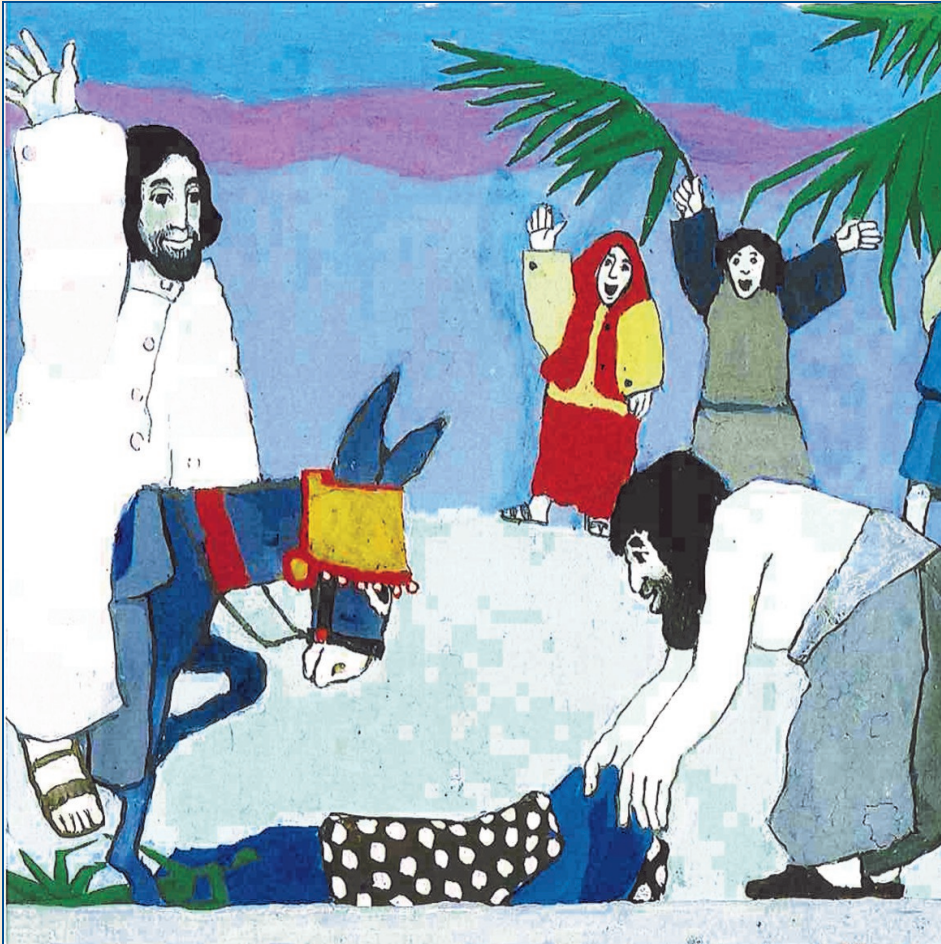




# Church of Saint Cecilia

2357 Bayless Place • Saint Paul, MN 55114  
651.644.4502  
Fax 651.647.1445 • [www.stceciliaspm.org](http://www.stceciliaspm.org)

Weekly Masses:  
Saturday 4:30 & Sunday 9:30  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45



Hosanna

Kees de Kort

## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday, April 13th

Mass-Saturday, April 12th 4:30pm  
(Confessions 3:15-4:15pm)  
Palm Sunday Mass 9:30am

### Monday, April 14th

5:00pm Mass with Anointing of the Sick

### Wednesday, April 16th

Confessions 11:00am-12:00pm

### Holy Thursday, April 17th

8:00am Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours  
7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

### Good Friday, April 18th

8:00am Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours  
3:00pm Solemn Liturgy

### Holy Saturday, April 19th

8:00am Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours  
8:00pm Easter Vigil  
(No confessions or 4:30pm Mass today)

### Easter Sunday, April 20th

9:30 Mass

We will be recording our Holy Week Services and Easter Vigil for viewing on our website at [www.stceciliaspm.org](http://www.stceciliaspm.org)

## PARISH STAFF

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## Trustees

Matthew Tande & Mary Ellen Ryan

## **The Church of Saint Cecilia**

### **Holy Week and the Passion Stories of Jesus in the Gospels** **Arthur E. Zannoni**

In Holy Week, the Gospel Passion stories are read twice. First, on Palm Sunday, this year (2025) the story from the Gospel of Luke (see Luke 22:14-23:56). And on Good Friday from the Gospel of John (see John 18:1-19:42).

