A Roman Catholic Community in Fairfield

834 Brookside Drive † Fairfield, Connecticut 06824 † Tel: 203 255-6134 † Fax: 203 255-5232 † www.st-pius.org

Pastor
Rev. Samuel S. Kachuba

Parochial Vicar
Rev. Robert Crofut

Weekend Assistants
Fairfield Jesuit Community

Priest in Residence
Rev. Msgr. Ernest Esposito

Director of Music & Organist
Mr. Michael Lantowski

Pastoral Assistant
Mrs. Kathleen Donnelly

Religious Education Dept.
Tel. 203 259-4800 Fax 203 255-5232
Classes for all ages are held weekly during the academic year. Contact the Religious Education Dept. for more information.

Lay Members of the Parish Corp.
Mrs. Kathryn Vogt 203 255-6134
Mr. Arthur Wolf 203 255-6134

Parish Finance Council Chairman
Mr. Kevin Silk 203 255-6134

Parish Membership
Through baptism we become God's sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters of each other in Christ. We ask that every family in the Parish be registered. Registration forms may be acquired at the Parish Office. This registration is our only means of certifying anyone as a member of our Parish Family.

Parish Office Hours
Monday through Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

†

St. Pius X Church is wheelchair accessible. Parking for the physically challenged is located at sides of church. We thank you for turning off all personal electronic devices before entering the church.

Mission Statement

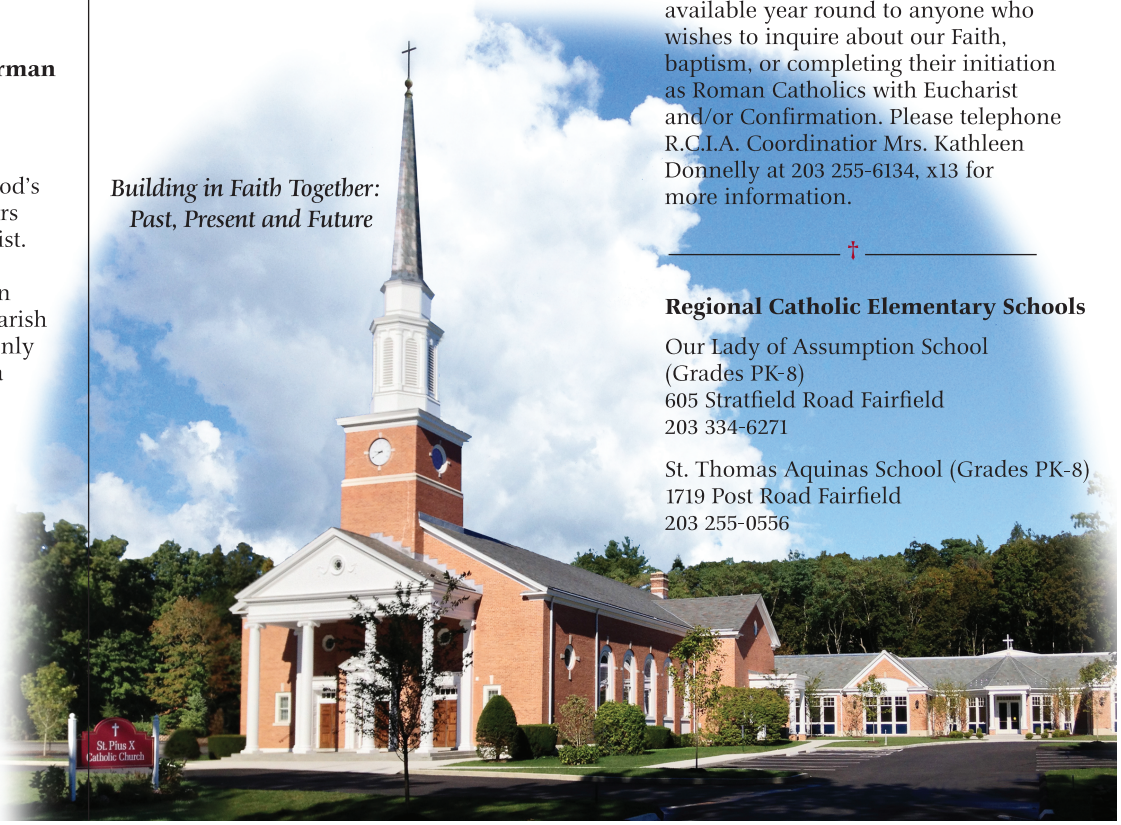
We, the members of St. Pius X Parish, are an open and inviting Roman Catholic Family of Faith centered in the Eucharist, nourished by God's Word and faithful to the sacramental life of the Church. We strive to imitate Christ in all that we say and do. We are committed to teaching and sharing the Faith, supporting one another in prayer and action, and to reaching out to those in need. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek always to be just, gentle, and forgiving as we walk humbly with our God.

