



Church of Saint Cecilia

2357 Bayless Place, Saint Paul MN 55114
651-644-4502 • www.StCeciliaSPM.org

Weekly Mass: Saturday 4:30 pm; Sunday 9:30 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45 pm

Easter 2026

March Madness ends and Easter's 50 Days arrive!

In Minnesota, March Madness usually means the onslaught of sports tournaments and last gasp snow storms that interrupt spring's arrival.

This year, we've experienced the added burden of war in the Middle East, choking travel, raising prices, slowing recovery from the local invasion of ICE officers and continuing the destructive loss of life and displacement of many from their homes.

We remain challenged to live our faith in a radically changed life transformed by the Risen Lord when so much death and violence persists.

Our Easter gatherings, perhaps, will resemble the first disciples huddled together in the upper room, fearful, waiting and struggling to remember what has been promised. It is the Spirit of God that will again draw us out and send us.

The Church has wisely given us the Great Fifty Days to again enter into what has been called a "Season of Refreshment." As the separate feasts of Easter Day, the fortieth day of Ascension and Pentecost (the fiftieth day) grew in prominence as distinct days over the years, they eclipsed the more fundamental unit of symbolic time that had been established in the early centuries of the church.

In 1969 when the church revised its calendar following the Vatican Council II, it sought to restore the prominence of the Fifty Days which are all imbued with the same Paschal Mystery with its many dimensions. While this unit now persists in our calendars as the Easter season or paschal time, in the third and fourth centuries,

Church Fathers such as Tertullian and Athanasius referred to this time as "the seven holy weeks of Pentecost" or "days of holy Pentecost" reminding their readers that "the light of Easter extends its beams, with unobscured grace, to all the seven weeks of Holy Pentecost."

In 1981, an article titled, "The Fifty Days and the Fiftieth Day" by Patrick Regan, OSB appeared in the journal *Worship* 55 published by Liturgical Press in Collegeville. These insights and the following lengthy (and dense) quote call us to unpack the central mystery of our faith:

"The Fifty Days symbolize the era in which, by the release of the Spirit, this one true feast, Christ, is inserted into the present world to be shared by all who believe the Good News. From another point of view, the fifty-day celebration is how the feast, which is the person of Christ, accomplishes and expresses itself in the Church and so consecrates the world, Christ is actualized or made full as a person precisely by drawing believers into his own new humanity.

But by filling them with fifty days of festivity, he at the same time gives spatial and temporal dimension to this filling out of his own person. The Great Fifty Days, then, are created by the Risen One to contain and show forth his own fullness, his lordship over heaven and earth, times and seasons.

They are not the time of the world, which by convention happens to be associated with his resurrection. They are really his time, his day, called into existence by his being made Lord. Hence they are sacramental in nature, for they are the great ecclesial sign that the Father has transformed creation and history into the space and time of his self-revelation and self communication in the Spirit of his Son."

LITURGY RESOURCES

Opening	#540
Psalm 118	#81
Gospel Acc	#537
Preparation	Handel, from Messiah
Mass of Creation	Worship Aid
Communion	#945
Closing	Worship Aid

Happy Easter!

Thanks to all who helped us shape a prayerful, joyful Triduum. We have been blessed with generous folks who have prepared well the Scriptures, the environment, the music and the hospitality needed to draw us into our liturgical celebrations. It all came together, when we came together.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

As our community continues to rally on behalf of neighbors, here are some suggested ways you can show your support:

FOOD DONATIONS

We are always accepting **food donations** in the lower link and will make sure these items make it to our neighbors in need.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We continue to accept donations in the Alms box on the left side of the doors as you enter the vestibule of the church. All donations are distributed to within our community.

