

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023



ST. PIUS X PARISH

203-255-6134

834 Brookside Drive Fairfield, CT 06824

WWW.ST-PIUS.ORG

PARISH STAFF



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PAROCHIAL VICAR

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Parish Corporation

Kathryn Vogt	Lay Member
Arthur Wolf	Lay Member
Jeremy Joyce, Chair	Parish Finance Council

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Thursday, 9AM-4PM
Friday 9AM-12PM

Parish Phone	203-255-6134
Parish Fax	203-255-5235
Religious Education	203-259-4800
Parish Email	secretary@st-pius.org

MASS TIMES

Daily	8:30AM, Monday-Saturday, Church
Monday	7PM, Extraordinary Form, Chapel
Saturday	5:15PM, Vigil Mass, Church
Sunday	7:30AM, 9AM, 11AM, Church

Holy Days

Vigil	5:30PM, Church
Holy Day	8:30AM, 5:30PM, Church 7PM, Extraordinary Form, Chapel

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation

SATURDAY 4-5PM, Church
WEDNESDAY 7-8PM, Church

Baptism

Pre-baptismal classes are on the first Sunday of every month. Call the Parish Office to register for the class and to schedule your child's baptism.

Marriage

Registered parishioners should make arrangements one year in advance with the Parish Office. Visit www.st-pius.org for more information or call the Parish Office.

Communion for the Home-bound

If you or a loved one would like to receive Communion at home, contact Deacon Don Ross at dnross@diobpt.org

Anointing of the Sick

If you or someone you know is ill and would like to be anointed, call the Parish Office.

Becoming Catholic

The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) is available year-round to anyone who wants to inquire about our faith, baptism or complete their initiation as a Roman Catholic. Call the Parish Office for more information.

PRAYER

Devotions

Adoration Monday 9AM-Friday 9PM, Chapel
Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 9AM, Fridays, Church
First Saturday Devotion to Our Lady, 9AM, Chapel

Prayer Line

We must never underestimate the power of prayer. To pray for others or to have others pray for you, email Pat Heile at stpiusxprayerln@aol.com.



Pastor's Note

Today's Readings

First Reading:

Is 63:16B-17,
19B; 64:2-7

Psalm:

Ps 80:2-3,
15-16, 18-19

Second Reading:

1 Cor 1:3-9

Gospel:

Mk 13:33-37

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today begins the new liturgical year of the Catholic Church. The season of Advent stands at the head of our calendar because it is a season of preparation and new beginnings. The birth of Jesus in history marks the beginning of something new. Just as God made a covenant with Abraham and renewed that covenant with Noah, Moses, and the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament, so the coming of Christ in time marks the beginning of

beginning of the new and eternal covenant which God makes with his people. We who wait for the coming of Christ will pray today that we would have the grace to run forth to meet the Messiah, to persevere in faith and to remain true to the Gospel message. May this season of Advent be a time of true preparation, and a moment of renewal and new beginnings in faith.

In addition to being the start of a new liturgical year, this first Sunday of Advent is also a day of special honors for a number of our parishioners. Bishop Caggiano has nominated seven members of our parish for special papal honors, and Pope Francis has graciously granted his request. Charles and Ruth Chiusano and Sheila Clancy will receive the Benemerenti medal. This Pontifical decoration was instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832 and is conferred on recipients for distinguished service to Catholic principles, the Church and society, and who have shown an active fidelity to and love for the Church. Robert and Barbara Scinto and Al and Chris DiGiudo will receive the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross. This Pontifical decoration was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1888 and is also conferred for distinguished service to the Church, and

is the highest honor the Pope can confer on a lay person. The honors will be given during a vespers service this evening at St. Augustine Cathedral. Please join me in congratulating Charles, Ruth, Sheila, Bob, Barbara, Al, and Chris as they receive these awards, and in thanking them for their service to the Church!

Changing gears back to the season of Advent, it is worth noting that this year is the shortest possible chronological season of Advent. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is also December 24, Christmas Eve. As the practice of celebrating Christmas Mass on Christmas Eve has become increasingly popular, it is good to make our plans now. Please keep in mind that there are two distinct obligations for Mass. First, the weekly Sunday obligation will need to be observed. Second, the obligation to celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity needs to be observed. The Fourth Sunday of Advent can be celebrated at one of the anticipated Masses on Saturday December 23 or at Mass in the morning on Sunday December 24. The obligation to assist at Mass on Christmas can be observed at one of the evening Masses on Sunday December 24 or on Christmas Day itself, December 25. In this bulletin, you will find the complete schedule for Masses for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas, along with a guide for fulfilling both obligations. Please note that the Mass schedule for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is unique, which will allow Fr. Brendan, Deacon Don, myself, and Mike Lantowski, our music director, a chance to breathe as we change gears to prepare for Christmas Masses. Next week, I will share some thoughts on the nature of vigils and anticipated Masses in the life of the Church and how the liturgical life of the Church helps us to enter into the mysteries of our faith.

