

Saint Cecilia Church

29

November 2020

First Sunday of Advent

HOPE

Keep Holy the Lord's Day
Join us for Mass in person or livestream
Sunday at 9:30am

www.stceciliafc.org/live-stream

Saint Cecilia Church

535 Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111

PASTOR	<i>Reverend Charles E. Bonner</i>
PASTOR EMERITUS	<i>Reverend Msgr. Francis X. Dreger</i>
PAROCHIAL VICAR	<i>Reverend Robert Lucas</i>
PERMANENT DEACON	<i>Deacon Patrick Diamond</i>
PRINCIPAL	<i>Sister Catherine Irene Masino, IHM</i>
VICE PRINCIPAL	<i>Sister Carolyn Elizabeth Braun, IHM</i>



OFFICES

Rectory	215.725.1240	<i>Eleanor Kerwick</i>
Business	215.725.1240	<i>Susan Wagner</i>
PREP	215.725.2821	<i>Eileen Litka</i>
School	215.725.8588	<i>Bobbie Mitchell</i>
Tuition	215.725.2201	<i>Lisa Hnat</i>
Fax	215.725.2130	

Website: www.stceciliafc.org

School: scsfoxchase.org

CYO Facebook: Saint Cecilia Catholic Youth Organization

Rectory Office Hours

Currently closed ~ call 215-725-1240 for emergency.



SACRAMENTS

Baptism

First three Sundays of the month at 12:15pm. Arrangements must be made at least two weeks prior to the Baptism. Attendance at a Pre-Jordan class is required for first time parents. Please register for class by contacting the Rectory at 215-725-1240.

Marriage

Couples must contact a priest six months prior to the wedding.

Reconciliation

Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:45pm

Homebound Visitation

Please contact the Rectory.



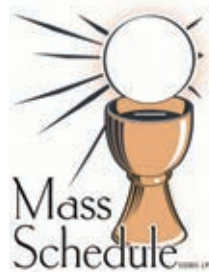
Reconciliation

Confessions have returned to the Confessional

Every Saturday ~ 4:00-4:45pm

Wednesday, December 23
4:00-5:00pm & 6:00-7:00pm

No Confessions Christmas Eve



ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Sunday

Vigil 5:00pm (Saturday)
6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

Monday through Friday

6:30 and 8:30 am

Saturday

8:30 am

The Advent Wreath

Advent is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The Advent wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meaning that can be adapted to our faith. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.



The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The first candle symbolizes hope. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah. The second candle represents faith and is a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent. On the fourth week we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. It reminds us of the message of the angels:

"Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."



Christmas Eve Masses

Thursday ~ December 24
4:00pm & 7:00pm

Christmas Day Masses

Friday ~ December 25
6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am & 12:30pm

November 29, 2020

FOCUS: Let us be ever watchful for our God, who comes to us in ordinary circumstances.

Perhaps, like Isaiah, we long for God to perform a breath-taking miracle that would make us sit up and take notice. Yet, as people of faith, we are called to see God in the ordinary. Advent gives us the opportunity to take time to pray—to sharpen our vision of God's presence in our daily lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD: The prophet Isaiah speaks of the longing of the people of Israel for God's return and help in times of trouble: That he would rend the heavens and come down, such that mountains would quake and awesome deeds take place. Paul gives thanks for the grace of God bestowed on the Corinthians, and assures them that they are not lacking in any spiritual gift. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, *Be watchful! Be alert!* For they do not know when the Lord of the house is coming.

REFLECTION: Advent has begun and we need this season's reminder to be alert to Jesus' entry into our lives. For who among us has not dozed in our service of the Lord? Jesus' words of warning awake us to full disciple-readiness. This day Christ will again come into our lives. Are we doing what he told us? "Watch."

So we ask ourselves:

- ◆ The Lord is coming. What daily practice can help me stay alert, so that I can detect Jesus' presence when he enters my life?
- ◆ What will help me become more aware of Christ already with me in all aspects of my life?

First Reading ~ Isaiah

63:16-17, 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

A golden chalice with a red gemstone in its center, resting on a small stand. Next to it is a red book with a gold clasp and a red ribbon bookmark.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

*Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face
and we shall be saved.*

Second Reading

First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Holy Gospel ~ Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gate-keeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: *'Watch!'*"

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Mass Schedule ~ December 5-6

Saturday (<i>Vigil</i>)	Celebrant: Fr. Lucas
5:00pm	Lector: Anne Corcoran
6:30am	Celebrant: Fr. Bonner
	Lector: Colleen Demusz
8:00am	Celebrant: Fr. Bonner
	Lector: Fran Diamond
9:30am	Celebrant: Fr. Lucas
Guitar Group	Lector: Theresa Kuhar
11:00am	Celebrant: Fr. Lucas
	Lector: Patrick Gleason

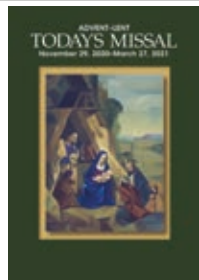


First Penance

Please keep in your prayers the PREP students and second graders in St. Cecilia School who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on December 4th & 5th.

Beginning today, we will no longer be placing the missals in the pews. The new missals will be available by the back door of church and the table at the front of church.

We ask that each person please take a missal home with you and bring it back each week. We thank you for your cooperation with this change.



The Pope's Monthly Intentions

During November, Pope Francis asks us to pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.



Love your neighbor

Please remember to wear a facemask in church.

Message from Archbishop Nelson Perez, D.D.

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be taken up next weekend (December 5-6). This annual appeal benefits 30,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church. We are blessed to have 70 religious congregations present and serving within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These congregations represent approximately 2,500 men and women religious and of this number, over 900 are retired.

