

September 11, 2009

Dear Parents,

This morning the Scouts raised the flag and together we prayed for peace on the anniversary of September 11th. Our two peace poles, in our rose garden by the flag pole, continue to remind us to pray for peace in our troubled world.

The students in grades 1, 3, 5 & 7 and all new students will have their vision and hearing screened on Monday. If your child is being screened and wears glasses, please be sure your child brings the glasses to school on Monday. If any concerns are noted, you will be contacted by Kathy Wright. I am grateful to Kathy for coordinating this and to the parents who will help her. This is a valuable service we offer for the students.

Our wrapping paper drive has officially begun and will run through September 28th. Each student brought home a sales catalog and order form last Friday. This is a PTG major fundraiser for the year. Please support this fundraiser in whatever way is possible for your family.

During the week of September 21st, students in grades 2-8 will be taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. All Catholic schools in California will be taking this test. Please be sure your child arrives at school on time, and hopefully, you have no appointments scheduled for this week that would take your child out of school. It is important to follow your regular routine during testing week which, I'm sure, includes a good breakfast and plenty of rest.

Important dates this coming week are:

Saturday, September 12	Welcome Back BBQ
Monday, September 14	Vision and Hearing Screening
Thursday, September 17	6 th Grade Field Trip
	PTG Hot Lunch Begins
Friday, September 18	8 th Grade Sponsored Junior High Dance

I hope to see you tomorrow evening at the PTG BBQ. This is always a relaxing evening with old and new friends. Special thanks to Kathy Perazzo and Gina Carle for organizing this "welcome back" event.

Blessings on your weekend.

Sincerely,



Rita Carroll
Principal

St. Pius Families Favorite Recipes Cookbook!!! The 8th grade class needs favorite recipes from all of the St. Pius families and teachers for a cookbook they will be selling to help defray the cost of their upcoming trip to Yosemite. This cookbook is sure to be a favorite in your homes for years to come. We chaired a cookbook 9 years ago for the Women's Club, which has proven to be a well loved resource for all of us cooks in the house! Please see the flyer attached for more info. Our deadline for recipes is September 16. Thanks! Lisa Ferrari & Annette Vlahos - **please note change to attachment:** website should be: www.fundcraft.com/fc/home.asp. You will see a place to put in Web ID and Password. You DO NOT need a password. Leave that box blank. Just input 11445-09QS.



Innisbrook Gift Wrap Sale

Hopefully you have had a chance to look through the Gift Catalogs sent home last Friday with your child. Please share the catalogs/website (www.innisbrook.com) with your friends and family as every sale earns St. Pius School 50% profit. It's the easiest way to earn money for our school. Remember every 10 items you get, fill out a Go Bananas coupon that was in last Friday's newsletter and turn it into the office to receive a prize. This go Bananas coupon will be put onto the Banana tree for your class. (The class with the most bananas on the tree will win a banana split party!)

- ❖ Chocolates for your co-workers/employees – see the Helen Grace Catalog
- ❖ Hostess gifts – Main catalog
- ❖ And of course the most unique and best quality wrapping paper made from recycled paper you can find

Thanks for supporting our school, the sales ends September 28th Orders arrive the first week of November. Questions? Call Nadine Kappeler at 363-1144



The 8th Grade Class Cookbook Fundraiser for Yosemite!

The 8th Grade class is asking all students, faculty and parents to submit their favorite recipes to produce a St. Pius School Cookbook!

Nine years ago, the St. Pius Women's Club sold over 800 cookbooks of their Stockpot Review 2000. It was a complete success!

How can you help our 8th graders?

Please submit your recipes by logging on to the website:

<http://www.fundcraft.com/fc/home.asp>, enter our web member id which is **11445-09QS**, click on "**post recipes**" and enter your favorite recipes. Feel free to get recipes from family, friends, cookbooks, magazines, newspapers, etc....Please post your recipes by September 11th.

Don't have the time to do log on?

Just make a photocopy of your recipes and turn them into the school office (Attention: Cookbook) and we will enter them for you!

Deadline is September 16th

These make great birthday, Christmas and hostess gifts!
And remember these recipes are kids approved,
so it will make menu planning easy!

If you have any questions,
please contact Lisa Ferrari at lisagferrari@yahoo.com
or Annette Vlahos at acvlahos@comcast.net

Thank You for helping our 8th Graders

PTG At-a-Glance

Welcome! This is the new and informative monthly edition of communicating upcoming news and events from the Parent-Teacher Group of St. Pius School. We hope you find these useful and welcome suggestions.

PTG Welcome Back BBQ

- Don't forget this fun event will take place at the St. Pius School lawn Saturday - September 12, 2009 at 6:00 pm. Please join us for fun, games and food!