The Passion stories are in all four Gospels. They contain a tragic four-act drama that rivets the reader on the main character, Jesus. Act one narrates Jesus at prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Act two describes Jesus on trial before Jewish religious authorities. Act three portrays Jesus before the Roman governor Pilate, while act four is the way of the cross, Jesus' crucifixion and death on the cross.

Many of us do not realize how terrible the crucifixion was. The following explanation provides both a background and explanation.

#### **Crucifixion: An Explanation**

As a form of capital punishment and execution, crucifixion was exceedingly cruel. It was used by a number of ancient peoples, not just the Romans. During the Roman Empire, crucifixion was the preferred way of executing rebels, slaves, and lower-class violent criminals. The Romans crucified many, both before and after Jesus, including thousands when the Romans put down the Jewish revolt of 66-70 C.E. Crucifixions were carried out in a variety of ways using different styles of crosses.

The common Roman procedure was to first scourge the one being crucified, to both increase suffering and weaken the person. Then the condemned person was forced to carry the horizontal cross beam to the place of execution, where an upright vertical beam would already be in place. Roman crucifixions were located at public sites, such as along a busy road or in a public square, in order to create a horrific public display and deter others from performing such crimes.

The one being crucified was stripped of clothing, and their arms were tied or nailed to the crossbeam. The horizontal cross beam was then lifted up and affixed to the vertical beam at a notch already cut into it. Sometimes the person's feet were tied or nailed to the upright beam. There was no supporting piece of wood under the feet. The Romans posted a sign indicating the crime for which the person was being crucified. Despite both their suffering and pain, those being crucified could survive for several days, but were tormented by pain, thirst, insects, and the shame of dying naked before others.

Death usually resulted from suffocation or asphyxiation when both the chest muscles and diaphragm muscle gave out. A body was sometimes left on a cross to decompose to be eaten by vultures, dogs, and rats. Crucifixion was designed to be as painful and degrading a death as possible. Romans used crucifixion with a two-fold purpose in mind to execute the criminal and as a warning of what would happen to those who challenged their authority.

Crucifixion was considered so ignominious that Cicero, a first century Roman statesman described crucifixion as "the most cruel and disgusting penalty." And Josephus a first century Jewish historian called it "The most wretched of deaths." Roman citizens were exempt from crucifixion except in rare cases. As Cicero stated: "...the very word cross should be far removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen but also from his thoughts, eyes, and ears."

#### **For Reflection**

Considering having read the above description of crucifixion, which character in the Passion story can I identify? Could I be like Peter who denied Jesus or Judas who betrayed him? Or could I be like some of the religious leaders who accused Jesus of blasphemy? Or could I be like Pontius Pilate washing my hands of Jesus or like Simon of Cyrene helping Jesus to carry the cross? Could I be like the Roman soldiers in charge of crucifying Jesus? Or could I be like the male disciples who abandoned Jesus, or sheepish about my commitment as a disciple like Joseph of Arimathea? Could I have been a bystander in the crowd? Or could I have been like Jesus' mother standing at the foot of the cross along with other women? While these questions might be shocking, at least to some of us, they do help us to better embrace the profoundly dramatic character of the Gospel Passion Stories.

#### **Holy Thursday/Good Friday Collections**

Holy Thursday: A reminder to 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 a notation of "Rice Bowl") in lieu of the coins you collected. We will have a bowl in the back of church for your offerings.

Good Friday: Our Good Friday collection will go to help Christians in the Holy Land. Thank you for your generosity (Checks payable to St. Cecilia).

#### **Morning Prayer during Triduum**

Please join us at 8:00am during the Triduum for a short (15-20 minutes) celebration of Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. On Thursday we'll meet in the front pews near the altar; on Friday and Saturday we'll meet in the basement friendship hall in front of the altar of repose. Worship aids provided.

