

**From:** St. Cecilia Church noreply@mychurchcast.com  
**Subject:** Weekly Update from Saint Cecilia Church  
**Date:** July 22, 2025 at 6:34 AM  
**To:** quirklm@aol.com



# Saint Cecilia Church

*Transforming Lives Through Faith Inspired 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.***



## *The* **NICENE CREED**

We recite the Nicene Creed each Sunday. It was written 1700 years ago. Each week, we will share a video of a bishop from our Church reflecting on one line of the Creed. May these words inspire us.





Dear Friends in Christ,

Earlier this month, three parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia received a “Parish Life Director”. St. Francis in Lenni, St Ann in Phoenixville, and Holy Martyrs in Oreland now have either a deacon or a layman filling the role of “pastor” for their parish community. This person will schedule priests to celebrate Mass and other sacraments, as there is no priest “assigned” to the Parish. I am sure it will be quite an adjustment for these parishes and the men filling the role. In the years to come, many more parishes will be assigned a Parish Life Director because we do not have enough priests to maintain the number of parishes in the Archdiocese (and Archbishop Perez is committed to not closing a parish if there is an alternative like this one).

I do not envision an assignment like this at Saint Cecilia anytime soon. We remain large and hope will continue to grow as we recover from the loss of many from the COVID experience and other losses of members. I remain hopeful that our parish will have a Parochial Vicar like Fr. Phong for many years, although that is not a guarantee, as there are parishes of similar size with only one priest. I share this not to cause fear or anxiety. Rather, to ask you to join me in renewed prayer for good and holy vocations to the priesthood. In August, we will begin praying a prayer for vocations at the end of the intercessions once a month. In addition, we will have a Holy Hour for Vocations (on a Monday evening from 6 pm to 7 pm) for our parish to pray that many men, including those from our parish, hear God’s call and respond with generosity. If you, or someone you know, feel a call to the priesthood or religious life, Fr. Phong and I are most happy to meet with you and help you to discern. God is always faithful and generous. Never doubt that!

*Father Chris*

P.S. – Please note that there is no 6:30 a.m. Mass on Mondays to Fridays during August. Fr. Phong and I will both make our retreat during August, and I will be taking a two-week vacation as well. If you need a 6:30 a.m. Mass during the week, you can worship at Maternity BVM or Presentation. In a similar way, if you need a Sunday evening Mass during the summer, please

similar way, if you need a Sunday evening mass during the summer, please worship at Maternity BVM, St. William, St. Matthew, or Immaculate Conception.



# Disciple Maker Index **SURVEY**



Saint Cecilia had 588 parishioners complete the DMI survey in Lent 2025 (we had 399 participants in 2022 when it was first taken). Over the summer, we will share “the results” of the survey. Father Chris, the Next Generation Parish Team, the Parish Staff, and others will begin reviewing the results to set new goals for our Parish Pastoral Plan for 2026-2029. There will be listening sessions for the whole parish in the Fall to gain more feedback and ideas as we move forward, guided by the Holy Spirit!

The first set of data we will review is called the **Four Factors for a Thriving Parish**. These data points, based on research with parishes across the United States, help us be a “thriving” parish, leading others to Christ and living as authentic missionary disciples. The four areas are: Leadership, Sunday Experience, Spiritual Practices, and Missionary Impulse.

**Sunday Experience** (the number shared is the percentage of parishioners who “strongly agree”; the second number was the percentage in 2022 to show movement): I feel welcomed at Mass 58% (33%); The Mass at our Parish help me grow in faith 56% (20%); The music deepens my participation at Mass 37% (18%); Homilies help me grow in faith 53% (19%).

