



A Roman Catholic Community

834 Brookside Drive, Fairfield, CT 06824 • Parish Office 203-255-6134 • Faith Formation Office 203-259-4800 • www.st-pius.org 

Pastor

Rev. Samuel S. Kachuba

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Timothy A. Iannacone

Weekend Assistants

Fairfield Jesuit Community

Priest in Residence

Rev. Msgr. Ernest Esposito

Director of Music & Organist

Michael Lantowski

Pastoral Assistant

Kathleen Donnelly

Faith Formation *(formerly Rel. Ed.)*

Kara Clegg (Grades 1-5)

Shari Garcia (Edge Middle School)

Paola Pena (Life Teen High School)

Barbara Kwiatkowski (Assistant)

Parish Office

Terri Dawes, Administrative Assistant

Kimberlie I. Leon, Business Manager

Amy O'Donnell, Office Assistant

Barbara Kwiatkowski, Office Assistant

Parish Corp. Lay Members

Kathryn Vogt

Arthur Wolf

Parish Finance Council Chair

Jeremy Joyce

Parish Office Hours

9AM-4PM (Mon-Fri)

Parish Membership

We encourage every family in the parish to register as it is our only means of certifying you as a member of our parish family.

Register online at www.st-pius.org

St. Pius X Church is wheelchair accessible with parking located at the sides of church.

Thank you for turning off all personal electronic devices before entering the church.

Mission Statement

We, the members of St. Pius X Parish, are a Roman Catholic family of faith rooted in the Eucharist, nourished by God's Word, and faithful to the sacramental life of the Church. We are committed to welcoming every person we encounter with the love and mercy of Christ. We strive to imitate Christ in all that we say and do. We are committed to teaching and sharing the Gospel, to supporting one another in prayer and action, and to reaching out to those in need, so that, as a community of disciples, we can embrace our parish patron's call to "restore all things in Christ."

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday-Saturday: 8:30AM

Saturday Vigil: 5:15PM

Sunday: 7:30AM, 9AM, 10:30AM, 12Noon

Holy Day Mass Schedule

Vigil: 5:30PM

Holy Day: 8:30AM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM (Latin)

Confession

Saturdays: 4PM-4:45PM (Church)

Wednesdays: 7PM-8PM (Chapel)

Devotions

The Rosary and a Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is prayed each Friday by parishioners at 9AM in the Chapel. Stations of the Cross take place at 7PM on Lenten Fridays in the Chapel.

Baptism

Pre-Baptismal class is held the first Sunday of every month at 1PM. Pre-registration is required. Call Kathleen Donnelly in the Parish Office for information. Baptisms are celebrated 1:15PM on Sundays.

Marriage

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

Anointing of the Sick

If you know a parishioner who is seriously ill, contact the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is available year-round to anyone who wants to inquire about our faith, baptism, or completing their initiation as Roman Catholics with Eucharist and/or confirmation. Call the Parish Office for more information.

*Building in Faith Together:
Past, Present, and Future.*





WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 15

8:30AM Erin Higgins DeBona Family
 5:15PM +Wilma L. Barrett S. Barrett

Sunday, December 16

7:30AM +Dr. Dennis Bird R. Parker Family
 9AM +Albert & Margaret Johnson P. Johnson
 10:30AM +John Girard F. Girard
 12Noon +Alex Skultety J. Skultety

Monday, December 17

8:30AM +Robert E. Bird Dr. & Mrs. Bird

Tuesday, December 18

8:30AM +Peter Sterne DeBona Family

Wednesday, December 19

8:30AM +William Shaughnessy A. Staten

Thursday, December 20

8:30AM +Dr. Dennis Bird M. & M. Rush

Friday, December 21

8:30AM Intentions of All Parishioners

Saturday, December 22

8:30AM +Charles Tucci E. Greenwald
 5:15PM +John Mahoney J. Mahoney

Sunday, December 23

7:30AM +Dr. Dennis Bird Davis Family
 9AM +Frank Ruoff S. Walsh
 10:30AM +Marion Leon K. Leon
 12Noon +Joan & Richard Van de Berghe K. Leon



**Sanctuary Lights in the Church
 will burn this week in memory of
 Wanda Russo**



**Sanctuary Lights in the Chapel
 will burn this week in memory of
 Henry Sodaro**



ST. PIUS X PRAYER LINE

We must never underestimate the power of prayer!

