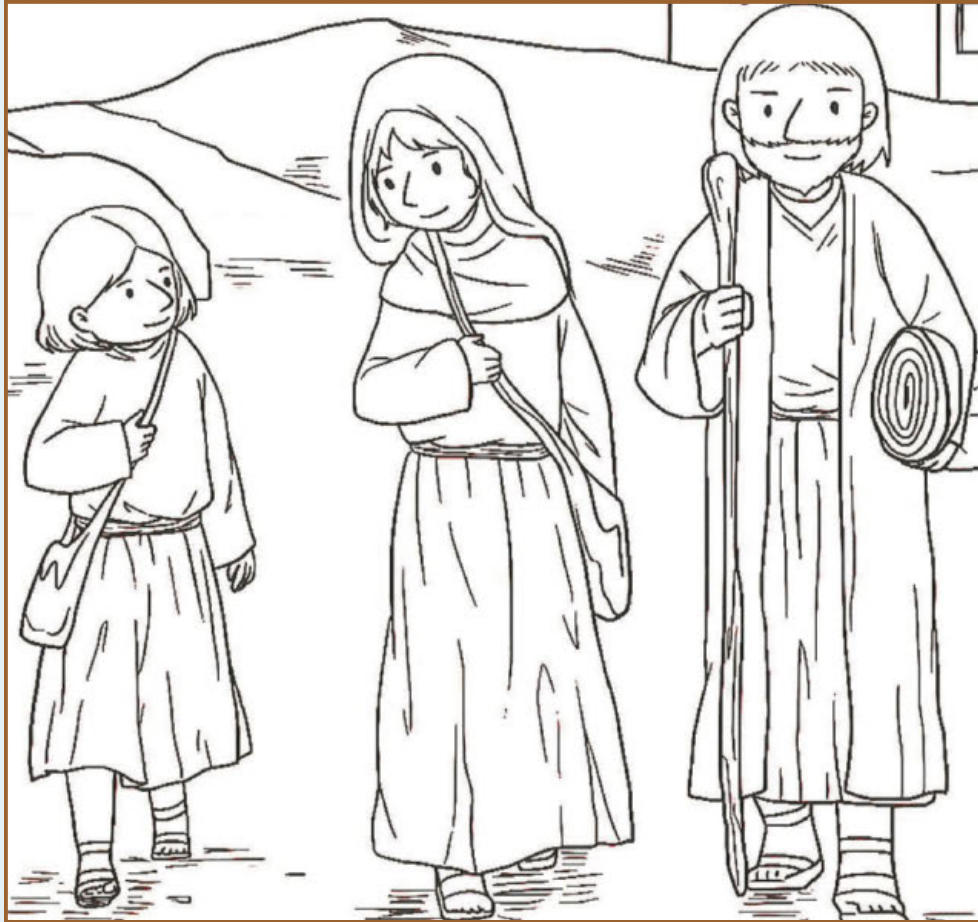


Church of Saint Cecilia

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

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



When he was 12 years old, they went up to the feast as usual.

Holiday Liturgy Schedule

Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24th
4:00pm Carols
4:30pm Mass

Christmas Day
Saturday, December 25th
8:15am & 10:00am Mass
(No 4:30pm Mass today)

Holy Family
Sunday, December 26th
8:15am & 10:00am Mass

New Year's Day
Saturday, January 1st
10:00am Mass only
(No 4:30pm Mass)

The Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday, January 2nd
8:15am & 10:00am Mass

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Trustees
Matthew Tande & Mary Ellen Ryan

The Church of Saint Cecilia

Reflection on the readings for the Feast of the Holy Family Sue Wick, O.P.

What exactly makes up a family? The term may sound simple, but can be a difficult thing to define because it can take lots of forms. Does it count only those who live under the same roof? Where do the widowed, divorced and never-married singles fit in? Those without children born to or adopted into a household? Does it include extended family with grandparents or aunts and uncles, live-in or not, or adults taking care of a parent who cannot live independently?

Today's readings give us three different examples of family, all really different, but all involving an element of dedication. Our first reading from the first Book of Samuel portrays a family from over 3,000 years ago, when families were structured a little differently than most are now! Elkanah has two wives, one of whom has borne several children. His other wife, Hannah, has grown old without having any children, much to her distress. During a trip to the temple in Shiloh, Hannah begs God for a son and promises that, if so blessed, she would dedicate him to God. Hannah indeed does have a son, whom she names Samuel, and true to her promise when he is about three years old she takes him back to the temple to live as a person dedicated to God, as someone holy to the Lord. The first Book of Samuel reports that Hannah goes on to have several other children, and does get to visit Samuel and bring him presents, but still, I suspect not many of us would consider permanently relinquishing a long-awaited toddler to a dedicated life in the temple, away from his parents and the rest of his family!

The reading from the first Letter of Saint John paints a quite different picture of family; it is all of us, as children of God in one very large family, and each of us is urged to dedicate ourselves to love one another so that we can remain in this loving family.

And then there is the familiar reading from the Gospel of Luke, with the nuclear family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus heading to the temple in Jerusalem with their larger extended family, much as Hannah's family had done 11 centuries earlier. This time the child at the center of the story is older, and Mary and Joseph had no intention of leaving him there. However, it is the 12-year-old Jesus who has definite convictions about what his role in the temple is meant to be: dedication to the work of God. (Apparently the tendency for adolescents to exert their independence and cause their parents anxiety hasn't changed much over the millennia.) If the sinless, God-made-human Jesus was able to cause such anguish to his family by appearing to be lost for three days, no wonder that the rest of us, being neither sinless nor God, are capable of wreaking havoc in our family relationships with arguments, rivalries, grudges, and even estrangement.