**Spiritual Practices** (which looks at key indicators for the practice of faith at Saint Cecilia): Pace of Spiritual Growth: we had a slight increase in those who said they were growing rapidly or steadily (44% in 2025; 38% in 2022). A Relationship with Jesus, being personal and vital, also had a slight increase (68% in 2025; 66% in 2022). Results were stable for Spiritual Practices like Reading the Bible, Personal Prayer, Mass Attendance, Devotions, and Eucharistic Adoration (no increase, no decrease). Those who “Went to Confession” \*at least a few times in the year) increased by 10% (62% to 72%), likely because of our Night of Mercy. Those who “Attended at least One Faith Formation Session/Bible Study” also increased from 28% to 41% and those who “Attended a Social Event” at the parish increased from

17% and these two categories of Social Events at the parish increased from 50% to 83%, as a result of our offering more opportunities.

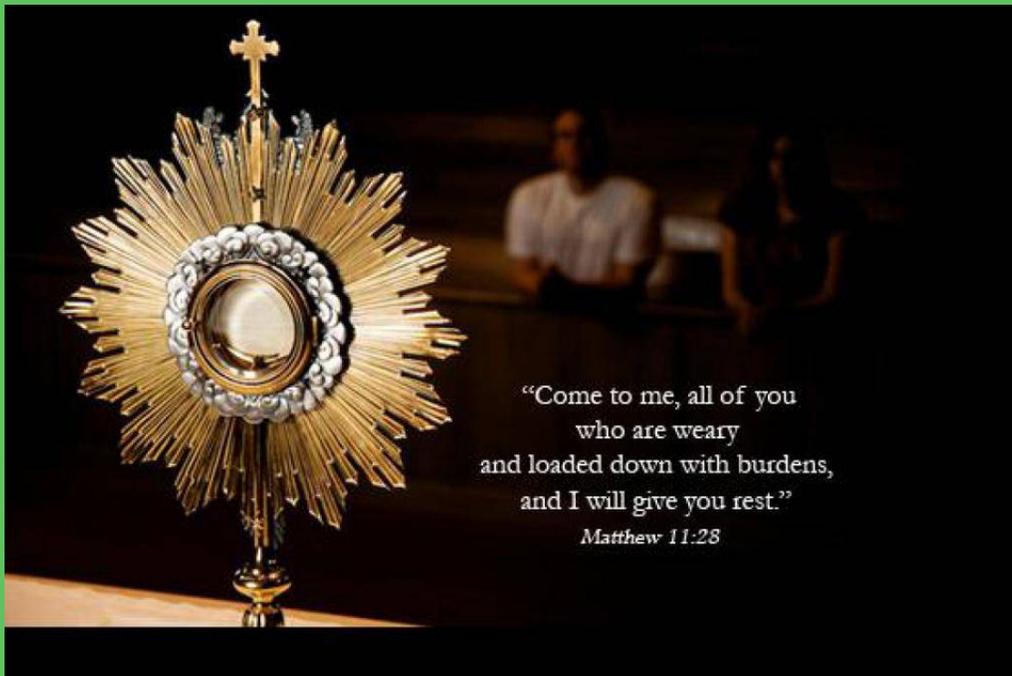
Do you have questions, comments or insights? Please share with Father Chris or a staff member! *If you have questions or comments, please feel free to share them with someone on the Parish Staff or use the Suggestion Box in the back of the Church. The parish will share the next set of results for the next weeks.*



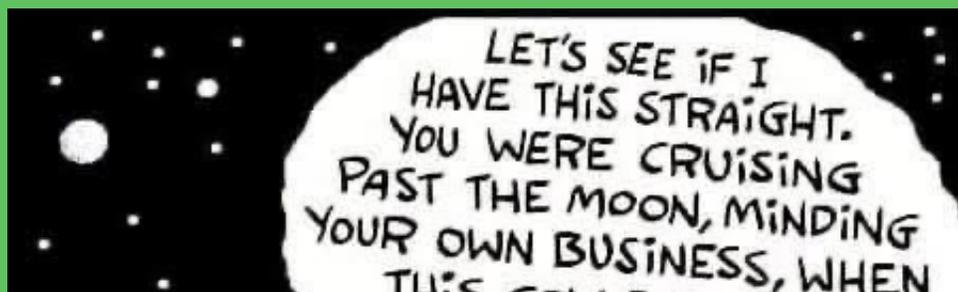
**Angels in Motion** is an organization dedicated to providing aid and comfort for those struggling with addiction. Join us on **THIS WEEK** - Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria to build 500 Blessing Bags (juice, snacks, a resource for getting sober) for this wonderful organization! Parents and grandparents are welcome to bring young people to serve as well. Registration required—please reserve your spot by emailing [service@stceciliafc.com](mailto:service@stceciliafc.com)

