

January 6, 2012

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you and your family. May this year be filled with many blessings for each of you. Today we concluded our Christmas celebration here at school with Epiphany, the day the Wise Men followed the star and found Jesus. Thank you to Father Wade who blessed the classrooms signifying that they are holy places where children come to learn more about their faith. Many thanks to the room parents who prepared the Epiphany treats for the children.

On Monday, January 9, the Church celebrates the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Our baptism is a very important day for us and the whole Church. This is a wonderful feast for a family celebration. You might want to focus on the day of your child's Baptism. Tell your child everything you can remember about the day: the parish, the priest who baptized your child, the celebration. Most of all, share with your child the joy you experienced on that day. Help your child better understand the significance of this very special moment when he or she started a life in Christ that will last forever.

This weekend begins the PPSL basketball season. Good luck to our players and cheerleaders!

Next week the sixth graders will begin a magazine sales drive to raise money for their outdoor education trip. I hope you will consider supporting this fundraiser. New magazines can be ordered as well as renewals.

Next Friday, January 13, we will have a prayer service at 2:30 pm to honor the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All are welcome to join us with prayers for peace.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Open House on Sunday, January 29, following the 9:30 am Mass. This is a great way for us to begin the celebration of National Catholic Schools Week.

Attached to this newsletter is a letter regarding federal funding and a survey that needs to be completed by each family. Please take a moment to review the information and complete the survey. It is crucial that each family completes a survey and that I have it on file in the office in the event of an audit regarding federal money. All information will be kept in strict confidence.

Each year, as a faculty, as directed by the Department of Catholic Schools, we look at a curriculum area and the Catholicity of our school. This year we are reviewing our Science curriculum and two areas in our Catholic Identity. We invite you to participate in a brief survey on two pieces of our Catholic identity: the formation of teachers for catechetical competence and all school personnel actively engage in bringing the Good News of Jesus into the total school educational experience. We will email you the link to this early next week.

**Important dates this coming week are:**

Monday, January 9

12:45 Dismissal

Friday, January 13

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch for St. Pius Seniors

Prayer Service at 2:30 pm

Blessings on your weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the letter 'i' in "Carroll".

Rita Carroll  
Principal

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2012-2013:** St. Pius School is accepting applications for new students for the 2012-2013 school year. Applications are available in the school office or online at [www.stpiusschool.org](http://www.stpiusschool.org). All applications should be returned by Thursday, February 3, 2012.

**MINI SCHOOL DIRECTORIES:** PTG will be selling mini school directories for \$5.00 each beginning Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please see the attached order form. Quantities are limited so get your copy now!

**CAREER DAY 2012:** Join us Monday, February 13, 2012 for our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Career Day for 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It's never too early for our children to know what wonderful possibilities are out in our world and what steps are needed to fulfill their dreams. **We are looking for speakers.** Some past career day speakers have been: a surgeon, professor of geography, flight crew members, technical director at Pixar, attorney, director of production for iTunes, production manager for Nike, software engineer at Google, senior vice president at Morgan Stanley, and owner of All Star Karate. Any friend or family member is welcome. **Please contact Kika Kilmartin for more information at [kmck092488@att.net](mailto:kmck092488@att.net).**

**MEN'S CLUB CRAB FEED:** The Men's Club Crab Feed will be held on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the cost is \$35.00 per person. We will be serving cracked crab and pasta. You can purchase tickets at the Parish Center or call Mark Engelhart at (650) 365-4029. Hope to see you there!

**CALLING ALL MOMS FOR EMERGENCY BUNKO NITE:** Come join your friends and other ladies for the Women's Club General Meeting. Think of this as a POST HOLIDAY GIRLS NITE OUT - come in your favorite PJ's if you so choose. Pizza, drinks and laughs with the girls, what could be more fun now that the holidays are over? We will be meeting at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Homer Crouse.

January 6, 2012

Dear Parents,

The United States Congress passed the Improving America's School Act of 1994 (IASA), which took effect July 1, 1995. The purpose of this law is to help ensure that all children acquire the knowledge and skills they need in the 21st Century.

Please take the time to fill in the enclosed Family Survey. All you need to do is circle the YES or NO after each question. Your answers will be strictly CONFIDENTIAL. This information will be used only by me. No names will be given to anyone.

This information is very important. It will help us continue our participation in educational programs that help our children. Your tax dollars are paying for these programs. Please help us to keep them.

