



Church of Saint Cecilia

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

www.stceciliaspam.org

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • September 6, 2026



Season of Creation 2026

The Season of Creation began on September 1, 1989 as a day of prayer for creation by the Orthodox Church. Ten years later, the World Council of Churches expanded it into a season Sept 1 thru Oct 4, ending with the feast of Francis of Assisi. Embraced by Pope Francis in 2016, Catholics are encouraged to join in the ecumenical call to love life and live in communion with creation.

Honoring this Season at St. Cecilia's, each week there will be a prayer for the earth and our role as stewards. Starting October 4, we will continue the spirit of this season with programming and activities for kids ages 2-90.

A Prayer for our Earth

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, so that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with your peace, so that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. - Pope Francis

Pray with the Pope September Intention: For the care of water

Let us pray for the just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.
Full prayer: www.praywiththepope.va.



Season of Creation 2026 September 1 - October 4

Creation Season 2026: An Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,
who creates all things,
who embraces all things,
who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part
of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God
as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet
with living water.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
seen in the suffering one,
the poor one, the malnourished one,
the climate refugee -
who loves and cares for this world
and suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ,
the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew
this world and everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among
and with us today.
We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope
that one day God will put an end
to death and all destructive forces.

(Lutheran Theological College, South India, adapted)

2026 ADULT FORMATION

JustFaith Ongoing

Our Christian Faith invites us to become agents of God's compassion in a wounded world. The mission of the JustFaith program is to help people act on that invitation.

The JustFaith journey is about discerning how to respond to the call to discipleship in our blessed, broken, and hungry world. It is about deepening our relationships with each other and those on the margins.

Some of the ways we do this are by:

- Sharing and discussing Scripture and recommended readings.
- Immersion experiences
- Learning to see with 'eyes wide open'
- Prayer

We are offering several program opportunities this fall, details on the next page.

For more information about Adult Formation programming, please contact Marge Virnig, marge@stceciliasp.org.

Called and Gifted: Ministry Signup Weekend September 19 & 20

Each person has gifts and talents to contribute to the building up of family, community, church, and ultimately the Kingdom of God.

We are a parish of choice – people choose to come here for a variety of reasons, and one important reason is the sense of community we experience. This happens in a variety of ways: through liturgy, through formation, through outreach opportunities and through socializing.

Our hope is that throughout the next year people will get to know each other a little better and together we will come to a deeper understanding of who we are and what we hope to be.

Download the Ministry Descriptions and the Ministry Signup Form on the Adult Formation page of our website, www.stceciliasp.org/adult-formation. Paper copies are also available in The Link.

2026 CHILDREN'S, YOUTH & FAMILY FORMATION

Although we have not yet hired for the open position, we are moving forward with tentative plans for fall programming.

Whole Community Wednesdays

The Faith Formation schedule will begin in October. Our first Whole Community evening will be on **Wednesday, October 7th** starting with a meal at 5:30pm.

CGS/Liturgy of the Word/1st Eucharist

We will begin Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for PreK-1st grade, Lit of the Word for Children (open to all), and First Eucharist class (typically second graders+) on **Sunday, Oct 11th during 9:30am Mass**. Tentatively plan for 2nd and 4th Sundays.

To kick things off, we are holding a **parent/child Introductory Retreat for second graders** (or older students who would like to receive First Eucharist) on Saturday, Sept 19th from 9am-12pm.

Confirmation

We will have Confirmation this year for students in 8th & 9th grade as well as for

those who are older but who have not received yet. In the past, Confirmation has joined us for Whole Community Wednesdays each month and then we had a second Wednesday evening dedicated to Confirmation prep.

Stay tuned as we decide what will work best this year and plan to attend on October 7th.

Registration

The registration link for Children's, Youth & Family Formation is available on the Youth Faith Formation page of our website, www.stceciliasp.org/youth-faith-formation, and in your weekly email. Please **complete the form by September 15** if you plan to participate.

Cost is \$85 per family with an additional \$45 sacramental preparation fee for anyone in First Eucharist or Confirmation. No family will be turned away due to finances.

Questions? Contact Colleen, colleen@stceciliasp.org.



Join us for Oktoberfest!
Saturday October 10, 5:30 to 9:00pm
\$5/kid, \$10/adult, \$25/family

Dinner & Fun

Join us for brats/veggie brats, beans, corn, chips, and fixings, provided by our very own Adam Sieve! Beer/wine/drinks available, good will offerings accepted. Cash bingo. Games and activities for the kids!

Volunteers Needed

We need cleaners, bingo sellers and callers, drink servers, game doers! Sign up: www.stceciliasp.org/oktoberfest.

Oktoberfest Bake-Off

Show off your best baked good or dessert. Awards for top desserts! Sign up: www.stceciliasp.org/oktoberfest.

Sponsorships

Want to help but can't volunteer? Donate money for a good cause! Email us for ways to support, colleen@stceciliasp.org.

