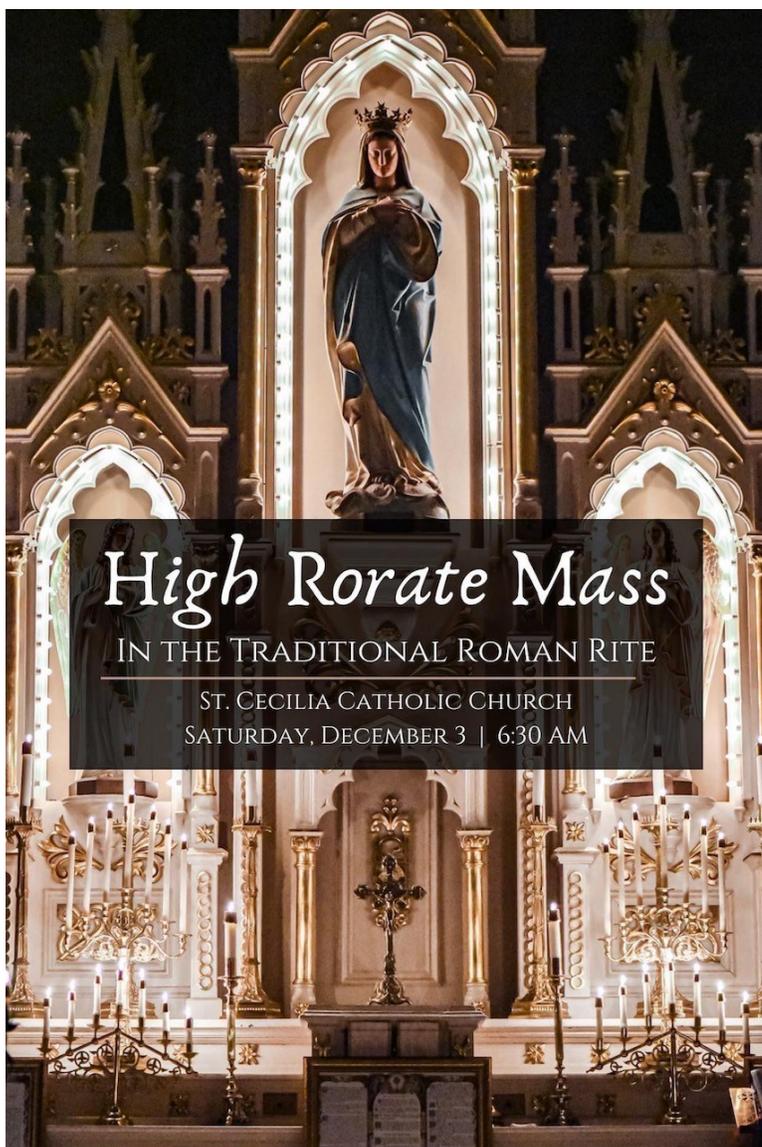


As we begin this Advent Season, I encourage us to really celebrate and live Advent and **wait** to celebrate Christmas until December 24 in the night through Epiphany. How can we celebrate Advent? Let us light the candles of the Advent Wreath, spending more time listening and meditating with Sacred Scripture and the Rosary. At our Catholic school, at CCD, and also at home we can reflect on the ornaments of the Jesse Tree, hearing again the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament and rejoice how Christ Jesus our Lord fulfills them all. Let's try some type of fasting from food or certain kinds of food or drink and then celebrate Christmas and the Christmas Season with feasting. Let us abstain from some of the noise and distractions of the hustle and bustle that the world wants us to be about and try to set aside time for prayer and adoration. Let us be about the different works of mercy and almsgiving remembering that it is a more blessed thing to give rather than to receive. Our prayer at Mass to begin Advent is "Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever." As we respond AMEN, let us open our hearts to the graces of the Advent Season.

I would like to share with you a very old Advent tradition at the end of this First Week of Advent, one that will help us follow the counsel we hear from St. Paul in his letter to the Romans 13:11-14 in today's second reading "awake from sleep...our salvation is nearer...put on the armor of light"...



High Rorate Mass

IN THE TRADITIONAL ROMAN RITE

ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC CHURCH
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 | 6:30 AM

You are invited to worship the Lord at the *Rorate* Mass Saturday, December 3, at 6:30am at St. Cecilia Church. The *Rorate* Mass gets its name from the Entrance Antiphon, from the words of Isaiah 45:8 "Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant iustum" (Drop down dew, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down the Just One). In the Ancient celebration of the Roman Rite, it is offered on a Saturday during Advent (except for Ember Saturday) in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary and celebrated by candlelight, traditionally before dawn.

The Lord, the true Light, comes to us in the silence and amidst the angels singing, in word and in the Blessed Sacrament. He is the Light that shines in the darkness, the Dawn from on High that breaks upon us.

This will be a sung Mass in Latin, with the readings and homily read in English.

Saturday December 3 schedule change: the normally scheduled 7am Mass will be moved to 8am this day.

Have a Blessed Advent as we await the Lord's coming with joyful hope. *Fr. Clinch*