## Parish Celebration Weekend April 26th & 27th

Join us for our annual Spring Parish Celebration that will be happening the weekend of April 26th-27th! The event will kick-off on Saturday evening following Mass with a wine and cheese reception. Bid on items at the silent auction, purchase raffle tickets for the bucket items, buy your calendar raffle entries, play your hand at the wine wall, and most importantly - enjoy some fellowship! Sunday's brunch will begin at 10:30am and conclude at 12:30pm. In addition to everything listed above, we will have heads and tails games on the 1/2 hour, a kids raffle, and more. Register your group today! **Please note that raffles are cash/check only.** We need lots of volunteers to make this celebration come together. [Check out the signup genius link here.](#) Thank you for your support!

### Featured Bucket Raffle Prizes

We are super excited to showcase our new raffle! Purchase \$10 raffle tickets and place them in the buckets to win these amazing prizes:

1. A Paddle North Portager stand-up paddle board, pump, paddle, seat for kayaking, lake fin, and carrying case. Over \$500 value!
2. A backyard solo grill and lawn chair set - a \$400 value!
3. A Rapids Brewing Co experience and hotel stay - a \$300 value!



### How Can You Help?

We still need silent auction baskets, [volunteers](#), gift cards for the calendar raffle, and bottles of wine worth at least \$20. Cash donations of any amount are always welcome. Please turn in bottles and auction items by April 23rd - thanks!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Anointing of the Sick Mass

A Mass of Anointing of the Sick will take place on Monday, April 14th at 5:00pm. Join us as we pray for and with each other.

### Early Bulletin Deadline

Submissions for the Easter Sunday bulletin are due on Monday, April 14th by 9:00am. Email submissions to [bulletin@stceciliasp.org](mailto:bulletin@stceciliasp.org).



**Sunday Forum—April 13th, 10:30am.** Join us following our 9:30am Mass for a presentation by Angela Senander on Easter Hope for a Pilgrim Church.

**May Large Group - Sacramental Celebration & Service Project Open House.** All are welcome to join us for the conclusion of our Faith Formation year. On Wednesday, May 7th we will recognize our First Eucharist and Confirmation groups. We will begin with a shared meal starting at 5:30pm and celebrate with cake and a brief ceremony. We will also enjoy a slideshow of photos from the year. Our Confirmation group will showcase their service projects open house style. [Please RSVP here for dinner counts.](#) Come celebrate with us!

### Confirmation

Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:

- Wednesday, April 23, Confirmation only, 5:30pm-7:45pm
- Saturday, April 26, **Confirmation Mass at the Basilica at 10am**
- Wednesday, May 7th, **Final Class and Service Project Presentations**

### Upcoming Events:

4/13 - CGS & Liturgy of the Word  
4/20 - Easter Sunday  
4/23 - Confirmation only, 5:30pm  
4/27 - CGS & First Eucharist, Parish Event  
5/3 - First Eucharist practice, 10am  
5/4 - First Eucharist, 9:30am Mass  
5/7 - Final WCW, Confirmation service presentations

## Music for Liturgy

Procession (4:30) #498  
(9:30) #496

Psalm 22 My God, my God, O why have you abandoned me?

Gospel Acc. #195

Preparation #642

No Greater Love Mass Worship Aid

Communion #681

## Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40. (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, O Why have you abandoned me?"

Phil 2:6-11. *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.*

Luke 22:14-23:56. *The passion according to Luke portrays Jesus more frequently than the other gospels in prayer, in forgiveness, in concern for others and attracting them to follow, even to take up his cross like Simon of Cyrene.*

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun		Palm Sunday
		Food Drive
	9:30	CGS & FF Liturgy of the Word
	10:30	Sunday Forum
	10:30	Small Group
Mon	5:00	Anointing of the Sick
Tue	7:00	Choir
Wed	11-N	Confessions
Thur	8:00	Morning Prayer
	7:00	Mass of The Lord's Supper
Fri	8:00	Morning Prayer
	3:00	Solemn Liturgy
Sat	8:00	Morning Prayer
	11:00	Vigil Rehearsal
	8:00	Easter Vigil
Sun	9:30	Easter Mass
Mon		Office Closed



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