

The PULSE

Sacred Heart Parish School

Volume 6, Issue 12

Nov. 27, 2011

Mission Statement

Sacred Heart Parish School, a Catholic Elementary School within San Benito County serves students preschool through eighth grade.

We are committed to teaching the gospel message of Christ, building community based on Jesus' command to love one another, and serving through prayer, worship, and social action. We provide an environment within which students receive training in our Catholic tradition.

We strive to develop competent and compassionate graduates through spiritual, academic and extracurricular programs. Students are empowered with leadership skills, values, and character traits to enrich personal living and develop as responsible, mature, faith-filled citizens.

1st Sunday of Advent

**When darkness covered the earth
And all seemed lost
Your light came into the world.**

**God, let your light shine
On those who still dwell
In the shadow of death
And lead them safely back to you.**

**I offer my life as a living candle
That everything I do may reflect
Your truth, mercy and love.**

**Set your flame ever in my heart
And purge from my thoughts
All stain of sin
That I might be another guiding light
To my brothers and sisters around
the world
Who eagerly await your coming.**

**Come, Lord Jesus!
~ Father Joseph Veneroso, M.M.**

We hope everyone had a peaceful Thanksgiving and a restful long weekend. I want to remind everyone the survey is available through November 29th, we currently have only 45 responses. We have a busy three weeks ahead. Yes, only three weeks before Christmas vacation. Our sixth grade class leaves on Tuesday for Science Camp, we will miss them and will keep them in our prayers to have a wonderful time on their outdoor science adventures. We have a **minimum day added** to our calendar, this Wednesday as a WCEA workday for teachers. The honor roll assembly is scheduled for December 9th, following our regular assembly. Students in 5th through 8th grade are eligible based on published GPA, conduct and attendance guidelines.

Everybody talks about finding the real meaning of Christmas. But there's already a special time set aside to do that: Advent.

It's a time to wait for Jesus' coming, to watch for signs of the Holy Spirit all around us, and to wonder at the miracle of God sending His son as a tiny baby. It's a time to prepare. **Way to Wait... "And Mary said, 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.'" -Luke 1:46-47**

Sometimes the holidays bring long waits at restaurants, in stores... just about everywhere. Remember, there is a blessing in waiting. Advent waiting is filled with excitement and energy. The next time you are waiting in line with your children, use the time to think about and describe the Nativity scene using your five senses. What did it sound like? What did it smell like? What did Baby Jesus see? Immerse yourselves in that beautiful night.

Peace and Blessings, *Mrs. Jurevich*

Save the Date: February 4, 2012 An Evening in Tuscany

Sacred Heart Parish School annual fundraiser currently providing funds to the operating budget. We will need everyone's help to continue our successful fundraising efforts to support our school. Please contact John Brigantino or Rob Nino to donate time, talent or treasure.

Volunteer opportunities: An Evening in Tuscany, positions to "shadow" this year and move into role next year ('12-13).

Contracts: initiate security contracts, liquor license, food permit for event and cashier evening of event.

Finance: Manage money intake and deposits for event.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Sixth Graders have been gaining a lot of information in Social Studies. So far they have gone through prehistoric times, learning about the earliest species of man. They have also been learning how our early cultures began as hunter-gatherers and the steps that went from there into developing complex societies

The societies the Sixth Graders have learned about so far are those centered mainly in what we now call the Middle East—then known as Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia was the birthplace of the patriarch of the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic religions—Abraham. It was also in Mesopotamia that Hammurabi set the famous Law Code in actual stone (the students will be able to see a facsimile of this law code when they visit the Rosicrucian Museum in January). They found some of the laws quite interesting, compared to modern day laws.

The students have just finished studying about ancient India, which is located on the only subcontinent in the world. They learned about the Hindu people, the caste system, as well as the various gods and goddesses (they are polytheistic). The study included learning about the life of Siddhartha Gautama, who became known as "the Buddha." They learned about the Buddhist religion, which contains the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path. After the Thanksgiving holiday we will be moving on to study ancient China.



