

COVER SHEET

CHURCH NAME: **ST. CECELIA CHURCH**

BULLETIN NUMBER: 511586.Sept12

BULLETIN FOR WEEK OF: **September 12, 2004**

NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED: **6**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: **The Bishop's letter is used as Page Four this week.
Please don't put a PAGE FOUR heading.**

CONTACT: **STEPHANIE: 732-283-2300**

WELCOME! You are invited to become a part of our parish family and an active member of parish life.

REGISTRATION

To enable us to better serve you, **all parishioners** are asked to register at the Parish Office. Family members over the age of 18 should register as individuals. To receive a letter of recommendation or a character reference you should be registered for at least three months.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Please remember to put all pagers and cell phones on **SILENT ALERT** before Mass begins. Please be sure to extinguish all cigarettes and use the ashtrays on either side of the plaza. Smoking is not permitted in the church.

THANK YOU!

MEMORIALS

The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** may be lighted for a week at a time in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. The **EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE** may be provided for a week at a time in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. Please call the parish office for more information.

“Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord... knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment.”

Sick Relatives and Friends...

John Dalexandri, Adele Schulz, Margaret Marlow, Elizabeth McAllister, Willie Choy, James Kilker, Pauline Karanicola, Michael D. McMahon, Baby Joseph R. Trzepla, Jason Bastkom, Jennifer Perez, Henry Mlodgenski, Maryann Swiak, Karen Zaborny, Mary Ann Osmulski, Dorothy Glynn, Josephine Sitar, Linda Obertz, Jean Barry, and all those in hospitals, sick at home and in nursing homes; may they always be assured of our prayers.

Names may be placed on this list for a four-week period and will be removed after that time unless a call is received to request a continuation. Please keep in mind that we pray for all the sick every day in the General Intercessions of the Mass.



IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE...

Let us remember all our departed brothers and sisters, *especially Paula “Liz” Prehodka, Joseph Passamonti*, asking God through our prayers to reward them as only He can with Light, Happiness and Eternal Peace.



The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed following the 11:30 AM Mass on the fourth Sunday of every month. Benediction is at 2 PM.

Nocturnal Adoration is on **First Fridays** from **8 to 9 PM**.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY will hold its first meeting of the 2004/2005 season this Sunday, September 12th. Prayers for the canonization of our Founder, Blessed John Vercelli, and for recently-deceased members will be held in the church immediately after the 8:30 AM Mass. Following the prayers, there will be a brief meeting in school Rm 101. All adults are invited to join us for the prayers and meeting.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3639 NEWS:

PAST GRAND KNIGHT'S TESTIMONIAL DINNER DANCE honoring John G. McCarthy will be held on Saturday, September 25th, at 7 PM at the Knights' Hall. \$25/person includes sit-down dinner, open bar, DJ. Reserve your seats now by calling Joe LaMagna, 908-276-6132.

50's NIGHT will be held on Saturday, October 30th. \$25/person includes hot buffet, open bar, and music. Call John Parascando, 732-283-0290, for tickets.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Our **PARISH FOOD COLLECTION** is this weekend, September 11th & 12th. If you have forgotten, please bring your donations to the atrium during the week.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY meets this Wednesday, September 15th, at 7:30 PM in the church conference room. The group welcomes new members who seek to continue the legacy of St. Vincent and Frederic Ozanam - to see the face of Christ in the poor, to be the good news of Jesus Christ, and to be a reflection of the love of God to each person served. Join them at the meeting or contact Sister Joan Marie at the Social Ministry Office, 732-283-0150 ext. 21 for more information.

A BLOOD DRIVE will be held on Sunday, September 26th, from 8 AM to 1:30 PM in Lourdes Hall. Please consider donating, since blood supplies are extremely low. *More information soon...*

BABYSITTER NEEDED: Mature woman needed to care for 9-yr-old boy from 5:30-8:30 AM in his Iselin home. Please call Barbara Coleman, 732-512-7540.

