



Church of Saint Cecilia

2357 Bayless Place, Saint Paul MN 55114

651-644-4502 • www.StCeciliaSPM.org



Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

WEEKLY MASS

Saturday 4:30 pm
Sunday 9:30 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:45-4:15 pm
Will be offered 3:15-4:15 pm
on March 14, 21, 28
and 10:30-12 noon on April 1.

WELCOME

To join the parish please call
the office at 651.644.4502

OFFICE HOURS

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

PARISH STAFF

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Trustees

Matthew Tande & Mary Ellen Ryan

The Church of Saint Cecilia

Reflection on the Gospel Reading for the Third Sunday of Lent 2026 (John 4:4-42)

A Time to Quench Our Thirst

Arthur E. Zannoni

The Gospel reading for today which is found only in the Gospel of John, opens with Jesus who is traveling from Judea in the south to Galilee in the north. It is geographically necessary for him to pass through Samaria, since it is situated between these two regions of ancient Palestine. Real animosity existed between Jews and Samaritans and Jesus does not accept it.

The story says Jesus is tired. He is physically weary because it is a long walk from Jerusalem to the Samaritan town of Sychar. Fatigued-ridden, he sits at the well of Jacob at noon and encounters an unnamed Samaritan woman.

The meeting between Jesus and the woman is the longest dialogue between Jesus and anyone in the Gospels. While a woman coming to draw water at noontime is surprising, the request of Jesus, a lone male addressing an unchaperoned woman in public, is shocking in the patriarchal world of the day. The author of the fourth Gospel has as his purpose to teach that no person is excluded from kinship with Jesus, because of gender, ethnicity and marital status.

In the Old Testament key leaders met their wives at a well. Isaac met Rebecca at the well of Nahor, Jacob met Rachel at the well of Haran, and Moses and Zipporah met at a well in Median. The literary context of this meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is nuptial. Jesus is “wooing” the Samaritan woman to true worship and to a mission of spreading the word. By the end of the story, Jesus is espousing her and her people. The Samaritans in turn espouse Jesus.

After the initial meeting the first symbol in the story is water. Jesus asks for a drink. The perfect symbol for the thirst for God is our common thirst for water. We constantly thirst for it all the days of our life. We also thirst daily for God, and this is exactly what the Gospel story is about. What unites Jesus and the Samaritan woman is their thirst for God.

The Samaritan woman rebuffs Jesus’ request for a drink because he is a Jew and Jews and Samaritans do not share utensils in common, and some utensil would be needed to draw water out of the well. Jesus says that if she knew the gift of God and who was making the request, she would have asked him, and he would have given her living water. She misunderstands and takes literally “living water” understood by her as spring fed water. Jesus is using it as a metaphor for baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The woman asks for such water which Jesus maintains will never cause thirst and that this water will be a spring “welling up to eternal life.” In asking for this water, the woman’s motive is “so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here.” She is about to receive something much more profound. Jesus is living water looking for someone thirsty. When the thirsty drink from the water Jesus offers, it quenches spiritual thirst in such a way that this thirst never recurs. This water is eternal life, and eternal life just keeps on giving. Therefore, spiritual thirst never recurs because spiritual water, by its nature, never stops.

Jesus then asks the woman to bring her husband. When she replies she has none, Jesus affirms this non-judgmentally. This dialogue serves to evoke the woman’s first confession of faith about Jesus, “You are a prophet.” This leads to a theological discussion about the locus of true worship. Jesus transcends the discussion by saying the hour is coming when people “will worship the Father in spirit and truth.” Now Jesus becomes the suitor. The woman thinks he could be the Messiah.

After a brief interlude between Jesus and the disciples, who have returned from shopping for food, the story returns to the woman who has changed from a seeker to a missionary. She told fellow Samaritans what Jesus had done, and they believed in him “because of the word of the woman who testified.”

The story overflows with meanings. On one level it is a faith development story as the woman moves through stages from understanding Jesus as a man and a Jew, to being a prophet, to being the Messiah, to being savior of the universe. The story is a model of a woman coming to faith and becoming a missionary who brings others to Jesus. Also the story is a narrative of God wooing the outsider. The Samaritans, who were considered godless, by some Jews, end up confessing Jesus as savior of the world.

The water bucket left behind by the Samaritan woman is a symbol of her past. It is a reminder that whenever you encounter Jesus you leave the past behind and seek the new.

For Reflection: Ponder how you thirst for God.

Music for Liturgy

Penitential act:	Kyrie (No Greater Love mass)
Psalm 95	If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts
Gospel Acclamation	#195
Preparation	#724 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
Communion	#943 Bread of Life from Heaven

3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:3-7. When the Israelites grumbled about their difficult times in the desert the Lord instructed Moses to strike a rock that water flow from it for the people to drink.