Bring your families, friends and neighbors to a wonderful community event at the best little church around!

Thank You!

A big thank you to Mary Mehlich, Annamary Boler, and Dave Smith for their help painting Room B and the back hallway. If you haven't had a chance, check out their great work!
There is more painting on the horizon...stay tuned for more opportunities to help!

FORMATION EVENTS & PROGRAMS THIS FALL

Presentation Series:

The Psalms

Thursday, Sept 10 thru Oct 15, 6:30pm

For 3,000 years, these ancient poem-songs have provided a stream of spiritual nourishment and guidance. Join us this fall for six presentations on the Psalms by Fr. Mike Joncas. *Free will offerings accepted.*

- September 10 at St. Frances Cabrini
- September 17 at St. Cecilia
- September 24 at St. Albert
- October 1 at St. Francis Cabrini
- October 8 at St. Cecilia
- October 15 at St. Albert

Parent/Child Introductory Retreat for second graders

Saturday, September 19, 9 to 12 noon

Children who register for this year's First Eucharist program are invited to join us on the morning of Saturday, September 19 to work on our missals, prepare the first layer of our crosses, and begin to find connections between the parables of The Good Shepherd and The True Vine. Questions? Email Colleen, colleen@stceciliaspn.org.

Story and Faith:

The Bible's Beginnings

Sunday October 4, 11, 18 after Mass

The first stories in the Bible are well-known, and yet their dramatic and surprising meanings are often overlooked. In three weekly sessions, Dr. David Penchansky will interpret these texts.

Volunteers Needed!

We are hoping some teens and adults will join us to help with the October Kids Creation Series. No artistic skills needed! Just a spirit of fun! Email Anne Neuberger, anneneuberger@gmail.com

Kids Creation Series

Sunday October 4, 11, and 18
(during Story and Faith presentation)
October 4

St. Francis had such a joy in God's creation that he danced and sang, and talked with all manner of creature! We will sing with Betsy and Mike the wonderful song, "The Cantic of the Sun" and then make a mural. *How will you paint the "seas' mighty storms", "dance in the forest", and "the wind that blows through the trees"?*

October 11

Have you watched a pretty goldfinch gather seeds for lunch? Seen a long-legged spider scamper up a thread of web? Do you love grumbling thunder or chirring squirrels? Have you felt the breeze in your hair? Start a nature journal about this! Soon you will be noticing more and more! Come get a journal to get started drawing or writing today. *This is for adults too, so be sure to stop by!*

October 18

What do beetles, cheetahs, foxes, frogs, grasshoppers, moose, skunks, and spiders have in common? They all belong on your "God's Creatures" poster. Draw a background and add realistic animal stickers. Or just make a poster of your favorite animals to take home. *We have 800 stickers so everyone can get creative!*

Whole Community

Wednesdays

October 7, 5:30 pm

Our large group meeting on October 7 will start in Friendship Hall at 5:30pm for a meal and then we will spend some time discussing 2026 programming. **We are hoping for volunteer hosts to help with organization and cleanup this year.** Details in e-newsletter. *Other 2026 WCW dates: November 4 and December 2.*

READINGS

Exekial 33: 7-9. *The sentinel is obliged to warn the wicked person. If not, then both perish! If yes, then the sentinel was saved and may also save the wicked person, or else the wicked die in their own guilt.*

Psalms 95. *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

Romans 13: 8-10. *The commandments are all summed up in the precept to love our neighbor as ourselves. Love is the fulfillment of the law.*

Matthew 18: 15-20. *Directions for how to correct a brother or sister at first, privately; eventually before the church. The prayer of those who gather in Jesus' name will be heard.*

CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 8

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, September 10

6:30 pm Presentation Series: The Psalms

September 12-13

Food Drive

Monday, September 14

6:30 pm Craft Night

Tuesday, September 15

7:00 pm Choir Practice

We're Hiring!

Catechetical Ministry Coordinator

Current Job Posting on the Staff page of the St. Cecilia website, www.stceciliaspn.org.

Fall Office Hours

The Parish Office will retain current hours into the fall: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm. The office will be closed Mondays and Fridays.

Fall Bulletins

Bulletins will continue to be produced every two weeks.
Submissions: bulletin@stceciliaspn.org.

PARISH STAFF

651-644-4502 • info@stceciliaspn.org

John M. Hofstede

Pastor
pastor@stceciliaspn.org

Colleen Smith

Parish Ops & Safe Environment Coord.
colleen@stceciliaspn.org

Linda Whiteneck

Parish Administrative Assistant
linda@stceciliaspn.org

Marge Virnig

Pastoral Associate
marge@stceciliaspn.org

Betsy Sullivan

Director of Liturgical Music
betsy@stceciliaspn.org

Trustees

Matthew Tande & Mary Ellen Ryan

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