

North American M A R T Y R S C a t h o l i c S c h o o l

I love snow. I know, I know, it's cold! I realize sometimes it means school is cancelled, I don't get to see your children, and you have to find daycare. Yes, I also know it means icy roads and the potential of falling. But what I love about it is not all that! I love the reminder we have of how we can always see purity. In the midst of the dark times of winter, Our Heavenly Father sends us bright white snow to remind us of the beauty of purity. We had the second grade sacramental meeting last night and our second graders are looking forward to first confession and First Communion. I challenge you all to find time to make an effort in 2019 to make it to confession more often than you have in the past. Like snow, it can be difficult. It's not fun to say we are doing things wrong in life. It's not fun to say I did terrible things and need to be forgiven. But just like snow brings bright white during the darkest times of year, confession makes us clean even when we do something terribly awful. Our priests have heard it all and they love knowing they get to watch Jesus squash Satan's head when they witness you telling Jesus of a terrible sin committed in the sacrament of confession. Allow the negativity that snow and confession can make you feel to subside and let purity come forth and shine in the midst of darkness in your life. Go to confession! I promise you will feel so much better when it's over. And you may even come to love confession AND snow more than you ever have before. And if you are scared to go back to confession: take solace in knowing you are not alone but Jesus is waiting for you.

God bless you. ~Sr. Janelle

Important Dates:

- **Knights of Columbus free throw contest begins at 11 am Saturday, January 19th in the Martyrs gym.**
- **Band Concert is this Sunday January 20th at 1:30pm at Pius. Rehearsal will be Saturday January 19th at Pius as well. 2-2:45 pm for 5th grade. 2:45-3:30 pm for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.**

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- **Friday January 25th will be the 4-H annual Overnight Lock-in for 4th and 5th grade at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Do not have to be a member of 4-H to attend. Registration forms will be in the extension office or the online form at <https://4h.unl.edu/documents/healthpermissionform.pdf> Registration due by January 18th. \$20/per person. More info at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/documents/LockIn19.pdf>**
- **Catholic Schools Week begins Monday January 28th. **See attached flyer for details****
- **Pius New Student Orientation is Monday February 4th at 7 pm in the gym.**

Kindergarten Preview will be **Tuesday, February 5th at 6 pm** in the Church. If you plan to enroll your child for kindergarten in 2019 please submit the following information **by Monday, January 21, 2019**: Parents' names, address, phone number, child's name and date of birth. Call the office or email the information to carol-ruskamp@cdolinc.net. A letter will be sent with more details.

Band Concert: Mark your calendars! Band students in grades 5-8 will perform a Winter Concert on Sunday January 20 at 1:30pm. The rehearsal for the concert will be Saturday January 19 at Pius in the gym. The 5th grade will rehearse from 2-2:45pm, and the 6-7-8th grade band will rehearse 2:45-3:30pm. In case of inclement weather, please check the Pius X website.

The St. Pius X Diocesan Boys Choir is looking for boys in grades 4-8 to sing with them! Attached is a flyer for more info. The first rehearsal was on Sunday, January 13th, but you can still sign up! More information attached to the newsletter!

The following link is for the Staff Appreciation breakfast during Catholic Schools Week. If you are willing and able to bring something, please sign up through the link. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C44ACA723A31-staff>

We are looking for raffle prizes for Catholic Schools week. If you are willing to donate it would be very much appreciated. Thank you!

Pius X High School is hosting a New Student Open House for eighth-grade families at 7 p.m., Feb. 4 at the high school, 6000 A Street. You will hear about life at Pius X from students and staff, have an opportunity for a tour, and learn more about the many activities and clubs for students. Learn more about Pius X at <http://go.piusx.net/ChoosePiusX>.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear parents,

Father Connor and I are asking that you come to a mandatory meeting next **Thursday, January 24, at 7 pm in the church** to hear about some changes in our stewardship and tuition policies as put forth by the Diocese of Lincoln. Please come to the meeting on **January 24 at 7 pm** to best understand the new directives. Though this is late notice we ask that you make every effort to be present. We need everyone to understand what is happening and this is the best means of communication.

Babysitting will be provided. **If you plan to use the babysitting services, please call or email the office and let us know how many children you are bringing.**

Again, we know you are busy but need to communicate this in person rather than by a letter. Thank you for making every effort to be there. If you cannot make it please let us know.

-Sr. Janelle Buettner, Principal