

December 16, 2011

Dear Parents,

There is nothing quite like being around children the week before Christmas. The excitement is contagious and we have the opportunity to constantly experience the waiting of Advent through their eyes.

I hope you enjoyed last evenings school program. The beautiful voices of the children always get me ready for the true spirit of Christmas. Many thanks to Mrs. Yee for all she did to make this possible, to the teachers for their support and to the students for their great reading and beautiful singing. Special thanks to Mrs. Provencal and the tremendous student musicians, and Raul Velez for the incredible sound. This evening is always a way of preparing us for the beautiful Christmas holiday.

Today we concluded our school Advent activities with a prayer service prepared for us by the third grade. Many thanks to Mrs. Langridge, Mrs. Yee and the third graders for teaching us about the Jesse Tree as they led us in prayer.

Once again the kindness and generosity of the St. Pius School families was reflected in the many toys donated, through the school charity drive, for St. Francis Center. Your willingness to share with the less fortunate is a powerful lesson for your children. I know there are many requests for help during the holidays, and I appreciate the support you gave to this drive.

Earlier this week the faculty and staff were treated to a wonderful recess treat of quiche, pastries, juice, coffee and candy. This clearly helped everyone get through this busy week. We are so grateful to Julie Luttringer, Courtney Caccia and the PTG Board.

If your child is getting new school shoes during Christmas vacation, please be sure to refer to the uniform code. The students have been wonderful so far this year following the uniform code, but a few non-uniform shoes are beginning to sneak in. This also might be a good time to check the hems on uniform jumpers and skirts. Some are getting a bit short. Thanks for your help with this.

Important dates for the first week in January are:

Monday, January 2

Tuesday, January 3

Thursday, January 5

Friday, January 6

New Year's Holiday

School Resumes

PTG Board Meeting at 7:00 pm

School Board Meeting at 7:30 pm

Epiphany Celebration

Auction Free Dress Day

The faculty and staff join me in wishing you and your families a very blessed and happy Christmas. May you be filled with joy and peace throughout the coming new year!

Sincerely,



Rita Carroll
Principal

Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent:

God of interruptions,
sometimes I see you in only the planned things in my life.
Incarnation, your Son's coming among us,
means you are with us everywhere, in all things.
Help me to recognize you everywhere,
especially in the interruptions of life.

Spirit of Love, may my gifts be filled with love.

Amen

Prayer for Christmas Day:

May the God of Hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)

God, treasured in my heart, words cannot thank you
for sending Jesus to be one with us.
A gift beyond, a treasure unbelievable, a challenge needed.
Slow me down, to treasure all that Jesus is in my life,
in the life of the world.
Slow me down to treasure all that Jesus treasures.

Amen

ST. PIUS SANTA'S SECRET SHOP: Many, many heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers who helped out at this event. Every year all of your continued help makes Santa's Secret Shop a success. As always, we couldn't do this without you! Thank You! **Jasmine Archbold and Mary Kahn**

SCHOOL SWEATSHIRTS: Many students are missing their sweatshirts. Please check all sweatshirts to be sure your child has the correct sweatshirt. All sweatshirts should be clearly marked with the student's name.

Dear St. Pius Families,

As we come to the holiday season and end of 2011, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the St. Pius Parent Teacher Group (PTG) Board, teachers and staff, and the St. Pius community for all the support throughout the year. PTG has many community and fundraising activities throughout the school year, many of them happening in the beginning half of the school year. I appreciate everyone's hard work and look forward to continuing our efforts in 2012.

One fundraising event that happens throughout the year is the PTG Hot Lunch. This is offered every Thursday to our children at St. Pius School. PTG has provided this for over 20 years through volunteers of PTG and the St. Pius community. This generates approximately \$8000-\$10,000 of income for PTG. Income generated from that as well as all of our other fundraisers contribute to PTG's requirement to raise \$45,000 for the schools operating budget each year. What is raised beyond that is allocated to the many needs the school and teachers have each year. In years past PTG has helped contribute funds towards a new roof for the school, air conditioning for the classrooms, smart boards, upgraded computers for students and teachers, upgrades and new computers for the school library, a middle school playground, and front lawn improvements.

