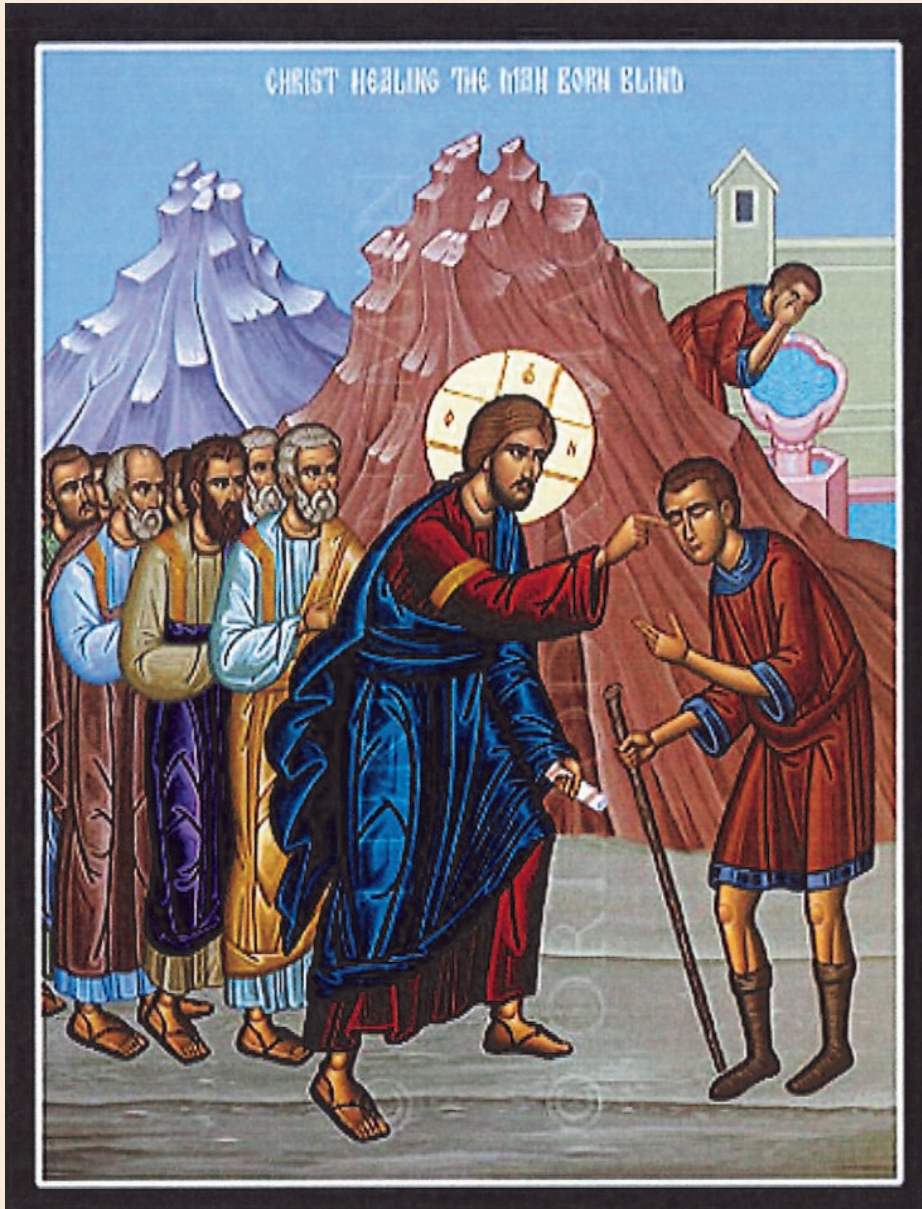




# Church of Saint Cecilia

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

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



Jesus and man born blind.

## Parish Staff

### Fr. John M. Hofstede

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

### Stephen Klein

Parish Operations &  
Safe Environment Coordinator  
651.644.4502 x 18  
[stephen@stceciliasm.org](mailto:stephen@stceciliasm.org)

### Marge Virnig

Pastoral Associate  
651.644.4502 x 12  
[marge@stceciliasm.org](mailto:marge@stceciliasm.org)

### Linda Whiteneck

Parish Administrative Assistant  
651.644.4502 x 10  
[linda@stceciliasm.org](mailto:linda@stceciliasm.org)

### Jeanne Dold

Music Coordinator/Choir Director  
651.644.4502 x 15  
[jeanne@stceciliasm.org](mailto:jeanne@stceciliasm.org)

### Theresa O'Toole

Catechetical Ministry Coordinator  
651.644.4502 x 13  
[theresa@stceciliasm.org](mailto:theresa@stceciliasm.org)

### Barb Falardeau

Communications Coordinator  
651.644.4502 x 11  
[bulletin@stceciliasm.org](mailto:bulletin@stceciliasm.org)

### Rose Ryan

Maintenance Coordinator  
651.644.4502

### Trustees

**Matthew Tande**

**Mary Ellen Ryan**

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

# The Church of Saint Cecilia

## Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

John’s gospel passage recounting Jesus healing the blind man is a favorite narrative of mine, in part because I am a blind person and equally as important it demonstrates the compassion of Jesus and challenges attitudes and beliefs of that time particularly that God rewards good and punishes evil. So if you were poor, or disabled, your life was a punishment that was either blamed on you, your parents, (as in the case of the blind man), or your ancestors.

