

November 23, 2011

Dear Parents,

When I think of the first Thanksgiving on Plymouth Plantation, I reflect on the Pilgrims who had barely survived their first year in the New World, yet they took time to offer thanks. This many years later, we have so much more to be thankful for. Thanksgiving seems to slow us down and bring us back to simpler times as we give thanks for our many blessings. I offer a special prayer of thanksgiving for all who are part of the St. Pius community: students, parents, clergy, faculty and staff, and friends. Each contributes in a special way to make this such a special community.

As a school, we attended a Thanksgiving Prayer Service today which allowed us to offer prayerful thanks for our many blessings. Many thanks to Miss Flatley, Mrs. Yee and the sixth graders for preparing this paraliturgy for us.

This coming Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new Church year. The season of Advent presents many opportunities for us to prepare for the true meaning of Christmas. Throughout Advent, we will be having individual class and school wide prayer and Advent activities to help the students understand the deeper meaning of Christmas. Our school theme is "Open the Door and Welcome the Light!" There will be four doors on display in the East Wing hallway. Each week of advent one door will be opened. The door for the first week of advent will represent who is arriving. When opened, we will see candles representing each student. On their candles the students will write how they can be more welcoming (how they include others, treat others, encourage others). This coming Wednesday, November 30, there will be a parish Advent Night of Reflection at 7:00 pm. This is for entire families, adults, teens and children. Maybe as a family you can plan to attend.

Tuesday Evening, November 29, is the PTG sponsored Family Giving Night. This is a great way to begin to get ourselves in the right spirit for the upcoming holidays. It is also a wonderful opportunity to continue to model for your children what it means to give to others. I hope you will have some time this weekend to gather items that can be used by the clients at St. Francis Center. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Many thanks to Kathy Wright and the PTG Board for the delicious monkey bread, chili egg dish, coffee and orange juice brought to the faculty and staff yesterday as an early Thanksgiving treat. We appreciate the constant thoughtfulness.

I hope you are saving the evening of **December 15** for our Christmas program. All students, Grades K-8, will be participating. This will be at 7:00 pm in the Church.

Important dates this coming week are:

Sunday, November 27

Tuesday, November 29

Wednesday, November 30

Thursday, December 1

Friday, December 2

First Sunday of Advent

4th Grade Field Trip

Family Giving Night 6:30 pm

Advent Prayer Service at 7:00 pm

Associated Learning Speech, Hearing and
Sensory Motor Screening

School Board Meeting at 7:30 pm

Progress Reports

I wish you and your family many blessings during this Thanksgiving season.

Sincerely,



Rita Carroll
Principal

PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

Father, your goodness to us is without end
and your gifts of love are countless.
On Thanksgiving Day we come before you
with gratitude for your kindness.
Open our hearts to concern for all people
so that we may share your gifts in loving service.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Lord, help us keep our minds and hearts focused
on this time of quiet prayer.
Let the light of your Advent wreath remind us
to be attracted to your warmth and guidance.
And help us to remember to light the Advent wreath each night -
no matter how busy life may get.
As we light the first advent candle,
may we be reminded to let our faith shine.
Allow our faith to serve as a beacon of hope
and to warm our hearts as we await the birth of Christ.
Amen.

SCHOOL TOUR: Do you know a family member, friend or neighbor who may be looking for a school where "The children receive a well rounded education enriching their lives intellectually, spiritually and socially?" (*quote from a St. Pius School Family*) If so, please invite them to join the school tour on **Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at 8:30 am** in the foyer of Fitzsimon Center. There are tours scheduled monthly through February so watch the newsletter for more dates.

ST. PIUS SANTA'S SECRET SHOP 2011: It is that time again! Volunteers are needed for the **December 7th, 2011 St. Pius Santa's Secret Shop**. Please fill out the form attached to volunteer and earn service hours. **Jasmine Archbold:** aradon@sbcglobal.net and **Mary Kahn:** Kahn.mary@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS: The St. Pius Christmas Boutique, "A Farmer's Market", will be held on **Sunday December 4th in Fitzsimmons Center**. Hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Exciting new vendors, music, entertainment, visit with Santa and much more! Stop by the Pine Tree Café for lunch or order your favorite coffee drink from the Coffee Bar. Sponsored by the St. Pius Women's Club. Check us out on Facebook!