**Cooking for Friends:** Join us as St. Cecilia Serves on Saturday, August 16th in the Kitchen (in Gym, Next to Auditorium) as we make meals to be shared through Caring for Friends. Parents and grandparents are welcome to bring young people to serve as well. We need two crews of people: cooking the food will take place from 9 am to 10:30 am. Packing the Food will take place from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Please let us know you are coming by emailing [service@stceciliafc.com](mailto:service@stceciliafc.com)

**Can you cook?** During the summer months, Caring for Friends has an increased need for frozen meals to supply dinner for our sisters and brothers who are homebound. You can set a time to make a bunch of meals or make a meal with your leftovers each night. This can be a great activity with your children and grandchildren as well. Our parish can supply the containers, and you bring the frozen dinner to a fridge in the Rectory. Jesus rejoices when you feed the hungry! Need more information? Contact Ruth in the Parish Office (215-725-1240 or [rmccabe@stceciliafc.com](mailto:rmccabe@stceciliafc.com))



**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.**

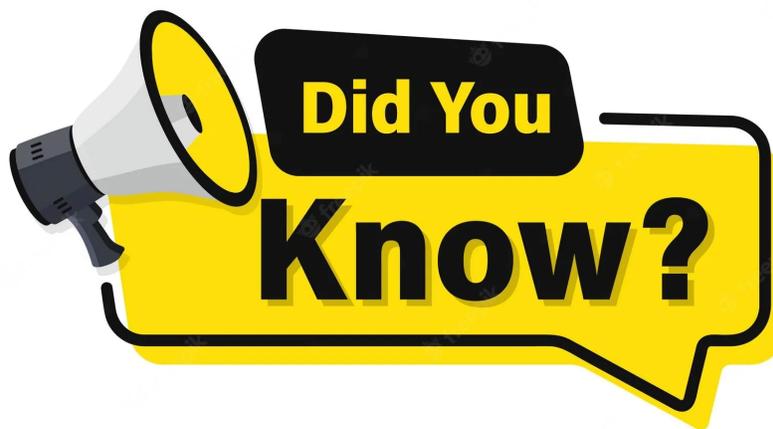




# Let Us Pray

- Pray for the Philadelphia Police Officer shot in the line of duty on Monday; may he recover quickly.
- Pray for the soul of **Margaret Maye**, whose funeral will be Friday, July 25 at 10:30. May she rest in peace, and may his family be comforted.
- Pray for Father Callahan who is sick with pneumonia and some other complications. He is recovering comfortably and grateful for your continues prayers (you can address Get Well cards to the Parish Office)
- Pray for the sick: Mike C., Lorraine B., Ronald R. Claudio D. and all who are hospitalized at Fox Chase or Jeannes.
- Pray that twelve people will hear God's call to follow Jesus in the

Catholic Church at Saint Cecilia and respond with joy.



- **Happy Catholic Grandparents' Day!** Next Saturday, July 26th, is the Feast of Saint Joachim and Anne, parents of Mary and grandparents

of Jesus. We will celebrate it at Saint Cecilia the following weekend a (August 2-3) we offer all of our grandparents a special blessing. In addition, there will be a popsicle and soft pretzel social after the 5pm Mass (in front of the Church, weather permitting). Please join us and enjoy getting to know other members of the Church Family.