SHPS will 'adopt' impoverished families. Each grade will be given the name of a child in one of the families, grades with Faith Partners will share the selected child. Each grade will make a card and buy gifts for the family. We are hoping to be able to purchase a toy and an articles of clothing for each child. We are asking that each student **bring in one dollar**, preferably one they have earned themselves by helping out around the house or yard. This will underscore the importance of sharing one's talent and time as well as one's treasure. This project is one which lends itself to family discussion, both about how blessed we are and how important it is to reach out to those in need.

We want to expand our Substitute Teacher pool. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Mrs. Soza for an application and employment requirements.



Eighth Grade Memories

A great memory I have is when we got back from 6th grade science camp, and Mrs. Canez said something about sharks and we all sang the song. Getting our kindergarten buddies and sixth grade buddies is a special memory. When we were in P.E. and Liam tripped me and I hit the wall and everyone was laughing because it was pretty funny. - **Rachel Brigantino**



Parent Helpers Needed: Grades 7th and 8th is in need of a February Fundraiser Coordinator. If you are interested in helping, please contact Danielle Nino @ dnino@razzolink.com or Jackie Taylor @ taylorjaquiline1282@gmail.com.

Yearbooks are available until Jan. 20th for \$35.00, order forms went home this week. The \$5 option for your students picture to be on front cover is still available. Please make note of it on the envelope. The total cost would be \$40. You will also be able to make your yearbook purchase on Tuesday's in the library during SCRIP.

Important Dates to Remember

Nov.	28	Mon	Advent Wreath Lighting 8:00am
	29	Tue	6th grade Science Camp begins.....
	30	Wed	Min Day - WCEA workday for teachers (CHANGE)
Dec.	1	Thur	9:00am Mass - 2nd grade
	5	Mon	Advent Wreath Lighting 8:00am
	8	Thur	Feast of Immaculate Conception
	9	Fri	Honor Awards <u>after</u> School Assembly
	12	Mon	Advent Wreath Lighting 8:00am
	14	Wed	Min day ECE Christmas Program (PS-K) Christmas program (1-8) @ 6:00pm
	15	Thur	9:00am Mass - 5th grade 2nd grade Field Trip
	16	Fri	Min day
	19-30		Christmas vacation



New Hot Lunch menu on Wednesday's beginning December.....

- 7-Dec sloppy joe's & tater tots
- 11-Jan corn dog & oven fries
- 25-Jan chili & cornbread
- 1-Feb spaghetti & garlic bread
- 8-Feb mac & cheese with chicken strips
- Feb-29 oven fried chicken & mashed potatoes
- 14-Mar lasagna & garlic bread
- 28-Mar hamburger/cheeseburger & fries
- 4-Apr chicken teriyaki rice bowl
- 25-Apr soup and grilled cheese
- 2-May chicken pasta alfredo & bread
- 23-May pulled pork & tater tots
- 6-Jun hot dogs & chips

Lunch program update:

We were informed by Lunchmaster they will no longer be serving Hollister as of Nov. 30th. In it's place we will offer freshly made choices for non-minimum day Wednesdays. Most of our entrees will be cooked with love by Mrs. Donati & Mrs. Skardoutos. We look forward to serving your children delicious, nutritious lunches!

Lunch options will be added to RenWeb in the coming week. Cost is \$4.00 and will include milk, fruit or vegetable side. There will no longer be lunch available on minimum day Wednesday's beginning December.

We will continue to offer the baked potato and salad bar on Thursday's.

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.



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.

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.



Prayer corner

For those who are ill especially, **Mrs. Picha, Mrs. San Miguel, Mrs. Olivas, Mr. Miller, Troy Mitchel, Gabriel Preciado, Jacqueline Jurevich, Sr. Margaret Rose and Mr. Mifsud.**

For the needs of our parish and school community and all our friends and benefactors.

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for November 2011 is *"That the Eastern Catholic Churches and their venerable traditions may be known and esteemed as a spiritual treasure for the whole Church."* Christians have always believed that all truth is God's truth. We should not fear those who search for the truth but welcome them, because we know that, if they are sincere, their search for the truth will lead them to Christ.



