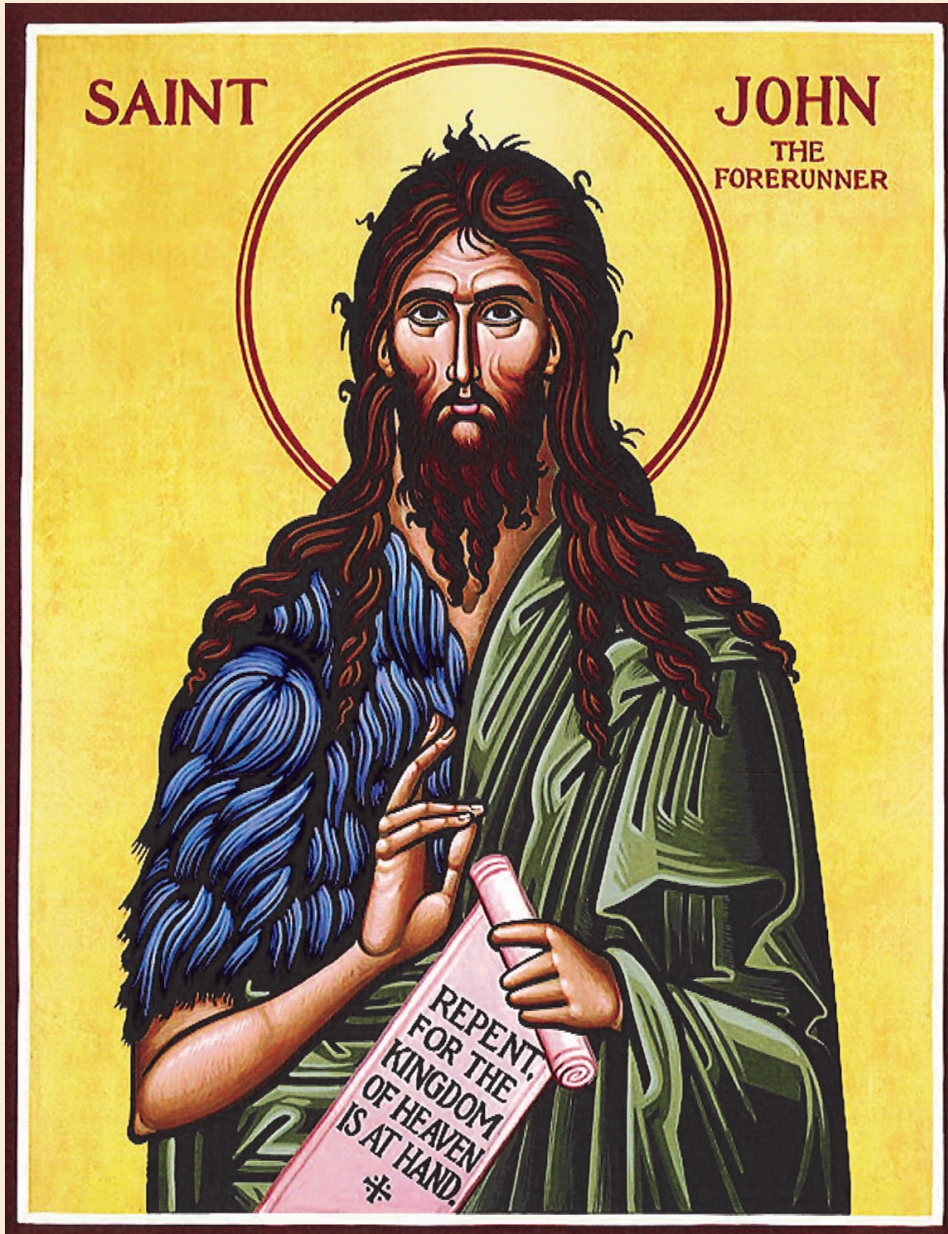




Church of Saint Cecilia

2357 Bayless Place • Saint Paul, MN 55114
651.644.4502
Fax 651.647.1445 • www.stceciliasm.org

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



Parish Staff

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Rose Ryan
Maintenance Coordinator
651.644.4502

Trustees
Matthew Tande
Mary Ellen Ryan

WELCOME

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday 10:00am to 2:00pm
Masks are optional but preferred.