†

Weekly Mass Schedule
Monday through Saturday 8:30 am
Saturday Vigil 5:15 pm
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 & 12:00 pm

Holy Day Mass Schedule
Vigil 5:30 pm
Holy Day 8:30 am & 5:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays 4:00 to 4:45 pm



Building in Faith Together: Past, Present and Future

Devotions

The Rosary is prayed each Friday by parishioners at 9:00 am. Stations of the Cross take place on Lenten Fridays at 7:00 pm.

Baptism

Pre-Baptismal class is held the first Sunday of every month at 1:00 pm. Pre-registration is required. Please call the Parish Office for information. Baptisms are celebrated Sundays at 1:15 pm.

Marriage

Registered parishioners should make arrangements one year in advance with the Rectory. There are no Sunday weddings.

Anointing of the Sick

If you know a parishioner who is seriously ill, please contact the Rectory.

†

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

The Rite of Initiation of Adults is available year round to anyone who wishes to inquire about our Faith, baptism, or completing their initiation as Roman Catholics with Eucharist and/or Confirmation. Please telephone R.C.I.A. Coordinatior Mrs. Kathleen Donnelly at 203 255-6134, x13 for more information.

†

Regional Catholic Elementary Schools

Our Lady of Assumption School
(Grades PK-8)
605 Stratfield Road Fairfield
203 334-6271

St. Thomas Aquinas School (Grades PK-8)
1719 Post Road Fairfield
203 255-0556

Mass Intentions for the Week

Requested by:

Saturday, December 17
8:30 A.M. +Joe Lippert — C. Kehoe
5:15 P.M. +Margaret O'Loughlin — J. & V. Giuffre

Sunday, December 18
7:30 A.M. +Joseph C. Duggan — C. Duggan
9:00 A.M. +Michael Voytek — Voytek Family
10:30 A.M. Intentions of all Parishioners
12:00 P.M. +Ed O'Connor — D. & A.M. Curtin

Monday, December 19
8:30 A.M. +John Mahoney — J. Mahoney

Tuesday, December 20
8:30 A.M. +James Maher — A. & G. Flynn

Wednesday, December 21
8:30 A.M. +Margaret Alexander — M. Shramm

Thursday, December 22
8:30 A.M. +Pedro Murcia — Lehmann Family

Friday, December 23
8:30 A.M. +Lillian & Gregory Patti — G. Patti

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
4:00 P.M. – Church }
4:00 P.M. – Faith Ctr. } For the Intentions of all Parishioners.
4:00 P.M. – School }
6:00 P.M. +Richard & Joan Van de Berghe — K. Leon
11:00 P.M. +Marion Leon — K. Leon

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day
8:00 A.M. }
10:30 A.M. } For the Intentions of all Parishioners.
12:00 P.M. }

PARISH OFFICE CLOSING

The parish office will be closed on Friday, December 23 and will reopen on Wednesday, December 28. For a quick reference about parish activities please visit the parish website: www.st-pius.org. Merry Christmas!

WEEKLY ROSARY FOR PEACE & HEALING

Join us every Friday, immediately following the 8:30 A.M. Mass.