Yet, Jesus, as we see in so many of the gospel narratives challenges these conventions, to show that this man’s blindness was not a consequence of sin or inherited evil. So in his infinite compassion for those who suffer, Jesus wanted to heal this man who was born blind and end the life long suffering his disability had caused him. The miracle itself is given even more significance with the beautiful words that Jesus said just before he healed the blind man. He said, “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

And as we see in so many of Jesus’ healing events during his public life and ministry, the miracle itself is so ordinary, so every day, without any heavenly pyrotechnics. Jesus spat on the ground and smeared common clay on the man’s eyes; and holy clay it was. The first light the blind man saw was through this intimate encounter with the divinity of Jesus Christ.

In this gospel, we see how this miracle affected not only the man who was cured, but also the community in which he lived.

This miraculous event got the attention of the entire community though it took a while for the townspeople to absorb and understand what had happened. The Pharisees never did. They threw the blind man out of the synagogue rather than listen to the truth of what really happened to him, and who it was that healed his blindness.

Here, Jesus shows his continued compassion in seeking out the blind man when the Pharisees banned him from the synagogue. He didn’t have to do this. When Jesus found him and asked if the man who could now see believed in the Son of Man, having revealed himself as God’s Incarnate, the light of faith was illumined and Jesus had a new disciple.

God has the power to turn trials into blessings. The blind man in this gospel received not just his sight, but a gift of healing, wholeness and peace. Fortunately, very few of us need physical sight but all of us in one way or another are in need of spiritual sight and insight. There are things that we should see that we are blind to.

We are blind to the many graces that God bestows on us every day. Maybe we can’t see who Jesus is for us.

Maybe we are blind to where Jesus wants to lead us.

Maybe we are blind to the many ways Jesus wants to love us, and so all we focus on is our own shortcomings, our weaknesses, and so we do not feel worthy of God’s love and mercy.

Maybe we are blind to the ideas and perspectives of others and so we criticize and discount what they are saying.

In this Lenten season, we have the opportunity of inviting and allowing Jesus to re-form our seeing, our desiring and our hoping. Sometimes we despair and say: “I don’t have any hope. I don’t see any way out of this.”

Lent’s answer to our dilemma, our hopelessness: Wash in the One sent by God to heal me. *"I washed; I see; I hope; I desire." My eyes are opened; I am renewed and cleansed by the healing water of God's infinite love. Lord, that I may see myself as you see me, that I may continue to follow your light. Amen.* Justin McDevitt



When we listen, will the Holy Spirit help us reimagine a new St Cecilia’s?

Pope Francis says:

“Because in the synodal process, our listening must ... not neglect all those “intuitions” found where we would least expect them... The Holy Spirit in his freedom knows no boundaries or tests of admission. If the parish is to be a home to everyone in the neighborhood, and not a kind of exclusive club, please, let’s keep the doors and windows open. Don’t limit yourself to those who come to church or think as you do – they may be no more than 3, 4 or 5 percent. Let everyone come in... Go out and meet them, let them question you, let their questions become your questions. Journey together: the Spirit will lead you; trust in the Spirit. Do not be afraid to engage in dialogue and even to be taken aback by what you hear, for this is the dialogue of salvation.” (Sept 18, 2021)

Have you signed up to be in a Small Group? Please do! Have you invited someone else to sign up? Please do! St Cecilia’s belongs to ALL of us!

See complete information on the sign-up form in the back of church and in the Link. Indicate your preferences for meeting times and location. We will offer multiple options for times and locations to fit a variety of schedules.

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun		Fourth Sunday in Lent Global Solidarity
	10:00	CGS Class A & First Eucharist Class
	11:00	Small Group Meeting
Tue	7:00	Choir
Sat	3:15	Lenten Confessions
Sun		Fifth Sunday of Lent
	10:00	CGS Class B & FF Liturgy of the Word

**Hymn Books for Recorded Liturgy**  
Hymnals are available for use at home to accompany our recorded liturgies. Inquire via the parish office at 651.644.4502.



COMMUNITY NEWS

**St. C's Lenten Fish Fry \*CANCELLED\***

Our apologies, but we're unable to move forward with the fish fry scheduled for March 31st. Thank you for understanding.

