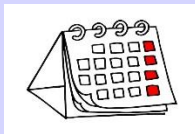




**First Sunday of Advent – December 3, 2023
Hope and Faith**

Greetings St. Pius Tenth School Families!

There is a great deal of information in this week’s communication, which is our **main tool for sharing information** with families. Therefore, we ask that you take the time to read it, in its entirety, to keep up with what is happening in our school. We will do our best to send text reminders for certain events, though that may not always be possible. Thank you in advance for your time and attention!



Please note the following important **calendar dates**:

- | | | |
|---|---------|---|
| Friday, December 1 | 9:30 AM | School Liturgy |
| Monday, December 4 | | Parent / Teacher Conference Day
No School for Students |
| If you have not already scheduled a conference with your child’s teacher, please email him or her to set up a time. | | |
| Wednesday, December 6 | | Picture re-take day
For students who were absent on 10/12 AND
Pre-K students who were not here |
| Friday, December 8 | 9:30 AM | School Liturgy
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception |
| Monday, December 11 | 6:15 PM | PAC Meeting
School – Room 20 |
| Friday – Friday, | | Christmas Recess
December 22 – 29 |

Picture Retake Day is Wednesday, December 6

Following is information from Interstate Studio:

Retake Picture Day is 12/06/2023! If you're satisfied with your child's picture, no further action is required.

*If you purchased and were unhappy with your Picture Package, please send your Picture Package to school with your student on Retake Day. Your Retake Picture Package will be produced and shipped to the school four weeks after Retake Day. Please note, if your child is photographed on the original **and** Retake Picture Days, the Retake picture will replace the original picture in certain products, like the yearbook.*

Students who were absent for Picture Day should come to school prepared to have their picture taken. If you have not preordered, please use the Retake Order Code 79423KF to place your order at <https://interstate.com/Order>. To see your Order History, check your [Inter-State Account](#). Find answers to Retake Day questions [here](#).



The **school supply cart** will be open for business beginning next week. The students are previewing the items that will be for sale this week.

Items include pencils, erasers, crayons, markers, paper, glue sticks, etc. Prices range from 10¢ to \$1.00.

The school supply cart is a way for the 5th Grade Class to raise some funds to help offset the cost of their end of year field trip.

Box Tops Report



We have just started the 2nd Quarter, and we have quite an impressive Box Top count!

Grade 2 is in the lead with 175 box tops, Kindergarten follows closely with 149, and Grade 1 just behind them with 120.

Thank you all who help with this effort!!

Please see the flyers in this week's communications for information on some wonderful opportunities:

St. Pius Tenth Advent Babysitting Service

Aquinas Winter Wonderland

Camp Koinonia weeklong camp events – Summer of 2024

Diocesan Youth Night at McQuaid Jesuit

Have a Wonderful Rest of the Week!

What's Happening in Academic Intervention Services?

By: Emily Santos

After finishing my first quarter teaching AIS (Academic Intervention Services), I can truly say I love this role! Great work is happening every day in our school, and I feel blessed to be a part of this community of teachers and learners.

Students in the primary grades are hard at work building foundational reading skills. Our work is informed by the Science of Reading, a decades-long body of research that tells us how the brain learns to decode and comprehend text. We have begun with an understanding of the smallest units of language: phonemes, or sounds. Students learn how sounds are produced, including where our tongue, teeth, and lips are placed. We explore voiced and unvoiced sounds and feel for the vibration of our vocal cords. (Try this! Put your hand on your throat. Feel the difference between making the /t/ sound and /d/ sound. Your mouth is in the same position; the only difference is whether your voice is on or off!) As students learn the individual sounds that make up our language, we connect the graphemes, or letters that represent those sounds. Then, we can blend sounds together to form words.

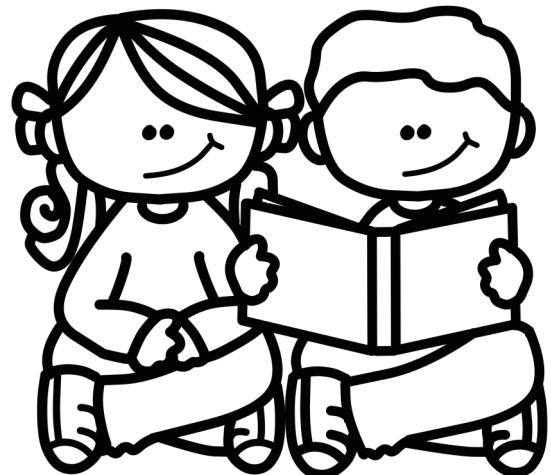
We take the task of learning to read quite seriously, but we sure do have fun! The students learn to spell irregular words by “sky-writing,” or pointing their writing finger up in the air and making big movements to draw irregular words that must be learned by heart (such as *said*, *they*, and *what*.) We write on dry erase boards, use magnetic and Velcro letter tiles to build words, and use finger flashlights to follow along in decodable texts. Chants, rhymes, and hand movements help the students to engage in our routine and anticipate what will come next.