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2011



Thoughtful Moments

Mass Changes

As of November 27th, you will have noticed that some of the prayers and responses we say at Mass are different than those to which we have been accustomed. Many of the changes use more poetic and reverential language. This is an opportunity to look at the familiar Mass with new eyes and a new appreciation.



A lived faith

Enrolling children in Catholic school or sending them to parish religious education is an important first step toward raising them in the Catholic faith. But it is only the beginning. The most important part is showing children how to live their faith each and every day. That kind of education can only come from a Catholic parent.

God came

The miracle of Christmas is that the God of love came to us. Isn't that amazing? Even more incredible, he hasn't left. Look for ways you and your family can find Jesus in the world this Christmas.



Put Christ's love back into your family's Christmas

Shop the malls in October and you may see Christmas decorations. Even grocery stores play carols before Thanksgiving. Don't let the barrage of holiday selling rob you and your family of a truly joyful season. Try these suggestions for reducing stress, boosting joy, and putting Christ's love back into Christmas.

Avoid Christmas commercials. Nothing kills the spirit of Christmas like children pleading for over-priced, poorly made toys they just saw in the parade of holiday commercials. Instead, record the good Christmas shows and fast-forward through the commercials. Or, turn off commercial television and rent Christmas movies or

check them out of the library.

Separate your Christmas celebrations. Reserve December 25th for Christ's birth. Attend Mass, read the story of the Nativity, spend the day together throwing Jesus a happy birthday celebration. Let the 26th be the day for the secular celebration.

Make it last. Celebrate each day of the whole Catholic Christmas Season. Gather family close for a special meal on the **Feast of the Holy Family** (Dec. 30).

Pray for world peace on the **Solemnity of Mary** (Jan. 1). Save some Christmas gifts to give on the **Epiphany** (Jan. 8) to honor the Magi's gifts. Renew your Baptismal promises on the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** (Jan. 9), the last official day of the Christmas Season.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why did the Magi give gifts to Jesus?

The Magi knew that they were traveling to greet a new king and brought gifts that were appropriate at the time for a king. Over the years, the Church has reinterpreted the gifts in terms of Jesus' life.



They gave him gold to recognize his royalty. The expensive gift of Frankincense, often burned to carry prayers to Heaven, was a symbol of Jesus' priesthood. His last gift, Myrrh, was used in burial preparations, a sign that Jesus would suffer and die for us.

The Christmas Tree teaches about love

Like many of our Christmas traditions, the background of the Christmas tree is a patchwork quilt of many cultures. One piece concerns St. Boniface, a missionary in the time of Pope St. Gregory II.

St. Boniface's greatest challenge as a missionary was to eliminate pagan superstitions that kept people from accepting the Gospel he preached. One Christmas Eve, St. Boniface was traveling through the woods with his companions and came upon the townspeople gathered around



a sacred oak about to offer a human sacrifice to their god, Thor. St. Boniface stopped the sacrifice and chopped down the oak.

Behind the oak stood a fir tree. St. Boniface asked the people to bring it into town and set up in the great hall of the duke. They placed candles on its branches and listened while St. Boniface told the story of the Nativity and the Baby who would grow up to be the Savior and sacrifice himself for all of us. Many were captivated by the story of love and were converted.

Scripture LESSON

John 1:1-18 Who Is Jesus?

This month we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. By coming to Earth, living among us and teaching us, he taught us about God and his nature. We are able to share in God's divine life through Jesus's life, death and Resurrection.

In this gospel, St. John explained that Jesus took on our humanity because he loves us and wanted to share our experience. He chose to live as we live. He experienced what we experience.



Remembering that, we can also know with confidence that Jesus understands us.

What can a parent do? Sooner or later, we each have to make a choice.

Many who saw Jesus rejected him, not recognizing him as the Messiah. Help children to make a deliberate choice to recognize Jesus as their own personal Savior.

Teach them to ask, "Do I live my life as if I'm a child of God?" Tell them what it means to live as a child of God and to follow Jesus. Jesus is our friend and brother.

Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 6 - St. Nicholas (350). St. Nicholas gave away most of his fortune and is credited with saving three girls from being sold into slavery to pay their father's debt. His anonymous acts of generosity helped him become the patron saint of children.

