



# 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



We are the clay and you the potter. We are all the work of your hands.

## PARISH STAFF

**John M. Hofstede**  
Pastor  
651.644.4502 x 14  
[pastor@stceciliasm.org](mailto:pastor@stceciliasm.org)

**Stephen Klein**  
Parish Operations 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)

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

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

**Dick McCarthy** 651.644.2831 & **Mary Ellen Ryan** 651.746.9227

## The Church of Saint Cecilia

### The Liturgical Season of Advent (2020) by Arthur E. Zannoni

Advent is the liturgical season made up of the four weeks that precede Christmas. It is a season of hope and longing, of joyful expectation and peaceful preparation.

**What does the word "Advent" mean?**

When capitalized, "Advent" usually refers to "the coming of Christ into the world" or to "the liturgical period preceding Christmas"; it may also refer to the "Second Coming" of Christ (the "Advent of our Lord"). The word "advent" is a Latin translation of the Greek noun *parousia* commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. In Latin, the noun *adventus* (meaning "arrival, approach") is made up of the preposition *ad-* ("to, towards"), the verbal root *ven-* (from the Latin *venire*, "to come"), and the suffix *-tus* (indicating verbal action). For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives: in the flesh in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time. The liturgical season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the Messiah's coming and to be alert for his Second Coming.

**What are the traditional liturgical colors of Advent?**

For most of the Season of Advent, the official liturgical color is violet, while some in the Christian family have favored using dark blue. Only on the Third Sunday of Advent is a rose (pink) colored candle lit on the Advent Wreath as a symbol of joy; the priest may also wear rose vestments this Sunday. Other church decorations (altar cloths, banners, etc.) will often have violet, pink, and blue colors throughout the season.

**What are the liturgical readings for the Sundays of Advent?**

Each of the four Sundays of Advent has its special readings and characteristics. This year (2020), we begin reading cycle B in the Lectionary. In this year's cycle, we read the Gospel of Mark.

**The Gospel of Mark at a Glance**

The Gospel of Mark is the first written Gospel and the shortest in length. The author, an unnamed Gentile Christian, possibly a disciple of Peter, composed his Gospel in koine Greek (simple rather than literary Greek). It was written around A.D.65 to 70. Its audience was Non-Jewish (Gentile) Christians, most likely living in Rome who were experiencing persecution, possibly during the time of Caesar Nero, because they believed in Jesus and not the gods of Rome.

**The Chosen Gospel readings for the Sundays of Advent (2020)**

**First Sunday of Advent** - The Gospel reading is an excerpt from the Apocalyptic Discourse of Jesus in one of the Synoptic Gospels. This year (2020), it is Mark 13:33-37.

**Second Sunday of Advent** - The Gospel reading focuses on the preaching and ministry of John the Baptist as the forerunner of Jesus, the one who came to "Prepare the Way of the Lord." This year (2020), it is Mark 1:1-8.

**Third Sunday of Advent** - The Gospel reading continues to focus on the ministry of John the Baptist. This year (2020), it is John 1:6-8,19-28.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent** - The Gospel reading narrates the annunciation to Mary by the angel Gabriel that she is to bear a son by the power of the Holy Spirit, and his name will be Jesus. This year (2020), it is Luke 1:26-38.

*continued*

### Stewardship-Fiscal Year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

**Financial Information through  
September 30:**

Anticipated Collections	\$75,000
Actual Collections	\$60,486
Parish Events, net	\$16,488
Major Gifts	<u>\$705</u>
Total Revenues	\$77,679
Anticipated Expenses	\$84,071
Actual Expenses	\$77,689
Excess Expenses Over Revenue	\$(10)
Building Fund Contributions	\$1,035
Principal Payments on Debt	\$4,124
Net Deficit	\$(3,099)
Alms Box Balance as of October 25	\$681.13

**First Sunday of Advent (B)**

Isaiah 63: 16-17,19; 64:2-7. *Selections from a post-exilic prayer, drawn from the heart of a people very discouraged yet refusing to give up.*

Psalm 80: *Lord make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9. *God's gift ought to confirm the faith that God can always bestow still more upon us through our close fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Mark 13: 33-37. *Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come.*

**Early Bulletin Deadlines**

Tues, Dec. 8th for Sun, Dec. 13th  
 Mon, Dec. 14th for Sun, Dec 20th  
 Thurs, Dec. 17th for Sun, Dec. 27th  
 Mon, Dec. 28th for Sun, Jan 3rd  
 \*Due by 9:00am\*

Note: Our December 6th bulletin will have a regular Wednesday deadline (due December 2nd by 9:00am)

Thank you!

