

Campus Connections

Pacelli Catholic Schools Newsletter

From the Principal's Office by Mary Holtorf, Principal of Schools

Dear Families,

Many of us are in need this time of year. Whether the need is financial, emotional, or spiritual, it still constitutes a need. Knowing what to do to help and serve others in need is an integral part of our mission at Pacelli Catholic Schools.

In grades 6-12, we are collecting donations for our annual Christmas Basket Project to help families who otherwise might not afford Christmas for their families. This has been a Pacelli tradition for 27 years! Not only do we collect the money needed for these families, we pick out gifts, and wrap them as well. Pacelli alumni then deliver the gifts to the families a week before Christmas. When students were surveyed last year, this was their favorite community service project. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please drop a check off in the office. Our faculty is also

going to adopt a family this Christmas. In both service projects, we are helping families in need

(some of them are a part of our school family) and giving our students the gift of selfless giving.

Sometimes, the Christmas season is the loneliest time of year for people especially shut-ins and residents at nursing homes. Students in the elementary school are visiting Sacred Heart to add some holiday cheer to the day for residents. It makes their day to hear the students perform songs of Christmas cheer. Students in grades 2 and 3 made cards for the service men and women serving overseas this Christmas season. Animals in shelters are lonely this time of year too! The kindergartners are selling dog biscuits to raise money for the Humane Society. Through their efforts, perhaps a dog or cat can be adopted this year.

When families are hit with disasters like the flooding in September, they turn to the Red Cross for help. This year our preschoolers are collecting items for people in need through the Red Cross. Items such as soap, shampoo, combs, brushes and

other necessities are just what are needed to help them get through a difficult time.

To reach others spiritually in need, the third graders are working on their cursive handwriting with bible quotes. The bible quotes are then given to shut-ins. These wonderfully written bible verses are reminders of God's love for these shut-ins.

We believe that through all of our service projects, we are developing students who think about others this Christmas Season. With all the commercialism in our midst, God's presence is shown through these acts of kindness to people who are in need financially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Please help us help others this season. Your gift will be a great example to your children and will make a difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely,

Mary P. Holtorf

Mission Statement:

The Pacelli Catholic Schools are a ministry of the Catholic parishes connecting faith and learning. We provide a welcoming environment that respects students. We challenge them to reach their full potential while preparing them for higher learning opportunities, guiding students in becoming witnesses to the Gospel as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The youth of the Pacelli Catholic Schools will become salt of the earth and light for the world by serving the church and community.

Staff Spotlight:

Erin Johnson

What is role in the Catholic Schools?

I am the Pacelli Middle and High School secretary.

How many years have you worked at the Catholic Schools?

I have worked here for 3 years.

What do you think makes our school unique?

I love Pacelli because of its family atmosphere. My coworkers are wonderful people with huge hearts. The students look out for one another and are very welcoming to anyone new to our school system.

What is your favorite book?

That's hard to say ... I LOVE to read! A few of my favorites:

Swimming to Antarctica by Lynne Cox
The Vampire Hunter series by Laura Hamilton

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Duluth!

Favorite Holiday and why?

Halloween ... I love haunted houses!
Christmas Eve ... I love the anticipation of the night before!

Hobbies?

I enjoy reading and spending time with my husband and puppy! I also enjoy going out to dinner and spending time with my family and friends.

Pick one or the other:

Coke vs. Pepsi	COKE
Books vs. Movies	BOOKS
Morning Person vs. Night Owl	NIGHT OWL
Popcorn vs. Candy Bars	CANDY BARS
Email vs. Snail Mail	EMAIL

I love getting Snail Mail but I'm going to go with E-mail, it's more efficient.



Holiday Music

The Pacelli Christmas concert "A Thrill of Hope" will be held on **Sunday, December 19th at 7pm** at St. Augustine's Church. (There will be a mandatory dress rehearsal the day before, Saturday Dec. 18th from 10am to 1pm at the church). We are asking that the concert attendees bring a donation of non-perishable food items. They will be given to our local Salvation Army to share with families in need at Christmas. What a perfect way to show that we are a school that strives to teach stewardship, generosity, and the true meaning of **CHRISTmas**.

The K-5 Christmas program will be on **Tuesday, December 14 at 6pm** at St. Augustine's Church. Please bring a non-perishable food item for each person attending.

Little Shamrocks Preschool will hold their concert on **Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30 pm** at St. Augustine's church.

Tiny Shamrocks Preschool will hold their holiday sing on **Thursday, December 16 at 6:30pm** in the Pacelli Auditorium.

We hope you will be able to help us celebrate this blessed holiday season with one or more of these wonderful musical celebrations!

Thank you to everyone who attended our play - American Idle. We appreciate your continued support. We hope you enjoyed the show!

Free Flu Vaccine

submitted by School Nurse, Dorothy Meyer

Mower County Public Health will be holding another flu vaccine clinic at school on December 7. Those children under 9 who need a second dose will receive it at this time. Students and staff who did not participate in the first clinic on October 26 may also receive vaccine at this clinic. Students must have a signed consent form. Forms are available in the school office.

