



SAINT CECILIA CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

“Higher education starts here”

October 29, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

“From the first centuries after Christ, Christians who died a martyr’s death were considered saints, who live in God’s presence forever. Every year, on the anniversary of the martyrs’ deaths, Christians would visit their tombs and celebrate the Eucharist. This practice grew throughout the centuries to include remembering other outstanding Christians on the days they died. Soon the entire calendar was filled with memorials of the saints. In the ninth century, Pope Gregory IV designated November 1 as the day to remember all the saints living in God’s presence.

One of the great gifts of our Catholic tradition is remembrance of and prayer with the saints. The Church offers us an official canon, or list, of saints. On All Saints Day, November 1, we recall and pray with these saints. It is important to continue to tell these stories of saints and saintly people to our children so that they have ample models of people of faith for their own lives.

Children today are in search of role models. Popular television and movie stars, sports figures, and others from pop culture (have you heard “I wanna be YouTube famous”?!) are often idolized and emulated. Our Catholic tradition also offers a rich history of people who provide models for Christian living. More than role models, however, the tradition of the Communion of Saints provides basis for connection and real relationship with those who have gone before us in the faith. This tradition can capture the imagination of our young people and foster their maturation as Christian disciples.

Together as a family, name and tell the story of favorite saints. Together prepare a list of some of the traits that these people have in common (generosity, courage, prayerfulness, and so on). After preparing this list, read together the Gospel for All Saints Day, Matthew 5:1-12. Identify how the attitudes described in the Beatitudes are reflected in the lives of the saints and people you named.

Pray together as a family a Litany of the Saints (For example, you could pray, ‘St. Elizabeth’ and your children respond, ‘Pray for us.’) Include in your list the saints and holy people you named in your discussion above. Conclude by praying that your family will follow the example of these

people as disciples of Jesus” (Excerpts above taken from loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints).

“Remember that when Catholics say we are ‘praying’ to a saint, what we mean is that we are asking that saint to ask God for something on our behalf. We are not worshipping the saint as a god or instead of God. The word ‘pray’ comes from the Latin *precari*, ‘to ask earnestly, beg, entreat.’ We can ‘pray’ as in ‘ask earnestly’ and expect that the saints will intercede for us with God, whom they now see face-to-face” (Tierney, Kendra. *The Catholic All Year Compendium: Liturgical Living For Real Life*. Ignatius Press, 2018).

Please join us for our school’s All Saints Day Mass at 8:30 AM on Friday, November 1st!

Weather Reminders

St. Cecilia Cathedral Grade School and Child Care follow the decision of the Omaha Catholic Schools office for weather-related closings and late starts.

In the event of inclement weather, please watch WOWT, KETV-7, KMTV-3, KPTM FOX, and Omaha World Herald’s website for “Omaha Catholic Schools,” followed by either NO SCHOOL or 2-HOUR LATE START. You can also follow us on Facebook and/or Twitter.

- St. Cecilia Cathedral School - Omaha (Facebook)
- @StCeciliaOMA (Twitter)

NO SCHOOL - All classes, after school activities, and sport practices are cancelled for the day. The St. Cecilia Cathedral Child Care will also be closed. If your child has a sporting event scheduled on the night of a cancelled day of school (i.e., basketball game), you will need to be in communication with your son/daughter’s coach to see if the game is also cancelled.

2-HOUR LATE START - This is a new policy that Omaha Public Schools (OPS) and therefore Omaha Catholic Schools are implementing this year. If you see the announcement of “Omaha Catholic Schools - 2 HOUR LATE START,” then all classes (PreK-8th grade) will start at 10:00 AM. This means that drop off begins at 9:45 AM. The Child Care Center would also be opening at 10:00 AM.

This new 2-hour late start will have some bugs that we’ll have to work out as we go. We will still be ordering lunch from Westside but we have been told that it may affect the lunch times a bit. As soon as we experience and go through the process, I’ll communicate how lunch times will work on those late start days.

We have also been informed that OPS *may* utilize an early release schedule in the event that an impending weather event might compromise safe travel. We WILL NOT be following that announcement so if you feel as though you need to pick your child up early from school, we support that decision.

Praying for a safe (and warm) winter season!

Veteran's Day is on November 11th

We are asking for students and parents to bring in pictures of any and all family/friends who have served in the military to help create our Veteran's Wall. Requirements for the pictures include:

- Student's Name
- Veteran's Name
- Branch of Military and/or War Served (if applicable)
- Pictures without student's full name will not be returned

We will be making a "Tribute to Veteran's Day" wall in the entryway of the school and we would love to help honor your loved ones. You can drop your pictures off in the main office or to your child's teacher. Please see this example that Mrs. Heimerman submitted.



Dates for Marian Tutors (grades 3 & UP):

- October 30
- November 6
- November 13
- November 20
- November 27
- December 4

Important Items to Know:

- Picture Retake Day is November 5th. Students will wear uniforms with red sweaters. You can still order online [Order Pictures](#) The school code is BN20978Q1 If you are getting retakes, you will need to return your original package on retake day.
- If you ordered classroom photos, they will not be available until after retakes.

Volunteering:

As a reminder any parent who would like to volunteer in the school or be a room parent must be safe environment trained. For more information about this program and to sign up for a class please visit: <https://archomaha.org/safe-environment>

Fundraising:

Hy-Vee Cash for Students: Sept. 1- Dec. 31st

- You can start collecting your Hy-vee receipts beginning on September 1st and continue until December 31st. You can shop at any of the twelve Omaha stores. The receipts collected MUST have the date on them or they will not be counted. Hy-Vee will donate \$1.00 for every \$200.00 dollars spent. We can receive up to \$2000.00 dollars simply by keeping track and turning in your Hy-Vee receipts.

Family Fare: Year round receipt collections

- Drop off next to box tops by the office side door

Box Tops: Year round

- Drop off next to box tops by the office side door - Check out the new box tops app! [Box Tops Registration](#)

Coke Rewards: Year round

- Drop off next to box tops by the office side door

TAGG: NOW AVAILABLE!

- Download the app, shop at select area locations, upload your receipt and the school will get 5% back <https://togetheragreatergood.com/>

Dates to Know:

October 31: PK & K Halloween parties

November 1: All School Mass 8:30am ~ All Saints Day ~ Holy Day of Obligation

November 1: NOON DISMISSAL ~ NO LUNCH SERVED

November 2: All Souls Day

November 2: Home & School Dodge ball Tournament ~ **CANCELED**

November 3: Confirmation ~ 11:30am

November 3-9: National Vocations Week

November 5: Picture Retakes
November 5: Chipotle Dine Out 4pm
November 6: All School Mass 8:30am
November 6: ABC Meeting 7pm
November 8: Comedy & Cuisine Patron Party
November 8: Last day to turn in Wreath order forms
November 11: Veteran's Day

Blessings,
Mrs. Pick