Dec. 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The day we celebrate Mary's conception in St. Ann's womb, free from Original Sin. A Holy Day of Obligation.

Dec. 14 - St. John of the Cross

(1591). As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Some of his most beautiful spiritual writing came while in prison. His mystical-poetical reflections showed his love of prayer.

Dec. 27 - St. John (1st century). An apostle, St. John was known for his fiery temper. He once asked Jesus if he could rain fire from heaven on an inhospitable town. Later, he and St. Peter asked the Holy Spirit to descend upon the Samaritans. Friendship with Jesus really changes a person.



Parent TALK

Growing up, my family didn't practice many Catholic devotions. I mean, we went to church, but that's about it. So I was at a loss when Kevin

came home from Catholic school and asked if we could light an Advent wreath. I had seen them in church, but we didn't own one.

I went online and read that an Advent wreath is a symbol of the four-week season before Christmas when we await the coming of the Savior. We could make our own using a Styrofoam ring, three purple candles, a pink one, and some greenery. So I got the supplies and we made a family Advent wreath.

During the busy season it was nice to take a few quiet moments to turn off the lights, light our Advent candles and say our Advent prayers.




































Something else that has meant a lot to me is knowing that we joined millions of families all over the world in this beloved ancient tradition.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children.
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of *Growing in Faith* and *Partners in Faith*
(540) 662-7844 (540) 662-7847 fax
www.partnersinfoith.com
(Unless noted, Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and New American Bible.)



Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 27  Make and bless an Advent wreath. Light the first purple candle each night this week.	28  Read together about Elizabeth and Zechariah's special blessing in <i>Luke 1:5-25</i> .	29  Set up your Nativity scene, but leave out the Holy Family.	30  Make cookies to bring to a nearby nursing home or homeless shelter.	1  Cut and paste pictures from Christmas cards you receive into ornaments for your tree.	2  Attend Confession as a family and go out to dinner afterward to celebrate forgiveness!	3  Ask a family member you love hurt in the past year for forgiveness. Offer it to one who has hurt you.
4  Light two purple candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."	5  Read about the angel's remarkable visit to Mary in <i>Luke 1:26-38</i> . Talk about ways we can also say, "yes," to God.	6  Send Christmas cards to your pastor, priests, and religious or ordained ministers who are important to your family.	7  Gather some friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling.	8  In honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception, attend Mass and pray a family Rosary tonight.	9  Together, write your Christmas cards. Let older kids address the envelopes and younger ones seal them.	10  Clean out your closets of unwanted clothes or toys in good condition. Donate them to a shelter or other charity.
11  Light two purple candles and the pink one for joy. See which of you can sing loudest at Mass today.	12  Pick a Christmas card you've received this week and pray for the person who sent it.	13  Set the Mary and Joseph figures of your Nativity set across the room from the rest of the scene.	14  Write letters to Holy Jesus telling him that you look forward to his coming.	15  Put a lamp or electric candle in a window to welcome the Christ child. Light it each night until Christmas Day.	16  Family Movie Night! Make some popcorn and watch a Christmas movie together.	17  Put up and decorate your family Christmas tree.
18  Light all four candles in the wreath tonight. Read today's Gospel reading, <i>Luke 1:39-45</i> .	19  Move Mary and Joseph closer to the Nativity scene. Try to imagine what it was like to travel to Bethlehem by donkey.	20  Decorate a "Jesus Candle" with symbols of Jesus. Save it to light during Christmas dinner.	21  Place Mary and Joseph in the Nativity scene. Add grass or straw to the manger to get it ready.	22  Take a drive or walk around your home to look at the Christmas decorations or displays.	23  Send a thank-you note to the priests, or other parish ministers who enriched your seasonal celebrations!	24  Give each family member a chance to say "thank you" for a blessing God has given this year.
25  Put the Holy in the manger and read the story of Jesus' birth in <i>Luke 2:1-20</i> .	26  And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David this is Bethlehem because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a firstborn son has been born to you." (Luke 2:4-7)	27  of David's ancestor has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. "And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go see for ourselves." So they went to find out and found Mary and the infant Jesus lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:8-19)	28  the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:18-19)	29  the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:18-19)	30  the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:18-19)	31  the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:18-19)

