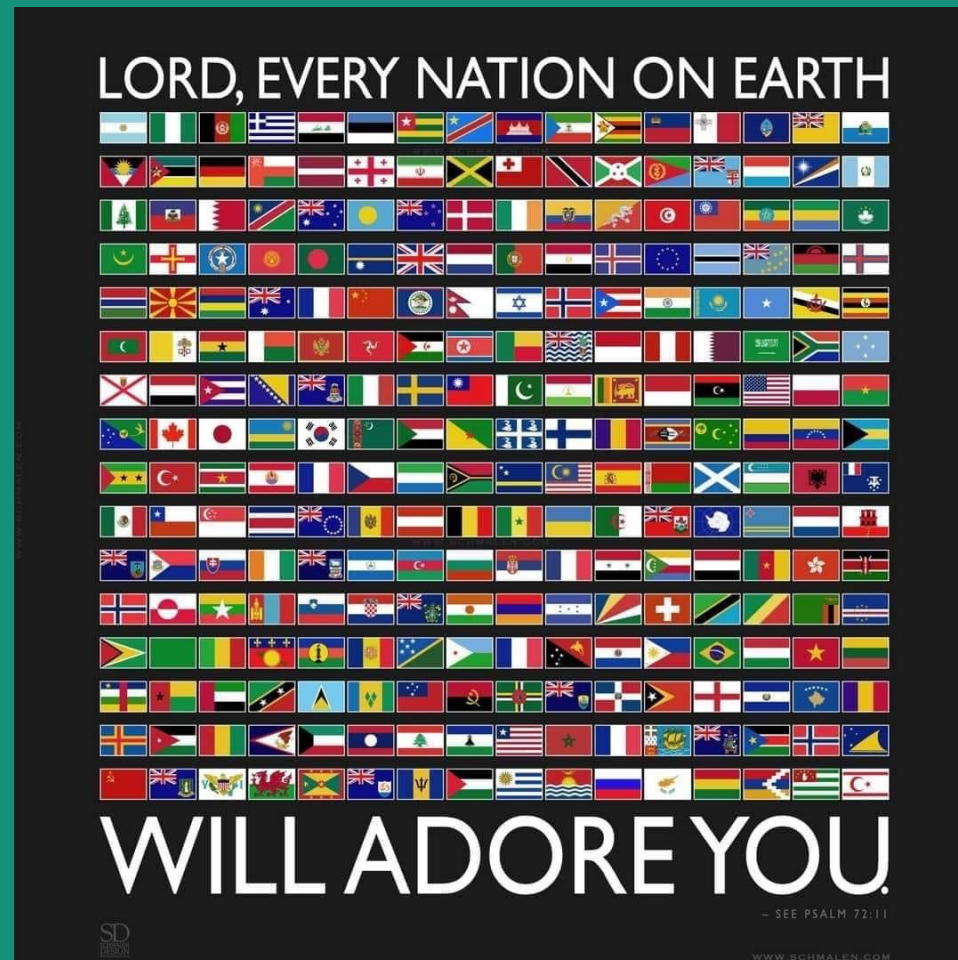




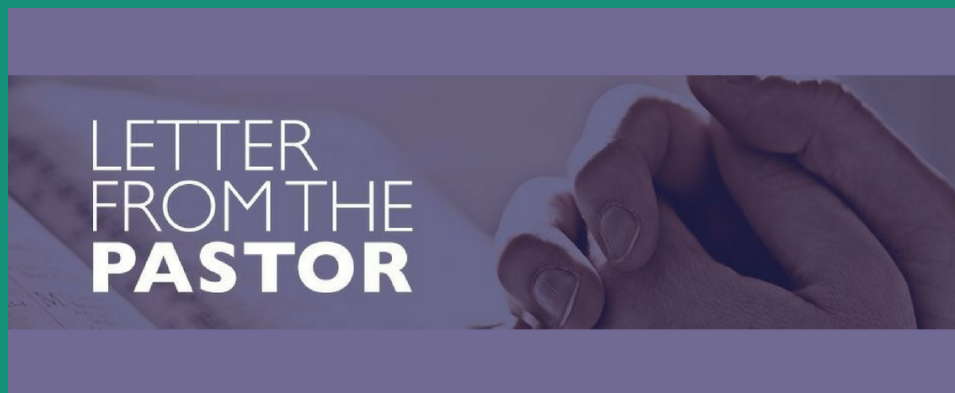
A Weekly Update from St. Cecilia Church
Knowing, Loving & Serving Jesus
In Fox Chase, Rockledge, Burholme and Beyond...

