available to assist you with that! Please save us the cost of mailing and pick up your packet this weekend. Thank you!

Holy Week Schedule**Saturday, April 8th**

10:30am-12:00pm Confessions

10:00am Environment

11:00am Palm Sunday Lector Rehearsal

11:30am Holy Thurs/Good Fri Lector

Rehearsals. 1:30pm Good Friday (1st

reading only) Lector Rehearsal

3:00pm-4:15pm Confessions

Palm Sunday, April 9th

11:15am Holy Thursday Rehearsal

11:15am Environment

Wednesday, April 12th

3:30pm-5:00pm Confessions

Holy Thursday, April 13th

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 14th

3:00pm Taize Prayer

6:15pm Good Friday Rehearsal

7:00pm Service of the Passion and Death of Christ

Holy Saturday, April 15th

9:00am Environment

11:00am Vigil Rehearsal-Minister/Lector

12:30pm Instrumental Rehearsal

8:00pm Easter Vigil (Reception follows)

Easter Sunday, April 16th

8:15am & 10:00am Mass

of Christ may have already thought around 30 to 60 years after his death. Come learn and have fun as Nelson Capes leads us through the history and symbology!

Barb Keffer presents "The Spirituality of Parenting" at WCW

We are very blessed to have parishioner Barb Keffer joining our adults for a two-session presentation titled, "The Spirituality of Parenting." She will focus on how God is calling our families to continued growth in love and will help us name some of the important practices that nurture our spirituality. Our second session will be on April 19th. Potluck @5:30pm, presentation@6:15pm. All are welcome!

Living Stations

Our Confirmation class will present the living stations to the parish on Wednesday, April 5th. The stations will take place at 6:30pm in the church. Soup supper and potluck will begin at 5:30pm. A special thank-you to Cindy Windau for leading the students again this year.

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

On Sunday, April 23rd our Youth Group will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser to help cover the cost of their mission trip to Red Lake Reservation this summer. Last year our parishioners' support allowed us to not only cover the cost for our teens to attend the mission trip, but we also gave a generous donation to the school there. We look forward to another successful fundraiser!

Youth Group News

Join us for these upcoming events

Sunday, April 2nd

5:30-7:30pm Dinner at Vincent's house

Saturday, April 22nd

Overnight at St. C's followed by Sunday, April 23rd, Pancake breakfast fundraiser for Red Lake

Wednesday, May 10th

Large Group final session and celebration! with Confirmation Presentations

Monday, July 10th-Friday, July 15th, trip to Red Lake.

Hymn Numbers:

87, 195, 871 (vs. 1,3,4), 921

COMMUNITY NEWS**Outreach Drives (Upper Link)****Confirmation Service Projects:**

Two of this year's St. Cecilia confirmation candidates, Nick Linn and Charlie Rogers will be collecting used and/or new hockey equipment and gear next weekend, April 8th/9th after all Masses. The items collected will be donated to DynoMights Hockey Program. This hockey program offers the opportunity for inter-city youth to play the great game of hockey. Nick and Charlie are avid hockey players and are eager to make certain others who may not have the opportunity to play a reality. Monetary donations are also welcome. (Checks payable to St. Cecilia with a notation of "DynoMights").

My name is Elise Carroll, and I'm one of the confirmation candidates this year. For my service project, I am doing a book drive, and am reaching out to members of the community for their assistance. I aim to donate one hundred books to the organization Reach Out and Read, a nonprofit dedicated to increasing early literacy programs through primary pediatric care. The organization accepts books from the baby to kindergarten levels—board books, picture books, and learn-to-read style books, for example. If you or your family and friends have children who have outgrown these books and are ready to pass them on, this is a great opportunity to do so.

Socks and More for Moms and Kids

St. Cecilia's 5th graders and the Domestic Violence Education and Action team are working together for Women's Advocates this spring. In addition to collecting socks, our 5th graders have decided to put together Kid Hygiene Care Packages for the children who arrive at the shelter. **For health/safety reasons we can only accept NEW donations as follows:**

- Bath Towels/Wash Cloths
- Mid-Size Bottles of Body Wash
- Tooth Brushes/Mid-Size Tooth Paste
- Squeaky Bath Toys
- 2.5 Gallon Storage Slider Bags
- Children's Books
- Pajamas & Socks

Note: Donations for all the above causes may be left in the upper link through April 9th.

SOCIAL JUSTICE**Bridging The Divide**

After the 4:30pm and 8:15am Masses this weekend, join us for small group conversations where we talk about our core values, tell our stories, and rediscover our common ground. This is a prelude to having parish-wide conversations about the larger issues that divide our country.

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Forum-11:15am. Paul's Hymn to Christ in Philippians 2:5 is one of the most important discussions of the divinity of Christ in the New Testament. It is one of the Mass readings for Palm Sunday. To truly understand the text, however, there is a need to explore the rich array of symbols that the Apostle uses. Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code* uses history and symbology to uncover fictional meanings and mysteries in various works of art. The Hymn to Christ uses symbology to convey the divinity of Christ: a genuine Christian Mystery. Because of the early date of the passage, it is possible to tease out what the followers