The Church of Saint Cecilia

Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent:

Desert Truths

John the Baptist knew the desert.

He wore a cloak of camel’s hair—the clothes of Elijah the prophet. He ate the simplest of foods, and lived in an area known as *jeshimon*, “the desolation.” But it wasn’t just what John wore or what he said, it was who he had become out there in the desert.

John lived by waiting, watching the dust devils swirl across the desert floor. He knew the heights of the cliffs and the narrow canyon bottoms. He knew where the springs of precious water were. He knew the abodes of the hyrax and the sand fox. By night, he watched the stars, and heard the hawks call at daybreak.

In that silence and solitude, John the Baptist listened for God, and the listening filled him to the brim. So when he returned, people were struck by his blunt, rough-edged truth. He said, when you refuse to love, when you break relationships, and rely on power over others, when you cheat the poor, you are turning away from the God who created you. And don’t think you’re putting one over on the Almighty, because he knows.

It’s as if John brought a bit of the desert back with him, and bestowed its truths on the people who came to him. He was asking them, what is at your core? In our desert times, it is the layers of our lives which are exposed. It’s the stories we tell with joy and nostalgia of our families and our history, the reminders of our lost loved ones. Sometimes, too, we tell stories of trouble and sorrow and failure, and the stories of our long-held pain. In the desert times of our lives, we are all weak. We are not in control. But we are not alone, and we are *loved*.

It was rough-edged truth and love which drove this prophet into the desert, and love which brought him back, a man without guile or ego, a man who could after all that, simply say of his cousin, “I am not fit to loosen the thongs of his sandals.”

Stephanie Hanson



Giving Tree Gifts Due Today-Sunday, December 4th

Thank you to all who selected tags or donated funds for the Giving Tree this year! A reminder that all **gifts are due today Sunday, December 4th**. Please return the gifts to the link unwrapped with the gift tag securely fastened.

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10. *After destruction and long waiting, the offspring of David will come as a tender shoot of the hidden root of Jesse, David’s father, a new paradise will be shared by all.*

Psalms 72. **In his days justice will flourish; in his days fullness of peace forever more.**

Romans 15:4-9. *Everything has been written for our instruction and encouragement, so that we may live in peaceful harmony with one another.*

Matthew 3:1-12. *John the Baptist appeared, a voice crying in the wilderness, a threat to the powerful, a humble precursor to Jesus. Jesus will gather the wheat into the granary but will burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.*

Advent Confessions Schedule

Saturday, December 3rd, 10th, & 17th

3:15-4:15pm

(no Confessions on December 24th)

Wednesday, December 21st, 3:00-4:30pm

Financial Highlights through September 30, 2022

Budgeted Collections	\$84,500
Actual Collections	\$67,819
Other Revenues	\$1,240
Total Revenues	\$69,059
Budgeted Expenses	\$85,420
Actual Expenses	\$88,352
Major repairs	\$19,590
Total Expenses	\$107,942
Operating Deficit	(\$38,883)
Building Fund Revenue	\$1,456
Principal Payments on Debt	\$4,380
Total Deficit	(\$41,807)


PARISH CALENDAR

Sun		Second Sunday of Advent
		Giving Tree Gifts Due
	10:00	CGS Group A
		First Eucharist Class
	11:15	Advent Program Practice
	7:00	Advent Evensong
Tue	7:00	Choir
Wed	5:30	Family Formation & Confirmation
Thur	12:05	Holy Day Mass
	4:00	Giving Tree Sort
Sat	3:15	Advent Confessions
Sun		Third Sunday of Advent
		Food Drive
		Retirement Fund for Religious
	10:00	CGS Group B
		FF Liturgy of Word
	11:15	Sunday Forum
	11:15	Advent Program Practice

Early Bulletin Deadline: Submissions for the December 11th bulletin are **due on Tuesday, December 6th by 9:00am**.
 Email submissions to bulletin@stceciliasp.org.

