



St. Pius X Parish: A Roman Catholic Community

834 Brookside Dr., Fairfield CT 06824 • Parish Office 203-255-6134 • Faith Formation 203-259-4800 • Fax 203-255-5232 • st-pius.org

Pastor

Rev. Samuel S. Kachuba
fr.samuel.kachuba@diobpt.org

Deacon and Resident Priests

• Deacon Donald J. Ross
dnross@diobpt.org
• Rev. Eric Silva
frsilva@diobpt.org
• Fr. Colin Blatchford
fr.blatchford@couragerc.org

Director of Music & Organist

Michael Lantowski
mikestro@gmail.com

Faith Formation

• Shari Garcia (Sacramental Prep.)
sgarcia@st-pius.org
• Paola Pena (Dir. of Evangelization)
ppena@st-pius.org
• Emily Rauser (Life Teen & Edge)
erauser@st-pius.org

Parish Office

• Terri Dawes, Receptionist
tdawes@st-pius.org
• Cathy Coyle, Admin. Assistant
ccoyle@st-pius.org
• Kimberlie I. Leon, Business Manager
kleon@st-pius.org

Parish Corp. Lay Members

• Kathryn Vogt
• Arthur Wolf

Parish Finance Council Chair

Jeremy Joyce

Parish Office Hours

• 9AM-4PM (Mon-Thur)
• 9AM-12PM (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: www.st-pius.org.

Online Giving

Safe, Secure & Paper Free!
To sign up, go to www.st-pius.org/onlinegive

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

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

Weekly Mass Schedule (Church)

• Monday-Saturday: 8:30AM
• Monday: 7PM (Extraordinary Form)
• Saturday Anticipated Mass: 5:15PM
• Sunday: 7:30AM, 9AM, and 11AM

Holy Day Mass Schedule (Church)

• Vigil: 5:30PM
• Holy Day: 8:30AM, 5:30PM, 7PM (Extraordinary Form)

Confession (Church)

• Saturdays: 4PM-5PM
• Wednesdays: 7PM-8PM

Communion for the Homebound

If you or a loved one would like to receive Communion at home, contact Larry Rollins at lksgcrollins5@gmail.com

Devotions (Church)

• Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the First Friday of the month, 9AM-9PM
• Rosary and a Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is prayed 9AM, Fridays by parishioners in the Church.

Baptism

For information about Pre-Baptismal class and to schedule Baptisms, call the Parish Office.

Marriage

Registered parishioners should make arrangements one year in advance with the Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick

If you know a parishioner who is seriously ill and would like to be anointed, call 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.





WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 28

8:30AM +All Parishioners
 5:15PM +Carlo Limatola Vona Family

Sunday, January 29

7:30AM +Wilfred J. Croteau Parise Family
 9AM + Frank Agonito, Sr. A. Lesko
 11AM +Anna Marie Altieri S. Barrett

Monday, January 30

8:30AM +Rose, Carmella & Joseph Pillo D. Tomasko
 7PM +Rev. Richard F. Futie S. Terenzio

Tuesday, January 31

8:30AM +Malini D’Cunha D’Cunha Family

Wednesday, February 1

8:30AM +Dennis McHugh G. Rodriguez

Thursday, February 2

8:30AM +Anna Baez Nunziata Family

Friday, February 3

8:30AM +Louis & Susan Pastor B. Norton

Saturday, February 4

8:30AM +Raymond Tomasko D. Tomasko
 5:15PM +Anthony Annuncio T. Annuncio

Sunday, February 5

7:30AM +All Parishioners
 9AM + Annie Raynor Gleason Family
 11AM +Frank Agonito, Sr. A. Lesko



**Sanctuary Lights in the Church
 will burn this week for
 Virginia O’Rourke**



**Sanctuary Lights in the Chapel
 will burn this week in memory of
 Marion M. Leon**



**Flowers in the Chapel this week
 in honor of
 Marion M. Leon**

**PRAYER
 REQUESTS**

ST. PIUS X PRAYER LINE

We must never underestimate the power of prayer! Email your petitions and/or thanksgivings to Pat Heile, anytime, at stpiusxprayerln@aol.com.



