

WEEKLY WORD

December 15, 2025

+Dear St. Cecilia School Families,

As we begin our last week of school, we are still in the midst of the Advent journey. On the third Sunday of Advent, we are called to be people of JOY. If you were able to go to mass on Sunday (or watch it via livestream) you saw that the priest was dressed in rose. The color tells us to rejoice for Christmas is almost here. It is called Gaudete Sunday, and this means "rejoice" in Latin.



While we are not finished with Advent, we start to be more joyful as we get closer to the birth of Jesus!

As we get prepare for Christmas, let us make sure that we are also preparing our hearts just as we are preparing our homes and everything else. Take time to pray and to thank God that he wants to come into our lives, that Jesus was born to save us. Take time to look for ways to bring Jesus to your family and friends. It might be as simple as inviting them to mass with you on Christmas or inviting them to your church.

All are welcome to come to St. Cecilia Church for mass. Our schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas is:
 Christmas Eve, December 24 – 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm
 Christmas Day, December 25 – 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am

After Christmas, we invite you to a special birthday party for the Baby Jesus. It will be on Tuesday, December 30, at 10:00 am. See invitation at the end of the Weekly Word.

To help us to keep our hearts and minds focused on the spiritual and not the material, I share some blessings for your Christmas tree:

God of all creation, we praise you for this tree which brings beauty and memories and the promise of life to our home. May your blessing be upon all who gather around this tree, all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights. We wait for the coming of the Christ, the days of everlasting justice and of peace. You are our God, living and reigning, for ever and ever. Amen.

Have a blessed 3rd Week of Advent!

God bless,
 Sister Catherine



NEXT LOTTERY DRAWING:
TUESDAY, December 16, 2025
7:00 p.m., Auditorium.
Jackpot: \$58,000

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO LOTTERY DRAWING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23.

LOOKING AHEAD



December

- 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!
- 19 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: NO SCHOOL
- 25-31 Catholic Schools Week
- 25 Opening Mass at 11:00 am followed by Open House
- 27 EITC Breakfast: Advancement Office at 7:00 am
- 29 School Mass at 10:00 am

Information about the Christmas Pageant: As stated earlier, there is NO evening Christmas pageant. We will **LIVESTREAM** the afternoon pageant. You will also be able to view it together with your family and friends from the St. Cecilia Parish YouTube page.

School Mass and Pageant Directives

We remind you of **SAFETY PROCEDURES** that we follow for any event in the Church. Once the mass or the pageant begins (usually 10:00 am or 1:30 for the pageant), the doors will be closed and locked. No one, including parents, late students, or staff members, will enter the church once the mass or pageant 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.



sistercatherine@stceciliafc.com

Sister Catherine's

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VERY IMPORTANT: 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@stcecilifc.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!

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Christmas Concerts:

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., Church

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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.)

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CHRISTMAS VACATION: Reminder: our Christmas vacation begins on Friday, December 19, at the end of the school day. It is a full day. **We do NOT have school on December 22 or 23.** Classes will resume on Monday, January 5. Thank you!

Happy Birthday Baby Jesus Party

Tuesday, December 30th 10-11:30am

St. Cecilia Auditorium

Nativity Play - Christmas Caroling, - Holiday Crafts,
Games, Snacks and Birthday Cake!!

This FREE event is 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 essentials) These will be laid at the manger at the end of the play. The gifts will be shared with a local crisis pregnancy center.



RSVP with the
QR Code

Teen
Volunteers are
needed!



Questions?

Call the
Parish Office