



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.

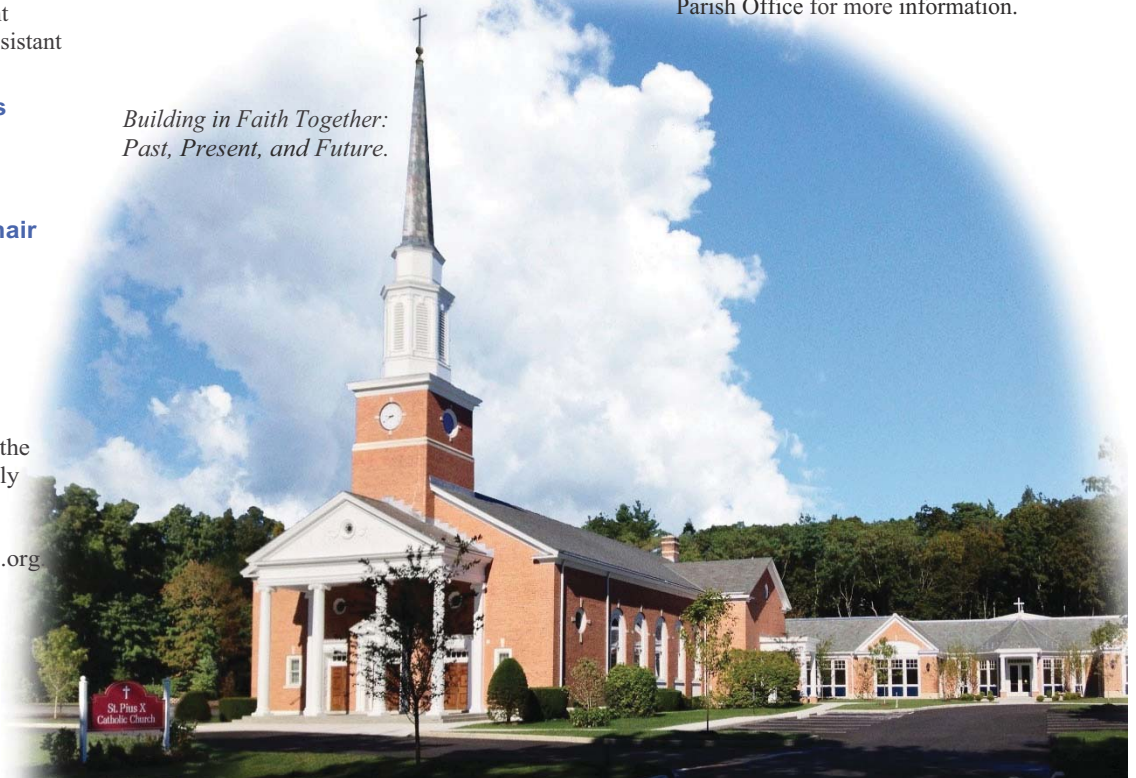
Anointing of the Sick

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 8

8:30AM Intentions of All Parishioners
12Noon Intentions of All Parishioners
5:15PM +Agnes Sedensky Roach Fr. S. Kachuba

Sunday, December 9

7:30AM +Joyce Grattan O’Connell Family
9AM +Maria Artieri E. Porco
10:30AM +Mary L. Powers Rhatigan Family
12Noon +Alex Skultety J. Skultety

Monday, December 10

8:30AM Intentions of All Parishioners

Tuesday, December 11

8:30AM +Gertrude Sullivan Dr. & Mrs. Bird

Wednesday, December 12

8:30AM +James Kiraly M. Kiraly

Thursday, December 13

8:30AM +Sr. Lois Petersen, OSU O’Donnell Family

Friday, December 14

8:30AM +Lillian & Gregory Patti G. Patti

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



**Sanctuary Lights in the Church
will burn this week in memory of
Dan Walsh**



**Sanctuary Lights in the Chapel
will burn this week in
loving memory of
Scott Larkin**



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 stpiousprayerln@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,

John the Baptist, the great forerunner of the Messiah, is heard in the Gospel today identifying himself with the prophecy of Isaiah: “A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord.’” His sacred, prophetic task, is to call all who hear him to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ. To accomplish this, John calls the people to repentance, to conversion of life, and to baptism. His baptism is the outward sign of a heart that desires to change, of a soul turning away from sin and death and toward the life promised by God.

