



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.***



Advent Prayer

Mary, as we reflect on your yes to bring the Savior into the world,
we ask that you be with us as we strive to
bring Jesus to all those we encounter.
In this season of joyful hope, we turn to you for guidance.
May we imitate your loving example, and

steadfastly bring peace and justice to our world.
When we are tempted to distance ourselves from another,
give us the grace to say yes to charity.
When we are frustrated,
let us listen with our hearts to our neighbors.
When we are disappointed,
help us seek new solutions as you did when the Inn was full.
Let us embrace our own need for poverty
and humility in order to work toward creative solutions for our world
as we await the coming of Christ.
Amen.



On Dec. 8 Pope Francis named Reverend Keith J. Chylinski, Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary; Reverend Christopher R. Cooke, Dean of Men in the School of Theology at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary; and Reverend Efen V. Esmilla, Pastor of Saint James and Saint Martin of Tours Parishes; as Auxiliary Bishops to serve the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and her people. [Learn more about these men and their service to the Church.](#)

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





LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

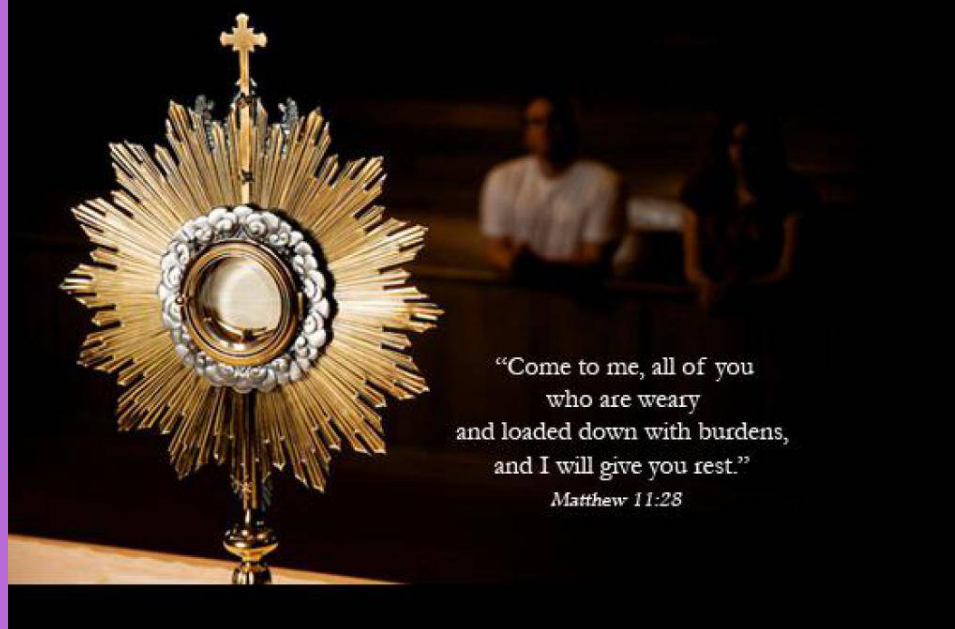
If you spend any time with children these days, you know that they are more than happy to tell you “what they want for Christmas”. For some the list includes video games, for others dolls and doll houses, for some it is a phone or gift cards. If you ask an adult the same question, they are likely to say they want a peaceful gathering with family, enjoyable time off from work and maybe a nice nap! I am a big fan of the nap!

Of course, as believers, the number one item out gift list is what is the real “reason for the season”: SALVATION. Each week in the Creed we profess “for us men (and women) and for our salvation He came down from heaven.” The reason the baby was born in the stable was for us to be saved from our sin. This is the reason for all of the celebrations and gift giving – to remember this amazing gift. Yet, too often, it remains a gift unopened, unclaimed and unused. Why? We fail to admit we need to be saved. We believe the lie that we are doing okay on our own. We wrongly compare ourselves with those who are “worse” than us to justify who we are in our sin and selfishness.