- **ATTENTION PARENTS OF SAINT CECILIA SCHOOL:** The Annual **Uniform Exchange** will happen on Tuesday, July 29th (6-8pm) and Wednesday, July 30th (6-8pm). Questions? Call Natalie at 256-994-7115.
- Father Chris will be attending a weekend retreat with **Marriage Encounter** on October 10, 11 & 12. The retreat offers married couples of all ages an opportunity to renew their marriage and learn the tools to live their sacrament with joy and fidelity. A few couples from St. Cecilia have already "made a weekend," and Fr. Chris hopes more and more will as well, allowing the covenant of marriage to grow in our Parish. The retreat is held in Doylestown. Interested in learning more? Contact Father Chris or Mike or Roxanne Pinkl at [mikepinkl@yahoo.com](mailto:mikepinkl@yahoo.com)
- Our collection for July 12 & 13 was an amazing \$19,010 and this past weekend was \$19,805 Our weekly average is \$20,126 (towards our goal of \$19,135). Thank you for your goodness!
- Pope Leo chatted with [Astronaut Buzz Aldrin last week!](#)
- Join women from Saint Cecilia and across the area on Saturday, October 18th (9 am to 4 pm) for the [CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE](#) at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Doylestown (carpooling available). Great speakers and beautiful experiences of grace in a sacred setting. The cost for the day is \$50 (the normal cost is \$60, but there is a discount if you register with our parish; the Parish has some scholarships available as well). The event sells out every year, so act today. Drop off your check (payable to St. Cecilia Church) with your name and phone number. Questions? Contact Eileen Litka at 215-725-1240 or [eileen@stceciliafc.co](mailto:eileen@stceciliafc.co)
- Need some groceries? There are **FREE canned goods** and other non-perishable food on the shelf near the Caring for Friends freezer (small room between Church and Rectory; the door is open each day from 9am to 4pm). Help yourself!
- Pope Leo calls for a renewed [Ceasefire in Gaza!](#)
- **SAVE THE DATE:** We have a Pilgrimage to Philadelphia's St. John Neumann and St. Rita Shrines on Saturday, September 13th and there will be a Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Blessed Mother in Washington, DC on Tuesday, October 28th. Parishes from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will gather to celebrate the Year of Hope! More information to come, please mark your calendars and plan to join us!
- Want a great experience on Saturday, September 20th? Visit

[ABBEYFEST](#) at their new location in Doylestown. This Christian music festival will be a huge blessing to you and those you bring!

- 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
- Fr. Chris and Fr. Phong are available for [CONFESSION](#) on Monday (6 pm to 7 pm); Wednesday (7 am to 8 am), and Saturday (4 pm to 4:50 pm). Please make use of this wonderful Sacrament to grow as a Disciple of Jesus Christ
- *Have you noticed the flowers blossoming around Saint Cecilia Campus?* Can you give a few hours a week to help maintain the gardens? Perhaps you can keep an area weeded or watered? Fr. Chris will offer FREE training, and you can choose your patch to care for on campus. All are welcome. No experience (or green thumb) needed.
- **CYO Fall Sports!** We know that the summer is not over, but it is time to sign up your kids and grandkids for CYO Soccer (grades 4-8), Volleyball (grades 4-8), and Cross Country (grades 2-8). Any young person who is a member of Saint Cecilia is welcome and encouraged to participate. Registration ends August 1st. If you have an interest, a question or would like to help coach, please contact Father Phong ([frphong@stceciliafc.com](mailto:frphong@stceciliafc.com)) or who will direct your inquiry to the right person or provide you with a link for signups.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** There will be lots of wonderful things happening at Saint Cecilia in the months to come so please mark your calendars (details will be shared as the events get closer): Did Jesus *really* start the Catholic Church (Sept. 3rd at 7 pm); Fall Wednesday Night Bible Study on the Nicene Creed (Sept. 17th through Oct. 22 at 7 pm); join us once a month to watch The Chosen (starting Monday. Sept 22 at 7:15 pm); Vivaldi's Four Season with a string quartet, free in our Church (Sept. 28th at 2 pm); Fall Night of Mercy on October 29th;

**God-fi-dence**

Knowing I can't,  
but knowing He will.

**Kids have safety scissors now, but  
we were totally allowed to use the  
classroom guillotine at 10 years old**



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