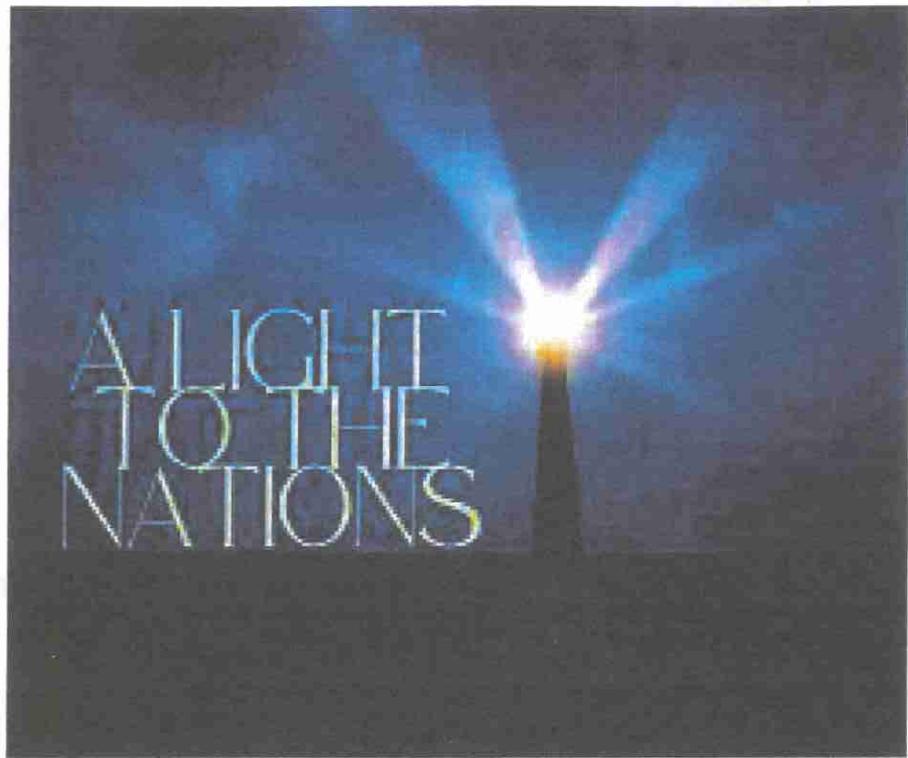




# Church of Saint Cecilia

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

Weekly Masses:  
Saturday 4:30 & Sunday 9:30  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45



## WELCOME

To join the parish, please  
call the office at  
651.644.4502

## OFFICE HOURS

The parish office is open  
Monday-Thursday  
10:00am to 2:00pm

## PARISH STAFF

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

**Colleen Smith**  
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Safe Environment Coordinator  
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**Theresa O'Toole**  
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**Wendy Johnson**  
Communications Coordinator  
651.644.4502 x 11  
[bulletin@stceciliaspm.org](mailto:bulletin@stceciliaspm.org)

**Trustees**  
Matthew Tande & Mary Ellen Ryan

## The Church of Saint Cecilia

Preparing for Word of God Sunday—January 25  
Reflections by Arthur E. Zannoni

In 2020, Pope Francis initiated the Word of God Sunday. It was to be celebrated on the Third Sunday of Ordinary time to help all Catholics realize how important the Sacred Scriptures are in the practice of their faith.

For Catholics, the "Word of God" has a threefold meaning: Jesus Christ (the eternal Word made flesh), Sacred Scripture (the Bible), and Sacred Tradition (the teachings passed down through the Church's Magisterium). The Word of God, with its threefold meaning, is considered God's divine revelation (self-communication), purveyed through Christ, Scripture, and the living voice of the Church. These three form the basis for faith and life.

The Scriptures themselves tell us that "Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit..." (Hebrews 4:12). "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17). These passages tell us two things: first, that God wants to speak to us; second, that listening to God speak in the Sacred Scriptures is a way for us to grow into our fullest potential.

Before the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) most Catholics did not place much emphasis on reading the Bible. Since the council, we have begun to understand scripture as an essential part of our faith. At the opening of each daily session at the Council a liturgical minister would carry in procession a copy of the Bible. This was to remind the assembled bishops that one of the sources of faith is the Word of God in the Sacred Scriptures.

