Church of Saint Cecilia

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

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter: April 26, 2026

LITURGY

Entrance: **#628**
You, Lord are Both Lamb and Shepherd

Gloria: **#271**

Psalm 23 **#34**
My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.

Gospel Acclamation: **#537**

Preparation: ***Shelter Me***
by Michael Joncas

Refrain:
O shelter me, O shelter me:
The way ahead is dark and difficult to see.
O shelter me, O shelter me:
All will be well if only you will shelter me.

Verses (choir):

1. Shepherd and sheep, my God and I: to fresh green fields you led my steps in days gone by.
   You gave me rest by quiet springs.
   And filled my soul with peace your loving presence brings.

2. Yet now I tread a different way;
   death dogs my path with stealthy steps from day to day.
   I cannot find your peaceful place,
   But dwell in dreary darkness,
   longing for your face.

3. I will look back in days to come, and realize your faithfulness has led me home.
   Within your house I'll find my peace,
   trusting that in your mercy
   you have sheltered me.

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Eucharistic Acclamations:
#198, 200, 202, 204

Communion: **#940**
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Closing: **#519**
Sing to the Mountains

A Letter to St. Cecilia Church:

Twelve years ago, I was on the lookout for a job. I had stopped teaching to stay home once the cost of day care outweighed my meager Catholic School teacher salary. But after five years of stay-at-home mom bliss, our lives and our bank account were ready for me to look for something more.

My sister Katie attended St. Cecilia and encouraged me to apply for a job opening. At the time, my husband and I felt disconnected from a religion that didn't seem to match our values. I only agreed to apply because the job was flexible and part-time, which would allow me to continue being available when my kids needed me. I could never have predicted that this new job would change the course of our lives.

Once I started here, we could see immediately that St. Cecilia was different. This was a place where everyone was truly welcome. We were surrounded by a community of people who genuinely wanted to make positive changes in the world. This was exactly what we had been looking for.

Over the years, we've worked together on countless service projects, retreats, lessons, dinners, mission trips and community events. We struggled through Covid and had to reinvent the program multiple times. Through it all, I have felt incredibly supported by our greater parish. Church is one of the few places where you have generations of people gathering together for a common purpose, and St. Cecilia is the perfect example of this. I feel blessed to be in a place where my children are seen and loved by so many people from all walks of life. I have had the great privilege to work with remarkable catechists and an incredible office staff. They feel more like family than co-workers. We've also met some of our dearest friends here and I can't imagine our lives without them.

I've maintained a part-time job as a reading tutor for dyslexic students during my tenure here, but with Tommy entering high school next year it seems like the time is right to head back into the classroom full-time. My introduction to the beauty of CGS here at St. C's inspired me to become fully trained in Montessori, and my goal is to teach in a Montessori classroom where I can also focus on students who need extra literacy support. This requires me to step down at the conclusion of this year as Catechetical Ministry Coordinator. This was not an easy decision, but my family will remain part of the St. Cecilia community so you will still see us around.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your support, kindness, participation, and the tremendous impact you have had on our lives. We are better people because of you! I have one more **Whole Community Wednesday planned for Wednesday, May 6th.** We will celebrate this year's faith formation program and our First Communicants, but it will also mark my last Wednesday in this role. **I invite you to join us that evening to celebrate these twelve unforgettable years of ministry in one of the most rewarding jobs of my career.**

I hope to see you there!

Theresa O'Toole

PARISH STAFF

John M. Hofstede
Pastor
651.644.4502 x14
pastor@stceciliaspm.org

Colleen Smith
Parish Ops & Safe Environment Coord.
651.644.4502 x18
colleen@stceciliaspm.org

Marge Virnig
PastoralAssociate
651.644-4502 x12
marge@stceciliaspm.org

Betsy Sullivan
Director of Liturgical Music
651.644.4502 x 15
betsy@stceciliaspm.org

Theresa O'Toole
Catechetical Ministry Coordinator
651.644.4502 x13
theresa@stceciliaspm.org

Linda Whiteneck
ParishAdministrative Assistant
651.644.4502 x 10
linda@stceciliaspm.org

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, April 28
7:00 pm Choir

Saturday, May 2
10:00 am First Eucharist Practice
3:45 pm Reconciliation
4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, April 26
9:30 am Mass
9:30 am CGS, 1st Eucharist, Lit of Word
10:30 am Liturgy Team Meeting

Sunday, May 3
9:30 am Mass - First Eucharist

UPCOMING

Whole Community Wednesday May 6, 5:30 pm
Join us on Wednesday, May 6th starting at 5:30pm for our last WCW of the year. We will recognize our First Communicants and they will receive their sacramental certificates from Father John. We will have a slideshow with photos from the year and enjoy some delicious cake. Dinner begins at 5:30pm with our celebration to follow. Please RSVP so we have an accurate count for dinner (link also in weekly email): signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AEAB2AAAFC1-58878903-wednesday

Hope to see you there!

Care for Creation Continues! May 16, 2:30 pm
Pollinators provide us with over 85% of the world's flowering plants, many of which are food crops. Celebrate Laudato Si' Week by protecting our pollinators! We need all ages to come to learn and work together in many fun ways. Please register using the QR code below:

FAITH FORMATION

First Communion Weekend - May 2nd & 3rd
We will meet on **Saturday, May 2nd for a dress rehearsal for First Eucharist starting at 10am**. Students should arrive in their First Eucharist attire and we will take individual photos and group shots with Father John after a short practice.

Please remember to bring your baptismal candle to the practice!

On Sunday, students should arrive at church no later than 9:15am. I can take family photos either at Saturday morning's practice or before Mass on Sunday. We will celebrate with these students on Wednesday, May 6th with a dinner and cake reception. See the WCW article for more information and to RSVP. Reach out with any questions.

Mission Trip News
Upcoming Youth Group Meetings following 9:30am Mass: May 17 & June 14.
Trip Dates: July 19-25

Faith Formation Events:

- **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
- **May 10 -** CGS, Final Lit of Word, May Crowning during 9:30am Mass
- **May 16 -** Care for Creation event, 2:30pm
- **May 17 -** Final CGS class

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:14, 36-41. *Peter, on Pentecost, preaches that "the whole house of Israel should know...that God has made both Lord and Messiah this Jesus whom you crucified." The people must reform and be baptized.*

Psalm (22)23, 14, 1-3, 3-4, 5. 6. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1 Peter 2:20-25. *Peter continues his baptismal instruction that the newly baptized follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who brought our sins to the cross. By his wounds we are healed.*

John 10, 1-10. *The opening section of John's well-known "Good Shepherd" discourse. Jesus is the shepherd whose sheep go in and out for pasture.*

THANK YOU!

Parish Event: THANK YOU!
A HUGE thank you to all who helped to make our parish event a success. We enjoyed a day full of delicious food, fellowship and fun!

A special thanks to Adam Sieve of Hazel's Northeast for sponsoring our meal.

This event helps St. Cecilia continue the great work we are doing here and your support is greatly appreciated.

Schedule of Upcoming Retreats
May through September 2026

(May 19-21) - Women's MidWeek
(June 9-11) - Women's MidWeek
(June 25-28) - Silent Retreat Weekend -Men and Women
(August 6-9) Silent Retreat Weekend -Men and Women
(September 8-10) Women's Midweek Retreat
(September 18-20) Grief with HUGG - Men and Women
(September 24-27) Silent Retreat -Men and Women

FranciscanRetreats.net **952-447-2182**
A unique & meaningful Mother's Day gift! Gift Certificates Available.