

## Don't Ignore Jesus

Anonymous

You're familiar with the expression, "Kids say the darndest things," or maybe the one that goes, "Out of the mouth of babes..."

As this story goes there is a very inquisitive four-year-old who happens to be strongly in the "Why" and "Tell me" stage. He was helping his father set up the Christmas decorations. Now imagine the following scene:

"Hey Dad, why are there so many lights? What do these colors mean?" He goes on, "Why do you cut branches off the tree and hang them on the door?" Without waiting for an answer he asks, "Did you help your daddy when you were big like me?" Continuing, "Tell me again the story of baby Jesus. Why do we bring a tree in the house anyway? You know, mommy's gonna get mad if you make a mess!"

Sound familiar? Well it continues. The youngster was helping sort out ornaments and remarked, "Dad, what does ignore mean?"

The father explained that ignore means not to pay attention to someone when they call you.

The boy looked up at his father with a serious look on his face and said, "I don't think we should ignore Jesus."

Puzzled, the father stopped his sorting and knelt closer to his son and replied, "I don't think we should ignore Jesus either, son. I think we should give him our fullest attention. Why do you ask that?"

"But Dad, that's what the Christmas carol says, 'O come let us ignore him...'"

Kids sure say the darndest things, don't they. We actually get so caught up in the frenzy of seasonal preparations, shopping and decorating that we seem to ignore the true meaning of Christmas, rather than first preparing a place in our hearts to "come and adore him."

Retrieved from [https://www.appleseeds.org/Dec\\_22.htm](https://www.appleseeds.org/Dec_22.htm), December 2, 2023

+Dear St. Cecilia School Families,

December 2, 2023

Can you believe that it is the first Sunday of December and the First Sunday of Advent?

As we begin this season of Advent, let us look for ways to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Let us look ways we can adore him and not ignore him. Let us strive to keep our focus on Jesus this season. So often, we let this busy time overwhelm us and we forget what Advent is all about: preparing for the coming of Jesus!

Our parish bulletin and website give us lots of ideas. Go to <https://stceciliafc.org/> and <https://files.ecatholic.com/20797/bulletins/20231203.pdf?t=1701474113000>

I have also attached and posted an Advent Calendar for all families!

Have a great week! Happy Advent!

God bless you,

Sister Catherine



(If you want to watch a good reflection, especially if a family member that you want to reach out to this Advent, go to <https://bible.usccb.org/podcasts/video/2023-12-03-reflection-02> )

## Upcoming Events

December 4	Principal Zoom Meeting
December 6	Parish Retreat: Parish Offices closed on this day
<b>December 8</b>	<b>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:</b> <b>Holyday of Obligation: NO SCHOOL</b> <i>Please join the IHM Sisters at the 8:30 Mass as they celebrate their Feast Day!</i> Report Cards emailed out on this day
December 11	<b>Strings Concert: See details in this Weekly Word</b>
December 12	School Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.
December 13	<b>Band Concert at 7:00 p.m.</b>
December 17	Lunch with Santa: Details will be sent out later
December 18	Pre-K Christmas Celebration – 9:00 a.m. Kindergarten Pageant – 1:30 p.m.
December 19	Rooms 6B and 6C Confessions Christmas Pageant, Grades 1 to 4, at 6:30 p.m. in Church
December 20	Archbishop's Christmas Party: Student Council and Service Commission
December 22	Christmas Pageant: 12:30 Dismissal – NO CARES – Please make your



## Neumann Scholars Program



On Wednesday, Mr. Tim Durkin, Vice President for Grantmaking with the Connelly Foundation, came to St. Cecilia School to announce the Neuman Scholars from St. Cecilia School. This year, three of our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders received full, four-year scholarships to an Archdiocesan high school of their choice! Our winners are Leighton Whalen, James McCusker, and Matthew Ismael. James (middle) received a perfect score in the math section of the scholarship test and the highest score in Philadelphia County. Mr. Durkin was happy to be back to his alma mater. He graduated from St. Cecilia School in 1989! We are proud and excited for James, Leighton and Matthew, and for our 16 students who qualified to take the scholarship exam! We congratulate and thank their parents and families! We are very grateful to the dedicated and caring teachers who have taught and guided these students throughout the years! Thank you!