Can things be different? Yes. Will they be different, you decide! Take time today and think about the reality of your life. Be aware of the mess that sin that causes in your life and in the lives those around you and decide enough is enough. Allow Christ to forgive you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (at any of our regular times, at St. Albert Monday at 7pm or here on Wednesday from 6pm to 8pm in the Church). In addition to being forgiven, the Sacrament gives you the grace to begin again – to live in a different way. This is how salvation happens – this is how the gift is unwrapped and used. It is so beautiful. Let Christmas be all that it can be!

Father Chris

PS - Our parish welcomes my friend Father Joseph back to St Cecilia. Fr. Joe is a wonderful priest serving in Uganda where he founded an amazing high school. He will be assisting at Masses and with confession from Dec. 20th to 30th. We are blessed by his presence and goodness.



“Come to me, all of you
who are weary
and loaded down with burdens,
and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28

**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!**

**WE WILL NOT HAVE ADORATION OR CONFESSIONS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH OR
MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST.**

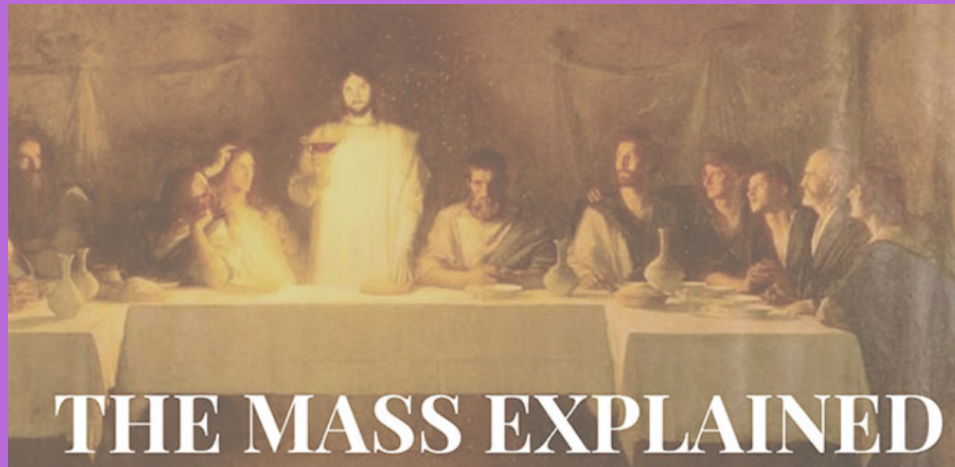


COFFEE TALK! Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Many people find it helpful to talk through grief with others who have also experienced a loss. Please join us for a monthly COFFEE TALK at St. Cecilia. The next gathering is **Saturday, December 16th from 9am to 10:30am** in the Cecilian Room (Building C, across from the Rectory). 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](#)



The End of Mass (and our Final Post for this Feature): The Mass is ended, and life begins. Now what do we do? Having received Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, we go out into the world to bring Christ to all we meet, through our words and deeds. At the end of World War II, the Catholic faithful in a small town in Germany set to work to rebuild their parish church, which had been demolished in the war. Little by little, brick by brick, with great love and faith, they rebuilt their beloved church. But when it came to restoring the marble statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the hands of the Lord on the statue of Jesus never looked quite right. So the restoration committee decided to leave the statue without hands, but placed a bronze plaque next to it stating: “Jesus has no hands, except our hands.” Go in peace.

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.



ST. CECILIA
525 RHAWN STREET, PHILA PA 19111

QUIZZO NIGHT \$15

SATURDAY | JAN 20 | 6PM - 10PM
HOSTED BY TOM LEONARD AND KEVIN HANAGAN

PURCHASE TICKETS NOW!
[HTTPS://QUIZZO-NIGHT-AT-ST-CECILIA.CHEDDARUP.COM](https://quizzo-night-at-st-cecilia.cheddarup.com)

Questions? parisheventplanners@gmail.com

Get your teams of 6-8 people ready for Quizzo Night at St. Cecilia! Test your knowledge on 8 rounds of games. This is a B.Y.O.E. Event (Bring your own Beer/Wine/Food, etc.) Must be 21 years and older

Proceeds will benefit a St. Cecilia School Scholarship Fund

[Click here for additional info and to purchase tickets.](https://quizzo-night-at-st-cecilia.cheddarup.com)



