



A Weekly Update from St. Cecilia Church  
*Knowing, Loving & Serving Jesus*  
*In Fox Chase, Rockledge, Burholme and Beyond...*

OUR VISION FOR ST. CECILIA: ***Transforming lives through faith filled relationships.***

OUR PARISH'S MISSION: ***Proclaim the Good News, embolden all believers, and inspire a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ so our parish will love and serve others generously.***

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### **Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen**

*Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do  
and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,  
We who are anxious over many things look forward to  
your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for  
the complete joy of your kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.  
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"  
Amen.*



Today is the Feast of Jolly Old Saint Nicholas...did you get candy in your shoes? How did this saintly bishop who defended Christ become the Santa of today? [Read about it...](#)

Watch a **Weekly Update Video** from Father Chris...

SORRY THE QUALITY IS POOR - FR. CHRIS' CAMERA LENSE WAS DIRTY



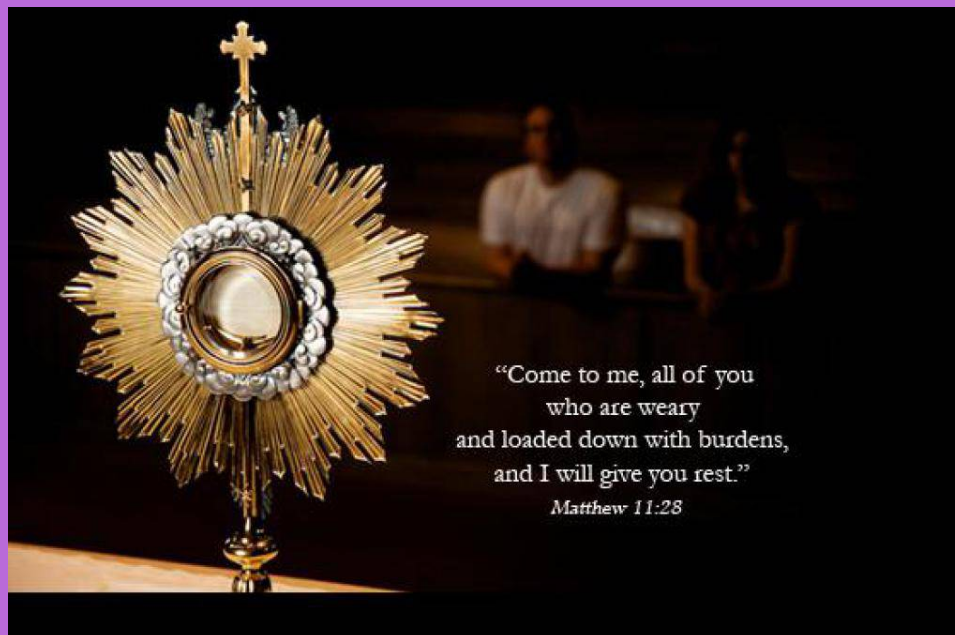
Dear Friends in Christ,

While visiting an elderly couple recently, the wife, who is caring for her ailing husband, asked that I pray that she remains generous in caring for him. It was a very moving request. In truth, I cannot imagine her being any more generous than she already is as she gives of herself all day, every day to provide for him. It is a witness I am privileged to see again and again in married life. Her humble prayer is one that ought to be on each of our lips in Advent and throughout the year. Becoming selfish and self-centered is always a temptation so praying to be generous and selfless is a worthy aspiration and choice. There would be no Christmas Story without a generous Father God, a generous Jesus, a generous Mary, a generous Joseph, generous shepherds and generous magi. In order for us to fully embrace Christmas, may we too be generous in sharing of ourselves, our time and our finances.

I am most grateful to all who have already responded to our Annual Appeal. You ought to have received a mailing to your homes (that also included a letter on “The State of the Parish”, a Financial Statement and Next Generation Pastoral Plan). This annual appeal replaces the long standing “Block Collection”. This year’s funds will be used to replace exterior doors at the school. I am grateful to all who have already donated, some in an exceptional way. I am grateful to all who will make their donation in the weeks to come.

