

Last year, this was an exciting week for Philadelphia sports fans. The Eagles were preparing for the Super Bowl! Well, this year, it's a lot different. The Eagles are not in Las Vegas, and they are not in the Super Bowl. I don't know about you, but I will still watch the Super Bowl! In keeping with the Super Bowl theme, I thought I'd share some thoughts from the one whose name is on the Super Bowl trophy: Vince Lombardi.

**Vince Lombardi –**

Did you know that the first head coaching job that Vince Lombardi had was at **St. Cecilia High School** in Englewood, NJ? Did you know that his second head coaching job was with the Green Bay Packers? Vince Lombardi was a devout Catholic and went to mass every day. Some quotes from Vince Lombardi are:

"When we place our dependence in God, we are unencumbered, and we have no worry. In fact, we may even be reckless, insofar as our part in the production is concerned. This confidence, this sureness of action, is both contagious and an aid to the perfect action. The rest is in the hands of God – and this is the same God, gentlemen, who has won all His battles up to now."

"I derived my strength from daily mass and communion."

"There are three things that are important to every man in this locker room. His God, his family, and the Green Bay Packers. In that order."

Enjoy the game!

Retrieved from <https://vincelombardi.com/quotes/> on February 5, 2024



+Dear St. Cecilia School Families,

February 10, 2024

I hope you enjoyed learning a few things about Vince Lombardi. I think it's pretty cool that Mr. Lombardi started at a St. Cecilia! I also think it's pretty cool to learn about his faith life.

As we prepare for Lent, and Valentines Day, perhaps we could follow the example of Vince Lombardi. Let us ask ourselves: Do I put God first in my life? Do I realize that God unconditionally loves me? Can I love God with my with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my mind? Do I love my family as I should, or do I take them for granted?

Have a blessed week!

God bless you,  
Sister Catherine Irene, IHM

**Religion Bee:** *We congratulate Steven Nguyen, a fifth grader, on winning our school Religion Bee on Thursday. He will represent St. Cecilia School at the regional competition at Archbishop Ryan H.S on February 21. Good luck, Steven!*

Looking Ahead:

February 11	SUPER BOWL, 6:30 p.m.
February 13	Donuts and Dress Down Day: Please send money to office every day
February 14	ASH WEDNESDAY: Prayer Service at 10:00 a.m.
February 16	<b>FACULTY MEETING: No School for Students</b> <b>St. Cecilia Blood Drive</b>
February 19	PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY– NO SCHOOL
February 21	Religion Bee – Archbishop Ryan at 10:00 a.m. – Steven Nguyen represents SCS.
March 1 – 8	<b>Terra Nova NEXT testing: Grades 2 -7</b> <b>Please do not schedule trips or appointments during Terra Nova. Thank you!</b>
March 1	End of the 2nd Trimester
March 2	Irish Night: See Graphic at the end of the Weekly Word
March 5	SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING: 6:00-9:00pm, IN AUDITORIUM
March 6	SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING, 9:00am-12:00pm, IN AUDITORIUM
March 8	Pre-K performs with Musicopia at Fox Chase Library at 10:00 a.m.
March 11	Grades 7 and 8 to see the movie CABRINI
March 13	Religion Bee Finals: 10:00 a.m. at St. John Neumann Shrine
March 15	Soups and Stations
March 22	Fun Day!
March 23	Catechetical Convocation
March 24	Palm Sunday



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**St. Cecilia Blood Drive:** Monday, February 19th, 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 or (1-800-733-2767).

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**SUMMER THEATER CAMP:** The Musical Theatre Summer Camp is designed specifically for students entering grades 3-8. The Camp is an integrative weeklong experience that allows young people to learn improv, acting and stage movement, singing and vocal technique, and dancing by activities and games. Additionally, they will explore different musical theatre styles through exploring various Broadway shows. The camp will include a showcase on the last day of camp at 5pm for parents and family. Camp dates are June 17-20 from 9:00am-3:00pm & Friday, June 21 9:00-6:00pm. St. Cecilia Families are welcome to use the CODE: CECILIA24 for a \$50 discount.