Please return your Family Survey no later than **Friday, January 13, 2012**. Remember that this information is **CONFIDENTIAL**. I will be the only one to read it.

If you have any questions, please call me at the school office at **368-8327**.

Thank you for all that you do for our children and our school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita Carroll".

Rita Carroll  
Principal

ST. PIUS SCHOOL  
 1100 Woodside Road  
 Redwood City, California 94061

**2011-2012 FAMILY SURVEY  
 TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT - ELIGIBILITY SURVEY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Public School District in which you live \_\_\_\_\_

Children:      Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer YES or NO to all questions.

1. Find your family size (all adults and children living with you) on the chart. Go across to the figures listed by Week, Month, Year. Compare your income per week, month, year.

Family Size	Income/Week	Income/Month	Income Per Year
1	\$388	\$1,679	\$20,147
2	\$524	\$2,268	\$27,214
3	\$660	\$2,857	\$34,281
4	\$796	\$3,446	\$41,348
5	\$932	\$4,035	\$48,415
6	\$1,067	\$4,624	\$55,482
7	\$1,203	\$5,213	\$62,549
8	\$1,339	\$5,802	\$69,616

For each additional family member, add:

\$136	\$589	\$7,067
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- |  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Is your income LESS than this amount?   | YES | NO |
| 2. Are you receiving assistance under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program (AFDC)?  | YES | NO |
| 3. Are any of your children eligible to receive medical assistance under the MEDICAID Program?   | YES | NO |
| 4. Does your family participate in the FOOD STAMPS Program?  | YES | NO |
| 5. Do any of your children participate in the Archdiocesan TUITION ASSISTANCE Programs, Basic Fund, and/or St. Pius School Tuition Assistance Program? | YES | NO |

Thank you for your help. Please return by **Friday, January 13, 2012.**

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I again want to wish you a very blessed and joyful New Year. This year I pray that our parish of St. Pius will grow in holiness, that is to be in an ever deepening communion of love with God and practicing ever more the self-sacrificing love expressed by our continual service to other people in our community. It is through daily prayer, the practice of spiritual devotions, reading and meditation on scripture, celebrating Mass each and every Sunday, studying about our faith, reaching out in service to others in need---a variety of essential ways, pathways, to God and to personal and communal holiness. I invite all parishioners to walk this path together in the coming months.

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord---we bring the gift of ourselves; the gifts of our time, talent and treasure to offer to the Christ child by sharing them with each other as a parish family. Through our lives, we manifest the beauty and graciousness of Christ, who continually offers the gift of himself through Word, Sacrament and Church! Appreciate the magnificence of faith and how faith in Christ can form and shape our lives so that we truly are signs of God's real presence in the world. The Epiphany happens each and every day through us, when we allow our hearts to be open through faith.

Tomorrow, Jan. 9, I invite you to our daily 8:00 AM Mass, as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and the fulfillment of the Christmas Season. Thanks to all on our parish staff, the various parish committees and organizations and all our parishioners who have contributed greatly to the beautiful Advent and Christmas Seasons.

On behalf of our parish, I again want to welcome and introduce Sister Norberta Villasenor, OSF to our parish. Sister Norberta will be a half-time staff person directing and coordinating the Children's Faith Formation. While welcoming Sister Norberta, I want to thank Maria Cornell for the service she has provided for our Faith Formation. Maria will mentor Sister Norberta for the remainder of the school year, while transitioning to being coordinator of parish liturgy and worship. I trust we will give a warm welcome and support to Sister Norberta and express our gratitude and continual support for Maria.

I am aware how the liturgical environment in the church can be a sensitive issue. A few parishioners have asked and I want to explain why the Advent wreath and Christmas Nativity scene were placed in another area outside of the sanctuary this past year. The choice of placement was not my own personal whim or that of the parish liturgy committee or environment committee; rather, the placement was based upon study and a proper understanding of what is supposed to have prominent focus at Mass. In every Catholic Church the focus should always be on the primary liturgical symbols: altar of sacrifice/table of the Lord, the ambo--from where the Word of God is proclaimed, and the priest/celebrant chair, from where Christ, in the person of the priest, invites and calls together the assembly, the People of God, for the celebration of Eucharist. These symbols are essential to celebrating the sacrament of Eucharist and the sacrament of ourselves, the baptized, as Church. While we are ordinarily accustomed to seeing the

Wreath and Nativity scene each year and acknowledging the historical sentimentality of them, still they are merely sacramentals---important, special objects/items which are of a devotional nature helping us to pray and leading us to a deeper faith. However, they are never to be the center of attention or the focus of the liturgical environment; rather, they should help direct and move our attention to the Sacrament we are celebrating in the midst of God's People, the Church.