In addition, if you would like to make an end of the year financial gift to the parish, I would be most grateful. Some make the gift based on a bonus from work or as they become aware of God’s tremendous blessings. You are welcome to direct the gift to the Church Memorial Fund, School Scholarships, our Social Ministry Fund or some other way. I am happy to talk with you about directly the gift. Please know how grateful I am for your continued goodness to our Parish.

*Father Chris*



**Have you joined us for Adoration on Mondays?  
Jesus wants time with you.  
Join us from Noon to 7pm.  
Come for 10, 20 or 30 minutes. Maybe even an hour!  
Look at Him. Let Him look at you!**



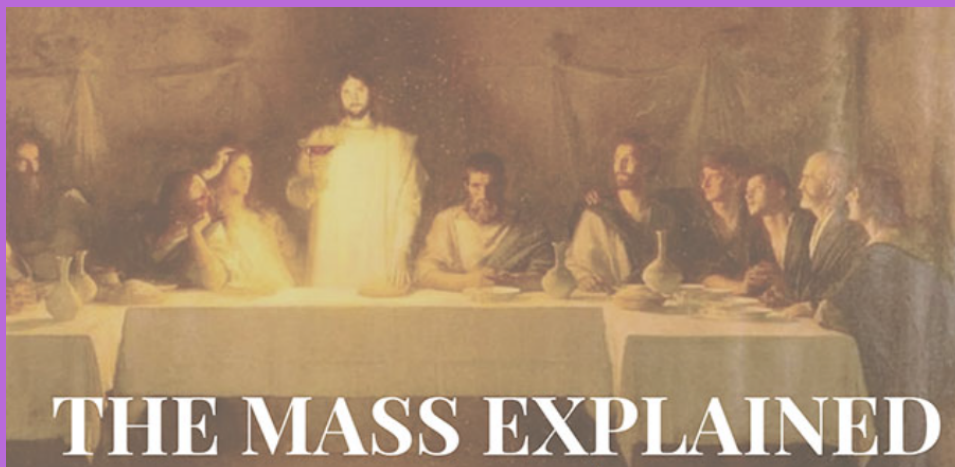


**COFFEE TALK!** Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Many people find it helpful to talk through grief with others who have also experienced a loss. Please join us for a monthly COFFEE TALK at St. Cecilia. The next gathering is **Saturday, December 16th from 9am to 10:30am** in the Cecilian Room (Building C, across from the Rectorry). All are welcome. For more information, call Paula at 215-317-9802.



#### OTHER RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH THIS ADVENT:

- Remember the Advent Calendar's of your YOUTH? Try on [Online Advent Calendar](#) with daily reflections
- Receive a daily email from [Best Advent Ever](#)
- Advent resources for [YOUR FAMILY](#) and even [MORE HERE](#)
- Have kids or grandkids? Find great things at [Advent Resources](#)



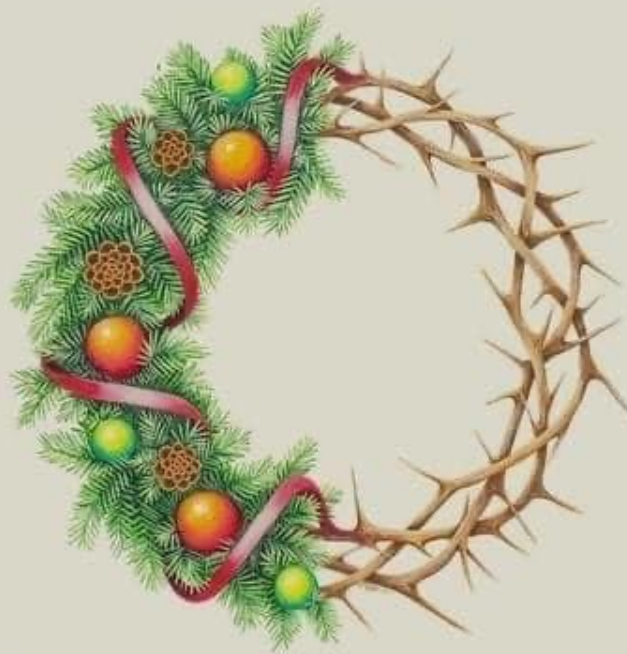
**Prayer after Communion:** There's lots of great features on the Relevant Radio App, including the Prayers After Mass. All the classics. Have you noticed? Pope Francis often sits in the back of the Church after morning