You're Invited to:
Advent Fvensong
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 Strings



A reception follows



December 10th/11th
 Feeding the hungry is one way that the St. Cecilia community lives the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Next weekend, December 10th/11th we will be collecting nonperishable food, personal care items, and monetary donations for our neighborhood food shelf. Our focus will be on the holiday meal. Checks payable to St. Cecilia may be placed in the regular collection basket during Mass or mailed to the parish office. Or use our PayPal account [here](#). Please indicate "food drive" with any donations.

Welcome

St. Cecilia's would like to welcome the Nordson Family to our community of Faith:

Kelly, Carrie, Stella & Ramona

Thank You

Dear Friends,

We are sincerely grateful for your generous gift of \$1,069.58 to Keystone Community Services. I'm honored you chose Keystone as a way to provide food support to your neighbors. The impact you're making is huge since participation at our food shelves has doubled since last year. With Gratitude, Mary McKeown

COMMUNITY NEWS



Christmas Flowers

We will decorate our sanctuary with flowers through the Christmas season. We invite you to make a donation for flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or in memory of someone special. Forms are available in the back of church. If you would like your name with intention published, please return the completed form with payment to the parish office by Monday, December 12th. Thank you.

Holy Day—December 8th

Thursday, December 8th is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day. Mass will be celebrated at 12:05pm.



Retirement Fund for Religious December 10th/11th

Nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry—educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities.

Envelopes are in the back of church (Checks payable to St. Cecilia) and may be returned to the regular collection basket during Mass next weekend. You may also use our secure PayPal account [here](#) for your donation. Please indicate "special collection" with any donations. Thank you for your generosity!



Sunday Forum

Art Zannoni will lead the **Sunday Forum on December 11** following the 10:00am

Mass. The presentation title is "Preparing For Christmas: Matthew's View." It will explore the story of Jesus' birth as presented in the Gospel of Matthew. Emphasis will be placed on the various characters in the story and their response to the birth of Jesus and how these characters can serve as a model for our celebration of Advent and preparing for Christmas.

Some Questions to consider...

Do you know why Matthew mentions five women in Jesus' Genealogy? Do you know why Jesus is considered Emanuel by Matthew in his birth story? Why does the Gospel of Matthew mention innocent children being killed because of Jesus' birth? Why does Matthew mention that Joseph has multiple dreams? Whom do the Magi represent in Matthew's story of Jesus' birth? According to Matthew, why does the Holy Family have to flee to Egypt?

Want to learn more? If so, please come to our Parish Sunday Forum on December 11 after the 10:00am Mass.

All are welcome.

"A Night of Peace" Advent Stations - Parish Family Formation

Join us on Wednesday, Dec 7th as we slow down and have a quiet evening filled with Advent station activities. Participants will move at their own pace through a series of stations with themes of: Connection, Focus, Prayer, Seeking, Wishing, Waiting, Pondering, and more. This will be a great time to reconnect with family members and talk about what really matters most during this season of anticipation. You can also travel the stations alone for an even more reflective experience. This will be a catered evening with Chinese food from New Fresh Wok. There will be fried and white rice, chicken, and vegetarian options for dinner. An optional donation of \$5-8 per person would be appreciated, but please join us either way. Dinner begins at 5:30 with stations to follow at 6:30. **Please RSVP prior to Monday, December 5** through the Signup Genius link or to theresa@stceciliasp.org. Hope to see you then!

Advent Program

Advent Program practices will take place on Dec 4 & 11 following 10am Mass with the program taking place during Mass on Dec 18.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

12/4 - CGS Group A & First Eucharist Class, 10am, **Advent Program Practice,**

11:15am in church

12/7 - Parish Family Formation & Confirmation, 5:30 meal, 6:30 classes

12/11 - CGS Group B & Liturgy of the Word 10am, **Advent Program Practice,**

11:15am in church

12/14 - Parish Family Formation & Confirmation, 5:30 meal, 6:30 - **Advent Party**

12/18 - Advent Program during 10am Mass

Have a plan for the ones you leave behind.

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