



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 3:45-4:15 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

John M. Hofstede

Pastor
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Parish Operations & Safe
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Trustees

Matthew Tande & Mary Ellen Ryan

The Church of Saint Cecilia

Reflection on the Gospel Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

A Time to See Jesus More Clearly

by Arthur E. Zannoni

Today's Gospel reading (John 9:1-41) is a healing story. The reason for the healing of the man born blind is told very concisely by Jesus at the start of the narrative when he tells the disciples that the healing "...is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." Jesus is admonishing the disciples to change what they think about sin, suffering, blindness and where evil originates.

The disciples and others in Jesus' day believed that illness or suffering was a direct consequence of sin; if not the person's own sin then the parents' or family's. Jesus points out that suffering is not the result of sin, but the place where God's glory could be revealed, where Jesus' work could be clearly shown. Then Jesus is not heard from again until the end of the story.

The man is told to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The word means the "One sent." This is an obvious reference to Jesus himself, who in the Gospel of John is understood as the one sent by God. The man returns from the pool "seeing" and is greeted by neighbors, who can't really believe that he is the beggar who was born blind. Asked how this happened, the now cured man simply repeats what Jesus told him to do. Hauled next before the Pharisees who are concerned about Jesus curing on the Sabbath, which they interpret as work which is strictly forbidden on the Sabbath, the now healed man repeats again what Jesus did. This precipitates a dispute among the Pharisees as to whether Jesus is "from God." When asked his view, the cured man says, Jesus is: "a prophet."

The Jewish religious leaders summon the man's parents who do not want to have anything to do with the healing, since "he is of age; he can speak for himself." Summoned again before the leaders, the cured man is immediately confronted with the charge that Jesus is a sinner. At this point the formerly blind beggar's courage increases as he becomes a witness not only to what Jesus did but to who Jesus is, by taunting his accusers, asking if they want to become Jesus' disciples. Ultimately the cured blind man recalls the earlier inquiry as to whether Jesus is from God and says, "If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." In anger the leaders say that the now cured man was born in utter sin and expel him from the synagogue.

Abandoned by his neighbors, rejected by his parents, and expelled from the synagogue, the cured man is "found" by Jesus, who asks, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" When he asks who the Son of Man is, Jesus says, "You have seen him," wordplay on sight suggesting that the real vision given to the cured man is both faith and insight into who Jesus is. The man replies, "I do believe, Lord."

The narrative ends with an statement on the lips of Jesus: "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind." Put another way, we are all born blind spiritually, and do not really see the fullness of reality until we are enabled by baptism and faith to see the light of Christ, "the light of the world."

The fact that the man is unnamed in the story allows everyone to identify with him; he is an "every person" character. The cured blind man's undoubting fidelity during Jesus' absence offers everyone a model of courageous witness. Through opposition, persecution, and excommunication from the synagogue the cured blind man moves from a confession of "the man Jesus," to "prophet," to "worshiper of God," to Jesus as the "Son of Man" and finally as "Lord."

Are we the man born blind, or the half blind disciples, the man's family, his neighbors, onlookers, the Pharisees? Are we blind and lost and in need of healing and forgiveness? This Gospel reading is marvelously summed up in the line from the hymn Amazing Grace "I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see."

LITURGY RESOURCES

Prelude (9:30)	Shelter Me
Psalm 23	#34
Preparation	#492 verse 4 Jerusalem, My Destiny
Communion	Carry Us In Your Arms

1 Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13. God judges not by external appearances but by what he sees in the heart. David, young, spontaneous and innocent is preferred to his older and stronger brothers.

Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Ephesians 5:8-14. Live as children of "light (which) produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth."

John 9:1-41. On the Sabbath Jesus mixed spittle with dirt, and with the mud he restored sight to a man blind from birth. This man was later rejected from the synagogue for confessing Jesus as Messiah.

Global Solidarity Sunday

On the weekend of March 15, we observe Global Solidarity Sunday with the theme "Embracing God's Light." 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.*

Easter Flowers

Forms are now in the link for flowers in honor of someone special or in memory of a deceased love one.



IMPORTANT

Bulletin/Email Submission Due Dates

In preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, bulletin and weekly email submissions **must be submitted by 12 noon on Sunday, March 15.**

PARISH EVENTS

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!

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

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.

Habitat for Humanity Work Camp
April 18 and 18, 8:30 am to 3:00 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, 2026. The project is at 3508 3rd Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55418. The site supervisor is Kate Hill, (651) 421-2874. More: cabrinimn.org/habitat contact habitat@cabrinimn.org.

PARISH CALENDAR for the week

Sun.	4th Sunday of Lent FOOD DRIVE 9:30 First Eucharist & CGS 9:30 Mass
Tues.	7:00 pm Choir
Sat.	4:30 pm Mass
Sun.	5th Sunday of Lent 9:30 Mass 9:30 FF Lit of the Word & CGS 9:30 First Eucharist Welcome

Faith FORMATION

April Whole Community Wednesday

One of our favorite service projects is back! We will be making fleece chew toys and snuffle mats for Safe Hands Animal Rescue. This local non-profit is based out of the metro area and operate a safe house in rural Appalachia in Kentucky where poverty, pet overpopulation and neglect are major issues. Join us for a community meal and a fun hands-on project. RSVP details in the weekly email or email theresa@stceciliaspm.org. Hope to see you there!

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!

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 15** - CGS & First Eucharist
- **March 22** - CGS & Lit of Word
- **March 29** - CGS & First Eucharist
- **April 5** - Easter Sunday
- **April 8** - WCW dinner at 5:30pm, service project at 6:30pm
- **April 12** - CGS & First Eucharist, Youth Group Meeting after Mass

PARISH EVENT April 18 & 19

Register now

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

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. As you can see from the list below, all of our requested gift cards support small local businesses. 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 this list and email colleen@stceciliaspm.org.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

FOOD DONATIONS

We are always accepting **food donations** 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:

DoGoodRoseville.com

GET INVOLVED

Meeting with Archbishop Hebda

March 18, 6:30 at the Basilica

Join Unidos, Ascension parish, local immigrants and other Catholics to discuss the moment we are in, the importance of welcoming our neighbors, and the opportunity to live out our baptismal call. Arrive at 6:00pm to sign-in and visit with other parishioners. Additional information and to register, email Paul Marincel: npmarincel@gmail.com.

Palm Sunday Faithful Witness

March 29

2:00pm, *Procession begins*

2:30pm, *Worship and Program at Capitol*

Join thousands of Christians in St. Paul on March 29th where we will celebrate and embody our faith's call to love God and 'love our neighbors as ourselves,' and reject authoritarianism, cruelty and greed. More: PalmSunday2026.com.

Hwy 280 Closure

Highway 280 will be closed (I-94 to Hwy 36/I-35W, April 1 through late August.

Details & email notification sign up:
<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy280stpaul-roseville/>