



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



Ade Bethune

Parish Staff

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Trustees

Dick McCarthy 651.644.2831
Gerald M. Sande 651.636.7687

Holy Day Mass Schedule

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Thursday, Dec. 8th

12:05pm & 6:00pm Mass

Christmas Eve—Saturday, Dec. 24th

4:00pm Carols/4:30pm Mass

Christmas Day—Sunday, Dec. 25th

8:15am & 10:00am Mass

New Year's Day—Sunday, Jan. 1st

8:15am & 10:00am Mass

Advent Sacrament of Penance

Saturday, Dec. 10th & 17th 3:30-4:15pm

Wednesday, Dec. 21st-3:30-4:30pm

Thursday, Dec. 22nd 11:00am-Noon & 3:30-4:30pm

Penance Service—Saturday, Dec. 17th 10:30am

The Church of Saint Cecilia

Editor's Note: During the seasons of Advent and Lent we will be featuring a variety of voices from the community in our bulletin.

Reflection on the Second Sunday of Advent

The readings this week speak of whether or not we will allow the Spirit of God to lead us to those who have been outcast by the dominant society. The first reading, from Isaiah, identifies what our Confirmation Candidates are learning as the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel (right judgment), strength (courage), knowledge, fear (awe) and reverence. In this prophetic reading, the recipient of these gifts focuses directly on the poor and the outcast, in the midst of widespread social injustice:

Not by appearance shall he judge,
Nor by hearsay shall he decide,
But he shall judge the poor with justice,
And decide aright for the land's afflicted.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit give strength to pursue justice relentlessly on behalf of those who have been oppressed and afflicted, with powerful words on their behalf.

This faithful and relentless pursuit of justice, fueled by God's Spirit, transforms society, bringing former enemies together, so that there "shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord."

In the second reading, Paul, speaking about 30 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, encouraged the followers of Jesus not to turn away the Gentiles, but instead to "think in harmony with one another" rather than rejecting those who were not circumcised.

The Gospel speaks to those who take for granted all that they have, including those who believe they are entitled to a place in God's kingdom. Using the Jewish tradition of judging a tree by its fruits, John challenges the religious leaders of his time for their arrogance in thinking that the fact that they are descendants of Abraham gives them unearned privilege. Instead, he calls them to repentance so that their actions show that they are children of God.

Likewise, we are called to see the poor and the outcast, reverencing the presence of God within them, standing with them, pursuing justice relentlessly, for their sake and for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Who are the poor and outcast in our lives?

Kate O'Connell

Church Directory Photo Sign Up

We are partnering with Lifetouch for our pictorial directory and you may now sign up for your 2017 photo session. There is no sitting fee and you will receive a complimentary 8"x10" portrait and a free directory just for participating!

Dates of sittings at St. Cecilia Church are: Tuesday-Saturday, Jan. 10th-14th (skip Wednesday) & Thursday-Saturday, January 19th-21st. Weekday hours 2:20-8:50pm, Saturday hours 9:00-3:40pm

Sign up via the St. Cecilia website www.stceciliasp.org under the Community tab/Parish Directory Sign Up, or by calling the parish office.

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. If you would like your name with intention published in our Christmas program, please return the completed form with payment to the parish office by Monday, December 12th.

Marriage Enrichment. The group will not meet in December. Our next gathering will be January 9th.

Bulletin Deadline Wednesday at 9:00am. Email your articles and notices to bulletin@stceciliasp.org.

Stewardship-Fiscal Year July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

As of September 30, 2016

September 2016

Anticipated Collections	\$25,031.00
Actual Collections	\$24,912.00
Less :Actual Expenses	\$26,658.96
Actual Debt Payments	\$1,609.80
Balance	(\$3,356.76)

Year-to-Date

Anticipated Collections	\$78,074.61
Actual Collections	\$73,695.36
Less: Actual Expenses	\$79,902.68
Actual Debt Payments	\$4,845.35
Balance	(\$11,052.67)

Parish Bank Debt	\$152,436.53
Alms Box Balance as of Nov 27	\$846.92

You're Invited to:



Advent Evensong
Sunday, December 4th
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

Help us Go Green (er) Update

Corning Ware Corelle Dishes—For each \$25 donation, we'll be able to purchase 6 plates or 6 bowls. Our goal is 150 of each of these items. **Total to date: \$1,506.**

Tables & Chairs Replacement—**To date we've received \$3,360** to purchase round tables and replace chairs. Thank you very much!

Food Drive December 10th/11th

Next weekend's food drive will focus on the Christmas/Eve meal. A list of suggested items is available in the back of church. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated (checks payable to St. Cecilia Church with a notation of "food shelf" on the memo line). Thank you.

