

WEEKLY WORD

November 30, 2025

Dear St. Cecilia School Families,

Today, we begin the season of Advent. It is the time of preparing for the coming of Jesus, Emmanuel. Many of our students brought home a symbol of this season, the Advent Wreath. I'd like to share a prayer for the Advent Wreath:

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of us all. O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light the first (purple) candle of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation. May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

We light the first candle as a people of hope, a people whose faith is marked by an expectation that we should always be ready for the coming of the Master. The joy and anticipation of this season is captured beautifully in the antiphons of hope from the monastic liturgies of long ago:

See! The ruler of the earth shall come, the Lord who will take from us the heavy burden of our exile
The Lord will come soon, will not delay.
The Lord will make the darkest places bright.
We must capture that urgency today in the small flame of our candle.
We light the candle because we know that the coming of Christ is tied to our building of the kingdom.
Lighting the flame, feeding the hungry, comforting the sick, reconciling the divided, praying for the repentant, greeting the lonely and forgotten - doing all these works hastens His coming.

As we move through the Advent, let us pray that we all keep our focus on the coming of Jesus, now and always! Have a blessed Advent!



God bless, Sister Catherine

First Reconciliation: Please keep the 2nd Graders and PREP students from St. Cecilia Parish who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, December 6. We thank Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Stokes, Mrs. O'Reilly, and Mrs. Litka for preparing our students so well!



NEXT LOTTERY DRAWING: TUESDAY, December 2, 2025 7:00 p.m., Auditorium. Jackpot: \$56,000

LOOKING AHEAD



December

- 1 Classes Resume after Thanksgiving
2-3 Secret Santa Shop
3 Catholicism 101: God Speaks: The Bible, 7-8 pm
5 Faculty Meeting: No School for Students
6 First Reconciliation
8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception: SCHOOL DAY School Mass at 10:00 am
9 Archbishop's Christmas Party: Service/Student Council
10 Band Concert at 7:00 p.m.
13 Home for Christmas Celebration, 6:00 p.m. in Church
14 Lunch with Santa, Auditorium, 12:30 p.m.: Join us at the 11:00 a.m. before Lunch with Santa
15 Strings Concert at 6:30 p.m.
17 Kindergarten Christmas Pageant, 1:00 p.m., Auditorium
Lessons and Carols, 7:00 p.m. in Church
18 Pre-K Christmas Pageant, 9:30 a.m. in Auditorium
19 Christmas Pageant and Tableau, Grades 1-4 and 8. 1:30 p.m. in Church; Christmas Vacation begins at Dismissal on 12/19
25 Merry Christmas!
30 Happy Birthday Party, Baby Jesus, 10:00 a.m., Auditorium

January

- 5 Classes Resume! Welcome back!
25-31 Catholic Schools Week

School Mass Directives

On Monday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m., we will have our next school mass. At that time, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The IHM Sisters will renew their vows at Mass. Our parishioners will be invited to this mass as well. We remind you that once the mass begins, the doors will be closed and locked. No one, including parents, late students, or staff members, will enter the church once the mass begins. Staff members will monitor the doors during the mass. If a student needs to leave during mass, then he or she will remain in the reception room. Thank you for your assistance and support of this safety procedure.



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Sister Catherine's

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FINANCIAL AID REMINDERS: Over 62% of our families who applied for FINANCIAL AID received it. In order to receive any financial aid, however, a family must apply. It is now time to apply for Financial Aid for the 2026-2027 school year. **We ask that EVERY family complete the financial aid packet with FACTS GRANT AND AID.** This is required if you want to apply for the OLPH Scholarship and for the Parish Scholarships for both St. Cecilia and St. William Parishes.

To apply, you can go to your **FACTS FAMILY PORTAL** and begin there. Please, if you need any help, you may contact Mrs. Jackie Hayes, our Tuition Manager, tuition@stceciliafc.com or Sister Catherine at sistercatherine@stceciliafc.com.

Finally, if you want to be considered for the **Children's Scholarship Fund** for a child who has never received this scholarship, you must enter the lottery. Please do not forget to apply. CSFP's Scholarship Lottery Application will close on March 1, 2026. Thank you!

Secret Santa Schedule: Please go to the Weekly Word page to see the Secret Santa Schedule on December 2 and 3. You can sign up to volunteer here: [Sign up for Secret Santa Shop](#)

Catholicism 101: We invite all parents to the next Catholicism 101 class. We especially encourage the parents of sacramental students in Grades 2 and 7. It will be held on Wednesday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Free Childcare is available.

Upcoming Student Council and Service Commission Projects:



Christmas Concerts:

Band and Choir Concert: Wednesday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m., Auditorium

Strings Concert: Monday, December 15, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium

Lessons and Choir: St. Cecilia Parish – School Choir performs, December 17, 7:00 p.m., in Church

Kindergarten Christmas Pageant: Wednesday, December 17, at 1:00 p.m., Auditorium

Pre-K Christmas Pageant: Thursday, December 18, at 9:30 a.m. in the Auditorium

St. Cecilia School Christmas Pageant and Tableau: Please join us for our school Christmas pageant on Friday, December 19, at 1:30 p.m. in Church. Our 1st to 4th Graders will sing and our 8th Graders will narrate the pageant, and they will create the Nativity Scene with the Tableau. We hope many families will join us on this day. (Please note: there is no evening pageant this year.)