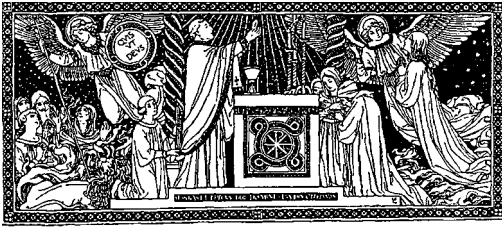
DOUBLE CRYPT FOR SALE in Woodbridge Memorial Gardens (prestigious section). Contact the Parish Office Secretary at 732-283-2300.

LIFE CHOICES ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE: Do you have your Pledge sheet yet for the Eleventh Annual "Walk for Life" to benefit Life Choices Resource Center? The center is located at 576 Inman Ave in Colonia. You can reach them at 732-499-8676 to get yours or contact either Social Concerns Ministry Office or your parish contact person, Denise Valdes at 732-754-8876.

Your generous support keeps us going... THANK YOU!

FAMILIES OF NAZARETH FAITH-SHARING GROUP: *“Upon seeing Him in ourselves and in the world surrounding us, God wants us to try to respond to His presence.”* Are you interested in deepening your spiritual life and gaining insight into life's daily struggles? If the answer is YES, consider joining our faith sharing group. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 13th, in the church conference room. We begin promptly at 7:15 PM with one decade of the Rosary, followed by spiritual reading, faith sharing, and a closing prayer. Father Francis Vaz will continue to bless our meetings with his presence and his guidance. We are thankful to God for giving us such a gift! For more information, please contact bzmak@comcast.net.

J4FADULT GROUP: Have you heard it? There's a rumor spreading that we are preparing for our Advent Retreat - and it's all true!! Advent isn't too far away - will you be prepared when it arrives? We invite you to be a part of our retreat team! Make a difference in how you celebrate Advent this year! Contact Denise Valdes at 732-754-8876 or e-mail J4F_CYA@yahoo.com.



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, September 13th: St. John Chrysostom

- 7:00 AM Gloria Mazzeo req DeRollo Family
 9:15 AM Henry Castillo req Alma Cristauro
 *1:00 PM Josephine Pellegrino req Bunage Family

TUESDAY, September 14th:

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

- 7:00 AM Arthur T. Graham req Jeremiah Lacsina
 9:15 AM Special Intention req Adeline Branco

WEDNESDAY, September 15th: Our Lady of Sorrows

- 7:00 AM Vito Tassone req Michael & Catherine
 Tassone
 9:15 AM John Piegari req Jean & Bill Lonergan

THURSDAY, September 16th: Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian

- 7:00 AM Sr. Valerie Mangogna req Maliniak Family
 9:15 AM Barbara Chase
 req St. Cecelia Rosary-Altar Society

FRIDAY, September 17th: St. Robert Bellarmine

- 7:00 AM Mary Kaczmarek req Bob & Nikki Honkisz
 9:15 AM Chester Antczak req Joan Antczak
 ** 2:00 PM Salvatore Ferrara req Rose Cerami

SATURDAY, September 18th: Weekday

- 8:00 AM Virginia Laffey (Wedding Anniversary)
 req Husband Thomas
 4:30 PM Nicholas Luongo req Lykin Family

SUNDAY, September 19th:

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 7:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
 8:30 AM Helen Messina req Philip Messina
 10:00 AM Mary Keller req Lester & Susan Olcsvary
 11:30 AM John D'Amico req Dorothy & George Solovay
 5:00 PM Judith Schultz req Helen & Herbert Jernigan

*MASS CELEBRATED AT VETERANS HOME

**MASS CELEBRATED AT ROOSEVELT CARE CENTER

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

- VETERANS' HOME: Monday, September 20th**
 1:00 PM Harry Kaden req St. Cecelia Golden Knights
ROOSEVELT CARE CENTER: Friday, September 24th
 2:00 PM Bartholomew Puglia req Fr. F. Vaz



