



SAINT CECILIA CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

"Higher education starts here"

February 13, 2018

Dear St. Cecilia Parents and Guardians,

Ash Wednesday is tomorrow, February 14, and it marks the beginning of the Lenten season. I invite each of you to join us for our all school mass at 10:00 AM with Fr. Grewe to share in the spiritual experience with your child/children by receiving ashes with them.

Here at St. Cecilia Cathedral School, we will spend the next 40+ days in deep spiritual reflection about what Lent means to us as Catholics. When most of us think of Lent, we may start thinking of the "what will I give up" strategy. I have been saving this week's THT message because it highlights the importance of reflection, a sometimes forgotten part of Lent. I share it with you today as you prepare for this Lenten season:

"There was an old Jesuit vocation poster that showed a cartoon of a Jesuit with his nose in a book while he was sawing a piece of wood with the teeth of a crocodile. The copy said, 'Contemplatives in Action.' This is a bit of a caricatured understanding of what it means to be a contemplative in action, where your intellect is engaged as you go about doing the nitty-gritty work of the world. Being a contemplative in action is more than that, and it's certainly not just for intellectuals.

In the Gospels we hear about Jesus and his disciples retreating every so often to pray. Their ministry didn't seem to allow much time for it, but if they hadn't stopped every so often they might have become mindless in their activity. This is the first step in being a contemplative in action: stopping.

Stopping gives you a chance to pause and acknowledge what you've been doing, whether in your work or personal life. It not only offers needed rest but also helps you move into the next stage: reflection.

'The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and thought.' (Mark 6:30).

Jesus and the apostles spoke to each other about all they did, they prayed and pondered, and examined their feelings and experiences. Reflecting on our daily experiences and our major ones helps us delve into their deeper meaning. This can be done alone using the Examen prayer, or it can be done as a group in intentional faith sharing. What did you learn from your experiences? What might God be telling you through them?

Next the disciples went back to their busy work, as we must do. The key here is letting your reflection and prayer time inform how you approach your work when you return to it. Perhaps you discover the need for more rest time or that you need to focus more on a particular relationship. Or maybe you find that the activity you've been up to has become dissatisfying. Or perhaps you discover a desire to reinvigorate your job.

Contemplation allows us to renew our active lives (work, play, relationships) so that all we do does not become mindless action but rather glorifies God. Then the cycle repeats. Your activity leads you again into a time of stopping, resting, reflecting, and then returning to activity with greater zeal and purpose. Being a contemplative in action means that your active life feeds your contemplative life and your contemplative life informs your active life. That is what contemplation in action means, and the cycle never ends."

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/16166/contemplatives-in-action>)

Attached to this THT is the *Partners in Faith* newsletter that is full of talking points for your family and includes a calendar with daily activities to do with them throughout the season.

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Pick
Principal

Important Reminders:

- **Child Pick Up:** When picking up your child/children from school, you cannot pick them up from the street. All parents and guardians must park their car (in parking lot in between school and Cathedral, parking lot west of the Cathedral, or outside of the two crosswalks in front of the school). By not following our new procedures, it creates a domino effect with other parents and before we know it, 3-4 cars are parked on the curb after school. Do not make a new pick up line in the parking lot as it makes it impossible for other parents to pull in and park. Today as I stood outside (AM and PM) I noticed a lot of people not following the new procedures, making our drop off and pick up unsafe for students and adults.
- **Adults Night Out:** Please see the attachment for more information regarding this fun night honoring Comedy & Cuisine.
- **NO SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 19:** There is no school on Monday, February 19, for faculty to attend School of Faith and professional development. Thank you for supporting our staff!
- **Height/Weight/Vision Screening:** Our nurse will be here on Thursday, March 1st, to complete the height/weight/vision screening for Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and any new students). We are in need of 7 parent volunteers to help that morning. Please contact me (jpick@stcecilia.net) to get some volunteer hours.

Happenings this Week:

Tuesday, 2/13	Wednesday, 2/14	Thursday, 2/15	Friday, 2/16	Saturday, 2/17
Operetta Rehearsal @ 3:15-4:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Mass @ 10 AM(Cathedral)	7:30 and 8:15 AM - 5th-7th Grade Band	All School Mass @ 8:30 AM(Cathedral)	Mass @ 5:30 PM(Cathedral)
Basketball Practices @ 3:30-8:30 PM(Gym)	Chess Club @ 3:15-4 PM (Library)	Operetta Rehearsal @ 3:15-4:30 PM	Stations of the Cross @ 2:30 PM(Cathedral)	
Marian Tutors @ 3:30 PM (Library)	Operetta Rehearsal @ 3:15-4:30 PM	Basketball Practices @ 3:30-8:30 PM(Gym)	Student Council Mtg @ 3:15-4 PM(Rm 307)	
GOALS Mtg @ 7 PM (Library)	Basketball Practices @ 3:30-8:30 PM(Gym)		NO MATH CLUB	

Important Dates:

- February 17 - Adults Night Out; Comedy & Cuisine Event (see flyer)
- February 18 - Me and My Guy Dance @ 6-8 PM in the Cafeteria (see flyer in child's THT folder)
- February 27 - Marian Tutors @ 3:30-4:30 PM (Library)

- March 1 - Sign Up Donations due for Comedy & Cuisine
- March 2 - NO EARLY DISMISSAL
- March 7, 8, 9 - Operetta (see attachment and letter in your child's THT folder)
- March 16 - SkateDaze Night @ 6-8 PM
- March 28-April 3 - NO SCHOOL (Easter Vacation)