In the upper grades, we make the transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn” – gathering and synthesizing information from what we read. We have explored nonfiction text structures and text features and learned how

these features help us to make meaning as readers. The students are also doing wonderful work as authors. Our third grade students wrote personal narratives, taking a memorable event from their own lives and turning it into a story with vivid details, dialogue, and transition words.

I recently pushed into the fourth and fifth grade classrooms to work with students on their opinion writing pieces. The students read articles about spiders and bats and formed an opinion (many of the students changed their initial opinion after finding out some incredible facts about these creatures!). They gathered reasons and supporting details from the articles and composed argumentative writing pieces to prove their point of view. The students were challenged to make sure that their evidence closely supported their claims, in order to be as convincing as possible. It is exciting to work with students as they progress through the writing process.

The students at St. Pius Tenth School are also becoming stronger mathematicians; stay tuned for an update on what's been happening in math!



St Pius X Advent Babysitting Service 2023

Mondays, **December 4, 11, and 18** (6:00 pm-7:30 pm) St Pius X Youth Ministry is delighted to offer free babysitting to your child(ren).

Who: child(ren) ages 2 to 12 (must be potty trained to take part)

What: children will make crafts, read Christmas stories, and maybe sing carols food, just 3 weeknights of faith & fun! Ideally, the children attend all three weeks to build community with each other but registering for one night is fine too. The bonus is meeting other members of the SPX community!



Where: St Pius X Parish Center

When: December 4, 11, and 18 (6:00 pm-7:30 pm)

Why: so you can have a few moments to prepare for Jesus' Birthday. Whether these moments are to pray, shop, eat, sleep, or whatever you want to do it is a gift of peace and time for a few moments in preparation for the hope and joy of the Christmas Season.

How: Register at least a day in advance at:



Registering in advance is needed to ensure our adult-to-student ratio stays safe. Also, if anyone has any symptoms of any illness, we'd ask they wait until the next session. The one thing we don't want to share at Christmas is germs. :-)



AQUINAS
INSTITUTE OF ROCHESTER

WINTER WONDERLAND



- Breakfast
- Photos with Santa
- Crafts
- Games
- Face Painting
- Raffles & Tours



Sponsored By:

Rochester Colonial
MFG. CORP.
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DEC 16
2023

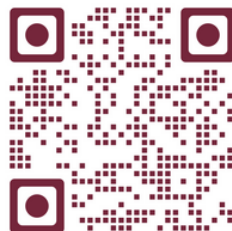
09.30 AM-12.00 PM

1127 Dewey Ave
Rochester, NY 14613

\$12 PER PERSON
UNDER 2 FREE

Proceeds benefit AQ Baseball

Scan the QR code or visit
www.aquinasinstitute.com
to register!



**FAMILY CAMP
2024**

CAMP KOINONIA

W H E R E L O V E G R O W S



Experience a week of faith filled activities and refreshing leisure. Eat family style in the lodge. Celebrate child friendly morning prayer and daily Mass in the chapel. Engage with your family in a new way as you make connections to friends new and old at Camp Koinonia. Camp Adult and Teen Staff support families with child care and in leading activities.

Summer 2024 Dates

Week 1: July 7-12

Week 2: July 14-19

Week 3: July 21-26

Week 4: July 28 - August 2

Camp Koinonia
1455 Italy Valley Road
Middlesex, NY 14507-9717
www.CampKoinoniaNY.org



Contact us about rental opportunities



DIOCESAN YOUTH NIGHT @ MCQUAID

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
6:15 PM**

- GRADES 3-8
- PIZZA & SODA
- SPORTSMANSHIP
PRESENTATION BY COACH
TODD STEWART
- ON-COURT COMPETITION
DURING HALFTIME OF THE
VARSITY BASKETBALL GAME

EMAIL
BBOGDAN@MCQUAID.ORG
TO RESERVE FREE PLAYER
AND PARENT TICKETS BY
12/5



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