



Church of Saint Cecilia

2357 Bayless Place • Saint Paul, MN 55114
651.644.4502
Fax 651.647.1445 • www.stceciliasp.org

Weekly Masses:
Saturday 4:30 & Sunday 8:15 & 10:00
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45



Geertgen tot Sit Jans

The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah,
in the wilderness.

WELCOME

To join the parish, please
call the office at 651.644.4502.

OFFICE HOURS

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

PARISH STAFF

John M. Hofstede
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Rose Ryan
Maintenance Coordinator
651.644.4502

Trustees

Matthew Tande & Mary Ellen Ryan

The Church of Saint Cecilia

Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent By Stephanie Weller Hanson

The Winding Road

“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding road shall be made straight.”

For the people of Israel, mountains and hills and rugged footpaths were places of danger from both animal and human predators. Travelers would set out knowing that a plausible threat was always present. We have only to think of the Good Samaritan story to imagine that reality.

This past week, I spoke with a friend in another part of the country who is living through multiple layers of difficulty—a recent death in the family as well as issues with troubled teenage children, so that put a frame around my thoughts on these readings. My friend might well say that she feels like she’s climbing a mountain of difficulty, that she’s lost in an emotional wilderness, and can’t find her way. It’s something many of us have experienced. Our children, whether young or grown, are struggling; sometimes it’s our parents who have health problems and must move out of their home. There’s a painful divorce, or an addiction that destroys the well-being of the family. And saddest of all is the sharp stab of grief we feel for our lost loved ones. Like the Babylonian captives, we have been cut off from that which we love, and we long with all our hearts to find our way home again. So we sing today’s psalm as an act of hope: “When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion/we were like people dreaming/then our mouth was filled with laughter/and our tongue with rejoicing.”

Advent asks constancy of us, and patience, but always with the promise of coming joy. There may be no easy answers to the thorny struggles and sorrows we sometimes face, but we know that we are not alone. God makes his home within us. We are dwelling places of the Holy Spirit, and the Promised One comes to us again at Christmas.

O Radiant Dawn,
Splendor of eternal light, sun of justice,
Come and shine on those who dwell
In darkness and in the shadow of death.
--O Antiphon

Celebrating holiday liturgies during Covid

Our Liturgy Team met recently and discussed how to plan for our crowds during the holiday season. It is hard to predict if and when the present Covid surge will subside. Formerly, we offered a single service on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm (with Carols at 4:00) and one on Christmas morning at 10:00am. While the Eve mass has traditionally been more heavily attended, we chose to add an additional service on Christmas morning at 8:15. Our Christmas schedule thus more closely resembles our usual weekend schedule. We have had some overflow seating available in the Link and entryway and are exploring how to expand that with safe distancing and safety in mind.

Remember that we still post a recorded liturgy for holiday and Sunday services for those who are not able to comfortably or safely attend in person. We will continue to wear masks in our building when we gather and ask folks to safely distance as they are able. It is important that those attending are also fully vaccinated and boosters are highly recommended. We ask people to consider attending our Christmas Day options when planning their holidays to help us maintain safe environments throughout this weekend.

The New Year Holy Day in honor of Mary the Mother of God is not considered a day of obligation when it falls, as it does this year, on a weekend. We will, however, have a single Mass on Saturday morning for those who would like to join us to begin the New Year on this day of prayer for Peace.

Notice that there are no 4:30 Saturday evening masses on each of these consecutive weekends.

Fri, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: 4:00pm Carols, 4:30pm Liturgy

Sat, Dec. 25 Christmas Day: Mass 8:15 am & 10:00 am (--No 4:30pm Sat. Mass)

Sun, Dec. 26 Holy Family: Masses 8:15 and 10:00am

Sat, Jan. 1 New Year's Day: Mass 10:00am (not a day of obligation) (--No 4:30pm Sat. Mass)

Sun, Jan. 2 Epiphany: Masses 8:15 and 10:00am.

John Hofstede

COMMUNITY NEWS

You're Invited to:

Advent Evensong
Sunday, December 5th—7:00pm
Church of St. Cecilia

Please come join in singing the Psalms, "Tableprayer", "Magnificat" and more with the Choir, Cantors and Strings



Giving Tree Gifts are Due Today!

Thank you for participating in the Giving Tree project.