Sacred Heart Parish School - Class of 2012 Legacy Gift Fundraiser

Preorder now for the Holidays Christmas Poinsettias

**Large (6.5 in. pot)
Prestige Red Poinsettia
\$10.00 each or 6 for \$55.00**



*Pickup is December 4th from 11am to 4pm
at Sacred Heart Parish School, 670 College Street (by the Gym Entrance)*



Poinsettia Preorder

(Please include payment with order form)

Please make checks payable to: SHPS 8th Grade Legacy

Name: _____ Phone: _____

<i>Quantity</i>		<i>Total</i>
_____x \$10.00 Single Poinsettias		\$ _____
_____x 55.00 (Six) poinsettias		\$ _____
	<i>Total Due:</i>	\$ _____

Return order forms to Sacred Heart School office no later than Tuesday, Nov. 29th.

Thank you for supporting the Sacred Heart Parish School Class of 2012!

In our culture, the observance of Christmas begins in mid-October or even earlier, as stores put out their holiday displays. But the calendar Catholics live and celebrate by is different from the secular world's. When we let our faith and the ancient wisdom and tradition of the Church center us as we plan, schedule, and organize our time, we're celebrating Christmas as Catholics.

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child, but in the midst of the pre-Christmas frenzy, it's easy to lose sight of the profound spiritual importance of the Advent season. Your greatest temptation during Advent will be scrimping on your spiritual needs because there are so many other things going on!

There are presents to make or buy, cookies to bake, cards to mail, parties to plan, gifts to wrap and trees to decorate. Even your parish can put demands on your time with choir practices, pageant rehearsals, candy sales, food collections for the poor and Advent evenings of reflection. There's nothing wrong with pre-Christmas preparations. But it's important to balance the sacred part of the Advent season with all of the other things you are doing. If you don't make time for quiet reflection, prayer and conversion of heart, you will find yourself physically, emotionally and spiritually exhausted by Christmas Day. Your Christmas celebration will look perfect on the surface, but will feel spiritually unsatisfying. You will have a hard time experiencing the joy and peace that the Babe in Bethlehem brings.

As Catholics, we prepare for Christmas by celebrating the season of Advent in the four weeks preceding Christmas. We hear John the Baptist, echoing the words of the prophets of Israel, call us to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord in our own lives now, and to look for the fulfillment of his kingdom in the future.

What is Advent?

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin *Adventus*, which means "coming." It is a time for quiet reflection, prayer and conversion in anticipation of the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. The readings and the liturgies during Advent prepare us for the birth of Jesus, but they also prepare us for the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the world. The season offers us the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert as we await his Second Coming. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. It ends at sundown on Christmas Eve. Since Christmas falls on different days of the week, Advent can range in duration from 22 days when Christmas falls on a Monday to 28 days when Christmas falls on a Sunday. Advent marks the beginning of the Church year. Unlike the secular year, which marks the passage of time, the liturgical year celebrates the sacred mysteries of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The year begins during Advent in anticipation of the coming of Jesus with reflections on the Hebrew prophecies and the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah.

What do the colors of Advent signify?

The purple or dark blue is a symbol of royalty that anticipates the coming birth of Jesus. It also reflects a spirit of penitence and the need to prepare our hearts. Pink is a secondary Advent color that symbolizes the joy of the season. The evergreens in the Advent wreath signify eternal life that comes to us through Jesus.

Traditions: Advent Wreath

The circular wreath with four candles reminds us of God's eternal nature and the light Christ brings into our lives. You can say a prayer and light the candles before dinner each night or at some other consistent time.



Welcome St. Nicholas

The true story of Santa Claus begins when Nicholas' wealthy parents died in an epidemic while he was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you have and give to [the] poor" (Mt 19:21), Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was appointed bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need.

On the evening of Dec. 5, have children fill their shoes with pieces of a carrot or bits of hay for St. Nicholas' white horse or donkey. Place shoes outside bedroom doors or on the hearth. See that a candy treat appears by morning on Dec. 6.

SHPS Men's Club Ipad 2 RAFFLE

Ticket Prices:

1 for \$5.00

or

3 for \$10.00

Do not need to be present to win



**Winner announced
at the Christmas
Program**

Tickets available in the office

Support the sports at SHPS