Recognizing that this is but one of many worthy causes in need of assistance, I ask simply that you give what you can. Your monetary support and prayers are a means of thanking the many women and men religious for their faithful service to Catholic education, healthcare, and many other services. Thank you for your support and prayers.



Every year we provide gifts of love that respond to the practical needs of those less fortunate throughout the City of Philadelphia. We encourage you to choose a tag from the tree (located in the front of church) and purchase the item listed. We will collect the gifts the weekend of December 12-13.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, we are doing things a little different this year. Riley and Sons Moving has generously donated a truck to collect and sort the gifts. The truck will be in the church parking lot **December 12-13 ONLY.**

We are asking that you bring the gifts to the truck and not place them under the tree. Items should **NOT BE WRAPPED AND NOT PLACED IN BAGS**. Attach the tag to each item (no shopping bags, gift bags or envelopes). And, we ask that you **please do not bring gifts any other weekend or day.**

Please contact Theresa Kuhar, Giving Tree Coordinator, at 215-694-3709 with any questions or for more information.

one word
can change
someone's
entire day

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

November 29, 2020

LEARN

ADVENT SERIES

This Advent prepare your heart through this exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus Christ.

Advent

WATCH

THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity as we enter into the joyful season of Advent.

the story of the NATIVITY

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4. Type in St. Cecilia Parish Community
5. Enter your email ~ and you are in!

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Our neighboring parish, Presentation BVM offers Scrip with over 75 stores in their stock and over 795 stores with online scrip. You can email Presentation at presbvmscrip@gmail.com or call their office at 215-939-3900. For online purchases, visit www.shopwithscrip.com but contact Presentation to register and for the enrollment code.

Once you earn enough tuition credit, ask them to prepare a check made payable to St. Cecilia School and bring to our tuition office.

Now is the perfect time to open your Scrip account with the holidays approaching. Start shopping and help others too. Call our tuition office at 215-725-2201 for more information.

Presentation BVM Scrip Office Hours

Monday, Thursday, Friday (8:00-10:00am)

Tuesday (2:00-3:00pm), Wednesday (2:00-3:00pm & 6:30-7:30pm)

Sunday (9:30-11:30am)

*You get dollar for dollar of each gift card ~ No hidden fees of any kind
You can even re-load some gift cards.*

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

On Tuesday ~ December 8
Give yourself a break and dine
at the restaurant or take out.

They will donate 20% of the food bill
back to St. Cecilia School.

Print your coupon at
https://www.ironhillbrewery.com/give20/pdfs/12-8-20-GIVE20_HV.pdf

Coupon may be redeemed only at the
Huntingdon Valley restaurant on
December 8, 2020.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

LISTEN

**PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING
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Your Advent journey will take on new meaning with Dr. Scott Hahn's illuminating presentation on the greatest gift ever given to mankind—Jesus Christ.



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Kids S (12.5-5)

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Adult L (Women's Size 9-12/Men's Size 8.5-12)

Adult XL (Men's Size 12-15)

**Please complete and return order slip below and
drop it off to the school in an envelope marked
*Home & School Sock Fundraiser***



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

	Quantity	Total
Kids XS (fits Kids 9-12.5)	X \$15	
Kids S (fits Kids 12.5-5)	X \$15	
Adult M (fits Women's 6-9/Men's 4.5-8.5)	X \$15	
Adult L (fits Women's 9-12/Men's 8.5-12)	X \$15	
Adult XL (fits Men's 12-15)	X \$15	
	TOTAL	

Make checks payable to St. Cecilia School

Please allow 2-3 weeks processing. H&S will reach out directly to arrange pickup or delivery.

Fundraiser to Benefit Home & School activities. Any questions, please email stceciliahs@gmail.com



MONDAY, November 30

6:30am – Thomas Wagner
8:30am – Jack Marynowitz

TUESDAY, December 1

6:30am – William & Catherine Knoll
8:30am – Barbara E. Mahan

WEDNESDAY, December 2

6:30am – John J. Murphy (10th anniversary)
8:30am – Catherine Prella

THURSDAY, December 3

6:30am – Mike Nyce
8:30am – Margaret & James Maguire, Sr.

FRIDAY, December 4

6:30am – Harry Smith
8:30am – Ray & Marion Whalen

SATURDAY, December 5

8:30am – Michael Reilly
5:00pm – Robert Kucowski

Walter Hnat
Patricia Moore
Ann Marie Tobin Masgai
John Lawrysk
Kirsten Hosack-Edling
Mary Jane Brough
Stephen Ruczynski
Melissa Fischer
Rita Giordano
Gregory Farrell
John Smykal
Josephine O'Donnell
Jack Vogler
Marian Diel
Eugenia DiSilva
Connie Merkel
Catherine Davis
Mary Mikus
Fran McManus
Lou Baldwin

Ed Lieber
James J. Tobin
Meghan Kovacs
Maki Turner
James Potts
Esther Sharp
Helen Tobin
George Burbage
Daniel Mitchell
Ed MacNew
Julia McCauley
Mary Matthews
Eileen Gaynor
Kathi Silcox
Alonso Castillo
Betty Harding
Bill Scott
Robert McGrody
Helen Flood

Christopher Rodgers
Mary Schultz
Joan Marie Reiley
Stephanie Morgan
Mary Benson
Leo Wuestkamp
Andrew Slivjak
Patricia Greenleaf
Lisa Kovacs-Breuer
Timothy Martin
Alice Davis
Marguerite Zeltman
Alberta DeMasi
Eleanor DeNoble
Catherine Needham
Theresa Halbherr
Isabel Schmidt
Vincent Florian
Clare Gilchrist



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