*continued*

**What is an Advent Wreath?**

An Advent wreath is traditionally made of some type or mixture of evergreens (fir, spruce, juniper, holly, etc.), symbolizing the continuation of life in the middle of the cold and dark winter (in the northerly latitudes, at least). Advent wreaths traditionally include three purple/violet candles, and one pink/rose-colored candle arranged evenly around the wreath. Only one purple candle is lit during the first week, two in the second week, three (including the pink one) in the third week, and all four during the fourth week of Advent; the gradually increasing light symbolizes the approach of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. In many churches, a large wreath is blessed at the beginning of the first liturgy on Advent's first Sunday.

**Advent Spirituality**

As a liturgical season, Advent is a time of prayerful preparation for the continued coming of God into our lives. This preparation is done by reading Sacred Scripture, engaging in daily prayer, and reflecting on how we prepare the way for the Lord in our lives individually and as a community of faith. Each day of Advent, we are challenged to reflect on how God is always and continually arriving and not just on Christmas. O, come, O come, Emmanuel.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Holy Day-December 8th**

Tuesday, December 8th is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day. The recorded liturgy will be available for viewing by December 8th via our St. C's website [here](#). Past liturgies are also available through our St. C's channel also via our website.

**Parishioner Published Booklet**

*FAQs on the Mass: Questions and Answers on How and Why We Celebrate.* Drawing upon Catholic doctrine, Scripture, and the history of the Church, St. Cecilia parishioner Lucy Arimond, recently retired from a lifetime of ministry work, offers clear, concise, and easy-to-understand answers to today's most frequently-asked questions about the Mass ---all gathered in one helpful little booklet. Perfect for seekers exploring Catholicism, new members of the faith, and lifelong Catholics as well. Just published by Twenty Third Publications. For more detail or to order, see <http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/faonmaneanda.html>

**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 loved one or in honor of someone special. Forms are available [here](#) and may be returned to the parish office.

**The Gift of Warmth**

This Christmas season we will be collecting something warm for those in need. Suggested items (NEW socks, gloves, mittens, hats, etc.) may be placed in the bin outside the lower level doors. Thank you.

**Monetary Food Drive  
December 12th/13th**

Feeding the hungry is one way that the St. Cecilia community lives the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. On the weekend of December 12th/13th we welcome monetary donations for our neighborhood food shelf. Checks payable to St. Cecilia may be mailed to the parish office. Donations may also be made through our secure PayPal account [here](#). Please indicate "food drive" with any donation. Thank you!

**Something to Consider**

Are you a frequent shopper at Amazon? AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know, same products, same prices, same service, but the best part is Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice, at no additional cost to you. Please consider shopping through AmazonSmile and designate St. Cecilia Catholic Church St. Paul as your charity recipient. More information is available at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) or by calling the parish office. Thank you!

**FAITH FORMATION**

**Faith Formation**

**Covid Update: In-person meetings have been suspended until after the new year.**

**December 6**

Confirmation, ZOOM  
First Eucharist, (Virtual lesson in the works)  
CGS Cancelled  
3:00-4:30pm

**December 13**

Family Session #3 A/B (Virtual)  
CGS Cancelled  
3:00-4:30pm

*An angel speaks, "Oh do not fear. I bring you JOY. I bring you CHEER. At Bethlehem near break of morn, the SAVIOR of the world was born!"*

We invite you to join us for our Virtual Advent Program presentation led by the children of St. Cecilia. It will run at the end of the recorded Mass the weekend of December 19th/20th.



**OUT AND ABOUT**

**Holiday Volunteer Opportunity**

The Salvation Army is in need of volunteers for their holiday programs. Toy Shop Program distributes Christmas gifts to thousands of children from families experiencing economic hardship. Volunteers receive, sort, pack and distribute tens of thousands of toys. Feeding programs: Assist with processing deliveries, food sorting, food box packing and distribution. Red Kettle Campaign is the annual Christmas initiative that helps to fund year round programs. The kettle goal this year is nearly \$2 million. Bell-ringing volunteers are needed. Due to the pandemic, guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of all volunteers. For more information and or to volunteer, please visit: <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/twin-cities/volunteer/>.

*Have a plan for the ones you leave behind.*  
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