



December 17, 2020

Dear St. Pius X Families,

Season's Greetings to you and your families! Despite all that is going in the world, I hope the season of Advent has been a prayerful reminder of what is really important – the birth of our Savior. Please take the time to reflect and remind your children about the true reason for this season. I am proud to say that we were able to celebrate many of our Christmas traditions to honor the birth of Jesus Christ, albeit in adherence to COVID-19 guidelines. Our Early Learners, Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten students used hand movements and singing; First Grade through Seventh Grade performed a variety of carols; and as is our tradition, our Eighth Grade students performed their rendition of the Nativity story through a Lessons and Carols Program. I am grateful to Miss Kooiman, Sister Rita, Mrs. Glass, Mrs. French, and all of the teachers and staff that helped to make it happen. This is a signature event in our faith and we knew that we would find a way to make it happen. Please enjoy all of the videos on our school Facebook page.

We started the tradition of giving each of our families a school ornament and we continue that tradition this year. This year's star ornament reflects the Diocesan Bicentennial year's theme of *Shine Like Stars*. Enjoy this keepsake and be sure to post a picture of your ornament hanging on your Christmas tree on social media and be sure to tag our school. Each family will receive one ornament. Students will bring a school ornament home this week.

I offer my sincere thanks to our Home & School Association for their support this year especially recently: a successful Pirates' Gold Raffle, the installation of our water bottle fillers, and the Christmas Shoppe. Their ongoing support is much appreciated and I am proud that this school organization continues to grow. On behalf of the school, I want to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Cox for her leadership of the Home & School Association. The Cox family will be moving out of the area. Her leadership and her family will be missed in 2021. We wish them the best in all of their future endeavors. They will always be part of our St. Pius X family. As the saying goes, "*Once a Pirate, Always a Pirate!*"

I would also like to thank our school's Development Team who spearheaded our first online silent auction, Holiday Magic. Their time and effort to acquire, stage and set up the auction raised over \$6,000 for the school. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

As we close 2020, I can say that this year has proven our community's adaptability and resilience. Both are traits that are beneficial to all of our students. With the new year comes hope that 2021 will be better than the last and that we will all grow to be better versions of ourselves.

Please continue to stay healthy and safe over the holidays and here's to a great new year for our St. Pius X School community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

God bless,

Mark Zafra  
Principal