I've never met a perfect family, and I bet you haven't, either. This weekend celebrates the Holy Family, not the perfect family, which maybe makes it a bit more relatable for us. Can each of us help to create a holy family, even if we don't have a child to give to the temple or have sinless family members as a starting point? Can dedication—in other words, commitment, wholeheartedness-- in matters of God be part of our own family, however it is put together? Patience, forgiveness of those obviously not perfect members, and a strong sense of humor come to mind as critical pieces of the effort.

Financial Highlights through September 30, 2021

Actual Contributions	\$60,113
Budgeted Contributions	\$80,500
Other revenues	\$2,999
Parish Events	\$1,733
Total Revenues	\$64,845
Actual Expenses	\$86,467
Budgeted Expenses	\$85,885
Building Fund Revenues	\$6,289
Principal Payments	\$4,269
Net (deficit)	(\$19,602)

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, Jan 1, 10:00am

Book: Beth C.
Lectors: Ellen D./Ted U.
Host:
Sacristan:

Sunday, January 2, 8:15am

Lectors: Mary Pat R./Eileen S.
Host: Geri J.
Sacristan: Pat K.

Sunday, January 2, 10:00am

Book: Mary Pat Z.
Lector: Art Z./Kathy Z.
Host: Ann K.
Greeter: Bill & Mary J.
Sacristan: Julie M.



Year-End Giving

Please note that end of year contributions for 2021 tax records must be received in the parish office by Friday, December 31st. When making your year end gifts, please consider taking advantage of the option to sign up for monthly automatic withdrawal through your checking or savings account for your regular contribution to the operating budget of the church. An additional contribution can be likewise, made to the building fund. Please contact the parish office at 651.644.4502 for more info.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Office Closed

The parish office will be closed on Monday, December 27th.



The Gift of Warmth

This Christmas season we will be collecting something warm for those in need. Suggested items (socks, gloves, mittens, hats, etc.) may be placed in the basket near the crèche. Thank you.

Parish Directory Arriving Soon

We're anticipating delivery of our parish directory by the beginning of the New Year. All who scheduled a photo sitting or submitted a photo for inclusion will receive a copy. We'll let you know when the directories arrive and are available for pick up.

Support for Afghan Refugees

We've donated \$1,000 from our alms box offerings to support Afghan refugees. Additional donations are also welcome. Cash or checks payable to St. Cecilia "refugees" may be dropped in the alms box in the back of church or sent to the parish office. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Giving Tree Thank You!

Your extreme generosity provided gifts for 260+ individuals from College Prep Elementary and Holy Rosary Church. The recipients were extremely grateful to be receiving their gifts this holiday season and expressed a heartfelt thank you to all. We thank you so much for going above and beyond in providing the beautiful gifts for these families! Thanks again, The Giving Tree Team

Collection Bins

Please note that we no longer have a collection bin for clothing and encourage you to take such items to a donation center of your choosing. We currently only collect nonperishable food and personal care items for our neighborhood food shelf, and home goods for Bridging which serves families in transition. Bins for these items are in the lower level link. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the parish office staff at 651.644.4502. Thank you.

Hymn Books for Recorded Liturgy

Hymnals are available for use at home to accompany our recorded liturgies. Please inquire via the parish office at 651.644.4502.



The Sandwich Project - Needs YOU!!



We have partnered with the Sandwich Project for many years now helping to provide an immediate food source for the hungry in our community, but the organization has undergone some recent changes. They no longer collect and store the sandwiches and ask that volunteers deliver directly to their food shelf partners. We are hoping to fulfill their sandwich needs for an entire week starting on January 9th. **In order to do this, we need your help!**

On Sunday, January 9th we can have up to 10 groupings in Friendship Hall to assemble our first 400 sandwiches. We then need parishioners to make some sandwiches at home and deliver them to church to round out the rest of the week. I hope to have our volunteers deliver 200 sandwiches each day. **Our goal is 800 sandwiches in 4 days and I'm confident we can do it!** If you sign up to make sandwiches at home, we ask that you drop them in the bin outside of church only during your assigned times so that we have room for each batch of 200. Follow [this sign-up genius link](#) to get involved. Thank you for your help this winter season!

Upcoming Dates:

January 9th

Liturgy of the Word
Sacramental Prep
CGS: Group A
Family Service Project, Registration required

January 16th

CGS: Group B

January 23rd

Liturgy of the Word
Sacramental Prep
CGS: Group A

January 30th

CGS: Group B

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun	Holy Family 8:15 Mass 10:00 Mass
Mon	Office Closed
Sat	10:00 Mass (No 4:30pm Mass today)
Sun	The Epiphany of the Lord 8:15 Mass 10:00 Mass

Christmas Eve and Day

Isaiah 9:1-3,5-6. *Those surrounded by darkness have seen a great light A child has been for us, whose name is Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father Forever, Prince of Peace.*

Psalm 96: **Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

Titus 2:11-14. *The grace of God has appeared, training us to reject godless ways and to await our great God and Savior Christ Jesus.*

Luke 2:1-14. *As Caesar Augustus ordered a census, Jesus is born and laid in a manger. Angels announce his birth to shepherds in the fields who leave their flocks to worship him.*

Holy Family

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24. *Hannah gives birth to Samuel, weans him and brings him to the temple in Shiloh. She leaves him there to serve the Lord who has given her the gift of her son.*

Psalm 84: **How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord God of hosts!**

1 John 3:1-2. 21-24. *God has shown us such love in letting us be called children of God. We are Gods children now.*

Luke 2:41-62. *When the boy Jesus was found by Mary and Joseph in the temple, he replied that he had to be in his Father's house.*

Early Bulletin Deadline

Submissions for the January 2nd bulletin are due Monday, December 27th by 9:00am. Email submissions to bulletin@stceciliasp.org.

Have a plan for the ones you leave behind.
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