Mass to make his time of thanksgiving, some ten minutes or so. This is an ancient and venerable custom based on the fact the sacramental reality of the Eucharistic presence of Jesus Christ remains in us for ten to fifteen minutes after we receive Him. In effect, we are like living tabernacles for that time period. There are many beautiful prayers of thanksgiving for after Mass, some composed by saints like Thomas Aquinas or Bonaventure. What follows is a portion of the Universal Prayer attributed to Pope Clement XI. This just about sums it up: *Lord, I believe in You: increase my faith. I trust in You: strengthen my trust. I love You: let me love You more and more. I am sorry for my sins: deepen my sorrow. I worship You as my first beginning. I long for You as my last end. I praise You as my constant helper; and call on You as my loving protector. Guide me by Your wisdom, correct me with Your justice, comfort me with Your mercy, protect me with Your power. Lord, enlighten my understanding, strengthen my will, purify my heart, and make me holy. Help me to repent of my past sins and to resist temptation in the future. Help me to rise above my human weaknesses and to grow stronger as a Christian.*

*This brief teaching is part of a series as we seek to grow in understanding the Mass throughout the Year of the Eucharist. Content is taken from Father Rocky at Relevant Radio.*

The season

The reason





- **Pope Francis' Intention for NOVEMBER:** we pray Pope Francis fulfills his mission, continue to accompany the flock given to him by God through the Holy Spirit
- The healing of Pope Francis's recovery from a lung infection
- Pray for the soul of **Jane Rabbit** who will be buried Thursday at 10:30am and the comfort of her family
- Pray for those who are away from the practice of the faith - may they come home this Christmas (through our invitation)
- Pray for the wonderful staff of our parish who will make a retreat TODAY to grow in their own spiritual life (we cannot give what we do not have, right?)
- Pray for all the sick at Pennypack Nursing Home, Jeanes & Fox Chase Hospitals

***Come and celebrate a very special birthday!!***



All are welcome to join Saint Cecilia Parish for our

## **Happy Birthday Baby Jesus Party**

Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 11:30am  
in our School Auditorium

Children will refocus on the reason for the season and participate in a Nativity Play, Christmas Caroling, Holiday Crafts, Games, Snacks and Birthday Cake!!

The event is free and open to all children accompanied by an adult.

If you are able, we ask that you bring a present for Baby Jesus (diapers, wipes, or other baby essential) that will be laid at the manger at the end of the play.

The gifts will be shared with a local crisis pregnancy center.

*\*Older students looking to assist in a project for service hours, your help would be appreciated! Please arrive at 9:40 to assist with set up, and plan to stay for a few minutes after to assist with cleanup. Thank you!*

**Please RSVP to Colleen at [cshammo@yahoo.com](mailto:cshammo@yahoo.com)**





"You know that song,  
'Grandma got run over by a reindeer?'  
Well, I'm that reindeer."



**The Giving Tree: PLEASE BEING UNWRAPPED GIFTS WITH TAGS ATTACHED ON Sat, December 10 (4:00pm - 5:30pm) and Sun., December 11 (6:00am - 12:00pm).** Gifts are being delivered on Monday, December 11, so please be sure to get them to church within the stated time frame. If you would like to assist with the Giving Tree process, please call Theresa at 215-694-3709 prior to December 10.

