



# Paw Prints

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*Paw Prints is e-mailed to you every Thursday. Please open it and read the bold print to determine if you need to continue reading the items that pertain to you. Thanks!*

## Principally Speaking

Dear Parents,

This week I was reading an article, *The Meaning of Advent* written by Dr. Richard J. Krejcir. It was about the Advent wreath, and I found it to be informative. It contained information about the wreath that was new to me, and I thought I would share with you. Some of the facts you may know, but I hope some facts will be new and spiritually enriching to you.

The Advent wreath dates back to the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Europe. It is not just a "Catholic" tradition. It is celebrated in other denominations including Orthodox, Catholic, liturgical, Mainline and Evangelical, just to name a few. The wreath can have four or five candles. Four candles in a circle with or without a fifth one in the center of the circle. Advent wreaths are on a base of evergreens.

The wreath means "victory". It is a visual reminder of Christ's victory over death/sin. The four or five candles arranged in a circle symbolize Christ's eternity. The evergreens mean Christ is "ever with us," and they are usually pine branches or holly that represents anticipation, newness, renewal and Christ's *everlastingness*. The red berries of the holly represent the shedding of Christ's blood.

The candles mean the light of God coming into the world at His birth, and signifies Christ as the Light of the World." The purple candles symbolize royalty. Purple is also the color of suffering and the darkness of sin. Pink means joy. White means purity. Each week, we light a new candle with a new theme for the week.

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)*

Enjoy the rest of your week. May God bless you and your families during this special time of year.

Mrs. Lonnemann



## Counselor's Corner:

Dear Ms. Rauen,

I was wondering if you could answer a question I have. The teachers always spend a lot of time around the holidays talking about being kind to others and giving back. They even have a Christmas tree in the cafeteria where you get to put an ornament on it if you are caught doing something good. Something that I always hear adults say when they talk about being kind to others is to "stand in someone else's shoes". But how do I do that and what exactly does that mean? Can you help?

Sincerely,  
Stuck about Shoes

Dear Stuck about Shoes,

When someone tells you to take a moment and "stand in someone else's shoes" they are asking you to think about how you would feel if you were in the other person's situation. Sometimes in order to understand what someone else is thinking or feeling, it is helpful for us to look at the situation from that person's perspective. When we do this it is called having empathy. Here are six steps for how you can learn to show empathy for others:

- **Watch and Listen.** First you need to listen to what the other person is saying. Also look at what their body language is telling you.
- **Remember - When did you feel the same way?** Was there ever a time when you felt the same way? Think back to how you felt and what you did to feel better.
- **Imagine - Imagine how you might feel in that situation?** By thinking about how you would feel in the situation, it will help you understand what the other person is going through.
- **Ask - Ask what the person is feeling.** Sometimes it can be hard for us to figure out just by looking what another person is feeling or maybe they are feeling something different than what you would feel in this situation. When this is the case, it is best to just ask the person directly.
- **Show you care.** Let the person know you care through your words and actions.

Have a question for the counselor?? Email me at [nrauen@teachers.stpiusx.com](mailto:nrauen@teachers.stpiusx.com).

Ms. Nikki Rauen  
School Counselor/Academic Resource  
St. Pius X School  
859-341-4900 x109



### Healthy Tip of the Week:

Eat more whole grains (e.g., oats, brown rice, rye crackers, whole-wheat pasta). Try to eat at least three (3) ounces of whole grains every day.



### Third Grade

The Tremendous 3rd Graders are totally rocking their AR goals! Each classroom has a special chart where the students can earn stickers for each time they pass an AR test. We were very impressed that many students surpassed their AR goal for the first trimester. This group just LOVES to read! We know that this love of reading would not be possible without all of your support and hard work at home! Thank you, Parents! You are amazing!



