

December 9, 2011

Dear Parents,

The students had a visit from St. Nicholas on Tuesday. Students left their shoes in the hallway after recess and St. Nicholas left them a candy cane pencil that said "Love, St. Nicholas" and cookies. About 1700 years ago he left a bag of gold as dowry for a needy young girl. The feast of St. Nicholas, patron saint of children, is always a special day at school. Many thanks to the parent elves who assisted with baking.

On Wednesday, the students in grades 3-8 had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I wish you all could attend our school Penance Services. I am always very moved by watching the children receive this healing sacrament. There is such reverence, sincerity and peace.

The students also had an opportunity to do their Christmas shopping Wednesday at the Santa Shoppe. There were many different choices to be made and I hope you appreciate the final purchases. This great event was made possible by Jasmine Archbold, Mary Kahn, and the many other parent volunteers. The children love this opportunity to shop, and it would not be possible without Jasmine, Mary and the many parents who assist them. Your children put much thought and deliberation into their purchases. I hope you enjoy your gifts on Christmas morning!

We attended Mass yesterday for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Many thanks to Mrs. Raudsep, Mrs. Yee and the fourth graders for leading us in this liturgy to honor Mary, and thanks also to our presider, Father Rossi. Special thanks to Joe Strus and Gianna Morales for providing the wonderful music.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas program Thursday evening, December 15 at 7:00 pm in Church, where you will hear the beautiful voices of the children. Students should wear their "Sunday best". All students should meet their teachers in Fitzsimon Center at 6:45 pm. After the program, you are asked to pick up your child back in Fitzsimon center. This way the teachers are able to be sure the children are safely re-connected with their families. The doors to the church will open at 6:30 pm.

A few gentle reminders... please do not distract the students when they are singing by waving or calling out their names... cameras must be discreet and not interrupt the program. Cameras and photographers can be very distracting to the students and detract from the mood of the program.

On Friday, December 16, the students will have "nice" free dress. We hope that the students will "dress up" on this day rather than wearing jeans and t-shirts. This will be a special way to end the school year for 2011!

If possible, join us for our Advent Prayer Service on Friday, December 16, at Noon. This is our final Advent activity before vacation begins.

**Important dates this coming week are:**

Wednesday, December 14

Thursday, December 15

Friday, December 16

Women's Club Dinner

Christmas Program at 7:00 pm

Advent Prayer Service at Noon

12:45 Dismissal

Day Care will be open from 7:30 am to 8:00 am next Friday, December 16. **Day Care will not be open after school on this day.**

Our toy drive ends this coming Wednesday. I know the families served by the St. Francis Center will greatly appreciate our donations.

Blessings on your weekend.

Sincerely,



Rita Carroll  
Principal

## **Prayer for the Third Week of Advent:**

“... the Lord has anointed me...  
to bring glad tidings...”  
- ISAIAH 61:1

O God of glad tidings,  
deepen in me the awareness of not being afraid,  
because your son has come to our world.  
Strengthen in me the anointing of your Spirit,  
so I can be your hands in our hurting world.

Spirit of Joy, bless me to bless others with my gifts.

Amen

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our parish staff are very dedicated people who truly serve our parish family with its many spiritual and material concerns. The staff is committed to serving this community of faith through the various ministries, programs and services our parish provides. As we continue to develop our parish ministries, services and outreach to the parish in the coming years, I am aware of the increased responsibilities and expectations that will be placed upon the shoulders of the staff and the challenges they may face in fulfilling their roles and job descriptions. After consulting with our staff and Parish Finance Council, I have asked Maria Cornell to work solely in the liturgical life of our parish by assisting in the planning, coordinating and implementing of the liturgical celebrations throughout the life of our parish. I want the celebration of Mass and all liturgical celebrations to be the very best they can be and Maria will help with this goal.

Besides liturgy, Maria also has been the Director for Children's Faith Formation from kindergarten to eighth grade. She has done a fine and effective ministry of catechesis for our parish; yet, with the additional duties of parish liturgies, it is unfair to ask her to take on more responsibilities and do them effectively. Thus, I have invited Sister Norberta Villasenor, OSF to join our parish staff as a half-time staff person and the new Director for Children's Faith Formation beginning January 9, 2012. Maria will mentor Sister Norberta in the coming months, as Sister comes to know the community and settles into her new position. Of course, as a parish staff, we work in collaboration with each other and will continue to complement each other in our common effort to serve our parish in the best and most effective ways possible.

As you come to know and work with Sister Norberta, I believe you will discover a delightfully warm and welcoming person who is grounded in faith, academically trained in the faith and willing to serve in the spirit of Christ and St. Francis of Assisi. Please, welcome her and make her feel at home in our parish family as she begins her ministry in the New Year.