All gifts are due today, Sunday, December 5th. If you forgot to bring your gift back, please call the parish office on Monday for drop-off options.

Holy Day—December 8th

Wednesday, December 8th is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day. Mass will be celebrated at 12:05pm only.

Christmas Flowers

We will decorate our sanctuary with flowers throughout the Christmas season. We invite you to make a donation for flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of someone special. Forms are available in the back of church. If you would like your name with intention published, please return the completed form with payment to the parish office by Monday, December 13th. Thank you.

Retirement Fund for Religious

From Catholic schools and hospitals—to parishes, retreat centers, and works of mercy—elderly sisters and brothers, and religious order priests have prayerfully served our Church and world. Most ministered for little pay. Now, without enough retirement savings, many religious communities are struggling to care for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend helps provide nursing care, medicine, and other necessities. Thank you for your prayers and generosity. Checks payable to St. Cecilia or use our PayPal [link](#). Indicate "special collection with any donations. Thank you!



Advent ZOOM Bingo Party
 Our annual advent faith formation party will stay virtual again this year. We had a

blast last December playing advent Bingo over Zoom so we plan to do that again. All are welcome to join us for Bingo, you don't have to be enrolled in Faith Formation to be a part of this fun tradition. Pre-registration is needed so I can generate an online Bingo card for each member of your group who would like to play. It works best if each player has a separate device (iPad, laptop, phone, etc). Email theresa@stceciliaspn.org prior to December 20th to receive your card. There will be lots of great prizes and time to reconnect with fellow St. C's families.

Topic: Advent Bingo
 Time: Dec 22, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
 Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81163179086?pwd=WW1Va2hhWTFaME1lQ3VpTVQxK3BvZz09>

Meeting ID: 811 6317 9086

Passcode: advent

Upcoming Dates:

December 5th

Liturgy of the Word
 Sacramental Prep
 CGS: Group A
Advent Program Practice
11:15am in church

December 19th

Advent Program during 10:00am Mass

December 22nd

Advent ZOOM Bingo
 6:00pm

December 12th

Liturgy of the Word
 Sacramental Prep
 CGS: Group B
Advent Program Dress Rehearsal
11:15am in church

Program on the Birth Stories of Jesus. Art Zannoni will be giving a presentation entitled "Exploring the Gospel Christmas Stories" at Pax Christi Catholic Church 12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie on Monday evening December 13 from 7 to 9 pm. It is free and open to the public. All are welcome.

Holiday Food Drive Next Weekend

We will be collecting nonperishable food and monetary donations for our neighborhood food shelf. Monetary donations payable to St. Cecilia or use our PayPal [link](#).

Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9. *The Glory breaks over the new Jerusalem and God's people return to their homeland.*

Psalm 126: **God has done great things for us, filled us with laughter and music.**

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11. *Paul prays for the completion of God's holiness among these, his favorite converts.*

Luke 3:1-6. *John the Baptist is introduced amidst the data of world history.*

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun	Second Sunday of Advent Giving Tree Gifts Due 10:00 FF Liturgy of the Word 11:15 Practice for Advent Program 7:00 Advent Evensong
Tue	7:00 Choir
Wed	Loaves & Fishes 12:05 Mass
Thur	4:00 Giving Tree Gift Sort
Sat/Sun	Food Drive Retirement Fund for Religious
Sun	Third Sunday of Advent 10:00 FF Liturgy of Word 11:15 Advent Program Practice

Early Bulletin Deadline
 Submissions for the December 12th bulletin are due Tuesday, December 7th by 9:00am. Email submissions to bulletin@stceciliaspn.org.


Have a plan for the ones you leave behind.
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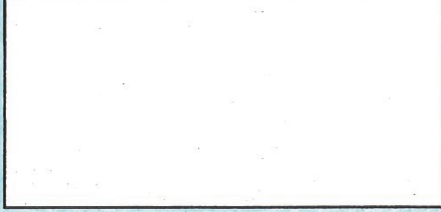


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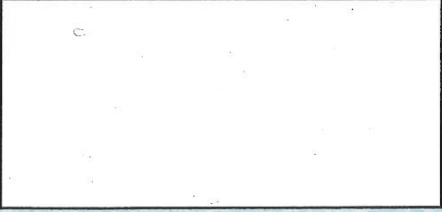



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