



# 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

### 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

### Reflections on the Gospel Reading for Palm Sunday (Matthew 26:14-27:66) by Arthur E. Zannoni

The Gospel stories of the suffering and death of Jesus are known as the passion narratives. The English word "passion" is from a Latin verb meaning "to suffer." The stories of Jesus' praying in the garden, his trials before Jewish and Roman authorities, the way of the cross, and his death on the cross constitute his passion or sufferings.

The word passion in this context of each gospel is related to the word passive. In the story Jesus is not active but passive; he does not act but is acted upon. He does not "die" but is killed. In the suffering and death of Jesus, human beings are the actors on the surface of the narrative, and God is the hidden actor behind the scenes.

Each year on Palm Sunday the assigned Gospel reading is the story of Jesus' passion. This year (year A) it is Matthew's version. On Good Friday, we read the version according to the Gospel of John.

#### Passion Stories: Dramatizations in Four Acts

The Gospel writers, who composed their Gospels long after Jesus' death, present Jesus' suffering, and death as a drama. They are not videotapes or DVDs of the last events of Jesus' life. Instead, they are tragic four-act dramas that rivet the reader's attention on the main character, Jesus.

Act one presents Jesus at prayer and his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Act two narrates Jesus on trial before the Jewish authorities. Act three portrays Jesus before the Roman governor, Pilate. The concluding act is the way of the cross, Jesus' crucifixion, and death on Golgotha.

Since these stories are dramatizations of Jesus' final days, their emphasis is theology, not biography. They have as their purpose to reveal the religious or spiritual meaning of Jesus' death.

#### Reader /Listener Response

Since there is a dramatic format to these accounts, it is easy for the reader to step into the shoes of the various characters in the story. Often, the reader is drawn to participate in the drama and to ask just how he or she would have stood in relation to the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus.

These four-act dramas cause the modern Christian to examine his or her conscience, saying:

*With which character in the narrative would I most identify?*

*Could I have been an inactive bystander?*

*Could I have been among the women who witnessed the event, like Mary Magdalene?*

*Could I have been among the male disciples who fled from danger, abandoning Jesus at his final hour?*

*Could I have been like Peter who denied Jesus? Surely in my own life there are moments when I deny Jesus.*

*Could I be like Judas, betraying Jesus? Are there not times in our own lives when we find ourselves like Simon of Cyrene, carrying the cross of Jesus? Or even like Pontius Pilate in John's Gospel, trying to avoid deciding between good and evil, or even washing our hands of the whole affair, as he does in Matthew's Gospel?*

*Could I be sheepish about my commitment to Jesus as a disciple, like Joseph of Arimathea, who only claimed he knew Jesus under the cover of night?*

While these questions might seem shocking, they do help us to better embrace the profoundly dramatic character of the Gospel passion stories.

We are challenged each year as we listen to the passion story by the African American Hymn "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" "O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!"

## LITURGY RESOURCES

Procession (4:30) #498

Procession (9:30) #496

Psalm 22 #33

Preparation #642

**What Wondrous Love is This**

Communion #681 **We Remember**

Matthew 21:1-11. *(at the procession) Jesus entry into Jerusalem.*

Isaiah 50:4-7. *Within this prophecy of Isaiah, the third song of the Suffering Servant quietly establishes the strength and dignity of one disgraced but righteous.*

Psalm 22: "My God, My God, Why have you abandoned me?"

Phil 2:5-11. *Jesus emptied himself of his divine dignity to be incarnated in our midst and suffer the humiliation of the cross as a way to glory.*

Matthew 26:14-27, 66. *The Passion according to Matthew more than Mark's or Luke's gospel, dramatizes the narrative, i.e., by ending with an earthquake, by providing more details from popular tradition, as the anecdote about Judas and Pilate's wife and by meeting catechetical needs through biblical citations.*

### Easter Flower Donations

For Easter Sunday, we will be decorating our sanctuary with flowers and plants.

You're warmly invited to make a donation toward the flowers in honor of someone special or in memory of a loved one.

**The suggested donation is \$20, due today, Palm Sunday.**

Forms are available in the link.



## 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.

## Faith FORMATION

### April Whole Community Wednesday

*(Note this is 2nd Weds due to Holy Week.)*

One of our favorite service projects is back! We will be making fleece chew toys and snuffle mats for Safe Hands Animal Rescue, [www.SafeHandsRescue.org](http://www.SafeHandsRescue.org). Safe Hands is a local non-profit that operates a safe house in rural Appalachia where poverty, pet overpopulation and neglect are major issues. Join us for a community meal and a fun hands-on project. A representative from Safe Hands will be here to tell us more about their mission. RSVP link in weekly email or contact Theresa, [theresa@stceciliaspn.org](mailto:theresa@stceciliaspn.org) for dinner counts. The meal begins at 5:30pm with the speaker and project to follow at 6:30pm. Hope to see you there!

### 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:

- **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
- **April 18-19** - Parish Celebration Weekend

## 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@stceciliaspn.org](mailto:colleen@stceciliaspn.org).

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

### 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.

### 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; 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.' Invite friends! More: [PalmSunday2026.com](http://PalmSunday2026.com).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Groundings: Seek and You Will Find

**April 21, 12:30-2:30, St. Thomas More**

What wisdom does your body hold about God that might help your heart and mind? Join Sarah Cledwyn, MA, to delve into experience in our bodies so that we have a clearer understanding of how and why we search for God.

### 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/>

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 Monday 5 pm deadline after Easter.