- **Pope Francis' Intention for DECEMBER:** we pray for people with disabilities - may they be at the center of attention in society and never pushed to the sides - may we value them through active inclusion.
- Pray for the soul of **Rosemary McCauley** who will be buried Saturday at 10:30am and the comfort of her family, especially her beloved husband Jim.
- Pray for the soul of **Marcia Hevener** who will be buried Monday at 10:30 and the comfort of her family
- Pray for the soul of **Brian Clarke** who will be buried on Tuesday at 10:30 and the comfort of his wife and children.
- Pray for those who are away from the practice of the faith - may they come home this Christmas (through our invitation)
- Pray for families who are experiencing financial and emotional challenges as approach Christmas - may there be peace
- Pray for all the sick at Pennypack Nursing Home, Jeanes & Fox Chase Hospitals

PREPARING THE WAY: RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT

Do not fear.

Is 41:10



"There are people who are afraid to go to confession, forgetting that they will not encounter a severe judge there, but the immensely merciful Father"

POPE FRANCIS

- Saturday, December 16th from 4 to 5pm
- Sunday, December 17th from Noon to 1pm
- Monday, December 18th from 6pm to 7pm
- Monday, December 18th at 7pm at **ST. ALBERT THE GREAT CHURCH IN HUNTINGDON VALLEY**
- Wednesday, December 20th from 7am to 8am and again from 6pm to 8pm (with priests other than Fr. Phong or Fr. Chris if you prefer)
- Saturday, December 23rd from 4 to 5pm

Need help preparing for celebrating the Sacrament of Mercy?

- [Why go to confession?](#)
- [Examination of Conscience and how to go](#)

Come and celebrate a very special birthday!!



All are welcome to join Saint Cecilia Parish for our

Happy Birthday Baby Jesus Party

**Wednesday, December 27th 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.

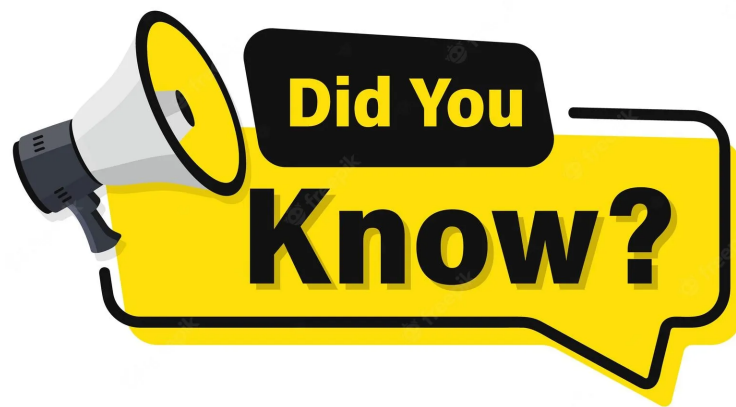
The gifts will be shared with a local crisis pregnancy center.

**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!*

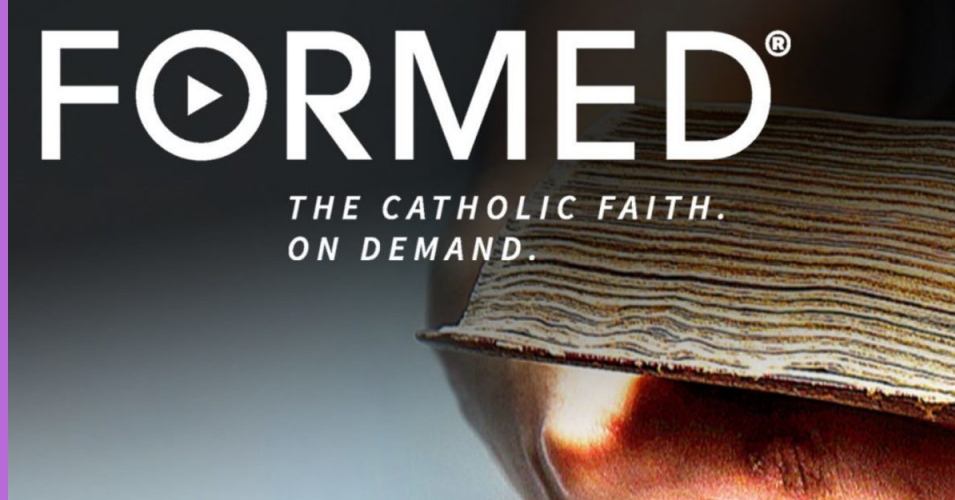
Please RSVP to Colleen at cshammo@yahoo.com