Psalm 95: If today you hear God’s voice, harden not your hearts.

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. This hope will not disappoint us.

John 4:5-42. Jesus converses with the Samaritan woman at the well, declaring that people will worship the Father neither at Jerusalem nor at Mt. Gerizim, but “in Spirit and truth.”

Pope Leo's March intention is:

For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

IMPORTANT

Bulletin/Email Submission Due Dates
To ensure timely publication, content for weekly emails/Sunday bulletins should be submitted the previous Monday by 12 noon.

In preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, all bulletin announcements and weekly email content **must be submitted by 5 pm on Sunday, March 15.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Chamber Choir Concert

March 8, 3 pm at Corpus Christi

The College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University's Chamber Choir, under the direction of Brad Miller, will be on tour this weekend. One of their stops is at the Church of Corpus Christi on Sunday, March 8 at 3 PM. The performance will be approximately an hour and ten minutes.

Murray Middle School: Cinderella

March 13 and 14, 7 pm

March 15, 2 pm

Support student arts at our neighborhood middle school. Adult tickets \$10, grades 5-12 \$8, grade 5 and younger, \$5. 25% of proceeds benefit Murray's mutual aid fund.



Book Signing

March 14/15 after Mass

On the weekend of March 14 and 15 after the celebration of Mass, Art Zannoni will be signing copies of his new book, *A God Lover's Journey*

Through the Gospel of Luke. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Global Solidarity Sunday

March 15

On the weekend of March 15, we observe Global Solidarity Sunday with the theme "Embracing God's Light." This theme is an invitation for all to reach out in solidarity to share God's love, mercy, and peace by offering financial support during Lent. This appeal supports the pastoral needs of the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America, and humanitarian activities of Catholic Relief Services. Envelopes on the table in the link.

Groundings: Restorative Power of Love

March 17, 12:30 pm at St. Thomas More

Join us as author and spiritual director Felicia Murrell invites us to explore how the practice of beholding Love returns us to ourselves and more fully to a love ethos that can be embodied as a way of being.

SAINT-OF-THE-MONTH

March 22 after Mass

Our Catholic culture includes an array of saints from different centuries and countries. Starting March 22, we will focus on one saint each month. Grab your doughnut and come hear a short story and draw or color a picture about the saint and their story. We invite all children and those who still have their childlike souls!

Faith FORMATION

Prayer Partners

Please consider signing up to be a prayer partner for our four children receiving First Eucharist this spring. Their photos and a sign-up sheet are out in the Link. Your love and support mean so much to our children and families!

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:

- March 1: Lit of Word
- March 4: WCW with Taize
 - Dinner at 5:30pm, Taize at 7pm
- March 7, 9 am-12:30 pm: First Eucharist Retreat
- March 8 - Spring Break, no classes
- March 15 - CGS & First Eucharist
- March 22 - CGS & Lit of Word
- March 29 - CGS & First Eucharist

PARISH EVENT

April 18 & 19

Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 18th & 19th for the parish event. **Start collecting new/unused silent auction items and gift cards.** To make donating even easier, we will have the gift card board out in the link again this year with specific cards and amounts. Registration materials will come out in March. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and we appreciate and rely on your support!

GRATITUDE

THANK YOU to everyone who donated baby clothes or via the Amazon wish list. Hennepin Healthcare Mobile Clinic delivered baby clothes in February to 54 pregnant women afraid to leave home. Additionally, food, diapers, and other essential items were delivered to an average of 30 families/week with children needing well child visits. Thanks to all the generosity, a fairly large stockpile remains. - *Katie Pfaff*

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Many are wondering what we can do to meet the needs of our friends and neighbors during these difficult times.

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. *Please leave donations in the lower link.*

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We continue to accept donations in the Alms box, directing funds to neighbors with mounting needs. Other opportunities:

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: svdpmpls.org.

Roseville Housing Stability Fund - Love

Pays the Rent: Donate online or by mail (link in weekly email). Donor Advised Funds or checks:

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

(EIN: 41-0835898)

1660 County B Road W

Roseville, MN 55113

Special Instructions or Memo Line:

"Roseville Housing Stability Fund"

PARISH CALENDAR

March 8-15

Sun.	3rd Sunday of Lent <i>Daylight Savings Time begins</i> 10:30 Sunday Forum
Tues.	7:00 pm Choir
Weds.	6:00 pm Parish Community Council meeting
Sat.	FOOD DRIVE
Sun.	4th Sunday of Lent FOOD DRIVE 9:30 First Eucharist, CGS class

Monthly FOOD DRIVE - March 14-15
Donations will be distributed to neighbors in need through Keystone Community Services