



December 7, 2009



Purple & Gold Rush

CONTACT INFORMATION:

SPX School Office: 466-3361

Web: www.spxcatholicsschool.org

Email newsletter articles to stenson@lei.org



PRINCIPALS' CORNER

School Mass Notes:

Join us for school mass on **TUESDAY, December 8th** at 8:30 am for the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

* Mrs. Chriss' class is planning mass.

December Gospel Value:

TOLERANCE

Accepting people and their beliefs even if you don't agree. *"Therefore, let us not judge one another anymore, but resolve this; not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way."* —Romans 14:13



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTION

Father Rob read the Gospel story of the loaves and fish that fed the crowd of people who had come to listen to Jesus. How many times is this story mentioned in the four gospels?

Father also told us a modern version of this story that referenced Archbishop Romero of El Salvador. It used a tomato instead of bread and fish. What is the story of Archbishop Romero and the man with a tomato?

Dates to Remember

- 12/7 Advent Prayer Service: Joy
2:15 pm in Church
- 12/8 School Mass at 8:30 am
Feast of Immaculate Conception
- 12/9 No School Mass
- 12/10 PTO Meeting
- 12/10 Christmas Play - 2nd & 3rd Gr
7:00 pm in Ross Hall
- 12/14 Advent Prayer Service
2:15 pm in Church
- 12/16 Advent Penance Service
Grades 3-7 at 8:30 am in Church
- 12/16 No School Mass
- 12/18 Nativity Pageant - 1st Grade
9:30 am in Church
- 12/18 Baby Shower for Jesus
- 12/18 Christmas Break Begins
1:00-1:15 pm dismissal

Send articles to stenson@lei.org

Last week you heard about the Monarch butterfly project involving the 5th Grade. Several other interesting and highly educational projects are going on in other classrooms. Mrs. Tierney and Mrs. Farrell led the Kindergarten classes in the celebration of "Turkey Day" just before the Thanksgiving break. I'm sure that the students felt like this was a day to play and have fun. Little did they know that great learning was going to take place as they enjoyed new experiences. They participated in music and dancing to work on their gross motor skills; they heard a story about a turkey which increased their listening skills. They made Native American hats and learned how the Native Americans did brave acts to earn feathers for their hats. Cutting the feathers helped them work on their fine motor skills through cutting and on their Math skills through patterning. They made bird feeders and learned about science and helping the environment. They made Thanksgiving cards which increased their writing skills. Could you ever imagine that so much learning could take place while children frolicked and romped?

Mrs. Ritter and Ms. Warrick recently arranged for first and second graders to have a visit from a man who gave them great information on bats. This science presentation provided them great insight into the reason that bats are very essential parts of the environment. They learned about the life cycle of bats, and the ways in which bats are a benefit to our neighborhoods. They learned that many homes have bat houses in their yards to encourage bats to be in the area because they eat mosquitoes which remove these disease producing insects from our environment. Besides the obvious science lesson, these students also increased their listening skills. They read about bats, wrote about bats and used bats in their math activities. Amazing how one topic can provide so many learning opportunities!

The older students also learn in unique ways through literature. Mrs. Taber is such a wealth of knowledge on adolescent literature, constantly bringing in new books that appeal to this age group. After reading a recent book, 6th grade students created a quilt with squares that used drawings to represent and compare and contrast the various characters in the story. This caused them to synthesize what they learned about the character into a representative drawing. 7th grade students were challenged to write poems in two voices. These poems compared characters from two books that they had read. This activity caused them to reflect on what they knew about the characters and to use good vocabulary to create these poems. Both of these skills are essential to good reading comprehension. 8th Grade delves into the events surrounding the Holocaust thorough reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, and other books of their own choosing. They then are challenged to create a newspaper in which they must prioritize the events that have taken place in the stories, analyze them and apply what they know to write news stories that report on the horrors that occurred and the attitudes of bystanders. Again, the students are learning while facing a challenge and using their creativity. All of these teachers provide authentic learning activities that will allow their students to remember and understand these lessons.

Let's continue to pray for each other. —Bill & Theresa

Information for Church Bulletins

If you need to include information in the SPX Church bulletin during this Christmas season, please submit items to Kathy Loeffler (kloeffler@spxparish.org) for: 12/20 needs to be sent before 12/15
12/27 needs to be sent before 12/18
1/3 needs to be sent before 12/24

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SCHOOL LUNCH BOX

You will find the lunch menus for January in today's take-home folder. Please order your lunches and submit payment before **Friday, December 18th**, which is the last day of school before Christmas.