**Early Bulletin Deadline**

Submissions for the Fifth Sunday of Lent bulletin are due on Tuesday, March 21st by 9:00am. Email submissions to [bulletin@stceciliasp.org](mailto:bulletin@stceciliasp.org). Thank you.

**Easter Flowers—Orders Due 3/20**

We will decorate our sanctuary with flowers and plants throughout the Easter season. You're invited 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 and are to be returned along with payment to the parish office by Monday, March 20th.

**Global Solidarity-March 18th/19th**

We are invited to offer gifts of support, by contributing to this collection for four global initiatives designated by the U.S. Catholic Bishops: the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America, as well as humanitarian activities of Catholic Relief Services. Checks payable to St. Cecilia may be placed in the collection basket or mailed to the parish office. Or use our secure PayPal link [here](#). Please designate "special collection" with any contributions.



**Food Drive All Month Long!**

Thank you to all who contributed for the food drive!

One delivery has been made thus far and we're looking to do a second drop off soon. Donations of nonperishable food and personal care items are still welcome. Donations may be brought to the lower Link. Together we're making a difference for those experiencing food insecurity! Checks payable to St. Cecilia "food drive" or use our PayPal account [here](#).

**Welcome**

St. Cecilia's would like to welcome William Moxness to our community of faith.



**Prayer Partners**

During this Lenten season you will see photos of our young people preparing for Confirmation and First Eucharist out in the Link. You will have the opportunity to become a prayer partner using the sign-ups provided on the tables. Prayer partners agree to keep the student and his/her family in their prayers during this important time of preparation. This is a beautiful way to show our support for our young people and we hope you will consider signing up.

**Hunger Banquet - Save the Date!**

Nora S. and Delaney O. are planning an Oxfam Hunger Banquet as part of their Confirmation service project. They hope to bring awareness to poverty and world hunger. Please join them on Wednesday, March 29th starting at 5:30pm. In order to participate, **each person** should bring a donation of 3 canned goods for the Ralph Reeder food shelf. Monetary donations will also be accepted. **Please RSVP HERE for March 29th or sign up in the Link so they can plan accordingly. RSVPs are required for this scripted event. All are welcome!**

**Red Lake Pancake Breakfast**

Our teens are planning a pancake breakfast to raise money for the mission trip to Red Lake on Sunday, April 2nd. Swing down to Friendship Hall to enjoy some delicious pancakes and sausages for a free will offering after both the 8:15am and 10am Masses. We did earn a grant this year for the trip, so any money raised that day that is above our cost to participate will go directly to St. Mary's School. Thanks for your support!

**Upcoming Dates to Note:**

- 3/19 - CGS Group A & First Eucharist, 10am
- 3/26 - CGS Group B & Lit of Word, 10am
- 3/29 - The Hunger Banquet, 5:30pm
- 4/2 - CGS Group A & First Eucharist, 10am **\*\*Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser\*\***
- 4/16 - CGS Group B & Lit of Word, 10am

**Lenten Confessions**

Saturdays March 25 and April 1, 3:15-4:15pm.  
(No Confessions on April 8, Holy Saturday)  
Wednesday, April 5, 11:00am-noon, & 1:30-2:30pm.

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13. *God judges not by external appearances but by what he sees in the heart. David, young, spontaneous and innocent is preferred to his older and stronger brothers.*

**Psalm 23: If you love me, feed my lambs; Be my heart, my voice, my hands. If you love me, feed my sheep. And for my part, I give you the heart of a shepherd.**

Ephesians 5:8-14. *Live as children of "light (which) produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth."*

John 9:1-41. *On the Sabbath Jesus mixed spittle with dirt, and with the mud he restored sight to a man blind from birth. This man was later rejected from the synagogue for confessing Jesus as Messiah.*

**Music for Liturgy**

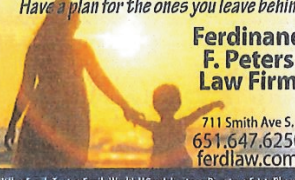
Opening	Bell Toll
Kyrie	
Psalm 23	#786
Gospel Acc.	#195
Preparation (4:30 & 8:15)	#654
(10) Open My Eyes, Let Me See - Choir	
Mass of Reconciliation	#200, #391
Communion	#909
Closing	Bell Toll

**OUT AND ABOUT**

**"Encountering The Compassionate God of the Bible"** is the title of a two-hour presentation by Art Zannoni at St. Bridget Catholic parish, 3811 Emerson Avenue N., Minneapolis. The program is on Saturday, April 1, from 9:30am to 11:30am. All are welcome. For more information, contact Fr. Paul Jarvis at 612.529.7779.




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