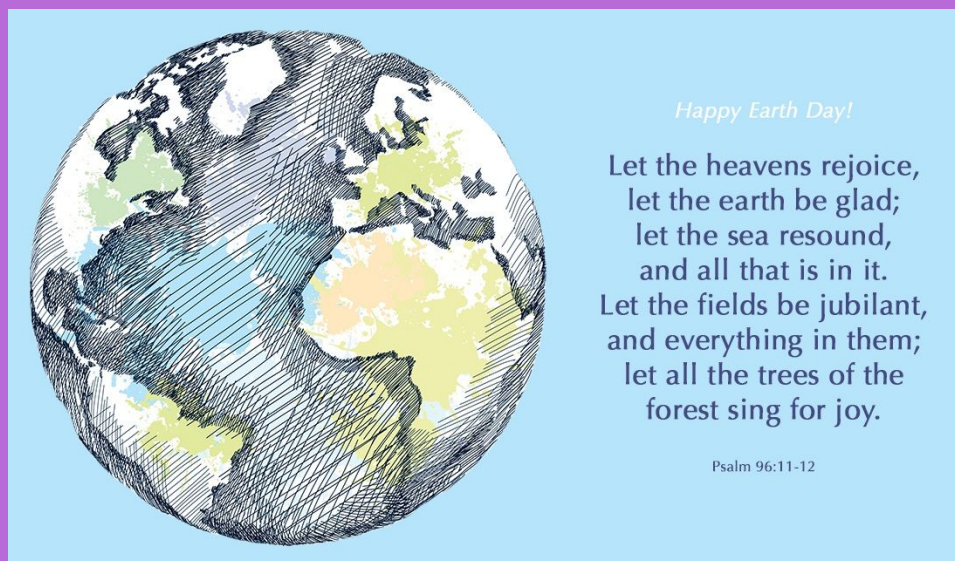
OUR CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - Please plan to join us on Christmas Eve for Mass at 4:00pm (with an overflow gathering in our School Auditorium) or 7:00pm or on Christmas Day at 6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:00am. Please extend an invitation to your friends and family – especially those who do not have a Church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



- Pope Francis announced [his burial plans](#)
 - We now have a 5pm Mass on Sunday Evening. No music. Less crowded. Ideal for those with sensory issues. Join us!
 - New US rules on visas may [impact foreign born priests](#) who are not yet US citizens
 - 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.
 - Visit a drive thru [Nativity Scene this Saturday in Warminster](#)
 - 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
 - **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** - This year, the Jan. 1st Holy Day is not a "day of obligation". There will be a 5pm Mass for to honor Mary, the Mother of God on Sunday, December 31st (which will satisfy the obligation for Sunday as well) and on Monday, January 1st there will be Mass at 8:30am (no 6:30am Mass on January 1st).
 - **SAVE THE DATE MARRIED COUPLES!** On Saturday, March 10th we will have our first Marriage Enrichment Night at St. Cecilia. We will gather in the Auditorium after the 5pm Mass for wine, cheese and an enriching conversation as couples. There is no cost for the night and it includes FREE CHILDCARE! Want something better? The Marriage Enrichment Program will run 6pm to 7pm but you can leave your kids for childcare until 10pm as you enjoy a date night (or stay at St. Cecilia and play games with other couples)! Mark your calendars. More information and sign ups in the new year!
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Need a break from Netflix?
Want something that feeds your soul?
Create a FREE account with [FORMED.ORG](https://www.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:

Use fewer paper towels as they create waste and cost money, too! Keep old T-shirts for cleaning and always have a hand towel available in the kitchen. Replace paper napkins with cloth napkins.



Poor Santa now needs a knee replacement!