OUR VISION FOR ST. CECILIA: ***Transforming lives through faith filled 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.***



Watch a ***Weekly Update Video*** from Father Chris...



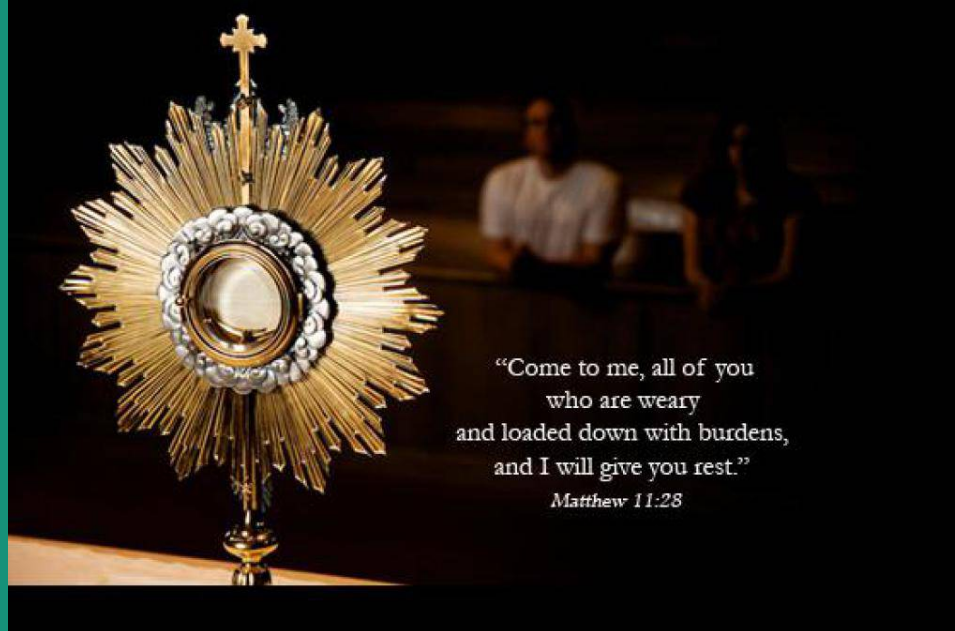
Dear Friends in Christ,

The second aspect of our Parish Mission Statement is that we are to **EMBOLDEN ALL BELIEVERS**. Once again, our Next Generation Envisioning Team did not make this up. Saint Paul write in Romans 8, 31: *If God is for us, who can be against us?* Boldness is defined as a way of acting with confidence and courage. This is boldness and is it essential for us if we will be the Christians the Lord needs in 2023. We will be bold in living and proclaiming our faith. We will remain bold when people reject us for our faith. We will be bold even if persecution comes our way as it does for so many Christians throughout the world.

So...how do we become BOLD Christians? I suggest the following (which I borrowed from the website www.aboldchristian.com): (1) Be humble in knowing that boldness comes because we rely on the Lord and not ourselves (2) pray every day so that your connection with God is never lost (3) do not compare yourself to others – the devil uses this to weaken us – be the Christian God wants YOU to be (4) spend time with other Christians who are trying to be bold (5) set a goal to be bold in some area of your faith life (attend a Bible Study, tell people that you go to Mass each week and invite them to you, read a religious book in front of co-workers) (6) reject fear every day and (7) make praise part of your daily life as you say the word “Praise God” out loud even when you are not in Church.

What do you think? Can you strive to be a bolder Christian this week? It will help St. Cecilia lives its mission for our neighborhood!

