



*Plant your roots in Christ and let Him be the foundation for your life.  
--Colossians 2:6-7*

November 18, 2009

Dear Parents:

### **School Families**

This year we are beginning a new program at St. Cecilia School called "School Families." We have divided up our kindergarten through eighth grade students into thirty families. Each family has approximately nine students representing all grade levels; the leader of the family is either a seventh or eighth grader. The students met today in their families, introduced themselves, and created name cards. These name cards will be assembled and displayed in our hallways beginning in Advent. Our school families will be meeting about once per month. These meetings provide leadership opportunities for our seventh and eighth graders and opportunities for all of our children to know schoolmates throughout the grade levels thereby feeling more connected to their school community.

### **Thanksgiving Liturgy/Feast of St. Cecilia**

A school-wide liturgy celebrating Thanksgiving and the Feast of St. Cecilia will be this Friday at 10:00 am. Our kindergarten class has planned this liturgy and will be processing into church in their St. Cecilia and St. Valerian costumes. We hope our families can join us for this special celebration of our faith.

### **Canned Food Drive**

The Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive sponsored by the NJHS continues until this Friday. Any donation of canned goods and/or non-perishable items will be most appreciated. All donations are given to the St. Cecilia Parish food bank. During these difficult economic times many people are without food; your generosity makes a true difference in their lives. Thank you.

### **Auction News**

A few auction receipts remain outstanding, however, at this time our auction proceeds are about \$90,000. These monies go to funding the PTG budget, the Development Fund/Needs Analysis for Capital Improvements, and the Endowment Fund. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our entire community for the success of our auction, and special thanks and congratulations go to our Auction managers: Mrs. Becky Byszewski, Mrs. Darlene Bayardo, Mrs. Eileen McCarthy, and Mrs. Nancy Walz. The efforts and energies of our school families do indeed make a difference!

### **Christmas Tree Information**

If you intend to purchase a Christmas tree from Peltzer Pines Christmas Tree Farm, please bring the enclosed flyer with you. The school information has already been stamped on the flyer; you will just need to complete your name information. The school will receive \$6.00 for every tree purchased with a flyer. Thank you for your support.



### **Advent Activities**

Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a liturgical season that is penitential in tone, with the third Sunday being a time to express joy. During the Advent Season our students and families are invited to participate in some outreach opportunities.

- The National Junior Honor Society is sponsoring *The Giving Tree*, an opportunity to provide a gift for a needy child. Included in today's envelope is a flyer explaining the program.
- The Student Council is sponsoring the Holy Childhood Association mission collection. More details about this collection and the collection boxes will be sent home the week after Thanksgiving.

### **Development News**

#### **ACT Sponsors/SMART Boards**

The ACT Classroom Sponsorships along with the Auction Fund-an-Item have enabled us to purchase SMART Boards for our classrooms and the Science Lab. The installation of these boards begins this week and will continue over the holiday week until all the boards have been installed. Thank you to our very generous sponsors for their commitment to our students and their learning.

#### **Grandparents and Special Friends Day**

Included in today's envelope are *Save the Date* cards for Grandparents and Special Friends Day scheduled for Friday, February 5, 2010. We realize many of our families see grandparents and/or special friends during the holidays and we are hoping you will pass along these cards to them. More details about this special day will be sent home after Christmas.

#### **Alumni Newsletter**

Also included in today's envelope is our latest edition of the Alumni Newsletter. Please take a moment to review the highlights included in our newsletter, and, if you are an alumna of St. Cecilia School, and/or have information about other alumni, please complete the form on the back and return to the Front Office. Special thanks to Mrs. Lourdes Lejano, Development Director, for the creation and publication of this newsletter.

### **Blanket Drive - Brownie Troop 1420**

Brownie Troop 1420 at St. Cecilia School wishes to thank all those who donated blankets. Last week's blanket drive, to benefit the Catholic Worker, was a big success. The many blankets have been delivered and the Catholic Worker is very appreciative for this most needed assistance. Thank you!!

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to wish all of our families a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday. We are grateful to be a part of this wonderful community of faith, and we will remember all of you in our prayers of thanks.

Very truly yours,

  
Mrs. Mary Alvarado  
Principal

*A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues.*