St. John's Music Festival

Eight choir members from Pacelli High School were recently chosen to participate in the 20th Annual Men's Chorus/Women's Chorus Festival. This Festival was held on Saturday, October 30th at the campus of St. John's University in Collegeville. Over 900 singers participated in the festival. This included 50 high school and 13 college men's and women's ensembles.

The American Choral Directors Association invited its members to select 8 (4 male, 4 female) of their talented high school and college singers to participate in this event. It is an extraordinary musical experience and an exceptional learning opportunity for these students.

The beautiful Abbey Church on the college campus was the site of all three festival concerts. The two Intra-Festival Collegiate Concerts featured the college ensembles. The Finale Concert featured massed men's and women's choirs comprised of the combined high school and college singers. As in past years, the Finale Concert closed with all voices joining in a final selection.

The Pacelli choral students chosen for this event were: Back row: Drew

Chapek,
Thomas
Mueller,
John Ethen,
Max
Brennan
Front
row: Paige
Smith, Abby
Leif, Amy
Johnson,
Annie Holtz





Congrats Colton!

Colton Scherer was recently selected to sing in the Chamber Choir at Luther during Dorian in January. He will be part of a 100 member choir selected of top singers from the 1400 attending. The last student Pacelli had selected was Anna Bergstrom. This is a big honor! He can use this in his application for other music scholarships, showing his experiences and honored selections.

Thank you to the Northwestern Singers for once again including our choirs in their concert and for their generous donation to our choirs!

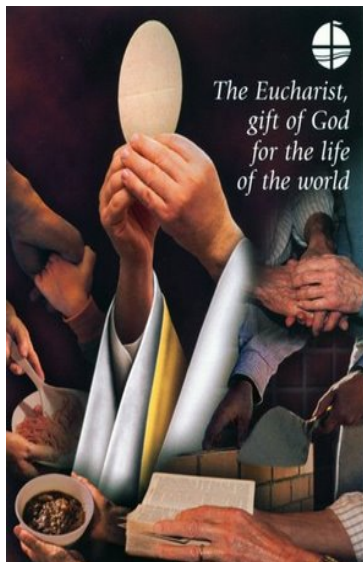
Learning Useful Skills

by Guidance Counselor Laura Sheedy

Do you know what the Red Cross does? Well, you can ask some of the students in the "Beyond Life" class at Pacelli High School. They spent two class periods at the Red Cross learning how the Red Cross helps those in need in Mower County. Did you know that the Mower County Red Cross has only 2 full-time employees and over 300 volunteers? (While the national average ratio is 19:1 for volunteers to full time paid employees, wow.) A cool fact: donated blood has an expiration date. What do they do with it before it goes "bad", well it gets rotated around to hospitals where it will get used the most quickly! The students (and now you) know this quirky tidbit! Beyond Life is a new class at Pacelli High School where students are learning skills and useful things to help them in their life after high school. On the second day at the Red Cross, CPR was demonstrated and the students had the opportunity to practice on the mannequins.



Do you have a useful skill that you would like to share with the students, please contact me lasheedy@austincatholic.org



Catholic Corner

12 Days of Christmas?

As Catholic Christians we are called to spend four weeks preparing for the birth of Jesus. While the world around us is singing carols, shopping, and decking the halls we are asked to quiet our lives and spend extra time in prayer.

Then beginning with Evening Prayer on Christmas Eve all the way until the Baptism of our Lord on the third Sunday after December 25th, we celebrate the season of Christmas.

So where did the number 12 come from? The liturgical season of Christmas used to extend

clear until the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd (also known as Candlemas). But for centuries the direct focus on the Christmas Feast lasted from Christmas Day until the Epiphany of the Lord 12 days later on January 6th.

How will the Mass reflect the change in season? The liturgical color changes from the purple of Advent to vibrant white and gold. We rejoice as we sing the Gloria again (just as the angels did on the night of Christ's birth). And the hymns, in which we sing of the birth of Jesus, are

some of the most well known and joyful songs of the year.

It is very easy in our culture to make December a month-long Christmas celebration. Be patient and take full advantage of Advent. Then as Christmas draws very near, begin to put up decorations.

Find ways for your family to celebrate all through the Christmas season. Mark the Sundays of Christmas (Feast of the Holy Family, the Epiphany, and the Baptism of our Lord) with fun family traditions. Cherish the miracle of the Incarnation. **Merry Christmas!**

Order of the Mass

- Introductory Rites
- Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Concluding Rites

December feast days for Saints:

St. Francis Xavier	3
St. Nicholas	6
St. Juan Diego	9
St. Damasus I	11
St. Lucy	13
St. Peter Canisius	21
St. John of Kanty	23
St. John, apostle and evangelist	27
St. Sylvester I	31

The absolute purity of Mary celebrated

What comes to mind when you think of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8th?

Is that when Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb? No! This is the day on which we celebrate the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, Anne. It is a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States.

This feast intensifies our preparation during Advent, remembering how God prepared for Christ's birth by cre-

ating Mary free from original sin at conception.