Allow me to quote a few key lines from 2012 Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays from Liturgy Training Publications: "It (the Advent wreath) is a secondary element within the liturgy, and although it should be beautiful and well made, it should not be more prominent than the primary liturgical symbols. ...it needs a place of special focus, though placing a large wreath in the sanctuary may not be the best place." (pg. 9) "As with the Advent wreath, the Christmas creche often poses a problem for location and importance. The creche is not a liturgical element or furnishing; it is a devotional setting, albeit a time-honored one in both our churches and our homes. The creche should not be placed in the sanctuary, in front of the altar, or in front of the ambo. A more appropriate setting is required so that it has a place of honor and at the same time is accessible for all those, especially children, who want to approach it. Suitable sites might be in the gathering area, on one side of the sanctuary area, in an alcove or shrine area within the church, in a separate chapel, or near the entrance of the church. An outdoor setting is also a good idea." (pg. 43)

I want to thank those who inquired about the environment changes. I will regularly offer more education and formation about our liturgy and other aspects of worship in the future.

In Christ,

Fr. Paul Rossi

# SAINT PIUS SCHOOL

## MINI DIRECTORY

**\$5.00/each**

***Make checks payable to St. Pius PTG***  
*(available beginning January 6, 2012)*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade** *(if sending home with child):* \_\_\_\_\_

**Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Send home with my child*

*Will pick up in office*

***Quantities are limited so  
get your copy now!***



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# DENNIS<sup>®</sup>

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and orders...phone, mail,  
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Offer valid only during January 2012,  
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**online anytime**  
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**National Customer Service**  
**800.854.6951**





## 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](http://soccershots.org/bayarea) coupon code 'online2012' or form & check (payable to 'Soccer Shots') to our folder in the school office  
**Contact:** [james@soccershots.org](mailto: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 constantly aware of their surroundings (other players, equipment, and the ball itself). Although soccer is not generally thought of as a contact sport at competitive levels, it is. Although many 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:

- muscle sprains (like strains, brooks, strains, blisters, and sprains);
- more serious injuries like broken bones, concussions, muscle tears, and ligament tears;
- catastrophic injuries like heat stroke, 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 voluntarily waive, relinquish, constitute, 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 the nature of the activity and its inherent risks and conditions, and 3) has indicated below any health-related conditions that might affect his/her ability to play soccer and he/she has verbally informed the Soccer Shots instructor immediately.

Circle:  None  Asthma  Heart Problems  Seizures  Diabetes  Other \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the preceding information and I have expressed to me I have, understood, and agree to the risks associated with participation in soccer and I am voluntarily participating in the below-mentioned participant in the 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 these in the company website ([www.soccershots.org](http://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, on behalf of myself, my parent, my brother, and my sister, 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 facility or equipment or in any way associated with participating in the activity of soccer that results in the injuries resulting from the ordinary negligence of Soccer Shots, its agents and employees.

## **BEGINNING JEWELRY MAKERS**

Create customized, stylish jewelry ready for you and your friends to wear! Become your own jewelry designer, where you can choose from a huge selection of hot colors, textures, and unique beads to make one-of-a-kind pieces. Our classes are designed not only to be fun, but to let you in on some of the most popular jewelry making techniques,

***Tuesdays***

***3:15 – 4:15 pm***

***Winter Session 6 classes***

***January 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st;***

***February 7th and 14th***

*We use only the highest quality findings, fresh water pearls, and Czech glass beads to create one of a kind jewelry each class. Our highly trained and fun instructors create a relaxed, encouraging environment all children will love.*

## ***St. Pius School***

**1<sup>st</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup> grades**

***\$17/class • 6 classes***



REGISTER ONLINE AT  
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## **CALLING ALL MOMS FOR EMERGENCY BUNKO NITE!!**

**Come join your friends and other ladies for the Women's Club  
General Meeting.**

**Think of this as a POST HOLIDAY casual GIRLS NITE OUT –**

**It's so relaxed that if you choose, come in your favorite PJ's!**



**"Pizza, drinks and laughs with the girls, what  
could be more fun now that the holidays are  
over"?**

**6:30 pm WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 2012**

**in Homer Crouse.**

*No experience necessary to play just the ability to roll the dice.  
There will be brief instructions to get the game going!*