St. Pius X Staff

Terri Dawes – Administrative Asst., 255-6134
Kara Clegg – Dir. Rel. Ed., Grades 1 - 5, 259-4800
John Donnelly – Business Mgr., 255-6134
Kathleen Donnelly – Pastoral Asst., 255-6134
Shari Garcia – Edge Middle School Youth Min., 259-4800
Denise Heady – Coord. Confirmation Prep., 259-4800
Michael Lantowski – Music Dir., 278-1389
Amy O'Donnell – Office Asst., 255-6134
Paola Peña – Life Teen Coord., 255-6134
JP von Uffle – Life Teen Staff Asst.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend, the Church begins to pray the "O Antiphons" each evening at Vespers. Each antiphon contains a title for Jesus (Emmanuel, Adonai, etc). In fact, the O Antiphons are the source for the great hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." These antiphons are so unique to the Church's liturgy, that they are only sung between Dec. 17 and Dec. 24. If you were wondering, that's why we haven't sung that hymn yet this season! When the first letters of the titles for our Lord are taken together and arranged backwards, they spell out in acrostic fashion the Latin phrase "Ero cras" meaning "Tomorrow, I will come." Some scholars debate whether this is a deliberate choice on the part of the ancient Benedictine monks who originally wrote the antiphons or just a happy coincidence, but whatever the origin, it is very neat.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we are reminded of how close the Lord is to us. We hear again and again the name "Emmanuel," which means "God with us." Truly our God is with us in every moment! Let us strive this week to recognize God's presence in our lives and reflect His presence to those around us. As we prepare for His birth next week, let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is coming, who is truly Emmanuel, God with us.

Peace,

Fr. Sam

FAITH CENTER OFFICE WING UPDATE

On December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, work began on the interior of the Faith Center Office Wing. What a perfect day to begin! When the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in Mexico, a new chapter began in the history of evangelization in the new world. Our office wing will be a place where many of our evangelization efforts begin. Through the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, may this project come to a successful completion!

PARISH BOOK GROUP

All are invited to participate in this reflection and discussion group. We generally meet in the Ministry Room (Faith Center) bimonthly on Tuesdays – either from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. We are starting a new book, **The Divine Dance** by Richard Rohr, OFM, on January 17. Book order will be placed by December 22 – please contact Kathleen Donnelly (203-255-6134x13 or kdonnelly@st-pius.org) if you would like to order a copy – cost is $18.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE
II. Lisa Capozzi and David Yurkerwich

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS IN THE
MAIN CHURCH
WILL BURN THIS WEEK
In loving Memory of
Mae & John McGovern.

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS IN THE
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD CHAPEL
WILL BURN THIS WEEK
In loving Memory of Lydia Barrieau.

ST PIUS X LIFE TEEN

Calendar of Events
DEC 18th Annual White Elephant Ugly Sweater Christmas Party!
Bring a gift that costs no more than $10 and prepare for another hilarious night of stealing! Be sure to bring your ugly sweater and all ALUMNI are welcome to join us!

Life Teen will resume on JAN 8th *7-9pm*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! Registrations open on December 15th for the following
February 24-26 **Life Teen Winter Retreat** *Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT*
Cost: $130

Note: There are 7 students from Bridgeport who would like to attend the winter retreat, but due to financial hardship, many cannot afford the total cost of the retreat. This retreat will be a life-changing experience of grace in the lives of the teens that attend. Please prayerfully consider an opportunity to sponsor a student with your tax deductible donation through a partial or full scholarship. Thank you in advance for your prayers and stewardship! For more information, you may reach me by email at ppena@st-pius.org or by phone at the parish office at 203-255-6134 ext. 15

July 2 – 8 **CHWC Mission Trip** *Groton, MA*
Cost: $475 (subject to change)
Only 21 spots available to students!

July 21-23 **Steubenville East Conference** *St. John's University in Queens, NY*
Cost: $285
Only 20 spots available for students!