### Fourth Grade

The 4th grade had the opportunity to learn from an extra teacher for 35 school days! Miss Jennifer Siemer, a student at Thomas More College, is finishing her teaching degree, and one of the last steps is student teaching. The program is designed as a co-teaching model, so for the last 7 weeks, Mrs. Baker planned and taught with Miss Siemer. The kids had an extra set of hands, a different perspective on lessons, and fresh ideas given to them through our participation in this program. Miss Siemer also helped to plan the Advent Prayer service for her leadership project.

In January, we will be welcoming another student teacher, this time from NKU. This new student teacher or teacher candidate is Tyler Tackett. We are extremely excited to have these wonderful opportunities with the teacher education programs at various colleges and universities in the area that have so many positive impacts on our students, teachers, and community!



### Fifth Grade

In 5th grade Social Studies we have been learning about Native Americans and their use of natural resources. We created colorful clay pottery and quickly learned how difficult it must have been for the Native Americans! Our bowls, cups, and spoons took a lot of time and patience. Even though they would not hold liquids, we think they look great!



### Important Dates:

Friday 12/11 - 8:00 All School Mass

7:00 p.m. *Alice in Christmasland* performance in PAC

Saturday 12/12 - 9:00 a.m. HSPT

2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. *Alice in Christmasland* performance in PAC

Monday 12/14 - 8:00 Mass (Gr. 1-4)

Tuesday 12/15 - 8:00 Mass (Gr.5-8)

Wednesday 12/16 - St. Pius X Day at the Erlanger Skyline

Friday 12/18 - Last day of school before Christmas Break. Merry Christmas!

Click [here](#) for the lunch menu!

### *Alice in Christmasland*



Make plans to come see the 5th/6th Grade Play *Alice in Christmasland*! The classic Alice in Wonderland story takes place in Christmasland! The performances are FREE, but we gladly accept donations. All performances are in the PAC on Friday, December 11th at 7pm and Saturday, December 12th at 2pm and 7pm. The show lasts around 35 minutes, so it is great for all ages! We hope to see you in Christmasland!

### **SPX IS AT WAR!**

Student Council is once again sponsoring our annual Penny War. From Dec. 7-11, student can bring in any sort of money, especially pennies and silver coins, to help their grade level win the war. All money raised through the penny war goes to purchasing needed household items for families sponsored by our diocesan **Catholic Charities** for Christmas.



The penny war is a great way to support others who are less fortunate! It also goes to a local, Catholic organization and the families they sponsor. The kids love this activity and we usually raise at least \$1000! Let's try to double that amount this year! Remember, there is a prize for the highest penny total every day and two final prizes that grade levels can win! Let's show our Panther Pride and support needy families through Catholic Charities!



**REMEMBER:** Tomorrow, Dec. 11, is the final day of our Penny War!

## Volunteer Opportunities!

- **Club Picture Volunteers Needed:**

We are in need of two parent volunteers to help coordinate club pictures this year. The pictures are scheduled to be taken by Lifetouch on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending most likely around 11:00-11:30 a.m. The volunteers would be responsible for helping to facilitate the pictures by letting the office know when the photographer is ready for the next group of students (so that they can be called down from class) as well as helping to keep order and stick to the schedule so that each scheduled group gets their picture taken. If you are Virtus trained and may be available to help that day, please contact Ms. Christy Wissman at [cwissman@teachers.stpiusx.com](mailto:cwissman@teachers.stpiusx.com) for more information. Thank you for your help!

- **Copy Volunteer Needed:** We are in need of a Virtus trained volunteer to make copies once a week on Friday mornings. Please contact Mrs. Jill Lonnemann if you are interested.

## PTG FACULTY AND STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM

Let PTG do the shopping! This program was created over a decade ago to make Christmas shopping easy and to allow St.

Pius families to remember all staff members (teachers, aides, secretaries, maintenance, cafeteria, administration, priests . . .) who make a daily difference in your child's education at Christmas

time. Each staff member will receive gift certificates to use for shopping, dining or other entertainment. This is a voluntary program and any amount is accepted. All children are recognized on a card. Please use the attached [donation form](#) and send cash or check (payable to St. Pius X PTG)

to **Attn: Sharon Gronotte, PTG**

**Christmas Program.** Be sure to include name(s) of your child(ren). **The deadline**

**for collecting donations is Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** so that the elves have time to shop! Questions? Contact Sharon at 341-6766 or [sgronotte@fuse.net](mailto:sgronotte@fuse.net).