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and the start of the Advent Season. This beautiful season, featuring the Advent wreath, reminds us of our Christian understanding of time. As a baptized people, a pilgrim people, we are on a journey of faith, a faith which anticipates the second coming of Christ at the end of time. As successive candles are lit each Sunday, we are also reminded in the Liturgy of the Word that we are a people who live in anticipation that the Christ will return and bring to fulfillment the Reign of God. All this is done in God's time; therefore, do not be afraid, trusting all the while in the God we come to know and love in the child Jesus, born in time to the Virgin Mary, who, with her husband, Joseph, nurtured and cared for this child as he grew in grace and wisdom.

Please, take home a copy of the Little Blue Book--an Advent/Christmas reflection book, which can be found at the entrances of the church. Use the readings, reflections and prayers to provide a spiritual foundation for our personal and parish life at this time of the year. Most especially, come to Sunday Mass each week, bringing a desire for full, conscious and active participation to the celebration of Mass.

Today we begin celebrating and praying from the newly revised 3rd edition of the Roman Missal. While the actions of the Mass are basically the same, we will be noticing the many significant changes in the Mass texts. I trust our parish has been prepared for these changes; yet still, we will need to be attentive to the revised translations of the assembly's responses, acclamations, proclamations and prayers. Please, pick up the pamphlet in the pews and follow along during the Mass. We will need to be patient with each other, especially with the priests, who are getting use to the multiple changes we have to learn and know in order to celebrate the Mass in a prayerful, dignified and understandable manner. Soon we will come to know our responses by heart; however, for now, please follow along with the order of worship outlined on the pamphlet so that this prayer of thanksgiving can be one of beauty and inspiration. I also encourage all parishioners to sing the songs and parts of the Mass --- again, we are called to full, active and conscious participation of the Mass.

Over the next couple of weeks, the usher will begin bringing the collection, the gift of the people, down for the priest to bless and acknowledge, along with the gifts of bread and wine. Your weekly financial offering ought to be brought forward, for it truly represents your support of our parish family and, at times, supporting people and their needs across the world. In processions, the more central or key people or objects come later or last in line. Thus, your financial gift/offering comes first and then the more important or central gift, representing you and your life, the bread and wine follow. The priest/celebrant will wait until the collection(s) are completed before going to the front of the sanctuary to receive first from the usher your financial offering and then the gifts of bread and wine from the people. I hope we will appreciate more the important symbolism of our gifts, taken, blessed in order to be shared with others.

This past week all registered parishioners received a letter from me requesting your renewed commitment to your Sunday offering for the coming year. While acknowledging the challenging financial times many of us are experiencing presently, I ask that all parishioners prayerfully consider the important place St. Pius Parish plays in your life and that of your family and loved ones. As you can see each week in this Sunday bulletin, our parish is financially challenged and we need not be! Thus, I turn to you, our parish family, to help us maintain our ministries, programs and services, while hopefully trying to plan for future growth and development of such ministries needed for the challenges facing us in the years to come. Thank you for your prompt and generous response. I personally will raise my Sunday offering starting with the New Year --- please, join me with your renewed commitment as well. Thank you in anticipation of your increased gift to your parish family.

Some parish life highlights to be noted: A tremendous note of gratitude to the Men's Club who again this year is sponsoring the Christmas Tree lot, which supports our parish budget. I encourage everyone to purchase your Christmas tree from the St. Pius lot and, in turn, support our parish. Please, express your gratitude to all the men who give a great deal of their time and energy to operating the lot and serving the customers. Thank them for their many efforts again this year. Tonight, at the 5:00 Mass, our parish is initiating a new ministry for Young Adults. I ask you to keep in your prayers and support as you can this new ministry in the life of St. Pius Parish. Please, pass the word to Catholic young adults you may know who may be searching for a Catholic parish sensitive to young adults and issues which concern them. The PTG Family Giving Night at Homer Crouse is this Tuesday, the 29th, from 6:30-8:30 PM. All donated items will be given to St. Francis Center.... all are most welcome!! The Parish Advent Night of Reflection, conducted by Fr. Nathan Castle, OP, is on this Wednesday, the 30th, from 7:00-8:00 PM in church. Take a night out and focus on the real meaning of this Advent Season. All are most welcome.