Recycling Grant - Single Sort Recycling. Each week we hope to focus on one aspect of our new recycling program to help give more details and answer questions you may have. Today's focus will be on our new single-sort recycling collection. In the past we have only recycled paper and cardboard here at church and our staff members brought plastics home to be recycled there. Our new system will allow us to recycle paper, cardboard, metal, and plastics 1-7 all in the same container. **All recycling goes in the blue containers.** You will notice new stainless steel bins located in church, the Link, and our meeting areas. They each have one side (black) for garbage and one side (blue) for recycling. In Fellowship and the choir rehearsal room we will have large blue slim Jim recycling containers. **We ask that any food containers be empty, clean, and dry.** Here is a comprehensive list:

Paper:

- Newspaper
- Envelopes
- Junk mail
- Phone books
- Brochures
- Magazines
- Cardboard

Cardboard:

- Poster board
- Frozen food boxes
- Cardboard boxes
- Milk cartons

Aluminum/Metal:

- Aluminum beverage cans
- Food cans
- Pots, pans, tins & utensils

Plastic:

- Water bottles
- Take-out containers
- Soda bottles
- Bagged film plastics

The St. Cecilia Library Team invites you to check out the special Advent display in the Link. Peruse the books and check out something to enjoy this Advent Season!

Suggested Books found in the St. Cecilia Library from the Library Team:

Advent and Christmas Wisdom From Henri J. M. Nouwen

This book will both challenge you and warm your heart during your annual preparation for the Lord's birth. Reflections for each day begin with the words of Nouwen taken from various sources of his writings. Following that is an excerpt from scripture related to the quote, a small prayer and a suggested activity for applying the message to one's daily life.

God's Hotel: A Doctor, A Hospital and A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine by Victoria Sweet

San Francisco's Laguna Honda Hospital is the last almshouse in the country, a descendant of the Hôtel-Dieu (God's hotel) that cared for the sick in the Middle Ages. Anyone who had fallen onto "hard times" and needed extended medical care—ended up here. So did Victoria Sweet, who came for two months and stayed for twenty years.

Laguna Honda, relatively low-tech but human-paced, gave Sweet the opportunity to practice a kind of attentive medicine that has almost vanished. Gradually, the place transformed the way she understood her work. Alongside the modern view of the body as a machine to be fixed, her extraordinary patients evoked an older idea, of the body as a garden to be tended. *God's Hotel* tells their story and the story of the hospital itself, which, as efficiency experts, politicians, and architects descended, determined to turn it into a modern "health care facility," revealed its own surprising truths about the essence, cost, and value of caring for the body and the soul.

Einstein's God: Conversations About Science and the Human Spirit by Krista Tippett

Drawn from the *Speaking of Faith* program, the conversations in this book reach for a place too rarely explored in our ongoing exchange of idea--the nexus of science and spirituality. In interviews with people like Freeman Dyson, Paul Davies, V.V. Ramen, and Mehmet Oz, the author draws out the connections between the two realms, showing how even those most wedded to hard truths find spiritual enlightenment and in turn, raise questions that are richly, theologically evocative.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Your gift next weekend, December 10th/11th for the Retirement Fund for Religious supports the day-to-day care of roughly 35,000 senior religious. Envelopes are in the back of church and may be placed in the regular collection basket next weekend. Thank you!

Thank You. Thank you to Rose Ryan, Carletta Braun, Doris Singer, Marilee Giere, Maureen Curran, Trudy Philippon, and Arnie Ramler for cleaning the church this past week.

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Forum December 11th

Dr. Cathy Cory will present on the Book of Revelation. The presentation will investigate Revelation as an admonition—in words and images—to live as people of hope and promise even in the midst of life's struggles. Join us next Sunday, Dec. 11th following the 10:00am Mass.

Advent Program. We will have our Advent program dress rehearsal at 11:15 on Sunday, December 11th. All participants are asked to attend this last run-through. On Sunday, December 18th we will present to the parish during 10am Mass. We look forward to another beautiful program! We are so proud of our young people and hope you can join us.

Youth Group News On Saturday, Dec. 3rd-4th we will have our annual cookie sale/overnight. We will gather at 12:30pm on Saturday to bake. We will sell at all three Masses to earn money for our mission trip.

Nativity Sets. Our 3rd-4th grade group has been learning about the special way in which Jesus came into the world and all those who were present for this miracle birth. Each week they learn about an important person and create a representation for their very own Nativity sets with the help of parishioner and author, Anne Neuberger. These sets will be displayed the weekend of December 17-18 in the Link. Stop by and take a look at the wonderful work our young people are doing. A special thanks to Anne for her knowledge and guidance!

Hymn Numbers:

60, 211, 397, 395