## ODDS AND ENDS-

- **HSPT Reminder:** The High School Placement Test (HSPT) is this Saturday, December 12, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Notre Dame Academy. The deadline for registration for the test is Friday, December 11. If you have questions concerning the test contact the NDA Director of Admissions Katie Caccavari at [\(859\) 292-1829](tel:8592921829).
- **The St. Pius Conquest Boys Club** will be collecting some smaller items to use in a Service Project they are doing for **Henry Hosea House**. The boys will be making Christmas Bags for the guests to take after they finish their meal. If you would have any travel size lotions, soaps, lip balm or hand sanitizer that you no longer have use for, we will have a box in the back of Church starting on Saturday, Dec. 12 through Wednesday, Dec. 16 to deposit the items. Thanks in advance for your support! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ken Doggett at 344-1235.
- **Club Picture Volunteers Needed:** St. Pius is in need of two parent volunteers to help coordinate club pictures this year. The pictures are scheduled to be taken by Lifetouch on Wednesday, January 20th beginning at 8:00 AM and ending most likely around 11:00-11:30 AM. The volunteers would be responsible for helping to facilitate the pictures by letting the office know when the photographer is ready for the next group of students (so that they can be called down from class) as well as helping to keep order and stick to the schedule so that each scheduled group gets their picture taken. If you are Virtus trained and may be available to help that day, please contact Ms. Christy Wissman at [cwissman@teachers.stpiusx.com](mailto:cwissman@teachers.stpiusx.com) for more information. Thank you for your help!
- **"As God gives good things freely, so we should give freely to needy people" - Blessed Mother Teresa.** Many thanks to our parish and school community's response to the call to feed the hungry. Thanks to your generosity, **84 LOCAL NEEDY FAMILIES** received groceries to prepare a proper Thanksgiving feast!! Special thanks to the Christian Outreach Committee and van drivers Sue Meier, Sandy Even, Terry and Theresa Averbeck, Judy and Ray Albrinck who help make this happen every year. Please keep your gift to the needy alive by continuing your prayers for all struggling families. If you didn't get a chance to help this time or you'd love to help again, our parish will be providing Easter meal groceries for needy families in the spring. - Becky Maschinot and Danette Doggett

- **Next up for the Enchanted Evening Committee?**
  - As always, save the date for the Enchanted Evening February 13th at Summit Hills Country Club - ticket information coming soon.
- **Playground Duty Openings!** Please contact Kathy Carnes at [Kathleen.carnes@dinslaw.com](mailto:Kathleen.carnes@dinslaw.com) to help out or for more information.
- **Remke Reloadable Gift Cards** are available at the school or church office. Kroger Community Rewards program is available by registering your Kroger Plus Card and designating SPX at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com).
- **Diocesan Facebook Page!** - The Diocese of Covington has a Facebook page that shares the good news of our schools with everyone we can. Check out all the exciting things happening in our schools at <https://www.facebook.com/faithfillededucation?ref=hl>.
- **World Youth Day 2016** - Registration is now open for the Diocese of Covington's pilgrimage to Krakow, Poland, July 24 through August 2, 2016! Itinerary, cost, and registration details are included in the [attached](#) pamphlet.
- **SPX Has An App!** We use our SchoolWay app as one way to notify you of important announcements. If you have not had a chance to download the free app from the app store, do it today! See <http://myschoolway.com/StPius> for more information.

### Discipline for Life

*The mission of St. Pius X School is to promote the spiritual, academic, and personal growth of each child by embracing the Gospel values of Jesus Christ. St. Pius X School provides an exemplary Catholic education that helps students to be successful in their families, their communities, and the world.*