**LINK FOR REGISTRATION:** <https://site.corsizio.com/c/65bad6a3e5c95197e12021a7>

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**SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMPS:** Calling all students entering 3rd, 4th or 5th grade - join us at St. Cecilia for HUDDLE UP HOOPS BASKETBALL CAMP July 8th to July 12th. Boys will gather 8am to Noon; girls will gather 12:30pm-4:30pm. For more information contact huddleuphoops24@gmail.com

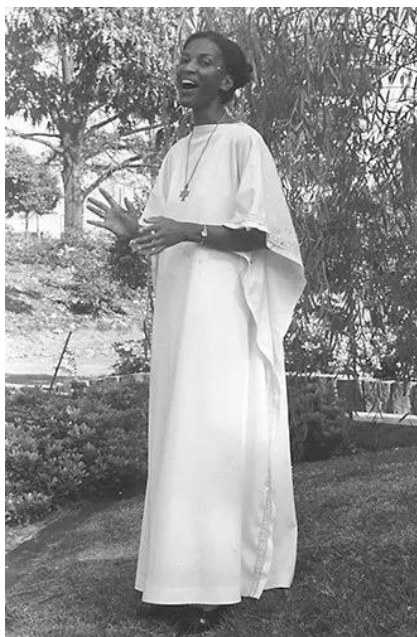
**LINK TO REGISTER A BOY:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rst9H45gzTzxm4W6nsub6nerrOzM76BW657u6OGQRzk/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rst9H45gzTzxm4W6nsub6nerrOzM76BW657u6OGQRzk/viewform?edit_requested=true)

**LINK TO REGISTER A GIRL**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1N0KP4RPMOxhuCJx2rbUh\\_5hXdn5Q\\_8rLw00jZ9U6CpU/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1N0KP4RPMOxhuCJx2rbUh_5hXdn5Q_8rLw00jZ9U6CpU/viewform?edit_requested=true)

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### **Black History Month: Our Journey with African American Saints to Be!**

A few years ago, I used two books that were written about saints. James Martin, SJ, wrote a book called **My Life with the Saints**. James Martin wrote that he “found companions among the saints – friends to turn to when I needed a helping hand.” He also said that “everything the saints say and do is centered on Christ and points us in His direction.”

The other book that I read was by Susan H. Swetnam, **My Best Teachers were Saints: What Every Educator Can Learn from the Heroes of the Church**. She said, “For a saints’ lives illustrate, men and women whose lives are celebrated as holy – mentors of the best kind – have walked these paths before.”

As we celebrate Black History Month at St. Cecilia School, we will introduce our students to African American men and women who are on the path to sainthood. They are truly Catholic heroes and role models for all. Each class will have a poster of these mentors, teachers, and friends who are on their way to becoming a saint. The first saint that we will look at is ***Sister Thea Bowman***.

What makes Sister Thea Bowman a friend and mentor to me is that she was a teacher. Her website said that “She lovingly taught young people about the joy of being Christian.” (Look at her beautiful smile in the picture above!) She wanted her church to accept as “fully black and fully Catholic.” She called “all to a living faith.” She suffered from cancer but embraced her suffering. She died at the young age of 52. Learn more about her and her road to sainthood on her website: <https://www.sistertheabowman.com/>

Give the gift of life at St. Cecilia Church



Monday, February 19th  
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](tel:1-800-RED-CROSS)  
(1-800-733-2767) or [click here](#) to  
schedule your appointment.

**IRISH NIGHT**  
MARCH 2ND  
6PM-10PM  
TICKETS \$35  
ST. CECILIA PARISH

**PURCHASE NOW!**  
TICKET SALES  
NOW thru FEB 24th  
ALL TICKETS MUST BE  
RESERVED ONLINE  
(cash/check instructions online)  
EMAIL QUESTIONS TO  
PARISHEVENTPLANNERS@GMAIL.COM

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
"NO IRISH NEED APPLY"  
IRISH DANCERS  
**LUCK OF THE IRISH**  
GAMES OF LUCK  
CASH PRIZES  
RAFFLES  
**FOOD AND DRINKS**  
DINNER & DESSERT  
21yr+ B.Y.O.B.

