



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



Stay Awake!

Ronald Raab, CSC

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

During the seasons of Advent /Christmas we will be featuring a variety of voices from the community in our bulletin.

Matthew 24:37-44

Advent, the sacred time of year when we prepare for the birth of Christ, is my favorite season. However, when I was a child, I was disappointed that the readings for first Sunday in Advent do not include the Nativity story. Instead, the gospel of Matthew gives us a warning, “Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”

Right away on this first Sunday, we have a dissonance. While Jesus tells us we do not know when to expect the Lord, we already know exactly when Christmas will come. The Christmas countdown began before the Halloween candy was eaten.

We reflect on Jesus’ words, “you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come,” even as we are setting the day and hour our Christmas festivities will happen.

How do we balance the holiday and the Holy Day? The answer is Advent.

Jesus also speaks of the people of Noah’s time being unaware of the disaster to come. They went about doing all sorts of normal life activities. While it can be a bit disconcerting that Jesus likens himself to the great flood, we can compare our focus on Christmas preparations with those of the busy people of Noah’s time. I admit that I am occupied and happy during Advent, with cookies to bake, gifts to wrap, a house to decorate. That festive feeling is delightful! That is the holiday.

But like Noah who took time to prepare, we have Advent. Jesus will come to us, but we may not necessarily recognize that on December 25th. During these weeks prior to Christmas, we must make space for the Holy to come to us, whenever that might be, for we do not know the hour.

Advent, being in December, is short on daylight, but generous with darkness. While the dark is often associated with depression or even evil, there can a holiness in darkness too. Our winter days start in this good darkness, giving us the opportunity to watch the eastern sky beginning to lighten, slowly, slowly emerging into day. Summer mornings are wonderful, but in December, the gift of the morning is more obvious. Watch the delivery of soft light and welcome the Light of the World into your heart.

The afternoons end early but spectacularly. Take a moment to savor the intense oranges and reds, then the softer pinks turning into purples, as the dark slowly arrives. Playfully, you can imagine that God is quite the watercolor artist. But when the darkness is complete, perhaps you will realize that the Son of Man has been with you all this time, giving you the darkness as a gift for prayer.

Anne Neuberger

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)

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5. *People from all parts of the world unite in Jerusalem where they receive the word of the Lord and beat their swords into plowshares.*

Psalms 122. **Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

Romans 13:11-14. *Now is the time to wake from sleep, to cast off evil habits and to clothe oneself with the Lord.*

Matthew 24:37-44. *The son of Man is coming at a time you do not expect.*

Music for Liturgy

See the Advent Worship Aid

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun		First Sunday of Advent Giving Trees Liturgy Meeting
	10:00	CGS Class B FF Liturgy of the Word
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

Bulletin Deadline: Submissions for the December 4th bulletin are due on Wednesday, November 30th. Email submissions to bulletin@stceciliasp.org.



Giving Tree– Gifts Due Next Sunday, December 4th

Thank you to all who selected tags off the Giving Tree. A reminder that all gifts are due by next Sunday, December 4th. Please return the gifts to the link unwrapped with the gift tag securely fastened. If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 651.644.4502. Thank you.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Holiday Food Drive—December 10th/11th

Feeding the hungry is one way that the St. Cecilia community lives the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. On the weekend of December 10th/11th we will be collecting nonperishable food, personal care items, and monetary donations for our neighborhood food shelf. It's not too early to begin picking up items and bringing them in.

 **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.

Advent Library Display in Link

Get a little help this Advent with a book or two from our library. Find new ideas, perspectives and thoughts. Check them out and have a wonderful time preparing for Christmas. Watch for the display in the link. Let us know if you'd like to join our library team. You can do so by calling the parish office.

Retirement Fund for Religious

December 10th/11th. Envelopes will be available in the back of church next weekend.

Lost and Found

Please check the lost and found box in the entrance to the church for items you may have left at St. Cecilia's. Items not claimed will be donated. Thank you.



Mark Your Calendar

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.

Advent Program

We will have our annual Advent Program this year on Sunday, December 18. Our practices will take place on Sunday, December 4 and 11 following Mass. All students PreK and up are welcome to take part in this fun Advent tradition! Please reach out to Theresa at theresa@stceciliaspn.org prior to November 27 to sign up your student.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

- 11/27 - CGS Group B & Liturgy of the Word, 10am
- 12/4 - CGS Group A & First Eucharist Class, 10am, **Advent Program Practice, 11:15am in church**
- 12/11 - CGS Group B & Liturgy of the Word 10am, **Advent Program Practice, 11:15am in church**
- 12/18 - **Advent Program during 10am Mass**



Hospitality

Join us for hospitality in Friendship Hall following Sunday Masses. If you're interested in hosting a Sunday, please sign up in the hall. Training is available.

Hearing Assist System

St Cecilia's has an updated hearing assist system in the worship space. You now have the ability to use a receiver connected to the system OR your SmartPhone. If using a receiver you turn it on by pressing the button on the top of the unit. After it cycles on you should see channel E. Just plug in headphones (or any ear bud system) to one of the 2 inputs on the unit. You can control volume by pressing on the circle on the front of the unit.

If using your SmartPhone, find the "hearing assist" option in your wifi settings. Select connect. A message will appear that says that the system is NOT connected to the internet. Use your ear buds/headphones with your SmartPhone unit.

Let us know if you experience any problems, so we can make sure that we can provide you with maximum engagement.

OUT AND ABOUT

Feed My Starving Children Opportunity.

Please come and join me at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids (401-93rd Ave, NW) on Thursday, December 1st for the 7:00-8:45pm packing session. You can sign up under Bridget's Team. If you have questions, call me at 651.633.6286. Marilee Giere

Job Opening at Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi is currently seeking a part-time secretarial assistant to the Pastor. See the full job description on the bulletin board in the link or go the Archdiocese website [here](#) for more information.

Sacramental Policies

Marriage: Six months notice is required. Three months active parish membership necessary prior to initiating marriage preparation. Call the parish office at 651.644.4502.

Baptism: For more information or to schedule a baptism, please contact Marge Virnig at 651.644.4502 ext. 12.

Have a plan for the ones you leave behind.

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