LESSONS & CAROLS / BLESSING & LIGHTING OF THE OUTDOOR CRECHE

TODAY: **Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 pm**, our combined Children choirs will present a traditional Advent Lessons & Carols celebration in the church. The presentation will conclude with the blessing and lighting of our outdoor parish crèche (and the guest appearance of a "very special" visitor!) Hot chocolate and light refreshments will follow afterwards in the Community Room. All are invited to come and join in this special afternoon of blessing and music!

CONGRATULATIONS!

We welcome this newly baptized child into our Family of Faith: **Nathaniel Kurt Steinhauer.**

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

A Parish Nurse will take blood pressure readings after the 7:30 a.m. Mass this weekend in the Faith Center.

ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS
FOURTH WEEK: LOVE

We gather around the Advent Wreath before the evening meal begins. As three purple candles and one rose candle are lit, we pray, "Lord Jesus, through your grace and love, we have made our hearts ready for you during this Advent Season. Help us to respond to one another as Mary responded with trust and hope to the announcement of the angel Gabriel. You are our hope, our joy, our peace. You are the light of our family."

WEEKLY PARISH COFFEE HOUR: WE NEED YOUR HELP TO HOST!!

Weekly Parish Coffee Hour follows the 9:00 and 10:30a.m. Masses. Hosting a Coffee Hour is easy and is also a great way to help with parish community building while meeting people at the same time! Donating baked goods or fruit adds to the fun and delight of the children! Please contact Tom Dolan (203-8959513 or tmdolanjr@aol.com.) to sign up to host a Mass (or two!)

RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN GIVE THANKS

Women and men religious throughout the country offer heartfelt thanks for our parishioner donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. The generous gifts of everyone make a tangible difference in the lives of countless senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

To my dear friends at St. Pius X,

Merry Christmas! I can't wait to visit your homes in a few weeks! I'm looking forward to sharing the joy of the birth of Jesus with each of you! I know that you are planning a special performance of Christmas carols and a little Christmas play on December 18, and that afterwards you will have a blessing of the outdoor Nativity scene in front of your church. Since I had to make some adjustments to my regular delivery route this year, I won't be able to visit the church on Christmas Eve, but I still want to see all of you. So I asked Fr. Sam if, instead, I could visit this Sunday, December 18 and pray with you at the outdoor Nativity, and then spend some time greeting all of you afterwards. I'm excited to see you and I hope you'll be at the Children's Lessons and Carols at 4 PM on December 18!

Wishing you all the joy of Christmas,

Santa Claus

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14). **Psalm** — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24). **Second Reading** — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7). **Gospel** — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Friday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:
4:00 p.m. – Church (standees will be invited to
4:00 p.m. – Community Room
4:00 p.m. – Religious Education Center
6:00 p.m. – The **Children's Choir** will sing.
11:00 p.m. – Parish Choir & Instrumentalists music beginning at 10:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES:
8:00 a.m. – Cantor
10:00 a.m. – Parish Choir
12:00 p.m. – Cantor

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

A Mass of Remembrance for the loss of a child will be held on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, Wed., Dec. 28 at 7 p.m. at St. Ann Parish in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport. Father Peter Lynch, Pastor, will celebrate the Mass. For more information, email OfficeofFaithFormation@diobpt.org

DISCERNMENT DAY OF REFLECTION

What: A day of recollection focused on the question of discerning a vocation to the Catholic priesthood.
Who: Men between the ages of 18-35 who are wondering if the Lord is calling them to be a priest.
When: January 7, 2017; 9 AM – 5 PM
Where: St. John Fisher Seminary – 894 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, CT
How to Register: Contact Allison McCarthy, 203-322-5331, or www.bridgeportpriest.org for more info.

O ANTIPHONS

Liturgically, the second part of Advent begins on December 17th and continues until Dec. 24. There is an ancient tradition of singing beautiful short prayers called the ***O Antiphons*** during the Liturgy of the Hours. These ***O Antiphons*** are also sung or prayed as the Alleluia verses during daily Mass. All are invited to pray them at home. ***O Wisdom*** of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge. Dec. 17. ***O Lord of Ancient Israel***, giver of the Law of Moses on Sinai; rescue us with your mighty power – Dec. 18. ***O Flower of Jesse's Stem***, sign of God's love for all people: save us without delay! Dec. 19. ***O Key of David***, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom, free the prisoners of darkness! Dec. 20. ***O Radiant Dawn,*** splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: shine on those lost in the darkness of death! Dec. 21. ***O King of All Nations,*** source of your Church's unity and faith: save all mankind, your own creation! ***O Emmanuel,*** God's presence among us, our King and our Judge: save us, Lord our God! Dec. 23.

STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!

Stewardship of Treasure

Weekend of December 10-11, 2016

Weekend Offering	$13,075.00
Last Year's 2015 Offering	$12,585.44
Religious Retirement Collection	$ 3,301.00
Immaculate Conception – Holy Day Offering	$ 2,497.00
Monthly Offering (Additional)	$ 537.00
Parish Mission for Outreach	$ 198.00

ST. PIUS X ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

Goal: $170,000
Received as of Dec.12: $90,650
Percentage of Goal: 53%

Please help us reach our goal.

Thank you to all who have made a gift to our Annual Appeal. This Appeal helps us each year to make capital improvements (energy efficient measures) and balance our operating budget. The Parish Finance Council determines the goal each year and believes that if every family does its part, we will meet and perhaps even surpass our goal.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for being good and faithful stewards!

Our prayers of gratitude to those who have remembered St. Pius X Church in their will with a bequest.

AT HOME WITH GOD'S WORD – ON-GOING

All are invited to participate in this faith-sharing program (based on the Sunday Gospel) that meets on **Thursdays (11a.m.)** at the home of Debra Bradley, 32 Hickory Lane, 06824. For more information, contact Debbie by phone, 1-203-405-2568 or email dkbra2693@aol.com.

THE GROTTO GIFT SHOP, located on the grounds of the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, 50 Montfort Rd., Rte. 118, Litchfield, will be open Mon.-Sat., 10:30 am to 4 pm, and Sun., 11:30 am to 4 pm. Advent wreaths, candles, & calendars are now in stock along with many new Christmas ornaments, cards & Fontanini Nativity sets. Come in and browse for unique gifts and books for all occasions, particularly baby & children's items. For further info, call 860.567.1041 or email: lourdesshrinect@gmail.com.

2018 MASS BOOK

The 2018 Mass Book will become available on Monday, January 9, 2017. All the Masses for 2017 have been taken.

We are asking that parishioners limit their requests for the 2018 Mass Book to **ten** Masses. This will allow more parishioners to have the opportunity to request a Mass for their loved ones. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

What a wonderful response we had to the Giving Tree which benefits local families and agencies! We extend grateful thank to the **VanTornhouts, deCastros, Matturos,** and **Micelis** who coordinated our Giving Tree Program and carefully sorted the beautifully wrapped gifts for distribution. 1200 ornaments were prepared by **Paola Peña** and LifeTeen members during their November "shut-in" and by **Denise Heady** and the Confirmation students who helped cut-out the ornaments during the summer months! **Russell and Sabine Edgett** coordinated the Homes for the Brave effort. Parishioner response has been overwhelming. *For it is in giving we receive. (Prayer of St. Francis.)*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SPONSORED BY ST PIUS X COUNCIL 16347

***Now through December 31st* – Yankee Candle Sale** – visit www.yankeecandlefundraising.com
Use our council's assigned order number 990100205 so we get credit.

January 21, 2017 – Youth Basketball Foul Shooting Contest – *St Thomas's Gym 9:00am*

March 18, 2017 – **Annual Parish St. Patrick - St. Joseph Dinner Dance** – *Community Room*

HEARTS RENEWED: SUPPORT FOR SEPARATED & DIVORCED: DECEMBER 30

This group is for men and women who are in different stages of separation and divorce. Participation in Hearts Renewed offers emotional and practical support. Bimonthly Meeting: **First & Third Friday…7:30pm-9:30pm**: **St. Pius X Religious Education Center (portable classroom.) Facilitator: Bette Huckabee, 203-338-0503.** For more information, contact Bette or Kathleen Donnelly at the parish office. All are welcome!

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