Father Chris



“Come to me, all of you
who are weary
and loaded down with burdens,
and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28

**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!**



**One of the most
cowardly things
ordinary people
do is to **shut their
eyes to facts.****

-- C.S Lewis



A Novena for Life On January 22nd our nation remembers the horrific Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion during all nine months of pregnancy. While that decision was overturned with the

Dobbs decision on June 24, 2022, pushing the issue back to the states, the Federal government still has a larger role to play in abortion law. The anniversary of Roe v. Wade becomes an occasion for us to be intentional in praying for an end of abortion and making it unthinkable in the lives of women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy. Please use this prayer to pray a Novena of Life from January 14th to the January 22nd begging God's grace boldly! Clip this prayer from the bulletin and pray each day...

Lord Jesus Christ, send your Spirit to encourage women and men facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, and to inspire your people to provide these women and their families aid in their need. Bless the unborn children whose lives are threatened. May their undeniable presence as human persons in the womb be recognized by all. We pray for the conversion of doctors and nurses who perform abortions, and for political leaders and activists who promote them. May their hearts may be turned to become true servants of health and the common good. Lord Jesus, we pray for healing in women and men who are in pain because of abortion. By your grace, may they seek and receive your Mercy. Amen.

Can you Help? Birthright is a Crisis Pregnancy Center located two minutes from St. Cecilia Church. They are open from 10am to 1pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and need a few more volunteers to serve women with children. Most of the women Birthright serves have already made the choice for life, but they don't have the resources to give their babies the best start in life. Birthright connects them to various resources that are available. Our volunteers answer the phone, make up Welcome Baby Gifts, and meet with the moms to direct them to the best resources for their needs, and help anyone who is considering abortion. Training is provided. No experience needed. If you are interested in learning more about our services or talking about volunteering, please call Joann at 215-760-9775 or call Sr. Joanne at 215-728-0385 and leave a message.



COFFEE TALK! Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Many people find it helpful to talk through grief with others who have also experienced a loss. Please join us for a monthly COFFEE TALK at St. Cecilia. The next gathering is **Saturday, January 20th from 9am to 10:30am** in the Cecilian Room (Building C, across from the Rectory). All are welcome. For more information, call Paula at 215-317-9802.



Give the gift of life at St. Cecilia Church on Monday, February 19th from 1:30pm to 6:30pm in the Auditorium. The need is always great and St. Cecilia Donors are vital to the effort. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or [USE THIS LINK](#) to schedule your appointment.



WE HAVE ALREADY SOLD 17 TABLES...DO NOT MISS OUT ON THIS WONDERFUL NIGHT FOR OUR PARISH COMMUNITY!

Get your teams of 6-8 people ready for Quizzo Night at St. Cecilia! Test your knowledge on 8 rounds of games. This is a B.Y.O.E. Event (Bring your own Beer/Wine/Food, etc.) Must be 21 years and older

Proceeds will benefit a St. Cecilia School Scholarship Fund

[Click here for additional info and to purchase tickets.](#)

Questions? Email [St. Cecilia Parish Event Planners](#)



Join Father Chris and Saint Cecilia Church on Wednesday Evenings 7pm to 8:30pm in our School Auditorium. We will gather on February 21, March 6, March 13, March 20 and March 27 to study this amazing letter from Saint Paul. No experience needed. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Young disciples over 13 are welcome to join the Bible Study as well (with their parent). FREE child care will be available. [SIGN UP HERE](#) or call the Parish Office.