Let us pray for you! Email petitions/thanksgivings anytime to Pat Heile at stpiusxprayerln@aol.com or call Ann Cole at 203-362-5178, Monday-Friday and feel free to leave a message.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the third week of Advent, we are reminded to rejoice, for the Lord's arrival in time and history is very near. His forerunner, John the Baptist, gives a powerful prescription for finding joy. The people come to him as he baptizes at the Jordan and ask what they ought to do. Having heard his call to repentance and received baptism, they want to know how they can continue their conversion and stay strong in their resolve. John gives a twofold answer. First, he tells them to share what they have, to live generously. Second, he reminds them of the truth that a mighty savior is coming.

To John the Baptist's first piece of advice, we can all nod in agreement. However, it's not always so easy to follow that advice. Giving of ourselves and our resources can be a genuine challenge. We tend to plan, to budget, to set things aside just-in-case. We tend also to look for more. But John the Baptist tells us to share, to be satisfied with what we have. Freedom from sin requires a heart that is focused on God. Later in the Gospel, we will see the generosity John calls for lived out by an unlikely figure. As Jesus goes through the city of Jericho, he finds a tax collector named Zacchaeus. Through this encounter, Zacchaeus leaves behind a sinful life and repays all that he has taken from people. Furthermore, he gives half of everything he owns to the poor. And he does it with joy! The Lord's response? "Today, salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9). Zacchaeus was isolated by his sin – extortion, greed, theft – and is desperate for freedom and the joy he lacks due to his isolating sinfulness. When he meets Jesus and says yes to the invitation to conversion, he finds true joy.

In our literary tradition, we see a similar conversion take place in Ebenezer Scrooge. Dickens' famous miser is never satisfied with what he has and absolutely refuses to give anything of his vast fortune. Like Zacchaeus, Scrooge is isolated. When he finally makes the decision to change, he discovers that his generosity breaks down the barriers of isolation that he has built. He finds that giving away what he has results in a payment of joy he could never have imagined. Look at *how* Scrooge goes about this. He meets the men who had, the day before, asked him for a donation. He apologizes for his earlier rudeness, asking for their forgiveness. Then, he whispers his intention to make a donation. First, he repents. Second, he atones, making an offering almost as a penance.

John the Baptist's preaching always points toward the coming of Christ, the one who is mightier, the great savior of the nations. Zacchaeus encountered Jesus directly and put John's preaching into action. Scrooge follows a path that each of us can take. Though very few of us would ever be placed in the same category as Ebenezer Scrooge, we can, if we are honest, see some of his flaws in ourselves. The season of Advent calls us to repent, to atone for our sin. As Christmas approaches, we are reminded again and again of the joy of giving. With Scrooge and Zacchaeus, then, let us turn away from our sin and make restitution. And remember how Scrooge wraps up his Christmas day. After making his donation, he goes to church. He prays for the first time in many years. Having asked pardon he is able to come before the Lord with freedom and without stumbling block. From church, he goes to his nephew's home and shares in the family celebration. His conversion has broken down the isolation he experienced from his fellow men, from his family, and from his God. So our generosity breaks down the barriers that exist in our world, in our community, in our homes, and allows us to welcome the one whose sandals we are not worthy to unfasten. Jesus, though He is so highly exalted, has humbled Himself. He desires to be among us and for us to experience the joy of His presence. So let us live generously and prepare well for the Mighty One, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings, whose coming we await with joy.

Peace,



QUOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship:
 "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none.
 The man who has food should do the same."



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

• December 9, 2018 Weekend Offering:	\$13,817
• 2017 Weekend Offering:	\$13,678
• Retired Religious Offering:	\$2,613
• Monthly Offering:	\$635
• Immaculate Conception Offering:	\$2,759
• Mission Offering:	\$455
• Coffee Hour Offering:	\$86



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I Katherine Sweeney and John Mazzucco



CONGRATULATIONS!

We welcome these newly baptized children into our Family of Faith: Anthony Joseph Capriotti and Mason Allen Steinhauer.



POINSETTIA FLUFFERS WANTED!

If you would like to help fluff our beautiful silk poinsettias to ready them for decorating the Church for Christmas, email Kathleen Donnelly at kdonnelly@st-pius.org. We need a few folks to assist on **Wednesday, December 19 in the morning**. Please bring a blow dryer if you have one!



The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas week:

Monday, December 24-Friday, December 28



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

We look forward to seeing you at Mass and celebrating all the joys of the season!

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve Masses

- 4PM (Church)
- 4PM (Faith Center Community Room)
- 4PM (Religious Education Center)
- 6PM (Church—Children's Choir will sing)
- 11PM (Church—Adult Choir will sing with instrumentalists beginning at 10:30PM)

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day Masses

- 8AM (Church)
- 10AM (Church)
- 12Noon (Church)



Third Sunday of Advent

"The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear."

— Zephaniah 3:15b

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6).