Last but not least, I wish to express my gratitude for all those who helped plan, organize and bring to fulfillment our parish celebration last Sunday of my installation as Pastor. I do appreciate all the efforts the parish put forth to make the Mass and reception truly a celebration of our parish family. God bless you for your efforts.

Maranatha -- Come, Lord Jesus, Come!!

Fr. Paul Rossi

PTG AT A GLANCE

Annual St Pius Family Giving Night-Come join in the Spirit of giving on **November 29th from 6:30-8:30pm in Homer Crouse** as we collect food and clothing for St Francis Center. A night filled with Christmas Spirit, song and giving. See flyer for details. Contact Siobhan at srsurraco@yahoo or 556-9905 with any questions.

PTG Hot Lunch on Thursdays is looking for more helpers! No experience necessary and they can be flexible with your schedule. It's a fun way to earn service hours and interact with the children during lunch time! Please contact Tisha Costantini @ tishacostantini@comcast.net if you are interested.

St. Pius By the Bay was a huge hit! Thanks to Kelli Crowley & Heidi McLalan for their countless hours of hard work. A fun night was had by all!!

Don't forget to "like" the **St. Pius School PTG page on Facebook**. It's a great way to stay connected and receive updates on upcoming events.



ANNUAL FAMILY GIVING NIGHT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29TH
6:30PM TO 8:30PM Homer Crouse

Once again our St Pius family comes together to support St Francis Center in their work to feed, clothe and educate those in need. So clean out your closets and pantry and come start off the holiday season with friends and family in the Spirit of giving! Questions? Contact Siobhan at srsurraco@yahoo.com

What to Bring:

- Canned soup: any kind
- Macaroni & cheese
- Canned tuna
- Linens, blankets, etc
- Casual clothing for men, women, children.
- Laundry detergent: high efficiency biodegradable type
- Toiletries –regular or travel size, new

Kids Craft Table Christmas Tree

Parish Advent Night of Reflection

GOD IS WITH US
The Birth of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel

Wednesday, November 30th
7:00-8:00 pm in the Church

Begin your Advent right!!
Join us for a night of prayer, music, education,
inspiration and special sessions for all ages:

Children: Come learn about the two dreaming Josephs of the Bible! Stories followed by an art project to bring home for the Advent season!

Middle School Teens: You will meet the two dreaming Josephs... as we act out the stories and discuss the message for us this Advent season!

Adults and High School Teens: God is with us... and I'll be with you, too. I'm Father Nathan Castle, OP, Director of the Catholic Community at Stanford. Join me for a quick study of two dreaming Josephs, the beloved son with the colorful coat, and the one who leads Mary and baby Jesus to safety in Egypt. To prepare, please read Genesis, Chapters 37-50 and Matthew, Chapters 1-2. There will be a test... and prizes.

We will end the evening with dessert, coffee, and hot chocolate!

St. Pius Santa's Secret Shop 2011

Volunteer and earn service hours



It is time to plan for one of the kids' favorite events at St. Pius. The St. Pius Santa's Secret Shop!!!

This year it will be held in Homer Crouse on

Wednesday, December 7th, 2011

This event has lots of volunteering opportunities. Please fill out the attached form and return it to the office by Monday November 28th, 2011. If you prefer, you may email the information directly to Jasmine or Mary.

On the day of the event, volunteers are needed for set up, cashiers, gift wrappers, volunteers to guide the students, volunteers for clean up and inventory.

Bakers are needed for homemade Christmas treats (cookies, brownies, and cupcakes) delivered to the office or Homer Crouse on the morning of the event.

Once again we greatly appreciate your help at Santa's Secret Shop.

Thank you for volunteering!

Jasmine: aradon@sbcglobal.net or 650-216-9224.

Mary: Kahn.mary@sbcglobal.net

Santa's Secret Shop

I can help with

- Inventory/pricing before event (December 3rd, 2011 3:00-6:00)
- Inventory/pricing before event (December 4th, 2011 1:00-4:00)
- Clean up and Inventory after event (December, 7th 3:30 to 5:00)
- Inventory/repackaging after event - (December, 8th 4:00 to 6:00) may be canceled if all inventory completed on December 7th.