PTG would like to continue offering the Thursday hot lunch to our children and raising money for our school, but we are facing a tough decision of possibly having to discontinue this program because of lack of volunteers. Currently the chairs of the hot lunch program, Tisha Costantini and Cortney Hyland, are chairing and working each lunch every Thursday. In years past, each lunch had its own chair and crew. I appreciate all of their hard work and dedication and know running this program is something that requires much more help in order for it to continue.

In starting the new year and the second half of the school year, I would like to reach out to the St. Pius community and ask that you consider volunteering to help with the PTG hot lunch program. It benefits our children and school in many ways and helps to continue a PTG program that has been offered at St. Pius School for over 20 years. If you are interested in more information and volunteering to help please contact the PTG Hot Lunch Chairs Tisha Costantini tishacostantini@comcast.net or Cortney Hyland hylandhouse@mac.com.

I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and many blessings in the New Year!

Carolyn Reich
PTG President

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope your Advent Season has been a joyful one and that you are focusing your attention on the spiritual meaning of this wonderful season, preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The scripture readings speak of staying awake in order for us to see the Christ present among us. As we wait for the second coming of the Christ, we know that when we are awake we do see His presence with us here and now, as He promised. Allow for prayer each day so that the Spirit may move our minds and hearts to be ever open to the One who continually says: "I am with you until the end of time." How consoling is this message of the One who loves us and, in His love, we are set free; free to love and serve others in the Lord's name.

Being Pastor of St. Pius for a little over five months, I am becoming aware of the many strengths within our parish community. I am also becoming aware of areas which need to be developed and improved upon in the life of our local church.

One of the areas which I think needs improving is the sound system in the church. I want you to know that the parish staff, dedicated parishioners, music ministers and I are aware of these problems and are exploring ways to gradually improve the quality of sound so that our community can more fully participate in all the liturgical celebrations.

There are certain challenges within the very structure of the building itself. With that in mind, we are exploring various ways to try to improve the acoustics, from standpoints of speaking, singing and environment. So far, we have been experimenting with various microphones for the ambo (where the scriptures are proclaimed) and we have purchased new microphones for the priest/celebrant. The one microphone which seems to be consistently effective is the one at the altar.

I want our assembly throughout the week to assist our attempts to make improvements by telling us if, when and where you can or cannot hear and understand clearly.

If I may make another suggestion, as well---we who are leading our worship, both spoken and sung, need to proclaim, need to speak up, speak out and speak slowly and distinctly for people to hear and understand. While acknowledging what leaders need to do, I also might add that perhaps those who are experiencing hearing loss might try sitting in other parts of the church to find out possibly where they might be able to hear and understand more clearly and distinctly. While it may be unsettling to change where we normally sit, I simply request that we experiment a bit with various locations in the church with regard to sound---thus, looking for a better place to sit. We also will continue to explore different devices which tune into our microphone/sound system which people with hearing impairment can employ to more fully participate at Mass.

We also will be experimenting a bit with the interior environment of the church in order to find ways to cut down on the excess reverberations which occur during Mass and other liturgical celebrations.

Given obvious financial restraints and all things considered, my goal is for us to develop the finest sound system we can within the church so that we can have full, conscious and active participation at all Masses, liturgical celebrations and activities within the church. Again, with some patience and persistence, we can improve the sound in the church for all. I ask that we cooperate and work together for this common goal.

Again, I encourage all parishioners to register for the new Archdiocesan Adult Education series cosponsored in conjunction with Boston College. **Forward in Faith: Educational Enrichment for the Thinking Catholic** will be starting in January, 2012. What does it mean to be a thinking Catholic in the contemporary world? How does the Church maintain its identity as a community that is rooted in tradition, yet ever-evolving? This new course is designed to address and offer some answers to these very questions! If interested, registration forms are in the vestibule of the church and at the other entrances to the church. You may also phone or stop at the rectory for more information or for a registration form.