**Want to try something special this Christmas? *Humanitas*** will celebrate Christmas with the Fox Chase Champions - an organization that sponsors educational and recreational programs for youth and young adults with disabilities - on Tuesday, December 12th from 11-1 am at the Knowlton Mansion. This beautiful event is an opportunity for us to meet new friends and invite our neighbors into community life at St. Cecilia Church. If you're interested in more information email, text or call [Richara Krajewski](mailto:Richara.Krajewski@foxchasechampions.org) at 610-773-8009

**Christmas Tree Ornaments** - through your purchases we raised more than \$1500 which will be donated to Guiding Star Pregnancy Home. Thank you



St. Cecilia!

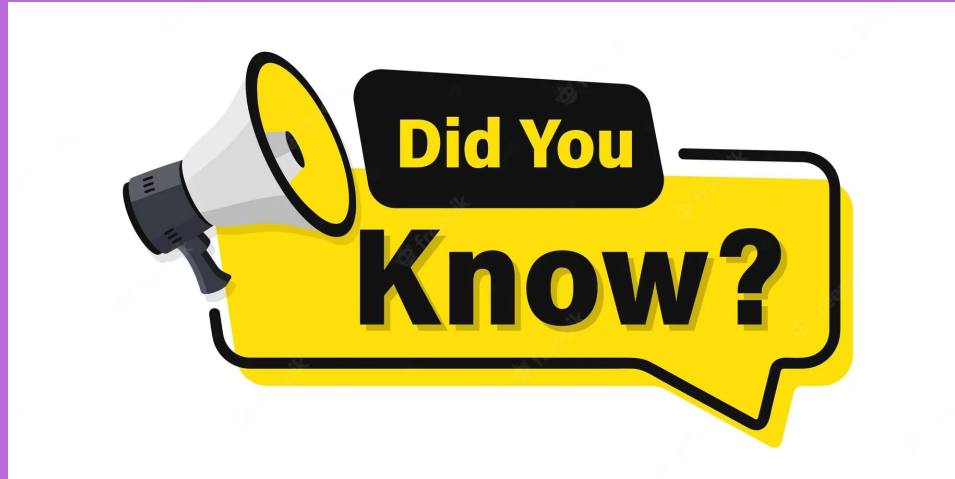
**OUR CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE** - Please plan to join us on Christmas Eve for Mass at 4:00pm (with an overflow gathering in our School Auditorium) or 7:00pm or on Christmas Day at 6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:00am. Please extend an invitation to your friends and family – especially those who do not have a Church home.

**COME LORD JESUS – FORGIVE OUR SINS** Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and receive forgiveness for your sins. In addition to our regular times of confessions (Saturday from 4pm to 5pm; Monday from 6pm to 7pm and Wednesday from 7am to 8am), please join us on Sunday, December 17th from Noon to 1pm, Wednesday, December 20th from 6pm to 8pm in the Church (there is no penance service but three priests will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Mercy with you). In addition, you can go to confession at St. Albert the Great on Monday, Dec. 18th from 7 to 8:30pm.