I can help on December 7th, 2011 (Lunch Break is 12:30-1:00)

- AM shift (10:30-12:30) PM shift (1:00-3:30)
- AM set up (8:00-10:30) All Day (10:30-3:00)

I can provide _____ (How many baked goods?)

My name (print): _____

My best contact telephone #: _____

My e-mail address that I check regularly (print): _____

My best method of response is: My telephone # _____ Texting _____ email _____





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!



Dollar Days to Raise Money for St. Vincent de Paul Society

Passes will be sold at recess and lunch on
Thursday, December 1- Thursday, December 8.
All proceeds will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
Each item costs \$1.00!!

5 ITEMS MAXIMUM

- ❑ Jacket/ Sweatshirt of your choice (\$1)
- ❑ Any tennis shoes (\$1)
- ❑ Socks of your choice (\$1)
- ❑ Nail Polish (girls only) (\$1)
- ❑ Gelled hairstyle of your choice (\$1)
- ❑ Jewelry- earrings, bracelets, necklaces (\$1)
- ❑ Baseball Hat- not to be worn in the classroom (\$1)
- ❑ Untucked shirt (\$1)
- ❑ PJ bottoms under your school skirt or jumper (\$1)
- ❑ Slippers- in the classroom only (\$1)

**PASSES WILL BE USED ONLY ON FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 9th.**





*Developing new capabilities in
children for more than 79 years.*

Associated Learning
& Language Specialists

October 11, 2011

Dear Parents:

St. Pius Catholic School is providing the opportunity for your child to participate in a speech, hearing, and sensory-motor screening on the morning of **Thursday, December 1st**. This screening will be conducted by **Associated Learning and Language Specialists, Inc.**, a licensed speech pathology and occupational therapy clinic in this area, as an effective means to the early identification of communication and motor deficits. The testing will take place in the morning on the school grounds. It is optional, but we encourage you to participate, especially if you or others have concerns about your child's development. The earlier a problem is detected, the greater the chance a child has to correct their skills.

Hearing is evaluated through the use of an audiometer. The children are tested individually, wearing earphones, and are asked to respond to a series of tones at several frequencies. If there is a hearing loss, the appropriate referral will be made.

Speech and Language screening differentiate between actual problems as opposed to developmental immaturities. Articulation, vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure are evaluated, as well as the ability to follow directions and auditory memory. Academic skills are also assessed in the older children.

Pediatric Occupational Therapist screening includes the observation of the child performing developmentally appropriate gross and fine motor and self-help activities. The therapist considers the child's muscle tone, joint stability, visual tracking, dexterity, eye-hand coordination, stamina, balance, and other developmentally significant tasks. The ability for a child to usefully interpret sensory input from themselves and their environment is critically important to their development.

Once the testing is complete, the results will be given to you and your child's teacher. The screening therapist(s) will also call the parents to discuss their findings with you within that week. If more in-depth evaluations are recommended, complete services will be available to you (conferences, a formal evaluation, therapy, tutoring, referrals to other specialists and our team, etc.)

If you are interested in participating, please fill out the form on the back of this page and return it to school with a check for \$55 for each service, or \$95 for both speech & hearing and sensory-motor screenings. Checks are to be made payable to **Associated Learning and Language Specialists, Inc., (ALLS for short)**. For further information, please call our office at 650-631-9999 X 170.

FORMS MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH



Developing new capabilities in children for more than 30 years

Associated Learning & Language Specialists

SCREENING PERMISSION SLIP

I, the undersigned parent/guardian of _____ a minor, authorize and give consent to Associated Learning and Language Specialists (speech/language pathologists and occupational therapists) to test the speech, language, learning, hearing, academic, vision, fine/gross and/or sensory-motor skills of my child.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Telephone Number _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

	<u>Circle Choice</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>Speech Pathology Screening ONLY</u> (speech, language, learning, hearing, academic)	Yes/No	\$55
<u>Occupational Therapy Screening ONLY</u> (fine/gross motor, sensory-motor, vision)	Yes/No	\$55
<u>Speech Pathology AND Occupational Therapy</u> (complete screening by both Specialists)	Yes/No	\$95