Sincere gratitude goes out to all those men from the Men's Club who have worked diligently in supporting the parish through the Christmas tree lot. We appreciate their many efforts and are grateful for their service.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Fr. Paul Rossi



2012 SPRING SEASON – ENROLL TODAY!

Soccer Shots® is an acclaimed national non-competitive program for 3-8 year olds. Our objective is to introduce your child to soccer – the world’s most popular sport. In addition to learning soccer basics, your child will be encouraged in team play fundamentals, active and healthy lifestyle habits, and character skills.

- Who:** All children Kinder thru 2nd grade are welcome to register
- Where:** On-site – at St Pius School (no equipment or cleats needed)
- When:** Wednesdays, 2:30-3:05pm (K) 3:10-3:45pm (1-2) — Jan 11 - May 16 (no session 4/11, 5/9)
- Cost:** \$225 for 17 week fun Spring Season (two half payments of \$113 accepted)
- How:** REGISTER ONLINE for discount: soccershots.org/bayarea coupon code 'online2012' or form & check (payable to 'Soccer Shots') to our folder in the school office
- Contact:** james@soccershots.org // 650.867.5898

- If adding late, pro-rate at \$13 off total per week - Payment must be submitted before child begins program -

----- Please Return Bottom Section Along with Payment -----

SOCCER SHOTS® REGISTRATION FORM

CHILD'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

NAME OF SITE: _____ ROOM: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ PARENT: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

(Required – Please print clearly)

SIGNATURE: _____

(Your signature acknowledges you have read and agree to the information below)

Agreement to Participate in Soccer Shots

Participation in all sports can be inherently dangerous and, regardless of the care taken to avoid injury, it is impossible to ensure the safety of all participating individuals. The game of soccer is no exception. In fact, soccer has many inherent dangers. It is a sport that demands cardiovascular fitness, coordination, and agility. Players may spend more than 45 minutes in intense physical activity and must be conscious, aware of their surroundings (other players, spectators, and the ball itself). Although soccer is not generally thought of as a contact sport, at competitive levels, it is. Although soccer risks can be avoided, some simply cannot.

While playing soccer, accidents do happen. Some of these accidents may be serious (like collisions with other players, collisions with the ground, and being struck by the ball). Other accidents may be more significant (like collisions with the goalposts). Other injuries may also include:

- more serious injuries (like broken bones, concussions, muscle tears, and ligament tears);
- concussive injuries (like head strikes, cardiac arrest, and death).

To reduce the risk of injury, participants are expected to abide by the following rules:

- all participants are expected to be physically fit before Soccer Shots begins;
- all players must adhere to the rules of soccer that ensuring a safe playing environment.

The below-mentioned participant agrees to follow the preceding safety rules, all posted safety rules, and all rules common to the sport of soccer. Further, the below-mentioned participant agrees to report any unsafe practices, conditions, or equipment to the Soccer Shots instructor.

I certify that the below-mentioned participant 1) possesses a sufficient degree of physical fitness to safely participate in soccer, 2) understands that failure to do so may result in injury, loss of time, physical discomfort or stress, and 3) will indicate below any health-related conditions that might affect her/his ability to play soccer and that he/she will verbally inform the Soccer Shots instructor immediately.

Circle: None None Heart Problems Seizures Asthma Other _____

I have read the preceding information and it has been explained to me. I have, understood, and agree to the rules associated with participation in soccer and I am voluntarily participating in the below-mentioned participant in this activity. In doing so, the below-mentioned participant is assuming all of the inherent risks of the sport. I further understand that in the event of a medical emergency, Soccer Shots will call EMS to render assistance and that I will be financially responsible for any expenses involved.

I do hereby consent and agree that Soccer Shots has the right to take photographs of my child and to use those on the company website (www.soccershots.org) and promotional materials without compensation. Your child's name and identity will not be revealed. If you would prefer we do not photograph your child please notify us via e-mail.

Waiver of Liability: In consideration of being permitted to play soccer, including myself, my family, my friends, and my group, I hereby release Soccer Shots, its agents, and its employees from liability for injury, loss, or death to the above-mentioned participant while using any facilities or equipment or in any way associated with participating in the activity of soccer here or in the future, resulting from the ordinary negligence of Soccer Shots. Its agents and employees.



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MUSICIAN/INSTRUCTOR
MICHAEL ANNUZZI

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