Second Reading: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel: Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise (Luke 3:10-18).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45



FAMILY ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS

Third Week: Joy

We gather around the Advent Wreath before the evening meal begins. As two purple candles and one pink candle are lighted, we pray, "Lord Jesus, we rejoice in your goodness and kindness. With joyful hope we await the coming of your Kingdom. Teach us to trust in your merciful love and in your plan for our lives. You are our joy. You are the light of our family."

ADVENT RESOURCES

Three powerful online resources to help you deepen your Advent journey this year...

BEST **Advent** EVER

FREE DAILY EMAILS AND VIDEOS

Sign up for Dynamic Catholic "Best Advent Ever" program online at <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>. This free email program will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during this busy season. You'll experience Advent in a whole new way—leading to the best Christmas of your life! You will receive daily emails and videos to help you pause and reflect on the true meaning of the season.

FORMED
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

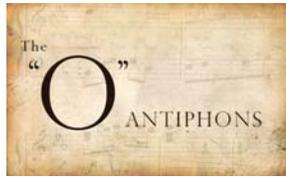
FREE ACCESS TO DIGITAL CATHOLIC CONTENT

Discover media from 40+ of the best Catholic content producers with Formed On Demand. Free access for all St. Pius X parishioners to thousands of studies, films, audios, and eBooks. Set up a free account at www.st-pius.formed.org. Questions? Email Shari Garcia at sgarcia@st-pius.org.

WORD on FIRE

FREE ACCESS TO CATHOLIC VIDEOS

Word on Fire features films and videos with Bishop Robert Barron who has been hailed as "one of the Church's greatest messengers" to help you boost your faith! Click on any video we send you via Flocknote to access the entire Word on Fire library of Catholic content, free to all St. Pius X Parishioners. Questions? Email Paola Pena at ppena@st-pius.org.



O ANTIPHONS

Liturgically, the second part of Advent begins on December 17 and continues until December 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 (December 17.)

O Lord of Ancient Israel, giver of the Law of Moses on Sinai; rescue us with your mighty power (December 18.)

O Flower of Jesse's Stem, sign of God's love for all people: save us without delay! (December 19.)

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom, free the prisoners of darkness! (December 20.)

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: shine on those lost in the darkness of death! (December 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! (December 23.)



PRAY THE ROSARY

To help bring parishioners together in a spiritual activity and promote devotion to Mary, the Knights of Columbus Council 16347 is pleased to introduce ...

The 5th Sunday Rosary Program

Knights, their families and ALL parishioners are invited.

**After the 9AM Mass
Sunday, December 30
In the Chapel**

Stay and Pray the Rosary as a Faith Family.



FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

January 12, hosted by the St. Pius X Council # 16347

Come have fun and test your basketball skills!

When: 7PM, Saturday, January 12, 2019 (Rain Date: Sat., Jan. 26.) 7PM Registration and Warm Up; 7:30PM Start

Where: APR/Gym in the Religious Education Center

What: Free competition open to boys and girls ages 9 to 14 years old as of January 1, 2019. Pizza and soda will be served after the competition!

How to Compete: It's a foul shot competition. Each Competitor gets 15 shots. Most points wins!

Pre-Register--LIMITED SPACE: This event is open to the first 25 children who register. **ACT NOW!** Copy of Birth Certificate and Signed Parental Authorization Form Required. Winners of each age group will win an Official Knights of Columbus Basketball. Pre-register by emailing Birth Certificate and Parental Authorization Form to Tom Kelty at tkelty@gmail.com or mail to St. Pius X Church, c/o Knights of Columbus, 834 Brookside Drive, Fairfield CT 06824.

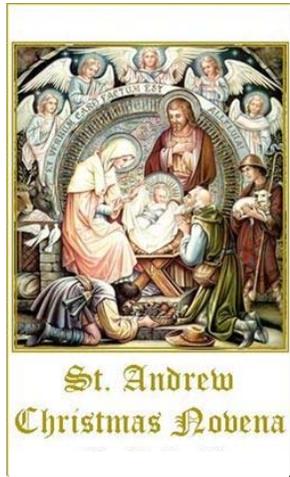
More Information: Visit the St Pius X Website at www.st-pius.org or Contact Tom Kelty at tkelty@gmail.com.



WEEKLY ROSARY FOR PEACE & HEALING

Join us Fridays, following the 8:30AM Mass.

Pray the rosary with us following the **8:30AM Mass every Friday in the Chapel.** All are welcome!



ST. ANDREW CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Hail, and blessed be the hour and moment at which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin at a stable at Midnight in Bethlehem in the piercing cold.

At that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, to hear my prayers and grant my desires.

(Mention your intention here.)