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week
FOR THE SPECIAL INTENTION OF KEVIN HORAHAN
 requested by M/M H. Houghton



The **EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE** this week is
IN MEMORY OF CHARLES & MARY BUCHAN
 requested by Irene Yackulich

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Lk 7:1-10
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
 Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31 -- 13:13; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
 Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 7:36-50
 Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 8:1-3
 Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Lk 8:4-13
 Sunday: Am 8:4-7; Ps 113; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 [10-13]



SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Last Sunday our faithful stewards gave: \$11,243.80
Collection for the week of September 7, 2003: \$13,622.39

*"Give and gifts will be given to you;
 a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing,
 will be poured into your lap."*



Welcome...

On Sunday, September 5th,
 the Parish Family of St. Cecelia joyfully welcomed
 through the saving waters of baptism
 the following child:
Molly Eva Riggi

Wedding Banns

- II Ferdinand Hamada - Bernadette Chichioco (9/24)
 II Richard Whalen - Sherri Breslin (9/25)
 II Thomas Phipps - Christina Medrano (9/26)



September 12, 2004

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For those who remember that November day in 1981 when they heard the news that His Holiness, Pope John Paul II had created a new Catholic diocese in New Jersey, it may seem hard to believe that the Diocese of Metuchen will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of its establishment in a little over two years. Some anniversaries are occasions for celebration; others call for reflection on the past and attention to the future. It is my hope that the observance of Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Diocese of Metuchen will incorporate both of these features.

I believe our Diocese has much about which to rejoice and to be proud. We have been the recipients of many blessings and have been a source of blessing for many. Throughout its history the Diocese of Metuchen has been a community faithful to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to caring for one another, especially those who are poor, vulnerable and undervalued among us. If growth is indeed a sign of life, we are a vibrant community: when we were established the Catholic population of the Diocese numbered 411,000; today there are some 557,000 Catholics living throughout our four counties. By this fall, I will have been to all of our 108 parishes, and in every parish I have visited I have met scores of people deeply grateful to be a part of our Catholic Church and greatly interested in deepening their relationship with Our Lord and Savior.

My visits throughout the Diocese have also taught me that there is much we must still do as instruments of the Lord's presence and peace in this portion of his vineyard. Many Catholics feel estranged from the Church. There are many in the Church who are uninformed or confused about what the Church believes and teaches in the areas of doctrine, morality and social justice. The continuing decline in religious vocations raises questions about how we will adequately staff all of our parishes in the future. Many who live in the Diocese continue to be deprived of the dignity and fulfillment that is their birthright as a child of God. It is because of these and numerous other challenges we face that I decided to make the convocation of a diocesan synod a part of our anniversary observance.

A synod (pronounced sin-ed), for those unfamiliar with the term, is a gathering of all the faithful of a diocese for the purpose of assisting the bishop in his role as their leader and shepherd. While the traditional function of a synod is to enact legislation or policies for the good ordering of a local Church, synods have also come to be seen as opportunities for diocese to foster a unified vision, to plan for the future and to develop strategies for realizing its future goals.

The First Synod of the Diocese of Metuchen will have its formal opening on November 19, 2005, which will also mark the beginning of our anniversary year; the Synod will conclude on January 31, 2007, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the installation of the first Bishop of Metuchen and the formal launching of the Diocese. Last month, I appointed a Synod Preparatory Commission, which will oversee the Synod's work. The commission is made up of 20 people - four priests, two deacons, three religious sisters and eleven other laity representative of our four counties and many of the ethnic groups and ministries that comprise our Diocese.

To learn more about Anniversary events, synods, the Preparatory Commission, the logo and prayer for our Anniversary and Synod - and to propose topics for the Synod to examine and address - I invite you to visit the Anniversary/Synod link on our Diocesan website (www.diometuchen.org), which makes its debut this weekend. Both the Anniversary and the Synod will also be covered extensively in our diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Spirit*, in the months to come.