Looking for HOURS!

- If you are interested in obtaining school hours in a fun and easy way, please consider helping PTG hot lunches every Thursday beginning September 17, 2009. We are still in need of volunteers for the Hot Dog, Spaghetti and Chicken Nuggets lunches. For more information, please contact Jenny Cuneo at 650-366-0330 or Lisa Cortopassi at 650-364-7746.

Save-the-Date

- The annual St. Pius School Auction will be on Saturday, November 7, 2009. More info to come and watch for the featured *items of the week!*

School Directories

- If you would like to update or change your family information in our school directory, please complete the "2009-2010 Directory Update" form and return this to the office by Monday, September 14, 2009. New families will be added with information provided by the office.



Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

September 2009



Thoughtful Moments

Strangers

During his public ministry, Jesus traveled across the country. He knew what it felt like to be away from home and to be treated as a foreigner. Whenever you see someone who dresses or speaks differently than you, think of Jesus and make him feel welcome.

Language of love

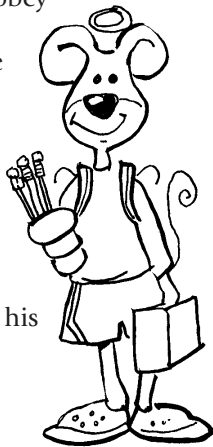
Those of us who know and love God must be his voice in our world.

We need to speak with gentle voices using kind and loving language. Spreading God's love is what he wants us to do.

Real obedience

Jesus told the story of two sons whose father gave them instructions. The first son refused at first, but then obeyed. The second son pretended to obey but didn't.

It isn't easy to be Christian and like the first son, we may balk at first. In the end, we follow God's laws because we love him and we know his way leads us to happiness.



Strong families are all about "We"

In a society that encourages a "Me" mentality, it can be difficult to look at ourselves as part of a family rather than as individuals. But families that teach the importance of "We" can instill accountability, responsibility, and confidence in their children. Working together with your family to create your own special identity will help unite you as "We."

Decide what it means to be part of your family. What qualities are special to you? For example, our family is kind, compassionate, always willing to lend a hand, faithful Catholics, etc.

Write down the traits and behaviors you agree are important, such as respect, reverence of God, model

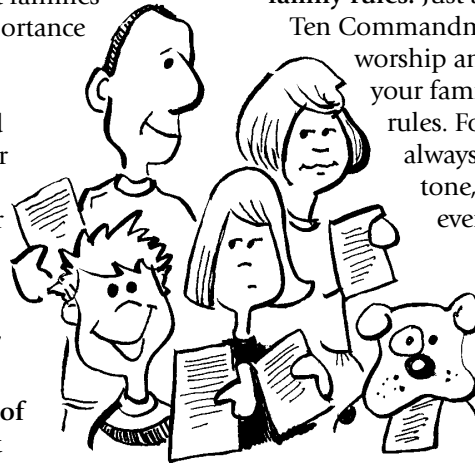
conduct or positive attitudes. These will help set the standards.

Turn these standards into a set of family rules. Just as God gave Moses the Ten Commandments outlining true worship and morality, outline for your family a set of concrete rules. For example, "Joneses always talk in a respectful tone," or "We attend mass every Sunday."

Be sure to involve your children in the process. This gives them a sense of ownership.

Working together to follow the rules can unite a family giving it power, purpose and a backbone for growth.

And children who are comfortable contributing to a family will also feel comfortable contributing to their school, their parish, and their community.

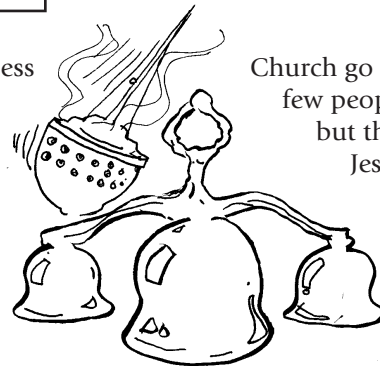


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Our everyday awareness of God comes to us through our senses: Sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. They are the pathways to the deepest parts of our imagination and understanding.

Some rituals of the

Why do Catholics use rituals?



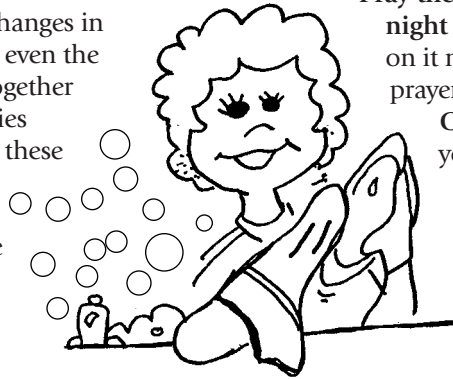
Church go back to the times when few people could read or write – but they could be drawn to Jesus by using their senses.