The Second Vatican Council teaches us that "It is Christ himself who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in the Church." "Sacred Scripture is of the greatest importance in the celebration of the liturgy." In addition, the bishops at the council said, "The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that a richer share in God's word may be provided for the faithful." *Constitution on Sacred Liturgy* (# 7, 24 and 51). "The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the Sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body." (*Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation* #21).

St. Jerome reminds us that "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." Pope Leo XIV at an audience in November 2025 said, "The church draws life not from herself but from the Gospel."

**Praying With and From the Sacred Scriptures**

Reflective reading of the scriptures can lead us into prayer. It can take many forms. One form is called *lectio divina*, from the Latin for "divine reading." It has a four-step pattern. **READING:** a slow and thoughtful reading of a passage from the Bible;

**MEDITATION:** A time of reflection and thinking about the meaning of that biblical text to me as a reader;

**PRAYER:** A period of prayer to God to bring the Bible's passage to fruition in myself;

**ACTION:** A decision on what I should do in my own life as a result, that is an action plan or decision to change or improve.

*Lectio divina* is simple to do, and you do not have to be a monk or a nun to do it. It can be done in any place at any time, as long or short as you wish to make it. The only real requirement is to concentrate on what you are doing in each of the four steps so that reading turns to prayer. Praying from, though, with, and in Scripture is what *lectio divina* is all about. Try it and it will help you to improve your prayer life.

**For Reflection:** How can I make better use of the Sacred Scriptures in my faith life?

**REMINDER TO RSVP TO ATTEND VICKI KLIMA'S RETREAT ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 FROM 9AM TIL NOON.**

Financial results for the First Quarter ended September 30, 2025

Budgeted Operating Revenues	\$90,000
Actual Operating Revenues	\$80,485
Budgeted Operating Expenses	\$97,650
Actual Operating Expenses	\$85,055
Budgeted Operating Deficit	(\$7,650)
Actual Operating Deficit	(\$4,570)
Building Contributions	\$893
Major Building Repairs	(\$9,672)
Total Deficit	(\$13,349)

**Liturgical Ministers****Saturday, January 17, 4:30pm**

Book:	Scott S.
Lectors:	Julie S & Bob T.
Host:	Alice S.
Cup:	Sue W. & Steve C.
Greeter:	Bob T. & Laurie K.
Sacristan:	Tom K.

**Sunday, January 18, 9:30am**

Book:	Mary Pat Z.
Lectors:	Ted U. & Jean W.
Host:	Ann K.
Cup:	Mary Clare L./Susan G.
Greeter:	Charlie T.
Sacristan:	Pat K.

**Parish Calendar**

Sun	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
	Liturgy of Word for Children
Mon.	MLK Day—Office Closed
	6:30 Craft Night Gathering
Tue	7:00 Choir
Sat.	9:00 Liturgy of the Word
	Retreat with Vicki Klima
Sun.	9:30 First Eucharist & CGS

**Masks Optional**

During this season when Flu, Covid, RSV and other infectious viruses are present among us, remember that face masks are available in our Church's entryway. If you are feeling unwell, stay home and protect yourself and others. We record our liturgies so folks can stay connected.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

UpComing Events - Dates to save  
Saturday, January 24, 9 to noon.

**Retreat with Vicki Klima.** Pope Francis asked that "the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God." Our parish is hosting Vicki Klima, author of *Participation of the Heart, Deeper Engagement in the Mass*, in order to help us better understand the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Please RSVP to [marge@stceciliasp.org](mailto:marge@stceciliasp.org) or the parish office so we can plan for food.

**February 8, Sunday Forum.** Bill Huebsch will be our presenter. Watch for more information.

**Sunday, Feb. 15, 4pm.** 6 Points Theater will present The Happiest Man—here at St. Cecilia's. More info to follow.

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 10am.** Dr. Massimo Faggioli will be at St. Cecilia's to give a presentation on Pope Leo. More info to follow

**Take a moment, pray with the Pope.**  
Visit <https://www.popesprayer.va/>

*Lord Jesus, living Word of the Father, in You we find the light that guides our steps. We know that the human heart lives restless, hungry for meaning, and only your Gospel can give it peace and fullness. Teach us to listen to you each day in the Scriptures, to let ourselves be challenged by your voice, and to discern our decisions from the closeness to your Heart.*

*May your Word be nourishment in weariness, hope in darkness, and strength in our communities.*

*Lord, may your Word never be absent from our lips or from our hearts—the Word that makes us sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, disciples and missionaries of your Kingdom.*

*Make us a Church that prays with the Word, that is built upon it and shares it with joy, so that in every person the hope of a new world may be born again. May our faith grow in the encounter with you through your Word, moving us from the heart to reach out to others, to serve the most vulnerable, to forgive, build bridges, and proclaim life.*  
Amen.