- **Pope Francis' Intention for JANUARY:** we pray that the Holy Spirit help us recognize the gift of diverse charisms within the parish community and richness of different traditions that make us a truly Catholic (universal) Church!
- Pray for the soul of **Dorothy Swiatkowski** who will be buried at St. Cecilia on Friday, Jan 12th at 10:30 and for the comfort of all who loved her
- Pray for the soul of **Catherine Needham**, who serve many years as a Lector, her funeral will be at St. Cecilia on Sat., Jan 13th at 10:30. May her family be comforted.
- Pray for the soul of **Suzanne Zale Buck** whose funeral will be at St. Cecilia on Monday, Jan. 15th at 10:30am and the comfort of her family.
- Pray for those who are suffering with the flu, COVID and chronic illness
- Pray for couples preparing for marriage and men preparing to be ordained priests to serve our Church.
- Pray for all the sick at Pennypack Nursing Home, Jeanes & Fox Chase Hospitals

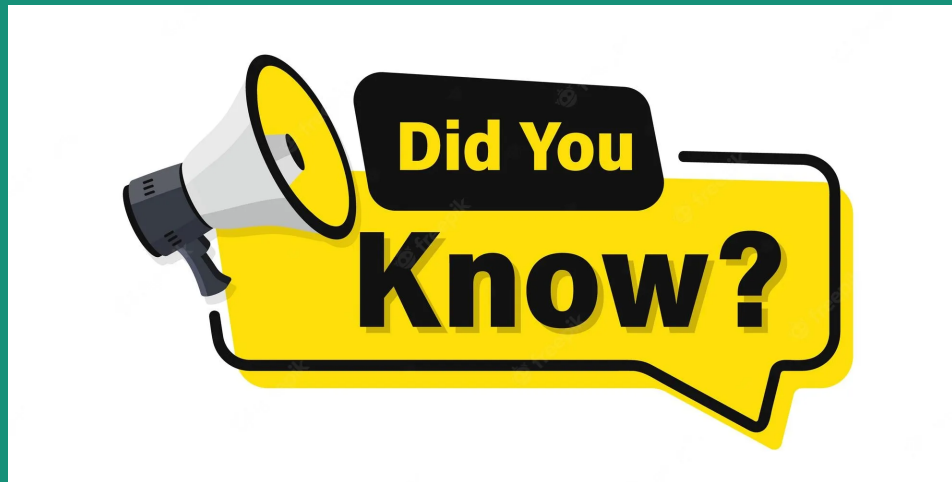


PA EITC

PENNSYLVANIA
EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT
TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

HELPING SAINT CECILIA SCHOOL As you can imagine, the cost of a Catholic Education continues to increase. St. Cecilia School wants to continue to make this education affordable for families as we believe it is good for the child, our Church and society! Here are a few ways you can assist us in assisting families: **RAISE RIGHT SCRIP PROGRAM** allows us to purchase “gift cards” and a percentage of each card can go towards a child’s tuition – if interested, [contact Eleanor in the Parish Office](#). **SPONSOR A CHILD PROGRAM** allows you to pay a portion of a child’s tuition for the

school year; you can donate \$5,000 for a full scholarship, \$2,500 for a half scholarship or \$1,250 for a partial scholarship – for more information contact [Sue in the Parish Office](#). **TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS** allow you to re-direct your Pennsylvania Tax Dollars to a child's tuition if you pay the State more than \$1,000 in taxes (check your statements as you get them in January, you likely have that tax liability but it is withdrawn from your paycheck) – *please help us in this way as it will make a HUGE impact in the life of our families* – [for more information contact Father Chris](#).



- **MLK Day of Service on Monday** The 2nd Police District is sponsoring a 2-hour clean up on Monday, January 15th from 9am to 11am at the Fox Chase Recreation Center in honor of our celebration of MLK Jr. Service Day. All supplies will be provided. We are looking for additional volunteers (including those who may need Community Service Hours). The Fox Chase Town Watch will cosponsor this event and will provide a Community Service letter to those that volunteer. The Fox Chase Recreation Center is a vital hub of positive activities for our children. If you are interested in serving, please call 215-694-6666. No formal registration is needed but information on the gathering will be provided.
- A graduate of our school and member of our Parish is running for State Representative in our area...[LEARN MORE](#)
- Our choir is looking for new members? The choir practices on Thursday evening and sings Sunday at 9:30am. They welcome people of all (or no) experience who want to praise God in song. [Contact Phil Roberts for more information.](#)
- Fr. Chris and Fr. Phong are available for [CONFESSION](#) on Monday (6pm to 7pm); Wednesday (7am to 8am) and Saturday (4pm to 4:50pm). Please make use of this wonderful Sacrament in order to grow as a Disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Along with NY Resolution, some make "wish lists"...[HERE](#) is a very insightful wish list from a woman who loves the Church
- 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
- Learn about the Magi's descendants today - [THE ZOROASTRIANS](#)
- **Mass Intentions at the 5pm Mass:** *Since we have added the 5pm Mass, we will accept Mass Intentions for that Mass as well. Please see Sue in the Parish Office if you would like to have a Sunday 5pm Mass offered for a loved one.*
- We will have a **Donut Social on Sunday, January 14th after the 9:30am Mass** (yes, we are changing things up a bit in the new year)