In calling people to repentance and conversion, John must necessarily speak to the consciences of his listeners. He is not afraid to point out sinful inclinations, attitudes, and actions. Note, however, that when John calls to repentance, it is without judgement. To name sin as sin is not the same as to reject persons or to condemn. Rather, identifying the problem – sin – allows John to offer a solution – repentance – and invite people to a different way of life. As a teacher corrects the mistakes of a student without casting them out of the class, so John the Baptist demonstrates the sinfulness of the people, all the while calling them to a new way of living, a renewal in their relationship with God.

In this, we can see a reflection of the mission of the Church and of every Catholic. We can see in ourselves both John the Baptist *and* the people he baptizes. We have been given the truth of the Gospel for the sake of calling others to conversion and inviting them to a new way of living. At the same time, we must always recognize our sinfulness, our need for repentance and conversion, and the change of life demanded by our fidelity to the Gospel. Our cultural milieu and locale can make this difficult at times. In a high-pressure, socially demanding area, appearances matter. We try to hide our faults. We don’t enjoy hearing that we are imperfect. Yet the voice of John the Baptist, the one crying out in the desert, still calls us to prepare the way of the Lord, to repent, to change our lives.

Ideas that prick the conscience inevitably arise. Our culture would tell us to ignore those ideas, that we’re just fine the way we are. Spiritual writers and commentators have described the religious beliefs of many as “moralistic, therapeutic deism,” that is, an approach to God that acknowledges a vague higher power, holds to certain, often malleable “values,” and generally is positive in tone and makes me feel good. But if religion is meant only to affirm me and make me feel good, there’s a good chance I have begun to worship myself. When those conscience-moving ideas are heard, we should hear them as though they were the voice of John the Baptist. Remember, John’s voice cries out a message of truth and clearly states what is required in order for us to prepare the way of the Lord. All the while, his voice is also inviting to a new way of living.

The season of Advent reminds us that we are people in need of conversion. The voice of John the Baptist does not cry out to condemn us, though. Rather, he invites us to a new life. As our conscience is moved, let us not ignore that challenge. Rather, let us respond with the knowledge that our repentance, our conversion of life, is a step forward in our relationship with God, a movement pleasing to Him, and a response of genuine love for the God who gives us everything, even His only-begotten Son.

Peace,
Fr. Jim



QUOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, “The Lord has done great thing for us; we are filled with joy!”



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

- December 2, 2018 Weekend Offering: \$14,165
- 2017 Weekend Offering: \$15,733
- Mission Offering: \$660
- Monthly Offering: \$905
- Coffee Hour Offering: \$84.30

**Thank you for being good and faithful stewards
of God’s Blessings and Gifts!**



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

III Kristy McDermott and James Fiesel



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

As Catholics, we pause and honor Mary. This wonderful feast celebrates the gift of God to Mary in preserving her from original sin from the moment of her existence. Pope Pius IX’s declaration of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception took place **December 8**, 1854. In Paris in 1830, Mary appeared to Catherine Laboure and declared herself to be the Immaculate Conception. Between February 11, 1858, and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared to a young peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous, eighteen times at the grotto of Massabielle in Lourdes, France. On March 24, Bernadette was instructed to have a chapel built in honor of the Blessed Virgin, and on the following day Mary identified herself as the Immaculate Conception. In the mid-1800s, the American bishops placed our relatively new country under the



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

To help you plan your holiday schedule...

2018 Christmas Mass Schedule

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)

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



FAMILY ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS

Second Week: Peace

We gather around the Advent Wreath before the evening meal begins. As two purple candles are lighted, we pray, “Lord, we invite you to come into our home this night. We invite you to be the Lord of our home during this Advent season and during every season. May we learn to share your forgiveness and loving peace with one another. Our hope is in the Lord: Jesus is the light of our family.”