## Faith FORMATION

## St. Cecilia's Got Talent!

Save the date for the second annual St. Cecilia's Got Talent—Saturday, Feb. 21 following 4:30 Mass. Check the parish wide email for the link to sign up to participate, help, and/or bring a snack or beverage. The talent show will only be a success if we have enough acts to fill the evening so start thinking about what you can share! Singing, dancing, joke telling, and more are all welcome. This is a free, community building event so spread the word. Reach out to Theresa or Michael Wright with any questions.

## February WCW - Building the City of Jerusalem with Legos

Join us on Wednesday, February 4th starting at 5:30pm for dinner and a night of Legos! We will build the city of Jerusalem together and then hear the story of Jesus moments before his death and resurrection. This is such a wonderful way to prepare ourselves for the season of Lent. This event is hosted by the amazing Annamarie Boler who always helps to bring this important story to life. Bring your friends and family! We will also be drawing names for a prize for WCW attendance. Increase your chances by inviting someone new! You can RSVP for the evening [at this link](#). Hope to see you then.

**Artful Grief. Tuesday, Jan. 20, 12:30-2:30.** A collaboration of Sacred Ground Center for Spirituality, Loyola Spirituality Center, and The Ignatian Spirituality Center at St. Thomas More. Grief is a complex journey that we all take at some point in our lives. In this Groundings presentation, Rev. Cathy M. Kolwey invites us to examine the many stages of grief and to look at how the process of making and experiencing art can help in processing grief. If we must grieve, may it be a means for us to spark creativity and healing within ourselves. St. Thomas More Ignatius Hall. \$20 contribution suggested. Please register at [www.sacredgroundspirit.org/events/2601-artful-grief-cathy-kolwey](http://www.sacredgroundspirit.org/events/2601-artful-grief-cathy-kolwey)

**David Penchansky** will be speaking at St. Thomas More on **January 22** at 7 pm on the subject of his book, *What Rough Beast: Negative Portrayals of God in the Hebrew Bible*.

## Habitat for Humanity

Tres Iglesias is seeking volunteers for a Habitat For Humanity work camp on Friday January 23rd and Saturday January 24th, 2026. The project is at 2514 Cleveland St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418. The site supervisor is Stephen Klutho, (612) 403-4041. This is a rehab project and we expect the house to be heated. If you would like to volunteer please register at <http://www.cabrinimn.org/habitat-signup>. The day will start at 8:30 AM and end at 3:30 PM. Coffee and lunch will be provided. For more information check out the website [cabrinimn.org/habitat](http://cabrinimn.org/habitat) or contact [habitat@cabrinimn.org](mailto:habitat@cabrinimn.org).

## Support Circle

For Parents/Grandparents, families with transgender &/or Non binary members.  
Third Sunday of each month – 2:30pm-4pm. 4:00pm. St Frances Cabrini, 1500 SE Franklin, Mpls – Garvey Hall

## Music for Liturgy

Opening	#777
Gloria	#207
Responsorial Psalm	#49
Gospel Acclamation	#208
Preparation:	4:30 #832 9:30 #898
Eucharistic Acclamations	#211, 213, 215, 216
Communion	#939
Going Forth	#598, vs. 1&3

## 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49:3,5-6. *In this Second Song of the Suffering Servant the prophet is called to be a light to the nations.*

Psalm 29: **Here I am Lord, here I am; I come to do your will.**

2 Corinthians 1:1-3 Paul sends greetings "to you who have been consecrated in Christ Jesus and called to be a holy people."

John 1:29-34 John the Baptist points to Jesus as the one who ranks ahead of me ... who is to baptize with the Holy Spirit." John did not recognize Jesus at first.

Have a plan for the ones you leave behind.

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