Finally, I ask each of you and every parish to make the next two years a time of special prayer and reflection as we celebrate our past and lay the foundation for the next chapter in our history. May future generations look back on our Silver Jubilee as a time when the Diocese of Metuchen "advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and humanity" (Lk 2:52).

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski
Bishop of Metuchen

IV. SCHOOL CHOICE: WHO GETS TO CHOOSE?

Fourth in a series highlighting the position of the New Jersey School Choice Alliance on school choice.

Two ongoing fallacies about school choice revolve around the decision-making ability of parents and the characteristics of school choice recipients. Opponents of school choice like to misrepresent the situation regarding both groups.

There is a condescending assumption on the part of school choice critics that poor or uneducated parents are simply incapable of distinguishing between effective and ineffective schools. The experience of school choice in cities like Milwaukee and Cleveland suggests that just the opposite is true. Schools in those cities that accepted voucher students created a wealth of information in order to make parents better informed consumers about their child's education, and parents responded accordingly.

The students themselves who have taken advantage of school choice options are, by and large, students who were not succeeding in their current public school setting. Logic suggests that children who are happy will not want to leave that successful school environment, nor will their parents wish to have a change in educational setting for their children. Individuals on both sides of the school choice issue should be able to accept the simple premise that not every school is right for every child. Thus, the vast majority of students who seek to transfer to a Catholic school, particularly in urban areas, are those who are not succeeding in their current educational environment.

Those who argue that even the poorest achieving students should not be permitted to transfer to another school are really about saving schools and not students, and if a high-achieving student chose to change schools, would that not be an indictment of a school which cannot retain its own best students?

In a free society like the United States, should school choice be a reality only for the wealthy, or should it reflect the principle of "equal opportunity for all" on which this nation was founded?



ANNOUNCING OPENING DAYS:

Grades 5 - 8: Monday, September 20th

Grades 1 - 4: Monday, September 27th

CLASS TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Grades 1-4: 3 to 4:30 PM;

Grades 5, 6 & 7: 5:45 to 7:15 PM

Grade 8: 7:25 to 8:55 PM

All children will assemble in the church *except for GRADE ONE, who will go directly to their classrooms.* Welcome back!

GRADE EIGHT: A workshop on **SERVICE AWARENESS** for Grade Eight (Phase II) of the Confirmation Journey will be held on September 30th from 8 to 9:30 PM in Lourdes and Fatima Halls. The candidates should be accompanied by the sponsor or parent. A day of **SPIRITUAL SHARING** for candidates and sponsors, which includes the Sunday liturgy (Mass) will be held at the Consolata Mission Center from 12 to 4 PM according to the following schedule:

September 26th: CCD Classes 8-1 & 8-2

St. Cecelia's students, last names A-L

October 3rd: CCD Classes 8-3 & 8-4

St. Cecelia's students, last names M-V

GRADE TWO: On Wednesday, October 6th, a brief meeting for parents of Grade 2 students in the Religious Education Program will be held from 7 to 7:30 PM in your child's classroom. *This meeting is not optional; at least one parent is expected to be present.*

GRADE SEVEN: On Thursday, October 7th, a meeting for all candidates in Phase I of the Confirmation program will be held from 8 to 9:30 PM in Lourdes Hall. At least one parent or guardian should accompany the candidate.

CONFIRMATION 2004: Our Parish Family will celebrate Confirmation on Saturday, October 16th, at 4:30 PM. All those who have completed Phase I and Phase II of the Confirmation Program are expected to gather on October 5th at 6:30 PM. Details were mailed in August.

