

St. Cecilia School

December 19, 2011

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December Virtue of the Month: Prayer

Discipline with Purpose Skill: Sharing Time, Space, People, Things

A Christmas Message



Christmastime is a celebration of promises kept and prophecies fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Throughout this past month, we have tried to prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming. Advent prayers and traditions kept us focused on the real meaning of Christmas. Special projects for the poor and those in need gave us an opportunity to discover the joy in giving.

We will conclude the Advent season this week with some special activities. On Wednesday, Father Skip will celebrate our School Liturgy, prepared by our fourth grade students and their teachers, at 10:00 AM. On Thursday, the Student Council will prayerfully present the Christmas story in a beautiful tableau. And on Friday, the Kindergarten will begin their Christmas performance with the telling of the story of the first Christmas. (Believe me, no one tells it better than they do!)

Yes, we are ready to celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. We recognize that Jesus incarnate is an act of love and the greatest gift of Christmas. Jesus' coming has changed everything! His presence among us is comforting, redeeming, and healing. Now, let us welcome Him into our hearts and our homes. Let us bring His light into a world that desperately needs the Light of Christ. Let us be His presence to all we meet!

The School Community would like to take this opportunity to wish you a blessed Christmas and to thank you for your goodness to us. Be assured that you have been remembered in our prayer throughout our days of preparation.

May Jesus, the Gift of Love, dwell in your heart with new and abundant blessings this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Congratulations to Our Fifth Grade

Everyone is still raving about the spectacular performance of our fifth grade class for their parents last week. The students were stunning as they transformed the auditorium into a ballroom and showcased many of the dances that they have learned throughout the past ten weeks in the *Dancing Classrooms Philly* program which was funded partially through the Connelly Foundation. Not only did the students learn the steps of the waltz, foxtrot, tango, rhumba, meringue, and swing; but they grew in social skills and confidence while deepening their sense of respect, responsibility, leadership and teamwork.

Twelve of our fifth grade students were selected to represent St. Cecilia School in the *Colors of the Rainbow Team Match*, a semi-final competition, which will be held this Wednesday morning at Hackett School. The following students will compete with students from nine other area schools: **Brian Snyder, Taylor Teal, Matthew Bolden, Casey Remolde, Mark Gilmore, Riley Davis, Frank Jaworski, Isabel Isaac, Ryan Averill, Olnaida Casseus, Paul Grevy, and Allyson Paul.** We wish them well!

We extend tremendous gratitude to our dance instructor, Ms. Ahalia, for her superb instruction and to our fifth grade teachers, Ms. Shannon Dale, Ms. Mary Totani, and Mrs. Katie Schanbacher, for their direction, support and encouragement throughout this program.



Important Reminders

Dismissal for the Christmas holidays will be at 12:30 PM on Friday, December 23. School will resume on **Tuesday, January 3rd.**

On **Wednesday, December 21st, at 7:00 PM**, the members of the **St. Cecilia Band**, under the direction of **Mr. Michael Mee**, will perform a medley of Christmas favorites which are sure to place everyone in the Christmas spirit. All are invited to attend!