



# Church of Saint Cecilia

2357 Bayless Place, Saint Paul MN 55114  
651-644-4502 • [www.StCeciliaSPM.org](http://www.StCeciliaSPM.org)

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

## HOLY WEEK Worship Schedule

### Saturday, March 28

3:15-4:15 pm - Confession  
4:30 pm Palm Sunday Mass

### Palm Sunday, March 29

9:30 am - Palm Sunday Mass

### Monday, March 30

5 pm - Anointing of the Sick  
(see description inside)

### Wednesday, April 1

10:30-12 pm - Confession

### Holy Thursday, April 2

8 am - Morning Prayer  
7 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

### Good Friday, April 3

8 am - Morning Prayer  
3 pm - Service of the Lord's Passion

### Holy Saturday, April 4

8 am - Morning Prayer  
8 pm - Easter Vigil  
(no confession or 4:30 Mass)

### Easter Sunday, April 5

9:30 am - Mass

## PARISH STAFF

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### Trustees

Matthew Tande & Mary Ellen Ryan

## The Church of Saint Cecilia

Reflection on the Gospel Reading For the Fifth Sunday of Lent (John 11:1-45)

### A Time to Face Death with Hope

by Arthur E. Zannoni

The story of the raising of Lazarus (the name means “God has helped”) appears only in the Gospel of John. It is the seventh and final sign (miracle) in John’s presentation of Jesus’ public ministry.

The quasi-parenthetical comment: “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus” provides an important clue for interpreting its meaning. These three are the only persons who are named specifically as being loved by Jesus in the Gospel of John. Jesus is relating to intimates. The evangelist is dealing with the burning question confronting his community. How is the death of believers to be understood and faced?

The story enumerates attitudes that human beings have toward death. The first attitude is to prepare the one about to die to walk the journey to the other side. This is seen in Mary being described as the one “who anointed the Lord with oil.” The second is to avoid taking risks. This is seen in the disciples counseling Jesus not to go, to visit Lazarus and the sisters. The third is denial. This is seen in the disciples believing that Lazarus is only asleep and not dead an attitude that Jesus quickly corrects, telling them that Lazarus is indeed dead. The fourth is to treat death as an occasion for making a living. This is seen in the professional mourners who came from Jerusalem and who are present with the sisters. The fifth is the hope of preventing it from ever happening and this is seen in both sisters’ insistence that if Jesus had been present their brother would not have died. The sixth and final attitude toward death is the one Jesus provides telling Martha that he is the resurrection and the life. This is an attitude toward death that believes God is with us, even in the face of death.

Even embracing Jesus’ approach to death does not exclude tears. Jesus responds to the death of his close friend Lazarus by weeping. His outpouring of emotion is virtually untranslatable from the original Greek. The Greek words for Jesus’ crying or weeping seek to express a depth of feeling unprecedented in the Gospels. It could even be translated that Jesus is “trembling,” “groaning,” “snorting,” or in uncontrollable heaves of tears. God, in the person of Jesus, cries and grieves with people in the face of death. Yet the story does not end in tears but rather in the manifestation of the glory of God.

The central affirmation of this Gospel story comes when Jesus tells Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life” (11:25). Earlier in this Gospel, Jesus taught that he has power to give life: “just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, so does the son give life to whomever he wishes” (5:21). In raising Lazarus, Jesus demonstrates that he indeed raises the dead and gives life.

The story of the raising of Lazarus ends with Jesus calling him forth from the tomb. We stand with Jesus in his revulsion of death and in solidarity with him in trust, as he prays to his Father and our Father for life. Jesus’ prayer is ours. “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd that they may believe that you sent me.” We believe that if we have died to ourselves in Christ, then we shall rise to new life in him.

The dead Lazarus hears the voice of Jesus. This is the Gospel writer’s way of saying that even after death the faithful one is not deaf to the voice of Jesus. Lazarus comes forth from the tomb still bound in the wrappings of death. Jesus orders his disciples and all of us to unwrap him, for we need a whole community to unwrap us from death’s throws to live a new life in the resurrection.