I had asked Sr. Norberta to introduce herself to our parish and the following is what she wrote.

"I thank God for the gift of this community of St. Pius. It is a blessing for me to have the opportunity to minister to the people of God together with Father Paul Rossi and the staff in this parish. With joy, hope, peace, and gratitude, I share with you some of my history and experience in ministry.

My family immigrated from Mexico to California in 1976. I am the eldest of seven children. When we came to Milpitas, California I worked on a farm for two years; then, I became the nanny of the owner's children for almost 12 years until I entered religious life. I am a member of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Penance and

Christian Charity.

I have shared the many gifts that God has given me in a variety of ministries. I have worked at various parishes in the Archdiocese of San Francisco for 25 years and for 5 years in the Diocese of Las Vegas, Nevada. I enjoy teaching religious education, giving retreats, workshops, spiritual direction, adult faith formation, catechetical and leadership training. During the month of November, 2011, two Mercy Sisters and I traveled to Guatemala, Central America, where we trained a group of ecumenical lay people as Spiritual Directors in Spanish. I see myself as a bridge builder, connecting peoples of many cultures.

I received a Bachelor Degree in Religious Studies from Holy Names University in Oakland, California. I also completed a three-year program for spiritual directors in Spanish at Mercy Center in Burlingame, California, and a double Master Degree (Theological Studies and Ministry for a Multicultural Church) from the Franciscan School of Theology of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

As I mentioned above, I look forward to serve and minister to the people of God in this parish of St. Pius."

There is a **2nd collection today** for the support of the retired religious sisters and brothers. This annual national collection supports the retirement of those women and men who have served the Church faithfully for many years. Let us now support them in their years of retirement. I hope you can show your appreciation for all they have done for the Church by generously supporting this 2nd collection today.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Fr. Paul Rossi



# Christmas Toy Drive

December 5-13, 2011

St. Pius School will be helping St. Francis Center in their efforts to reach out to families in Redwood City. We would appreciate any new toy donations you can make to help with this drive. Toys for all ages will be greatly appreciated!

Please drop off all donations in the classrooms from December 5 to December 13. Students will deliver the toys to St. Francis Center on December 14. Thank you for your generous support!





## Christmas Eve Family Mass at 5:00pm

All Children in grades K-8 are invited to participate in the Christmas Eve Pre-Mass Nativity Play and the Christmas Eve Mass. The Nativity Play "Follow the Star" will take place at 4:30 pm followed by Mass at 5:00 pm on 12.24.11

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Best Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to participate in the:

Christmas Eve Pre-Mass Nativity Play \_\_\_\_\_

Choir for the Nativity Play and Mass \_\_\_\_\_

Cathy Yee will be directing the Choir and Maria Cornell will be coordinating the Nativity Play & Mass. There will be 2 rehearsals the week of Christmas. Please provide us with your child's availability from 12/19 – 12/23. Contact Maria Cornell at **678-3545 call/text or [maria-cornell@hotmail.com](mailto:maria-cornell@hotmail.com)**

Please return this form or email Maria no later than 12.14.11

Thank you!

Please join the St. Pius Women's Club  
for our upcoming events:

**Women's Club Christmas Party**

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm to Midnight

Please email Stephanie Giovannetti for more information  
at [stephanie.giovannetti@exalead.com](mailto:stephanie.giovannetti@exalead.com)

**Mardi Gras Fundraiser**

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm to midnight

**Women's Club Retreat**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

All of these events are sponsored by  
the St. Pius Women's Club

**Please come and join us and bring a friend!**

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## Golf Classes at St. Pius

Day: **Monday**  
Time: **2:30pm - 3:30pm (K)**  
**3:00pm - 4:00pm (1-5)**  
Dates: **Jan. 9\*, 23\*, 30** (no class 1/16)  
**Feb. 6\*, 13, 27\*** (no class 2/20)  
**Mar. 5, 12**  
*\*Marked classes are from 1:00pm-2:00pm\**  
Cost: **\$159 / 8 weeks**  
Register: **www.GolfTGA.com/PeninsulaValley**

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## Tennis Classes at St. Pius

Day: **Thursday**  
Time: **3:00pm - 4:00pm**  
Dates: **Dec. 8, 15** (no class 12/22, 12/29)  
**Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26**  
Cost: **\$100 / 6 weeks**  
Register: **www.GolfTGA.com/Peninsula Valley**  
Location: **St. Pius School Yard**

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(760) 295-6622/ PenValley@GolfTGA.com

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