For tickets, follow the link to:

<https://irish-night-at-st-cecilia.cheddarup.com>

**SAINT CECILIA PARISH**

**Protecting God's Children Classes**

**Register Online**  
Interested in serving our parish and school as a volunteer? We will be hosting a class that is needed in order to obtain clearances as a volunteer. To register, scan the QR code below.  
Contact Kristin Weiler for information  
[safe@stceciliafc.com](mailto:safe@stceciliafc.com)

**March 5, 2024**  
6:00 - 9:00pm  
**March 6, 2024**  
9:00a - 12:00pm

**Musicopia™**  
For a Well Played Life

St Cecilia  
Presents:  
**A Musicopia Culminating Event**

Friday, March 8th , 10:00AM  
**Fox Chase Library**  
501 Rhawn Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111

Please join us as the talented students of St. Cecilia share what they have learned throughout their **Alex and the Kaleidoscope** residency. We look forward to coming together and celebrating their hard work and accomplishments.



***Reading Olympics: St. Cecilia School will participate in the Reading Olympics this year. It is for Grades 4 to 8. Please look for permission slips and book lists that will be coming home. Please return permission slips and necessary forms as soon as possible. Thank you!***

## **Reminders and Requests:**

**HEALTH REMINDERS:** There are a few different sicknesses going around. Some students have had Covid. A few students have had the flu and a couple have had RSV. There have been quite a few students with coughs, runny noses, and sniffles. While these could be allergies, they could also be signs of colds, strep throat, etc. We ask that if your child is not feeling good, please keep him or her at home. Everyone must be fever free for 24 hours, without taking medicine, before they return to school. Thank you for your assistance in keeping everyone healthy.

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**TRAFFIC REMINDERS:** There are a number of concerns that I have and see about our parking lot and Stanwood Street. I know that many of you are in a hurry, and you might have to pick up family members at other schools. Perhaps you have to get back to work. We are trying to improve our campus in order to keep all of the children and staff safe. With your children's safety our priority, I remind you of the following:

- No one should drive into the school yard from Jeannes Street, especially in the morning and at dismissal.
- If you are dropping your children off in the morning from the parking lot, please drive close to the cones so that your children are walking in the safe zone.
- At dismissal, I ask that you wait until the children who are walking are out of the parking lot before you pull out. The teachers are most concerned about what has been happening recently. Many drivers are pulling out of the parking lot as students are trying to exit and go to the light. The parking lot should not be used if you are in a hurry.
- If you have parked in the lot, I ask that you do not walk in between the cars. I have watched parents walk around the cars; at times their children are running ahead. The parking lot is also used for events in church, especially on Mondays. This is another reason everyone must be careful and pay attention to all drivers in the parking lot. Also, please slow down.
- People are still double parking, crossing in between the cars (and not looking both ways), blocking the crosswalks at Jeannes Street, and more. Please follow the rules of the road and of safety. There is NO double parking, etc.
- Kindergarten and Pre-K children who are waiting for their brothers and sisters to be dismissed need to be with their parents. They should not be running up the rectory steps or to the church. It's been a little better since I went out and told parents and children about running around, and I hope it continues to be safe.

Thank you for your help in keeping everyone safe.

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**FACTS GRANT AND AID APPLICATIONS:** HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR FACTS GRANT AND AID APPLICATIONS? IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ANY SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL AID, YOU MUST HAVE COMPLETED THIS APPLICATION FIRST. HERE IS THE LINK TO THE APPLICATION: <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3PF2Z>

Income guidelines for EITC/OSTC programs are as follows: (Allow \$19,088 for each additional dependent)

1 child: \$127,532	3 children: \$165,708
2 children: \$146,620	4 children: \$184,796

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**DEADLINE TO ENTER THE LOTERY FOR THE CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS MARCH 1.**

**FOR DETAILS AND MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:** <https://www.csphiladelphia.org/scholarship-application-for-2024-2025-school-year/>