

# WEEKLY WORD

September 15, 2025

Dear St. Cecilia School Families,

Today, we celebrate the feast that used to be called the "Triumph of the Cross." The exact title the Feast is the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. I thought Pope Leo explained this feast very well. So, I will share his message from today's audience during the Angelus.

Pope Leo's words and message:

*"God saved us by showing Himself to us, offering Himself as our companion, teacher, physician, and friend, even to the point of becoming for us the Bread broken in the Eucharist," the Pope said. "And to accomplish this work, He made use of one of the cruelest instruments of death ever invented by man: the Cross."*

Pope Leo said, *"This is why today we celebrate its 'exaltation': for the love with which God, by embracing the Cross for our salvation, transformed it from an instrument of death into a means of life, teaching us that nothing can separate us from Him, and that His love is greater than our sin."*

The Holy Father concluded his Angelus reflection by inviting the faithful to pray, *"through the intercession of Mary... that His saving love may take root and grow within us too, and that we too may learn to give ourselves to one another, just as He gave Himself wholly to all."*

As people who know that nothing can separate us from the love of God, let us share this Good News by treating all with love, respect, compassion, kindness and understanding. What a beautiful world this world it would be if we can do this!

Have a great week! Have a great year!  
God bless you,  
Sister Catherine Irene, IHM

Retrieved on September 14, 2025 from  
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-09/pope-at-angelus-god-transforms-the-cross-into-a-means-of-life.html>



**NEXT LOTTERY DRAWING:**  
**TUESDAY, September 16**  
**7:00 p.m., Auditorium.**  
**Jackpot: \$45,000**

**Lottery Reminder:** Please do not send in your lottery tickets with money with your children. We had issues last year that tickets were left in a schoolbag or put into a mailbox only to be discovered after the drawing. Blank tickets can be sent home with students, but students cannot bring in an envelope with filled out tickets and money for drawings.

**How to Drop of Tickets and Money:**

Tickets that have been completely filled out should be placed in a sealed envelope.

In the top right corner of the envelope, the Seller should include their full name and the amount of money that should be inside.

The sealed envelope can be dropped off either the Rectory and Reception Room C (green awning) of the school.

In order to be eligible for a given week's drawing, tickets **must** be returned to school or parish office before 4pm that Tuesday. Tickets can be brought to the auditorium between 5:30pm and 6:15pm before the drawing.

Tickets turned in at stated locations after stated hours are eligible for the following week's drawing.

September		LOOKING AHEAD	
15	String Lessons begin today		
	Virtual Band Meeting at 6:30 pm		
16	Opening School Mass at 10:00 am: Honoring Mrs. Bobbie Mitchell on her retirement		
	Children's Scholarship Fund Lottery opens		
21	11:00 Mass		
	Enrollment Mass for Confirmation Candidates, Catechetical Sunday: Blessing of Teachers		
24	Band Lessons begin		
25	Collaborative High School Placement Exam for ALL 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students: In School		
25	Rita's Night Out – St. Cecilia Parking Lot – 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.: See Flyer		
October			
1	EITC Donor Breakfast, Cecilian Room, 7:00 a.m.		
4	Parish Fall Festival		
4-5	Parish Ministry Fair		
5	Blessing of Animals at 1:00 p.m.		
13	Faculty In-Service Day: No School for Students		
14	School Mass at 10:00 a.m.		