Now we use sacred music, bells, incense, poetic prayers – they all plant our faith deep in our body and bones as Catholics.

Healthy ways to deal with hardship

The troubled economy means that many of us are experiencing unexpected and unwelcome changes in our lives. Such unplanned events can make even the strongest adults feel helpless. Yet, pulling together and relying on our faith can help our families cope and come out stronger in the end. Try these ideas to help:

Let children help. Giving children an additional chore or job may help minimize the powerlessness they feel. Each time they do their job, remind them of the help they are giving to the family by their effort.



Pray the rosary or another favorite prayer every night as a family. There is power in prayer. Lean on it now. Let youngsters offer their concerns in prayer.

Count your blessings. They are all around you. Try going through the alphabet and assigning a blessing to each letter like "Anne's smile" or "Beautiful butterflies."

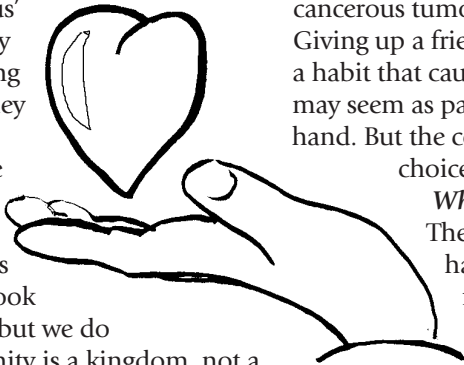
Look for the silver lining. Look for God's hand in your lives by finding at least one positive outcome of your situation to share each day.

Scripture LESSON

Mark 9:38-48, Work together for God

In this reading, the disciples were upset because a man they didn't know was healing in Jesus' name. Perhaps they were afraid of losing the spotlight, or they may have been concerned because he was different from them.

Faithful followers of Jesus don't all look alike or talk alike, but we do act alike. Christianity is a kingdom, not a competition. All are welcome to work together to build it up. Those who share a common faith in Christ cooperate, not compete.



Some of Jesus' words sound strange but he is very clear; we treat sin like a cancerous tumor and cut it out. Giving up a friendship, an activity, or a habit that causes us to do wrong may seem as painful as cutting off a hand. But the consequences of our choices last forever.

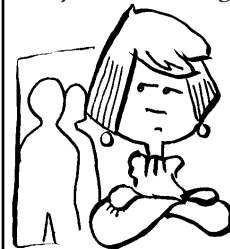
What can a parent do?

The caution against harming little ones in faith applies to us as parents and teachers. Our thoughts and

actions must be motivated by love so that we can model Christian behavior for our children.

Parent TALK

When my brother and his fiancée said they were coming for a weekend visit, I was thrilled. It would be a wonderful opportunity for my children to spend time with their uncle and the woman who would soon be their aunt.



My excitement faded when I learned that my brother expected different sleeping arrangements than I had in mind. He anticipated that they would share a room.

With two children approaching their teenage years, I felt it was important that the rules in our home apply to visitors. Marriage is a blessed sacrament and I wanted my children to understand that it comes with joys and privileges worth waiting for. Sharing a room is one of them.

Although displeased, my brother respected my concern and the two enjoyed their stay without incident. When they later returned as a married couple, they were thrilled to share a room in our home together.

Feasts & Celebrations

Sept. 16 – St. Cornelius (253).

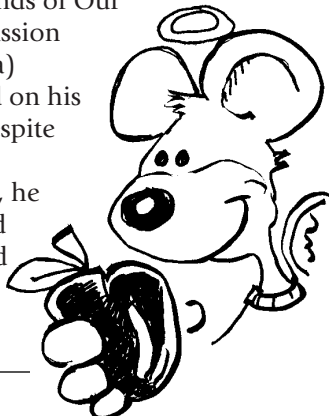
Despite a Roman decree outlawing a new pope, St. Cornelius was secretly elected and bravely led the Church. He modeled forgiveness, embracing people who repented renouncing their faith under persecution.

Sept. 19 – St. Januarius (304).

Bishop of Benevento, Italy, during a time of great persecution, Januarius visited Christians in prison and was arrested himself. He and his companions were thrown to wild beasts in the amphitheater but were

not harmed. They were later beheaded.

Sept. 23 – St. Padre Pio (1968). Born to farmers in Italy, he became a Capuchin Friar. Eight years later, the five wounds of Our Lord's Passion (stigmata) appeared on his body. Despite intense suffering, he remained dedicated to prayer.



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