STEWARDSHIP INSPIRATION

Blessed are they who are what they are and do what they do *for the sake of the kingdom!* The Gospel today assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the kingdom *will* be rewarded!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

- January 16, 2023 Weekend Offertory \$12,215
- 2022 Weekend Offering: \$11,353
- Monthly Offering: \$2,023
- Maintenance Offering: \$245
- Votives (Church & Chapel) Offering: \$645

- January 22, 2023 Weekend Offertory \$11,261
- 2022 Weekend Offering: \$12,246
- Monthly Offering: \$117
- Latin America Offering: \$1,285

SEE PAGE 6 FOR AN UPDATE ON OUR ANNUAL APPEAL.

Sign up for Online Giving:

www.st-pius.org/onlinegive

Please consider increasing your weekly contribution by \$1 or \$2 to help us keep up with the increased costs of running our beautiful campus.



FRIDAY ROSARY

Come pray the rosary following the **8:30AM Mass, Fridays, in the Church.** After the rosary, Pat Heile will lead the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Thank you to Pat for her dedication and service. All are welcome to attend!



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office is open **9AM-4PM, Monday-Thursday** and **9AM-12Noon, Friday.** The staff works remotely when not in the office so you can email them anytime. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Beatitudes we read in the Gospel this weekend are rightly compared with the Ten Commandments. Just as Moses went up Mt. Sinai and received from God the two stone tablets with the Law written on them, so Jesus goes up the mountain and teaches the Beatitudes to the crowd. Moses was the messenger entrusted to bring the law from God to the people. While Jesus is certainly a messenger, we can also see that his way of conveying the message is different than that of Moses. When Jesus goes up the mountain, notice that Matthew's Gospel tells us he sat down. To sit and speak is a sign of authority (this is why during Mass, only a bishop sits when preaching). Jesus speaks from a place of authority. Moses carried stone tablets which had the message etched on them by God's own hand. But Jesus, seated on the mountain, gives no such tablets. Not only is His message different...Jesus **IS** the message.

If the 10 Commandments are relatively unremarkable (we take them somewhat for granted as they are, in fact, the foundation for our civil law and seem rather fundamental to living a decent human life), the Beatitudes may cause some head scratching. It seems odd to our ears to hear that those who mourn are blessed or happy, and downright scandalous to think that it is a good thing to be persecuted or hated just because we believe in Jesus. Yet that is exactly what Jesus tells us. Perhaps strangest to our ears is the phrase, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the land." Meek? Really? Our common usage of the word today would suggest someone with no spine, someone easily dominated, someone weak, a wimp.

But if we look into the way the word was used in the time of Jesus, we will see a very different concept. The word "meek" in English comes from the Norse "mjukr" meaning "gentle." In Greek, the language of Matthew's Gospel, the word is rendered "praus," meaning "humble." But even this fails to really capture the usage of the word. For this word is best applied, not to our common understanding of humility, but to horses. And not just any horse: WAR horses. "To meek" a warhorse meant to break it, but breaking a horse, as we know, does not mean to destroy it. Rather, the horse becomes docile to the commands of its rider. The docility necessary in a warhorse (and it helps to remember that not all horses can carry someone into the chaos of battle) is described by the word "meek." The warhorse both submits to and obeys its rider, and understands its duty to follow commands, even those that lead it into danger. It is a submission and gentleness that requires the utmost strength and character. It is noble and strong, a powerful trait and the very opposite of weakness. It is the meek, Jesus says, who will inherit the earth. And therein lies our final clue to understanding this strange line from the Beatitudes. Moses went up Mt. Sinai and brought to Israel the law of God's covenant. If Israel followed the law, God would give them the Promised Land as their inheritance. To follow the law means to submit to an authority higher than oneself, to be docile to the will of God. Obedience to the 10 Commandments requires me to be in control of myself, my passions, my preferences. Strength is required to follow the law of God, even if the 10 Commandments do not surprise us very much. In fact, obedience to the law requires us to be meek. And if we keep the law, if we are meek, Jesus says, we will inherit the land. Not just the Promised Land, and in fact, we can safely understand not an earthly territory. Rather, we will inherit the new heavens and the new earth that God will give us in eternity.

I cannot consider meekness without thinking of this wonderful scene in C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. May we be meek enough to follow Jesus, *The Message*, the great authority seated on the mountain, the King who calls us into life.

"Is--is he a man?" asked Lucy.