What makes her conception immaculate is not that she was conceived by the Holy Ghost of a virgin, as was Christ Our Lord, but that from the very moment of her conception, she was filled with grace by God. He knew that she would say "yes" to the Angel Gabriel and become the Mother of the Savior.

Chosen by God, Mary reverses the sin of Eve. Because of her obedience, God's Salva-

tion is made known to all the nations.

Where is it?

Remember to look for "Deacon's Dialogue" somewhere in this newsletter. For the next few months, our Deacons will address the different parts of the Mass: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Concluding Rites. Deacon Rich starts with the Introductory Rites.

Saint of the Month: St. Lucy

Lucy lived in pagan Sicily about the year 300. At an early age she offered herself to God. The rich young man who wanted to marry her was so angry when she refused that he accused her of being a Christian.

Lucy was led to the governor of her city for trial. Unable to make her give up her faith, the governor spoke angrily: "But I will make you fall into sin, so that the Holy Spirit will leave you." She replied: "I will never sin, so that the Holy Spirit will give me a greater reward."

Nothing could make her commit sin. The governor ordered a fire to be lighted around her, but Lucy was not harmed. At last, a sword was buried in her heart. She did not die until a priest came to her with Holy Communion.

Whatever the fact to the legends surrounding Lucy, the truth is that her courage to stand up and be counted a Christian (in spite of torture and death) is the light that should lead us on our own journeys through life.

Feast Day: Dec. 13

Patron of blindness

Deacon's Dialogue

(Introductory Rites)

The whole rite is designed to bring people into a state of prayer and humility. We are to be centered on Christ's grace given freely for our salvation and reconciliation as sinners, as "Christ died for our sins so we might live." It has its roots in the early church.

Upon entering the church, we dip our finger in the font containing Holy Water to remind us of our baptism and to show reverence for the House that holds the Word of God. Kneeling and making the Sign of the Cross helps us to remember the Crucifixion and to remember our sin and to ask for forgiveness.

The Mass begins with a hymn or psalm as the presiders enter. They approach the altar and reverence it in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice for all, and to focus on the need for all for prayer. The opening of the Mass begins with the Sign of the Cross to remind us of why we are there. The greeting follows as the presider proclaims the Lord's presence in the community. It helps us all to celebrate Jesus' conquest of death, reconciling us to God. Next, the Kyrie (the act of contrition) is said to help us recall our sins and to ask for forgiveness. The Gloria is sung as a hymn of praise and expresses the penitential dimension of the Mass.

The opening prayer concludes the Introductory Rites. It has been a call to prayer and silence given for all to pray to the Lord, followed by the celebrant gathering the prayers in a summation and to bring them to the Lord.

(Submitted by Deacon Rich Aho)

Congratulations to Pacelli 8th grade student, Mikayla Finney, for qualifying to go to the Class 'A' state swimming and diving meet! She competed in the 220-yard freestyle relay team race at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center November 19th and 20th. We are proud of you Kayla!

3rd Graders Visit Nature Center

Third grade went to the Nature Center on Nov.5. The program is the study of habitats and how it reflects on animals lives. Also, they learned how to read a compass. You can ask them what it means to Never Eat Slimy Worms!!!



PACELLI CATHOLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT OF THE MONTH



NOVEMBER

NOMINEES:	NOMINATED BY...
Elizabeth Frederick	Mrs. Wicks Mrs. Frederick
Robby Wicks	Mrs. Wicks Mrs. Frederick
Tayte Berg	Mrs. Schwab Mrs. Baker
Kate Rauen	Mrs. Schwab Mrs. Baker
Megan Rauen	Mrs. Schwab Mrs. Baker
Anastasia Alabin	Mrs. Schwab Mrs. Baker
Grace Anderson	Mrs. Schwab Mrs. Baker
Nathan Schmidt	Mrs. Taylor
Carmen Briones- Munoz	Mrs. Zielke
Luke Weaver	Mrs. Zielke
R. J. Wieselee	Mrs. Valentine
Caden Kraushaar	Mrs. Weinmann
Celestina LaVallie	Mrs. Kristen Bambrick
Rachel Christenson	Mrs. Ulland
Leo Einck	Mrs. Ulland
Dylan Deveza	Mrs. Braaten
Jayson Herold	Mrs. Braaten

NOMINEES:	NOMINATED BY...
Emily Toland	Ms. Gees
Emily Rosenthal	Mrs. Leif
Cole Ethen	Mrs. Wicks
Juan Martinez	Mrs. Jeannie Bambrick
Blake Williams	Mrs. Jeannie Bambrick
Jackie Bruen	Mrs. Jeannie Bambrick
Maggie Leif	Miss Sheedy
Matt Kasel	Mr. Bowden
Maggie Lewison	Ms. Gutnik
Paige Smith	Mr. Bowden
Drew Chapek	Miss Sheedy
Thomas Mueller	Miss Sheedy
Haley Charnecki	Ms. Gutnik
Maria Krivonozova	Mr. Bowden
Stephanie Kocer	Ms. Gutnik
Jiang "George" Tao	Mr. Bowden