Other opportunities to support our neighbors:

Every Meal: EveryMeal.org

Neighborhood House:

NeighborhoodhouseMN.org

Keystone: KeystoneServices.org

Interfaith Action: InterfaithAction.org

Catholic Community Foundation of

Minnesota: ccf-mn.org

St. Vincent de Paul: svdpmppls.org

Roseville Housing Stability Fund:

DoGoodRoseville.com

*There is no hospitality today so that families may
spend the holiday together.
Coffee and donuts will resume next week.*

THE PARISH EVENT April 18 & 19

We hope you can join us for our annual Spring Parish Event! We'll kick-off after Saturday afternoon Mass with a wine and cheese reception. Sunday's festivities will begin at 10:30 am. During each, you can bid on items at the silent auction, purchase raffle tickets for the bucket items, buy your calendar raffle entries, and most importantly, enjoy your time in community!

Register now

Registration packets are in the link. Pick yours up and register today!

Volunteer

There are all sorts of ways for you to volunteer to support our largest fundraiser of the year. You'll find the link to the volunteer sign up in weekly email.

Silent Auction Donations

Drop off new silent auction items in the office anytime. Be sure to complete the info form and grab a tax receipt if you need one.

Raffle Donations

This year's event will once again feature a Calendar Raffle, with 30 cash & gift card prizes ranging from \$50-500. All of our requested gift cards support local businesses; complete list in the weekly email.

If you would like to **donate a gift card** for the raffle, stop by the Calendar Raffle Donation Board in the link to sign up, or you can choose from the list and email colleen@stceciliasp.org.

Faith FORMATION

April Whole Community Wednesday

(Note this is 2nd Weds due to Holy Week.)

One of our favorite service projects is back! We will be making fleece chew toys and snuffle mats for Safe Hands Animal Rescue, www.SafeHandsRescue.org.

Safe Hands is a local non-profit that operates a safe house in rural Appalachia where poverty, pet overpopulation and neglect are major issues. Join us for a community meal and a fun hands-on project. A representative from Safe Hands will be here to tell us more about their mission. RSVP link in weekly email or contact Theresa, theresa@stceciliasp.org for dinner counts. The meal begins at 5:30pm with the speaker and project to follow at 6:30pm. Hope to see you there!

Mission Trip News

Upcoming Youth Group Meetings following 9:30am Mass: April 12, May 17 & June 14
Trip Dates: July 19-25

Upcoming Faith Formation Events:

- **April 8** - WCW dinner at 5:30 pm, service project at 6:30 pm
- **April 12** - CGS, First Eucharist & Lit of Word, Youth Group Meeting after Mass
- **April 26** - CGS, First Eucharist & Lit of Word
- **May 2** - First Eucharist practice for May 3 and photos, 10am
- **May 3** - First Eucharist, 9:30 am Mass
- **May 6** - Final WCW for the year & sacramental celebration

AROUND THE PARISH

Care for Creation Continues!

May 16, 2:30 pm

Please mark your calendars. We will have a hands-on presentation for kids and adults on the important work of pollinators by a member of the Xerces Society. Watch the bulletin for further information. All ages are encouraged to come!

Loaves & Fishes Co-Coordinator

Volunteers from St. Cecilia's serve an evening meal at the Dorothy Day Center six times a year (second Wednesday of even numbered months). Jane McKim has been coordinating the efforts of our Loaves & Fishes volunteers for years and would appreciate a co-coordinator for three of those six meals. Please contact Jane directly, 651-228-9289 or jane.mckim8000@comcast.net.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Habitat for Humanity Work Camp

April 17 and 18, 8:30 am to 3 pm

Habitat for Humanity Tres Iglesias is seeking volunteers for a Rescheduled Habitat for Humanity work camp on Friday April 17th and Saturday April 18th, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. More: cabrinimn.org/habitat.

Groundings: Seek and You Will Find

April 21, 12:30-2:30, St. Thomas More

What wisdom does your body hold about God that might help your spirit? Join Sarah Cledwyn, MA, to delve into experience in our bodies to gain a clearer understanding of how and why we search for God.

PARISH STAFF

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Trustees

Matthew Tande & Mary Ellen Ryan

Office Closed Monday

The parish office will be closed on Monday, April 6.