"Aslan a man!" said Mr. Beaver sternly. "Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-Beyond-the-Sea. Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion--the Lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh!" said Susan, "I'd thought he was a man. Is he--quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"That you will, dearie, and no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver. "If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

Peace,
Fr. Sam



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

The Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18

Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 4:21-25

Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a



Baptized CONGRATULATIONS!

We welcome these newly baptized children into our Family of Faith: Grayson Moore Andrzejewski, William Charles Andrzejewski and Lily Chalmers Loftus



MEMORIAL FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED

As you pray, remember all deceased parishioners, and especially those recently deceased: Peggy O'Connor, H. Austin Sheldon

January 29, 2023

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time "Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!-Matthew 5:3

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION: FEBRUARY 3

Visit the Chapel of Mary, Mother of God for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the **First Friday of every month (9AM-9PM.)** Spend time praying and reflecting in the presence of the Lord. This is a beautiful way to pause, be still, and connect with the Lord. Volunteer to sit in the Chapel and "keep watch" in one-hour increments by signing-up via the Flocknote email link or scanning the QR code below.



WEEKLY ADORATION: MOVING TO WEDNESDAY

Come spend some time with the Lord each week! Eucharistic Adoration will now be held **every Wednesday, 7PM-8PM**, in the **Church** while confessions are being heard. This is a wonderful way to deepen your relationship with the Lord.

you are called.

YOU ARE CALLED – SEEK23 CONFERENCE

March 10-12 at St. Pius X Catholic Church

*Every human heart is seeking the same thing—to find it, you must seek Him. **SEEK** is a national conference by FOCUS. At St. Pius X Parish, we will host it as a weekend conference experience (Friday evening through Sunday). This remote experience truly makes you feel united to the universal church! We hope to foster an encounter with the heart of Jesus through the sacraments, small groups, meals, and world-class speakers for our local community*

Pray, share meals, listen to amazing talks, and build community!

Cost

- \$150 (Individual)
- \$450 (Family of 3 or more)

Learn more www.st-pius.org/seek23. For any questions, contact Paola Peña at ppena@st-pius.org.



ST. PIUS X ANNUAL APPEAL NEEDS YOU

Donated to Date: \$171,546
of Donors: 275 out of 2,300+

This Year's Needs:
\$275,000 for School building renovations
\$1.2 Million to pay off construction loan

We still have some very important financial challenges. If you have not yet contributed to the St. Pius X Annual Appeal, we ask you to prayerfully consider it. Your gift, no matter the size, will make a difference.

- Our 60-year-old school building is used daily and requires significant repairs/updates: approx. **\$275,000**.
- We have a **\$1.2 million** outstanding bank loan from the renovation of the church that must be paid off.

We humbly ask ALL families to donate in some way.

TWO WAYS TO DONATE:

- **Online** at www.st-pius.org/onlinegive
- **Mail or Drop in Offertory** a check and put ANNUAL APPEAL in the memo

THANK YOU!



TASTEBUDS

Join us for Tastebuds monthly gathering as we explore seasonal and celebratory cooking that will allow us to grow together in community and connect our faith to our food! Cooking demonstrations will review a menu, recipe, and the process of bringing the meal to the table. Each gathering will end with a dinner of our creations. The next gatherings will take place **5PM-7PM, February 1 and March 1, in the Community Room**. To attend, email Catherine MacDonald at catherinemacdonaldcake@gmail.com. Cost to cover your materials and meal is \$10. Kindred Spirits has generously contributed the wine pairing sample.

"It's not enough to love the children. It is necessary that they are aware that they are loved." – St. John Bosco



FAIRFIELD LIFE TEEN + EDGE STUDENT MINISTRIES

Fairfield Life Teen and Edge invites high school and middle school students in the local area into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Life Teen (High School Ministry) and Edge (Middle School Ministry) are hosted at St. Pius X and open to anyone one at any church. The mission of Fairfield Life Teen + Edge is to provide a space for students to rest, make new friends, and be reminded of God's love for them through the gift of their Catholic faith. Join us!