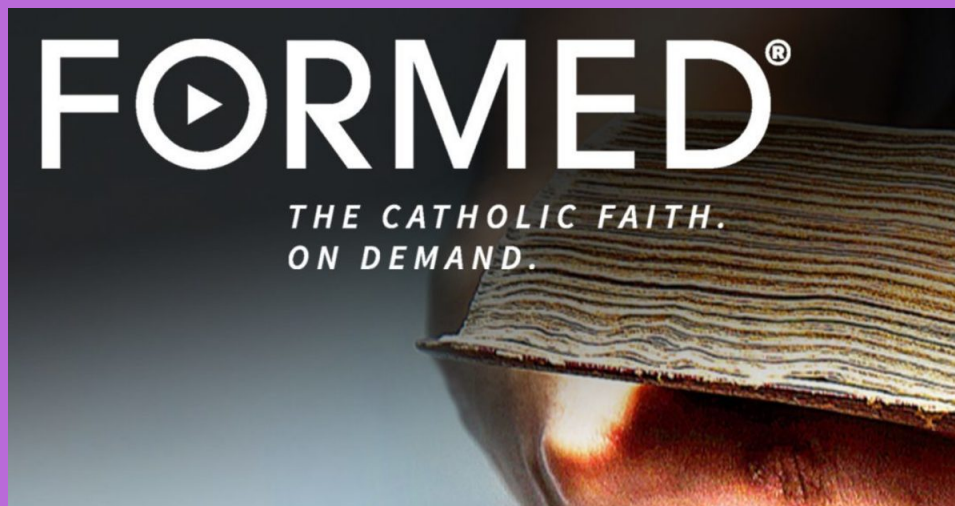


**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** Please join us

for Mass on Thursday, Dec. 7th at 5pm and on Friday, December 8th at 6:30am, 8:30am and 10:00am. The IHM Sisters will renew their vows at the 8:30am Mass and there will be a reception with coffee and cake following the Mass in the Rectory to which all are invited!



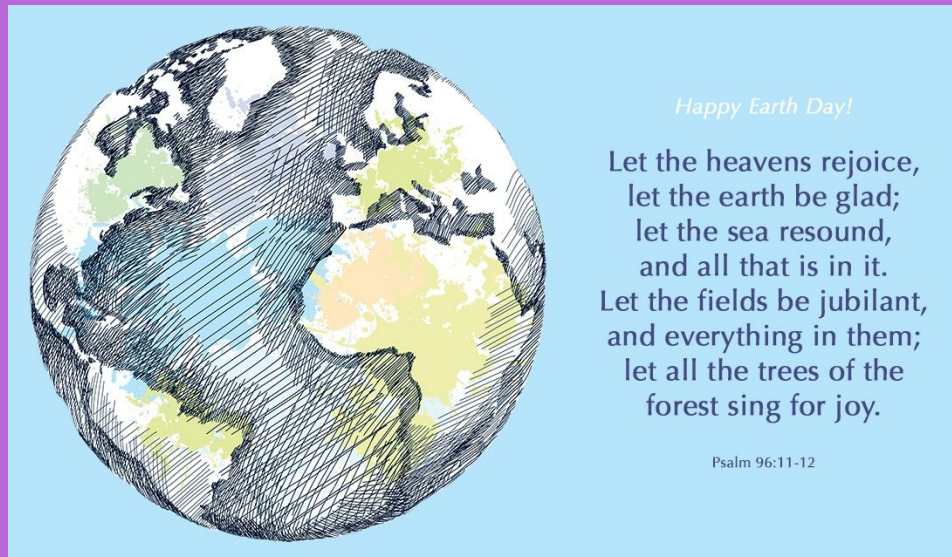
- We now have a 5pm Mass on Sunday Evening. We had more than 150 people worshipping at that Mass last week and look forward to more coming in the weeks to come. Praise God who delights when his people gather!
- Why we use an [Advent Wreath](#)?
- Fr. Chris and Fr. Phong are available for [CONFESSION](#) on Monday (6pm to 7pm); Wednesday (7am to 8am) and Saturday (4pm to 4:50pm). Please make use of this wonderful Sacrament in order to grow as a Disciple of Jesus Christ.
- The Church is moving forward with the canonization of the Spanish [Architect Gaudi](#)!
- Did you read last Sunday's [Church Bulletin](#)? Be sure to take a minute to keep up on the great things happening at St. Cecilia
- Archbishop Perez shares his [Advent Message](#)



Need a break from Netflix?  
Want something that feeds your soul?  
Create a FREE account with [FORMED.ORG](#) (another benefit  
of being a member of Saint Cecilia-Fox Chase).



Start watching movies, documentaries and amazing videos that will teach you our Catholic Faith!



**EARTH DAY IS EVERY DAY** *This is a new weekly addition to our bulletin with ideas and challenges for how YOU can do your part to reduce global warming and be a better steward of God's Creation. THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Cut down on transportation of goods you buy by buying locally grown food. After all, everyone knows Jersey produce is fresher than produce coming from a distance. Your produce manager will tell you which foods were grown locally.*