YOUTH GROUP (Grades 9-12): All youth group members and all high school teens interested in youth group are invited to a picnic this Sunday from 3 to 6 PM just outside the youth ministry office (Trailer "D" at St. John's). Come have fun, make new friends, and learn about youth ministry from those who live it. Please bring your Hand-In-Hand permission slips to the picnic. It is important for us to deliver an accurate account of volunteers to *The Club*. Remember to block your calendars for the fall retreat from October 15th to 17th - you will not regret this experience.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (18-35): *Breaking Bread Bonding Lives* will take place on Sunday, October 10th. We will gather for the 11:30 AM Mass at St. Cecelia's. After Mass, we will head over to the Galaxy Diner for brunch and discussion on the readings and how they fit into our lives. Can't wait to see you then. Peace!

GOLDEN KNIGHTS: "We're here for the Kids"

BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL: 35-game season; full uniforms and tournaments. Child must be a registered parishioner or attend St. Cecelia's School. **TRYOUTS** are on Thursdays, September 16th AND 23rd, in the school gym, according to the following schedule: 7th & 8th Grade boys - 5:30 until 7 PM; 5th & 6th Grade boys - 7 until 8:15 PM; 6th, 7th & 8th Grade girls - 8:15 until 9:30 PM. For more information, call Nick Shine at 732-548-6518.



Parables are a unique and effective method of teaching great truths and today's three are among the favorites. The nature of a parable is that it turns things upside-down. For example, what we've come to name the "Prodigal Son" is really a story about a "Prodigal Father," one who is lavish and reckless in giving love. The

other two characters, the shepherd and the woman, are just as prodigal, to the point of being considered foolish. But that's not such a bad thing to be! St. Paul calls us 'fools for Christ's sake.' One point easy to miss but vital to consider is Jesus' way of dealing with his critics. Instead of directly answering their remarks he illustrates the lavish hospitality of God who considers the smallest and the least as most worthy of compassion and even risk. To be a true disciple one must be 'prodigal' in giving love and compassion.

Stewardship & Spotlight
shines on:



"CONNECTIONS"

A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

Do you...

...have a minimum of two hours a week to offer to a child?

...like having fun?

...want to make a difference in a child's life?

...enjoy being a positive role model?

The Catholic Charities Office of the Diocese of Metuchen is currently seeking volunteers - both men and women - for its **CONNECTIONS** Program. This program provides positive adult role models for children who have suffered loss or who have special needs.

Many children are in need of someone to share one-on-one activities or who is willing to serve as a mentor. Are you that person? Contact Jeanette at jnadonley@ccdom.org or 732-738-1323 for more information or to become involved!

If you'd like to share your time and talent with this or any of our parish's many opportunities for stewardship - or there's an idea that you'd like to present - please fill out and return this coupon to the Parish Office or call the office and leave your name and number.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

e-mail/ALT. PHONE: _____

Please contact me about: _____

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

...events taking place on our Parish campus - the school, the church, or the hall.

Monday, September 13

7-9 PM	CCD Catechist meeting	Cafeteria
after 7 PM	Mass Rosary-Altar Society meeting	Lourdes Hall
7:15-8:15 PM	Families of Nazareth (faith-sharing)	Conference room

Tuesday, September 14

10 AM	Legion of Mary	Conference room
11 AM	Bingo	Lourdes Hall
5-10 PM	Golden Knights	Gym, cafeteria
7:30 PM	St. Cecelia's Back-to-School Night	Lourdes Hall

Wednesday, September 15

5-10 PM	Golden Knights	Gym, cafeteria
7-9 PM	AA, Al-Anon, STEP	Rms 103, 105, Fatima Hall
7:30 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Society	Conference room
7:30 PM	Baptism class	Chapel

Thursday, September 16

5-10 PM	Golden Knights	Gym, cafeteria
6-9 PM	Boy Scouts	Rms 101 & 105
7-8:40 PM	CCD New Catechist Meeting	Rm 201
7-9 PM	Faith & Hope Sharing (small faith community)	Chapel
7:30-9 PM	Faith Sharing Through Scripture (Bible Study)	Rm 103

Friday, September 17

5-10 PM	Golden Knights	Gym, cafeteria
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Saturday, September 18

after 8 AM	Mass Novena	Church
9 AM-8 PM	Golden Knights	Gym
5-8 PM	Rosary-Altar Society Spaghetti Dinner	Lourdes Hall

Sunday, September 19

1 PM	Baptism	Church
4:15 PM	Chaplet of Divine Mercy	Church

Please note that meetings may be subject to change or cancellation.