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God (Baruch 5:1-9).

Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading: I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel: The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth (Luke 3:1-6).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

thank you

SPECIAL "THANK YOU"

Our traditional Advent Family Workshop held last weekend was a wonderful event! It was a relaxing way in which to make new friends, meet old ones, and work on various activities designed to help families prepare for the Advent season. There was something for everyone! Many thanks to **Rhiannon Kelty**, coordinator, and to her team of volunteers; their gifts of time, talent and treasure enriched this Advent season!

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.

WORDonFIRE

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.



LESSONS AND CAROLS AND CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 16

And A Child Shall Lead Them...Isaiah 11:6

Join us for this year's Lessons and Carols Program and our Children's Christmas Pageant.

3PM, Sunday, December 16, in the Church

Fr. Sam will bless our parish creche.

Light refreshments will be served in the Community Room.

All are invited to join in this simple yet beautiful way to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ on Christmas.



ADVENT GIVING TREES

Gifts are due NEXT WEEK!

All are invited to visit our Advent Giving Trees, located in the **Church Vestibule, Chapel Hallway, and Community Room Hallway.**

Keeping with our parish tradition, we're collecting gifts for those in need. Please take some tags from the trees and purchase those items. We will be donating to 11 area agencies (including Veterans) who depend on our generosity to help keep their clients warm, fed, and hopeful.

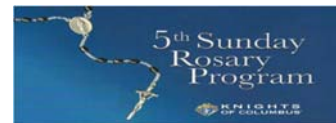
All wrapped gifts are due back under the trees by weekend of December 15-16. It's very important that the original tag be attached to your package. Each agency is represented by a different color and this is how we know where to send that gift. Thank you!



MINISTRY OF SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS

All are welcome December 11...

"St. Pius Forget-Me-Nots" is a ministry of support for those who are taking care of family and friends who are chronically ill and/or elderly. All are invited to join us for discussion and lunch **12Noon, Tuesday, December 11, in the Community Room. Luncheon is \$5. RSVP to Esther Lawless at 203-368-4222.** New participants welcome!



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.

Everyone is Welcome!



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!



CHRISTMAS POT LUCK WITH A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS!

Sponsored by:

*The Freedom Isn't Free Ride Foundation, Inc. and
St. Pius X Active and Separated Military (SPASM)*

6:30PM-9:30PM
Friday, December 14
St. Pius X Community Room

RSVP no later than Monday, December 10 to Russell Edgett
by phone 475-225-9694 or email
RussellJ.Edgett@gmail.com.

When you RSVP, please include what dish you want to bring
and the age and gender of any children you
will be bringing.



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.



WEEKLY PARISH COFFEE HOUR

We need your help to host!

Weekly Parish Coffee Hour **follows the 9AM and 10:30AM Masses**. Hosting a Coffee Hour is easy and 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. Contact Tom Dolan at 203-895-9513 or tmdolanjr@aol.com to sign up to host October – June.

ST PIUS X LIFE TEEN

Hey Teens, join us!

Newcomers always welcome 😊

• **December 16, 6PM-8PM:** White Elephant Christmas Party Extravaganza!

• **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.

Hail, favored one!

The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid,
Mary, for you have found favor with
God. Behold, you will conceive in your
womb and bear a son, and you shall
name him Jesus.

—Luke 1: 28, 30-31



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.



Help us save money on printing and mailing!

Did you know you can make your weekly gift online and plan for the entire year? Online Giving is easy and totally secure and helps us save money on mailing the printed offertory envelopes!

- No more writing checks or handling cash.
- Set up automatic contributions for each week of the year—you control the amount and timing.

Get started today: Go to www.st-pius.org/onlinegive.



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.



OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION ADVENT MISSION

December 10-11

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield invites you to attend an Advent performance by acclaimed TV star Frank Runyeon at 7PM, Monday and Tuesday, December 10 and 11, in the Church. Mr. Runyeon will be performing Signs! *The Gospel of John* on December 10 and *Luke: Stories on the Road* on December 11. A free will offering will be taken.

And Mary said: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Might One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.
—Luke 1: 46-50