WANTED: Lunch Crew Members beginning in January 2010! Time commitment is 3 hours once a month for the Hamburger Lunch on the 4th Tuesday each month. If you can help, please contact Ellen Farrell (efarrell4311@comcast.net)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Fr. Jerry would like share that the Christmas Eve Anticipation mass has been moved from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.



Christmas Mass Schedule - 2009

Thur, Dec 24 - Anticipation Mass - 4pm & 6pm
Fri, Dec 25 - Midnight, 8am, & 10am
Thur, Dec 31 - Anticipation Mass - 4pm
Fri, Jan 1 - 11am

PTO Meeting

Thursday, December 10th at 10am
SPX Church conference rooms 1&2
Refreshments available & kids welcome...
Questions...contact Heather Douglas
(hadouglas@sbcglobal.net)
See you there!

SPX Wrestling Sign-ups

The St. Pius X wrestling team will be having signup this year on Tuesday, December 1st from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Ross Hall. The first practices will be early in January for grades K through 8. The cost this year will be \$70 for each participant. If you can't make it to this meeting, please contact Scott Schrader (wabash1988@comcast.net) as soon as possible and we will make arrangements to get your child registered for the season.

SPXtras Reminder

Contact: Erin Dorsey or Christine Marsella

Christmas Craft

Gr: 1st-3rd
Day: Tuesdays 3:15-5:00 pm
Dec 1 - Dec 15 (3 weeks)
(12/1, 12/8, & 12/15)
Location: Art Room



Living Nativity & Baby Shower for Jesus

Our annual Living Nativity/Baby Shower for Jesus is scheduled for Friday, December 18th at 9:30 am in the church. Students are encouraged to bring in a new baby item to donate to Birthline. To be sure we keep components of each gift together, we are asking that families wrap the gifts or place them in gift bags. Please indicate the size and gender (boy or girl) of the item on the outside of the bag.

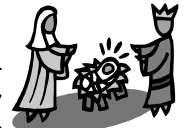
Birthline is in need of the following specific items: Onesies (size medium); Sleepers (size 6-9 months for boys and girls); and Outfits (size 6-9 months for boys and girls), receiving blankets, new stuffed animals, pacifiers, and diapers (size 1-6). Thank you in advance for your help!

Middle School Party - Change of Date

The Middle School Party that was originally scheduled for December 11th has been changed. In an effort to close out Catholic Schools Week with more of a celebration for all of our students, and also make it a Community Celebration, a dance will be held in Ross Hall for Middle School students during the Winter Carnival. This will provide a fun evening for the entire family on **Friday, February 5th**. More details will follow after Christmas as we rearrange and reinvent the Winter Carnival to provide entertainment for everyone.

Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy

Take part in the Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy at St. Pius X - Children aged 3 and older (plus Adult helpers) are invited to play a special part in the St. Pius X Christmas Eve celebration by bringing the Nativity story to life during the 4:00 pm Children's liturgy. Children can participate in the reenactment or as members of the children's choir. For Nativity sign-ups, contact Sue Kempf (poolmomsue@comcast.net) or Lisa Doyle (kl.doyle@sbcglobal.net) before December 21st. Practice will be held on Mon, December 21 from 5:30-7:00 pm.



IMPORTANT: Parish Stewardship Intention Cards

Please remember that in order to register for the next school year at St. Pius X and Bishop Chatard and receive the "active parishioner" tuition rate, each family **MUST** have a stewardship card on file in the parish office. Please return your stewardship pledge card as soon as possible.

REMINDER: School registration begins in January.

SPX Hobby Show

Hard to believe it, but it's time to start thinking about the St. Pius X Hobby Show! This will be your time to show us your talents and we know that they are many and varied! There are several categories including Baking, Kit Crafts, Fine Arts, Skilled Crafts, Collections and Media. The hobby show this year will be on February 1st, 2010. These items will be displayed all day in Ross hall for the entire school to see. Please start thinking now about working on a drawing or writing a short story. We know some of those Lego and K'nex kits can take a long time to assemble. Start organizing now your collection of shells or baseball cards! You might even add something to a Christmas list that you would like to complete for the Hobby Show. For questions please contact Shelly Lindley or Kelley Faler.