BULLETIN E-MAIL ADDRESS: stceceliabulletin@yahoo.com.

Deadline for information is Monday evenings by 9 PM; thank you for your cooperation.

THE SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: Please contact the Parish Office for all information and to make arrangements. Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class is required.

MARRIAGE: Make arrangements **one year** in advance of the proposed wedding date. One party must be a parishioner. Participation in a Pre-Marriage Preparation Program is required; call the Parish Office.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND: Urgent sick calls at any time; contact the Parish Office. Regular communion calls to the sick, aged or homebound should be arranged in advance through the Social Concerns Office.

EDUCATION

ST. CECELIA'S SCHOOL
Phone: 732-283-2824

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITED



Served by the Religious Teachers Filippini, the mission of St. Cecelia School is to form the heart, mind and spirit of its students according to Gospel values, ever aware of the unique, God-given gifts within each child.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Phone: 732-283-2816

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 8:30 AM-8:30 PM
Tuesday through Thursday: 8:30 AM-2:30 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

CLASSES for grammar school students are held on **Mondays at 3:00, 5:45 & 7:25 PM.**

SPECIAL PROGRAMS for the continuing religious education of adults are held periodically throughout the year.

R.C.I.A.: For information about becoming a Roman Catholic, contact the Parish Office.

DEVOTIONS

NOVENA to St. Jude and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal after 8 AM Mass on Saturday

CHAPLET of DIVINE MERCY Sunday 4:15 PM.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 4th Sunday after 11:30 AM Mass; **Benediction** at 2PM.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION every First Friday from 8 to 9 PM.

SOCIETIES/ORGANIZATIONS

BIBLE STUDY:

Thursdays 7:30 PM, Faculty Room

CELEBRATE LIFE COMMITTEE:

New members always welcome.

FAMILIES OF NAZARETH MOVEMENT:

Mondays, 7:15-8:15 PM in the Conference room.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY:

2nd Sunday after the 8:30 AM Mass, Room 101

J4F - Just 4 Fun:

1st and 3rd Mondays; ages 21-35

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS:

2nd & 4th Thursdays; Membership: call Dan Neroda 732-283-0290

LEGION OF MARY:

Tuesdays at 10 AM in the Church Conf. Rm.

ROSARY/ALTAR SOCIETY:

1st Monday after the 1st Sunday after 7 PM Mass

SENIOR CITIZENS:

2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 12:30 PM in Lourdes Hall

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Phone 732-283-1775

Tues/Weds/Thurs 10 AM to 2 PM

Saturday 2 PM to 6 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Monday and Friday CLOSED



ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, September 18th, 5 to 8 PM in Lourdes Hall
Tickets (\$8/Adults; \$5/Children 12 and under)
are available after weekend Masses or at the door
or call LaVerne 732-574-1882 or Gloria 732-512-9140

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS:

FIRST MONTHLY MEETING: Monday, September 13th, following 7 PM Mass and recitation of the Rosary. New members welcome.

BOBBY BYRNE NIGHT AT ST. CECELIA'S: Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 20th and watch the bulletin for more details.

ST. CECELIA'S SCHOOL ANNUAL TRICKY TRAY will be held on Friday, November 5th. If you have any NEW, UNUSED items or a handmade craft that you would like to donate, please contact Kathy (732) 636-4862 or Gloria (732) 512-9140 or drop them off in the school office.