**For Reflection:** *Do you have unhealthy attitudes toward death? How are the shedding of tears the doorway to hope?*

## LITURGY RESOURCES

Children’s Dismissal (9:30)

Psalm 130 #1028

Preparation #642

**What Wondrous Love is This**

Communion **Carry Us In Your Arms**

Ezekiel 37:12-14. *God will raise his people from the grave, place his spirit within them, and settle them upon their land.*

Psalm 130: **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

Romans 8:8-11. *The Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us and will bring our mortal bodies to new life.*

John 11:1-45. *For God’s glory and for the sake of greater faith among his disciples, Jesus calls Lazarus back to life.*

### Easter Flowers

We will decorate our sanctuary with flowers and plants for Easter Sunday. We invite you to make a donation for flowers in honor of someone special or in memory of a deceased love one. Forms in the link.



### 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/>

### IMPORTANT

#### Bulletin/Email Submission Due Dates

In preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, all bulletin announcements and weekly email content **should have been submitted by 12 noon on Sunday, March 15.**

We will resume our regular production schedule after the holiday.

## AROUND THE PARISH

### 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.

## 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. Other opportunities:

**Every Meal:** [EveryMeal.org](http://EveryMeal.org)

**Neighborhood House:**

[NeighborhoodhouseMN.org](http://NeighborhoodhouseMN.org)

**Keystone:** [KeystoneServices.org](http://KeystoneServices.org)

**Interfaith Action:** [InterfaithAction.org](http://InterfaithAction.org)

**Catholic Community Foundation of**

**Minnesota:** [ccf-mn.org](http://ccf-mn.org)

**St. Vincent de Paul:** [svdpmpls.org](http://svdpmpls.org)

**Roseville Housing Stability Fund:**

[DoGoodRoseville.com](http://DoGoodRoseville.com)

### GET INVOLVED

#### Palm Sunday Faithful Witness

March 29

2:00pm, Procession begins; 2:30pm Program

Join thousands of Christians in St. Paul on March 29<sup>th</sup> 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](http://PalmSunday2026.com).

## PARISH CALENDAR for the week

Sun.	<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b> 9:30 Mass 9:30 FF Lit of the Word & CGS
Tues.	<b>7:00 pm</b> Choir
Sat.	<b>3:15-4:15</b> Confession <b>4:30 pm</b> Palm Sunday Mass
Sun.	<b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 Mass 9:30 CGS & First Eucharist

## Faith FORMATION

### April 8: 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@stceciliasp.org](mailto:theresa@stceciliasp.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 22** - CGS, Lit of Word, and First Eucharist (*rescheduled from last week*)
- **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

## THE 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. All of our requested gift cards support small local businesses - a complete list is 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](mailto:colleen@stceciliasp.org).

## HOLY WEEK

### ANOINTING MASS

**Monday, March 30, 5 pm.**

We will again offer a Mass with Anointing of the Sick on Monday of Holy Week. It seems fitting, as Lent draws to a close and we anticipate the days of Easter, to pray for renewed health and energy. Many of us carry burdens of physical or mental conditions that can lead to discouragement, anger or bitterness. The assurance of God's mercy, the grace of forgiveness and the supporting prayers of our community of faith can help us carry our burdens and give clearer witness to the hope that sustains us as followers of Jesus.

Among the church's seven sacraments, two are identified specifically as sacraments of healing: Penance and Anointing of the Sick. Each in its own way addresses the reality of the power of sin and evil that afflicts us as human creatures in body, mind and spirit. In the Sacrament of Anointing, the church prays as the oil is shared, "Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the power of the Holy Spirit," and "May the Lord, who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up.

We hope many will choose to join us to receive this sacrament as well as to offer our supportive presence and prayers as members of our community. Please also invite family members, friends or neighbors you feel would benefit from joining us.

### TRIDUUM MORNING PRAYER

Please consider joining us for Morning Prayer during the Triduum. We will meet at 8 a.m. each day for about 15 minutes for a simple recitation of a few psalms, a short reading, and intercessions from the Liturgy of the Hours. We will be upstairs in the church on Holy Thursday, and downstairs in the social hall by the small temporary altar for the Blessed Sacrament on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

### HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION

Bring the money you collected in your Lenten Rice Bowl for our Holy Thursday offering. If possible, please write a check (payable to St. Cecilia with the notation "Rice Bowl") in lieu of the coins you collected. We will have a bowl in the back of the church for your offerings.

### GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Our Good Friday collection will go to help Christians in the Holy Land. Checks should be payable to St. Cecilia.