in the Auditorium. This will give our Church Family a chance to meet one another and build relationships. Please join us and get to know your parish family better.

- **Safe Environment Training** St. Cecilia will offer the Protecting God's Children course on Tuesday, March 5th from 6pm to 9pm and Wednesday, March 6th from 9am to Noon on our campus. This course is part of the requirements in order to volunteer at St. Cecilia Church and School when coming in contact with minors. To reserve your spot at training please email Kristen at safe@stceciliafc.com; you may also contact Sue in the Parish Office.



JOIN US! On Saturday, February 10th we will have our first Marriage Enrichment Night at St. Cecilia. We will gather in the Auditorium after the 5pm Mass for wine, cheese and an enriching conversation as couples (you will ONLY be sharing with your spouse; do not worry - it will not get too mushy). There is no cost for the night and it includes FREE CHILDCARE! Want something better? The Marriage Enrichment Program will run 6pm to 7:30pm but you can leave your kids for childcare until 10pm as you enjoy a date night (or stay at St. Cecilia and play games with other couples)! To save your spot - please email marrige@stceciliafc.com

03.04



2023

MANUP PHILLY

PHILADELPHIA'S ANNUAL CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Man Up Philly 2023 invites the men of the **Archdiocese of Philadelphia** to the **15th Annual Men's Spirituality Conference** to be held on Saturday, March 4th at **Cardinal O'Hara's St. John Vianney Hall Theater**.

We encourage all men – fathers, sons, brothers, friends – to join us *On the Road to Emmaus*, for an inspiring day of faith and fellowship.

Come back to the Lord. Join your brothers in Christ!



Cardinal Dolan



Deacon Mahoney



Jim Wahlberg



Mark Forrest



Archbishop Perez

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER

VISIT MANUPPHILLY.COM





Supporting THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

A Workshop for Parish Leaders, Family Members and Friends

Saturday, January 27, 2024

9:15 AM - 2:30 PM

Mass available at 8:30 AM

Snow date: February 3

St. Cecilia Parish Auditorium
535 Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Presenter:

Dave Eckert, MDiv, CPRP
Senior Director of Intersect
Access Services

Cost:

\$25 per person

Morning coffee and lunch is included.

It is estimated that one in five adults in the U.S. lives with a mental illness. Among children and teens, the numbers are increasing dramatically. This means that every parish and church institution - and many families - have members who struggle in this way, and often in silence. This workshop is designed to give parish leaders, as well as family members and friends, practical tools to help you support those who experience mental health struggles. Workshop topics include:

- What do we mean by mental health struggles?
- How to walk alongside someone in a way that is sustainable and resourceful
- How to create space where people can share their struggles while remaining within the boundaries of our competence (e.g. acting as a friend, not a therapist)
- Question-Persuade-Refer Suicide Prevention Training: how to respond when someone may be thinking about suicide

REGISTRATION:

[Click here to register](#) or
visit archphila.org/support



Questions?

Meghan Cokeley, mcokeley@archphila.org
or Natalie Rivera, nrivera@archphila.org

Please consider joining us for this workshop. While held at Saint Cecilia's Auditorium, it is offered by the Archdiocese and will have people from across the area attending. [REGISTER HERE](#)

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