Child's Birth Date _____ Child's Age _____ years _____ months

Teacher's Name _____

Days and Hours of attendance _____

Developmental/ Health History (please use the back of this page if necessary)

1. Any ear or hearing problems? If so, please explain.

2. Any history of speech, language or learning problems?

3. Any visual, fine / gross of sensory-motor problems?

4. Are there any medical problems or academic information which is significant to this screening?

**-THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING-
FORMS MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH**

St. Pius Christmas Boutique

"A Farmer's Market"

Sunday December 4th



Fitzsimon Gymnasium Hours 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

*Exciting new vendors, music, entertainment, visit
with Santa and much more!*

*Stop by the Pine Tree Café for lunch or order your
favorite drink from the Coffee Bar.*

~ Sponsored by the St. Pius Women's Club ~

Check us out on Facebook!



Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Boutique

Please join us for an evening of holiday cheer

Monday, November 28, 2011

St. Patrick's Seminary & University
320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park

**4:00 pm ~ Christmas Boutique and
Food Court Opens**

**5:00 pm ~ Tree Lighting and
Caroling by the Seminary Choir
Refreshments to follow**


6:30 pm ~ Boutique closes

Experience the glory of
seeing the Seminary Halls Decked out
for Christmas

For information on how to participate as a crafter or to
attend, please contact Rosalinda Campbell

@ (650) 349-4316 or

Linda Asti @ (65) 365-2624 or linda.m.asti@gmail.com



St. Patrick's Seminary & University
First Annual Ginger Bread House Contest

On Monday, November 28, 2011 St. Patrick's Seminary & University will hold their first annual Gingerbread House Contest. Any student enrolled in St. Pius, Mt. Carmel, St. Joseph's, Nativity Elementary, St. Raymond and Sacred Heart schools will be eligible to participate in the contest.

Each category winner will receive a \$50.00 dollars cash prize.

Contest Rules

- * The contest is open to any student in the schools mentioned above;
- * Contestants must submit entries individually;
- * All house entries must be made entirely of gingerbread;
- * Contestants may use any recipe or decoration of their choice;
- * All entries must be submitted on a thick piece of cardboard, wooden or on a plastic box;
- * Everything on the gingerbread house must decorated with candy and must be edible.

Houses can be dropped off Monday & Tuesday, November 21 & 22,
between 8:30 am and 4:00 and Wednesday, November 23rd
between 8:30 am and 12:00 pm at the

Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Memorial Library to the right side of the seminary.

All entries must be labeled with name, age and school.

The winner will be announced at the Tree Lighting Ceremony on
November 28, 2011

The gingerbread house will be scored according to age groups: K—2, 3—5, 6—8th,
by creativity, neatness, variety of edible materials used and the overall
construction of the house.

If you are a student interested in entering this contest,
please submit your entry form to:

Katie Bailey
St. Patrick's Seminary & University
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

***Entry form closes Tuesday, November 1, 2011**

There is no fee to enter!



St. Patrick's Seminary & University

2011 Gingerbread House Contest

Entry Form



Name: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

Contact Information

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

I understand that my entry must be composed of primarily gingerbread, with edible products only, and will remain on display at St. Patrick's Seminary & University until November 30, 2011.

Houses not picked up by 4:00pm December 1, 2011 will be discarded.

Entry forms must be received by mail, hand delivery or fax by Tuesday, November 15, 2011.

Gingerbread Houses are judged by creativity, neatness, edible materials used and overall construction.

Grade categories are: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8th

Each category winner will receive \$50.00 dollars cash.

The winner will be announced at the Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 28, 2011 on the campus of St. Patrick's Seminary & University.

Please mail or fax entry form to:

Katie Bailey
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-325-5621 Ext:125
Fax: 650-323-5447



At Dragonfly Designs

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

Jewelry Design Class at St Pius School!

1st-5th Grades Tuesdays

3:15-4:15pm - Jan 10th-Feb 14th

Only \$102 for 6 sessions!

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 such as wire working, felted beads, stamping and dapping and more!

Please visit our website to register!

<http://www.jewelrybydfly.com/school-programs.html>

MISSION STATEMENT

At Dragonfly Designs it is our mission to offer exceptional handmade jewelry and the opportunity to create it, while promoting social justice, personal style and fun!



**We can't wait to
create jewelry
with you!!**