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**NEW INFORMATION, REMINDERS, AND REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

**UPDATED REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LUNCH AND RECESS:** To volunteer to help at lunch and recess, please complete this NEW Google form. We can really use your help, especially during lunch and recess for Grades K to 2. Here is the updated link to volunteer: <https://forms.gle/uPhUyQFaXVfpTrED8>

**FACTS Grant and Aid Application is still open!** If you never applied for FACTS Grant and Aid, or if you forgot to complete the forms, you have until September 30 to complete it. If you need help, please reach out to Mrs. Hayes, Tuition Manager (see next page for contact information) or to me. We can be entitled to additional funds if we have over 51% of our families apply for and qualify for BLOCS and other EITC funds, including Children's Scholarship. To apply for FACTS Grant and Aid, you can do so through your Family Portal or go to the website. Here is the link: <https://scsfoxchase.org/tuition-assistance>

**2026-2027 Children's Scholarship Fund Lottery Application:** The 2026-2027 lottery application will open on September 16, 2025. Go to the CSFP website to apply, starting on Tuesday. Here is the link: <https://www.csphiladelphia.org/apply/>

**Safety Committee Volunteers:** As we shared in our Back-to-School video, we would like to start a Safety Committee to help us with our safety plans and to practice our procedures. If you are interested in joining this committee or helping in any way, please complete a Google Form for Safety Volunteers. Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/WyZQzuUH3g97wuPt6>

**Notes to the Office:** If your child has a doctor appointment or needs to leave school, please call the office or email Mrs. Poekert at [kpoekert@stceciliafc.com](mailto:kpoekert@stceciliafc.com). If you email the teachers only, they do not always have a chance to check their emails. Letting the office know is very helpful. Also, if you are still having issues with the bus, please email Mrs. Poekert as well. She is working with the school district and families to make sure all information is correct. Thank you!

**Safety Reminders:** Please, for the safety of all our students, staff, and families:

- Follow all posted signs and directions from staff or crossing guards.
- Do not double park, even for a quick drop-off.
- Use designated crosswalks—no jaywalking; do not walk in between cars to cross the street
- Drive slowly and be alert for children who may not be paying attention.
- Be patient—even when it's crowded, especially when it's raining.
- If you are in the parking lot – do not start to drive away until children are with their parents and you have been directed by a faculty member.

**Wanted for Future Projections:** We will be looking for plumber to assist us with replacing water fountains with water dispensers that we received through a grant. The students will be able to fill their water bottles very easily with these dispensers. We need to do some preliminary work, but we can use your help. If you have any questions, please reach out to us. We will ask again as plans are finalized. Thank you in advance!

# Sister Catherine's

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### REMINDERS:

**BACK TO SCHOOL FORMS:** Please return these forms as soon as possible. If you didn't get them at the Meet and Greet, you can also download them from the school website. Here is the link: <https://scsfoxchase.org/back-to-school>

**CARES FORMS:** CARES begins tomorrow, September 8. You must return your forms in order for your child to attend. Again, all forms can be found on the website. Here is the link: <https://scsfoxchase.org/cares>

**SCHOOL DAY:** Our school day begins at 8:00 a.m. We pray as a school community at 8:00 a.m. **THEREFORE, ALL STUDENTS MUST BE IN THEIR HOMEROOMS BY 8:00 a.m.** In order to help your children, they should be in their homerooms at least by 7:55 a.m. It is important that all students arrive on time every day. We thank you in advance for your assistance.

**Dress Code:** From the first day of school, we have seen some students following the Dress Code and they look so good. Many students are not following it already. We really need your help. We have students whose hair is bleached or highlighted. Many boys have faded haircuts or long hair. There are many girls with short skirts and no knee socks. The skirts are rolled up and the socks are rolled down. Some skirts are not from Flynn and O'Hara or DiGuilio's. They look like skorts from Target. Please review the Dress Code and enforce the proper uniforms before your children come to school. Thank you.

**Safe Environment Class:** In order to volunteer, you must complete the Protecting God's Children class. We will have a class here at St. Cecilia Parish on October 6, 2025, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

**Tuition Office Hours:** Mrs. Jackie Hayes, our new Tuition Manager, will have set office hours every week. She will be in on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mrs. Hayes is available to meet with families to assist with financial aid, tuition payments, and incidental payments like CARES, sacramental fees, and more to come. You can still reach out to Mrs. Hayes via email at [tuition@stceciliafc.com](mailto:tuition@stceciliafc.com) or by calling her office at 215-725-2201.