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Good Deeds

At mass last week, our wonderful students shared their many good deeds, here's a few of them. **MY GOOD DEED WAS...**

- ...I did not disturb my sister over Thanksgiving break so she could do her homework.
- ...helping shopping for the poor
- ...I helped take stuff to the lost and found
- ...I helped my Grama labble the Christmas ornaments
- ...ask my mom for a piece of candy instead of just eating it.
- ...I feed the dog and bring in the mail.
- ...I sang to the old people at a nursing home.
- ...I helped find a kid lost and they had police helicopters looking.
- ...I helped my brother fid something.
- ...helping my mom set up Christmas decorations.
- ...I helped my mom give the dog a bath.
- ...giving my sisters sippy cups.
- ...helped serve cake at my uncle Jeff's birthday.
- ...help bags leaves with my family.
- ...I helped pass out food with Peyton Manning to less fortunate people.
- ...letting Will on the teeter-totter when the other kids wouldn't let him.
- ...went to the grocery with Mama.
- ...I helped my sister get ready to go to my Grandmals house.
- ...I misodged my Dads feet.

Games of the IV Triviad

Save Saturday, January 16th, 2010

"Games of the IV Triviad" will begin immediately following 5:00 Mass at 6:00 pm in the SPX gym on Saturday January 16, 2010. Cost will remain the same--\$20 per person, \$160 per team--pizza and adult beverages included. Watch for registration forms. Contact Amy or Kevin Beausir (akbeausir@comcast.net) to volunteer or get your \$99 round sponsorship before they're gone!

Bishop Chatard Chatard-a-Bratton

Bishop Chatard High School is selling raffle tickets as a part of its annual Chatard-a-Bratton. The drawing will be held at the event on February 27, 2010. Grand Price is \$7,390 in tuition credit for the 2010-11 school year or \$5,000 cash. Tickets are \$100 each and only 200 tickets will be sold. For more information, contact Anne Godlevske (adgodlevske@comcast.net). (License # 118531)

Annual Sale at SchoolBelles

The much anticipated Schoolbelles Winter Sale is here! This year we are offering deep discounts from **25% to 50% off** every item in our line now through January 3, 2010. Possibly financial restraints prevented parents from purchasing new uniforms in the fall; have them take this opportunity to freshen children's worn uniform or stock up on cold weather items.

Youth Ministry!

SPX Youth Mass - The next SPX Youth Mass is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 pm. Please contact Angie Hyre (ahyre@spxparish.org) if you would like to participate in Mass.

North Deanery Ski Trip to Perfect North Slopes:

The annual ski trip to Perfect North is now scheduled for January 9th. Cost is \$70 and includes ski rental, lift ticket, tubing and bus ride. Buses will leave St. Matthew's Church at 6:45 am and arrive back at 7:00 pm. A flyer noting details and permission slips, which are due by Sunday, December 13th, can be found in Edline under Youth Ministry. Two different permission slips must be completed: one is the Deanery one to take the youth on the trip and the other is Perfect North's liability form. For more information, please contact Angie Hyre (ahyre@spxparish.org).

VOLLEYBALL: 4th gr evaluation = Mon, Dec 14 at 4:45-6:00 pm
7th-8th gr evaluation = 2nd night Mon, Dec 7 at 6:30-8:30 pm
at SPX gym

Scrip Information



Get all of your holiday shopping done through Scrip!

Take advantage of the STG opportunities below to get your Scrip for the holidays!

- STG on Friday, 12/11 in the AM and PM!
- STG on Thursday, 12/17

While we have many great vendors available at Scrip to Go, there are even more available online! Great vendors like LLBean, Lands End, Pottery Barn, Toys R Us, TONS of restaurants, Amazon.com, and more are all available online! Check it out!

Last ONLINE order before the holidays! Go to the school website or directly to <http://familysite.orgsonline.com/>. **YOUR ORDER IS SURE TO BE FILLED!**

- Order by **11:59pm, Sun 12/13** for order receipt on Thurs 12/17

If you are concerned about ordering online, please feel free to contact Gretchen Capo (625-0215) or Stephanie Van Horn (569-0223). We will be happy to help you!

November Raffle Winner: Congratulations to Edie Witchger! She won the \$20 Morelli's Cleaners certificates for buying Scrip in November!

December Raffle Item: Win a \$25 SchoolBelles gift certificate for buying Scrip in December!



Get that car washed and help SPX! Get ready for the salt and grime of

the winter and buy your Mike's Car Wash Scrip cards! If each of the 330 families bought TWO \$8 scrip cards each month until the end of school (that is just \$16 per month), SPX would profit over **\$9,800!** Can you imagine all of the great things the PTO and Parish Tuition Assistance could do with that money? You get your car washed anyway, why not let it help the school, too?