Through Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother.



walking with purpose

THE MODERN WOMAN'S GUIDE TO THE BIBLE

WWP CONNECT COFFEE TALK: YOUR HEART—YOU ARE CAPTIVATING

January 10

In this world of noise and busyness, it is hard for women to find the time to give ourselves a little attention. Join us **9:30AM-11:30AM, Thursday, January 10 in the Community Room** for a talk and discussion to remind us of how precious we are to God and that His love is unconditional. He is captivated by each one of us—not because of what we do or what others think of us but simply because we are His precious daughters. No experience necessary, just come as you are for some coffee and a chance to see what Walking with Purpose (WWP) is about!

WWP is a women's Catholic Bible study that aims to bring women to a closer relationship with Christ. Personal study and small group discussions at WWP each week link our everyday challenges with the solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. For more information, contact Dawn Carpanzano at dawnmariec@sbcglobal.net or Allyson Marcus at allysonmarcus@optonline.net.

Low Gluten Hosts



LOW GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE

How to request a low gluten Host for Communion...

If you require a low gluten Host here's what you have to do:

1. Check in with one of our Ushers before Mass begins.
2. Our Usher will take you to the Sacristy via the side hallway (please do not enter through the Sanctuary) to meet with the Priest saying Mass. Simply request a low gluten Host from the Priest and he will advise you which line to use for Communion.

Note: If you have a severe allergy to gluten, let us know so we can make necessary arrangements. Thank you!

ST PIUS X LIFE TEEN

Hey Teens, join us!

Newcomers always welcome 😊

• **December 23:** No Youth Group. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

• **January 3-7, 2019:** SEEK Conference, Indianapolis, IN. Nine college students and young adults from our parish will be in attendance! Please keep them in your prayers.

More information:
email Paola Pena, ppena@st-pius.org.

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”
—Matthew 1: 23



US NATIONAL ROSARY PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES, FRANCE

June 30 to July 9, 2019

This is the Perfect Christmas Gift!

If you or a loved one has ever wanted to visit the beautiful village where the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette over 160 years ago, please consider joining the US National Rosary Pilgrimage for their **June 30-July 9, 2019** journey to **Lourdes, France**. Walter Kozlowski, a St. Pius parishioner who has been to Lourdes 16 times, will be in the **Community Room here at St. Pius this Sunday, December 16 to share his experiences**.

Accompanied by like-minded people of faith, you will be able to bathe in the healing spring waters, pray in the grotto where the Blessed Mother appeared to young Bernadette 18 times, attend candle-lit nightly processions, and visit the Holy Mill where St. Bernadette was born.

This past July, Father Sam invited 10-year-old Chad Chlebowski and his mom Angela to join other handicapped children on a pilgrimage to Lourdes courtesy of the Knights of Columbus of Washingtonville, NY. Chad, Angela, and Chad's grandmother Mary Ann DeMasi, who also went on the trip, said they experienced the journey of a lifetime. In fact, their story was chronicled in the September 2018 issue of Fairfield County Catholic, where Angela said that her "faith had grown two-fold."

Because of the success of Chad and his family's experience, we are inviting members of St. Pius to join next year's pilgrimage, which will take place **June 30 to July 9, 2019** and is open to everyone. The price of \$3,064 per person and includes air transportation; hotel accommodations; breakfast, lunch and dinner every day; a guided tour of Lourdes; a guided visit to Gavarnie in the Pyrénées; all tips; and liturgical services. The pilgrimage is accompanied by clergy and medical staff and departs from either JFK or Newark Airports.

For more information, contact Walt at kozlow.wk@gmail.com. We hope you can join us.



ST. PIUS X CALL TO MILITARY

*You answered our country's call to serve.
Let your parish support you on your journey.*

Whether you're active, or a veteran, we want to hear from you. We're working on activities for veterans and active service members to support each other as a parish and as brothers/sisters in arms. Contact Russell Edgett, Afghanistan veteran, parishioner and founder of *The Freedom Isn't Free Ride* at 475-225-9694 or RussellJ.Edgett@gmail.com.



ARE YOU MISSING ANY ITEMS?

Check the Lost and Found Basket in the Ushers' Room in the Church vestibule.

If you think you left something here during Mass, check the lost and found basket in the ushers' room in the front foyer of the Church. The basket is cleaned out monthly and items will be disposed of or given to those in need. Thank you!



CHAPEL ALTAR FLOWERS DONATIONS

You may offer flowers in memorial or for intentions.

Did you know you can make an offering for flowers to enhance the celebration of the Eucharist in the name of a loved one or for your special intentions? Contact Amy O'Donnell in the Parish Office at 203-255-6134 to arrange for flowers any week during the year, except Advent and Lent.

*"May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the
power of the Holy Spirit."*

—Romans 15:13