Upcoming Life Nights (Sundays, 6-8pm)

- Jan. 29: Heart Healthy-The Compassion of God in Luke's Gospel
- Feb. 5: Sacramentally Delicious-The Presence of God in John's Gospel

Upcoming Edge Nights (Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm)

- Feb. 1: Oldies—The Old Testament
- Feb. 8: Social Night

FAIRFIELD LIFE TEEN + EDGE CORE TEAM

We need adult volunteers to be a part of our CORE teams for both our middle and high school ministries. CORE team members are essential in making Fairfield Life Teen + Edge a safe and welcoming environment where the teens are SEEN, KNOWN, and LOVED. They attend our weekly Life/Edge Nights, as well as planning meetings 2-3 times per semester. We are looking for adults to help with the following at the Life/Edge Nights:

- Set-up/clean-up
- Lead opening/closing prayer
- Prepare and give a short teaching on the topic for the night
- Lead small groups
- BE PRESENT with the teens

For more info, visit www.fairfieldlt.com or contact Emily Rauser at erauser@st-pius.org.

"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him." – Luke 2:40



YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS LUNCHEONS

12Noon in the Community Room

February: We will break for February as many fly South for some sunshine. See you in March! And don't forget you can still join us at Game Day each week- see below for details.

March 6: Save the Date for when we return for Spring! Details to come.

RSVP REQUIRED: Peter Carey at aandp1964@aol.com or 203-673-2081.

★ GAME DAY ★

YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS GAME DAY

Join us at **Young at Heart Seniors Game Day** to enjoy a variety of games such as Mah Jongg, cards, and Canasta! If anyone knows Canasta and can help us learn it, we'd love to have you join us. If these games are not your thing, bring your own OR just come and meet new friends and have fellowship and conversation. See you in the Community Room **10AM-12Noon, on Tuesdays**. Questions? Contact **Margaret** at blk125@msn.com or **908-399-2945**. Stop by and check it out!



Calling on Knitters and Crocheters! If you or anyone you know loves to knit or crochet and would like to share your talents by being a part of our beautiful and special Prayer Shawl Ministry, email Kim at kleon@st-pius.org with the subject line: Prayer Shawl Ministry. We're looking for a few folks to jump start our prayer shawl production as our prayer shawls bring healing to those in need from our community and for the Quiet Room at Bridgeport Hospital's Oncology Department. We provide the yarn and you can work at your own pace at home or seniors can come during Game Day on Tuesdays to knit and crochet to your heart's content!

COMMITTEE CHAIR NEEDED!



If you love cooking and sharing your gift with others, please consider becoming the chair of our Operation Hope Meal Prep Team. This group prepares and delivers a monthly meal for 50 of Operation Hope's clients. If you are interested in chairing or joining the committee, please contact the Parish Office. A heartfelt thank you to Dan Omohundro for chairing this committee for the past several years. Thanks also to his faithful prep crew!



SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Join us in the community room **every other Sunday after the 9AM Mass** for Coffee Hour. This is a great way for us to gather as a community and get to know one another a bit better. The next gatherings are **February 5 and 26**. We're looking for volunteers to help. If you are interested, email Genevieve Ritch at Gfanelliritch@optonline.net or use the QR code above to sign up.



CATHOLIC MEN ARE INVITED INTO THE BREACH

Wednesday Feb. 8, 2023 - 7:30 PM
St. Pius X Community Room

In a world and a Church experiencing confusion and conflict about what it means to be a man, God calls men into the breach, to live an authentic masculinity, to live for excellence. Join us for a special video presentation, as we hear from Mike Phelan, MLB pitcher Trevor Williams, and others, and are inspired to be the husbands, fathers, friends, and men God calls us to be. Open to all men. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Rosary will be said at 7:15pm prior to the video.



ST. PIUS X MASS LIVESTREAM INFO

- Mass Livestream: 8:30AM, Daily Mass and 11AM, Sunday Mass (posted on our Facebook and YouTube.)
- Follow us on Facebook/Instagram @st.piusx_church
- Like us and subscribe to St. Pius X on YouTube



CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in Fairfield, CT will be hosting an Open House on Sunday, January 29 from 10AM-12PM.



GIVING AT ST. PIUS X

There are many ways to give to our beautiful parish—the easiest and safest way is Online Giving.

Get started today or take a minute to review your scheduled donations.

“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

—Luke 6:38

Benefits of Online Giving

- Safe and secure.
- You control the amount and timing and can change at any time.
- No more writing checks or handling cash.



www.st-pius.org/onlinegive

Questions? Call the Parish Office at 203-255-6134