**First Penance:** We congratulate our 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders who celebrated their First Penance on Saturday, December 2. As they waited in line, a few students said that they were nervous. When they walked out of the confessional, they were hopping to pray their penance and to meet their families! We thank the parents of our young people for practicing with the children at home. We thank Mrs. Stokes and Mrs. Smith for all that they did to prepare their students. They are so dedicated to leading their students in their faith and sacramental life. Thank you!

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**Report Cards and FACTS Family Portal:** The first trimester ended on Friday. We hope to have the report cards posted by December 8 or over the weekend. You will need to have set up your family portal in order to review the report cards. You really need the Family Portal to review grades all year (as well as any behavior issues for Grades 4 to 8). Please review the directions that are posted on the website at <https://scsfoxchase.org/parent-portal> If you need help, please email Mr. Dimitri Meimaridis ([dmeimaridis@stceciliafc.com](mailto:dmeimaridis@stceciliafc.com)) or me. We can you set up your account.

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**Uniform Policy:** There are many students who are not adhering to the Uniform Policy. We need your help with the following:

- Sneakers are only worn to school on gym days with gym uniforms.
- Girls should be wearing KNEE socks. Some students have begun to wear Nike and other sport socks.
- Some boys need haircuts. The hair is in their eyes and too long.
- Polo shirts are NOT part of the winter uniform. Boys should be wearing collared shirts and a tie. They must either wear a sweater or vest as well. The girls in Grades 5 to 8 should be wearing collared shirts with either a sweater or a vest. The correct shirts must also be worn with the three-quarter zip jackets.
- In many grades, the girls are coming to school with nail polish and with bracelets/hair ties, etc., up their arms.

Now that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester is underway, we will need to start to issue demerits so that our students will adhere to the dress code. Thank you for your help and support in following the uniform policy.

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**Traffic Concerns:** I still have concerns about the way students are dropped off and picked up in the school yard. Our goal is to eliminate the students walking in the school yard as cars are driving in. If you have to drop them off, you need to drive to the cones. Your child should exit the car and walk directly to the cones. If it is a longer distance, then please walk them to the cones. At dismissal, please do not pull out of the parking lot while the students are walking out to Rhawn Street. No one should enter Jeanes Street, nor should you park by the library. I feel that Stanwood is getting better at dismissal. We ask that our younger students stay with their parents as you wait for older siblings. Some of our young ones are throwing leaves in the mailbox on Stanwood. This just makes it more difficult for the mail carriers. Thank you so much for your assistance with arrival and dismissal!

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**Construction update:** The construction of the reception rooms should begin on Thursday, December 7. The dumpster will arrive this week as well. We will continue to keep you informed about the process!

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Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce our 2023 Christmas show. The show will be featuring the students from our school, along with the students from Saint Hillary School.

The children will be backed up by members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, who play in a fabulous band called the Depue Brothers. Also, backing up the children will be Dave Noble, former lead singer with the Trammps, and Gloria Galante. Gloria is the harp professor at Westchester University.

It is our hope that by observing, and performing with these world class musicians, our students will be inspired to new heights on their musical Journey. This show should be the musical high point of the season.

The show starts at 7:00 pm.

Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased at: <https://jesse-music-llc.ticketleap.com/2023>

**Children under 18 are FREE!**

We are looking forward to a tremendous Christmas show that will be remembered for years to come.

Best holiday, and musical regards,

Michael Kraft  
String Director



# Saint Cecilia School Candy Grams

It's time to spread holiday cheer at SCS!

Candy grams will be sold from December 11th through December 19th.

\$1 each, maximum of 5 candy grams per student  
Each candy gram includes a note and a candy cane

Candy Grams will be distributed Thursday, December 21st

All students will receive one candy gram  
from their buddy and one candy gram  
from student council.

Merry Christmas!