Peace,
Fr. Sam

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2		
8:30AM	+Robert Renehan	
5:15PM	+Anthony Annuncia	T. Annuncia
Sunday, December 3		
7:30AM	All Parishioners	
9:00AM	+Janet Chauncey	Douglas Family
11:00AM	+Special Intentions	J. Skultety
Monday, December 4		
8:30AM	+Bernard McConaghy	Vogt Family
Wednesday, December 6		
8:30AM	+Gerry Flynn	
Thursday, December 7		
8:30AM	+Sean McGowan	McAuliffe Family
5:30PM	All Parishioners	
Friday, December 8		
8:30AM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM		All Parishioners



Sanctuary Lights will burn

in the Church in memory Michele Hubler
in the Chapel in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes



In Memoriam

Pray for our parishioners who recently passed:
Josephine Lavrado

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Offertory

Offerings	Nov 19	Nov 26
Weekend	\$ 12,428	\$ 12,895
Weekend 2022	\$ 10,949	\$ 15,282
Monthly	\$ 237	\$ 145
Maintenance	\$ 215	N/A
Thanksgiving	N/A	\$ 536

St. Pius X Annual Appeal

This year's parish appeal is for critical school repairs.

27%

\$ 66,315

Donated

\$ 250,000

Goal

5%

123

Gifts

2,460

Registered Families

Upcoming Second Collection

During the weekend of December 9-10, there will be a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Accountability Sunday

To ensure financial transparency, Bishop Caggiano has declared this weekend Accountability Sunday. All diocesan parishes, schools and certain entities issue their financial reports in a standardized accounting reporting model. The St. Pius X Report is available at all doors and on our website at www.st-pius.org.



Baptisms

We welcome the newly baptized into our Faith Family: Keeley Alice Hayes, Connor Patrick Carino, Ryan Reilly Wasel, Jack Stephen Byrne, Emory Fay Lux, Valentina Grace Morrison, Cian Robert O'Reilly, Cooper Matthew Raasch

WED

6

DEC

Tastebuds, 5-7PM, Community Room and Kitchen

FRI

8

DEC

Young Adult Adoration and Fellowship, 7PM Church

SUN

10

DEC

Giving Tree Gifts, Last Day to Return Gifts

Coffee Hour, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

THANK YOU!!!

We are grateful to the Bulletin Focus Group for sharing their expertise, time & patience - Hope Hottois, Elizabeth Patterson, Maria Piccolo & Palma Senatore. Thanks also to our Young at Heart Group who selected the font used in the new bulletin. Happy Reading!

UPCOMING MASS SCHEDULE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

The Immaculate Conception of Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are on Thursday, December 7 at 5:30PM and Friday, December 8 at 8:30AM, 5:30PM and the Extraordinary Form at 7PM in the Chapel. There will be Vespers sung after the Friday, December 8, 5:30PM Mass in the Church.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24th. All Catholics must fulfill their obligation to attend Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent as well as attend Mass for the Solemnity of Christmas. To fulfill your obligation, attend one Mass from each group below.

<u>4th Sunday of Advent Mass</u>	<u>Christmas Mass</u>
Saturday, December 23	Sunday, December 24
4:00 PM	4:00 PM
5:30 PM	6:00 PM
Sunday December 24	Monday December 25
7:30 AM	12:00 AM 9:00AM
9:00 AM	7:30 AM 11:00AM

EVENTS



YOUNG ADULT ADORATION

Friday, December 8, 7PM, Church

Join us every second Friday of the month for Young Adult Adoration! There is praise and worship, a homily, and confessions. Fellowship is at 8PM in the Community Room. For more young adult events or small groups, please visit www.fairfielddiac.com.



EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL NIGHT

Wednesday, December 13, 7PM, Church

Join us as Tyler Lomnitzer, our SPX Knights of Columbus leader, shares his testimony. There will be Adoration and Confession from 7-8PM and Tyler will speak from 7:30-7:45PM. Fellowship and refreshments to follow in the Community Room at 8PM. Everyone of every age is welcome! Bring your friends and family!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 17, 3PM, Church , 4PM, Fellowship, Community Room

Be sure to join us for our Annual Children's Christmas Pageant. If your child is interested in participating, scan the QR code to sign up. Email Patty O'Brien patty.marie.obrien@gmail.com & Darcy Ronan darcy.ronan@gmail.com with any questions.



PRAYER



ADORATION

Our Adoration Chapel, is open from Monday, 9AM until Friday, 9PM. Consider signing up for:

- 1) Any hour that does not currently have an adorer - Tuesdays: 12AM, Thursdays: 10AM, 3PM, Friday: 1AM.
- 2) Any hour that has an adorer as we hope to have at least two adorers for each time slot.
- 3) A weekend hour. As soon as we have enough weekend commitments we will launch Perpetual Adoration, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To sign up or to become a substitute visit www.st-pius.org/adore365/ or scan the QR code.



FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Join us on the first Saturday of every month in the Chapel at 9AM for a devotion to Our Lady. We will pray the rosary, Litany of Loreto, and follow with Benediction.

ROSARY AND CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

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. All are welcome to attend!

MINISTRIES

HELP DECORATE ST. PIUS X CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!

St. Pius X needs help getting ready for Christmas! If you're interested in helping decorate the Church right before our Lord's birth, call the Parish Office at 203-255-6134 and ask for Cathy Coyle.



LITURGICAL

"The liturgy...is about the action of God's own people, each with different offices and roles...one of service, not of privilege, a mirror of Christ who washed the feet of his disciples and instructed his followers to imitate his example of service." - USCCB

SCHOLA CANTORUM Practice **Thursdays, from 7-8:30PM in the Church.** Do you love to sing? Consider joining the Schola Cantorum and help lead the liturgical music at the 11:00AM Sunday Mass as well as various Holy Days. Please contact Michael Lantowski at mikestro@ymail.com or call 203-255-6134, ext. 119.

YOUTH CHOIR Practice **Thursdays, from 4:30-5:30PM in the Church.** All children in grades 2-8 are welcome to join the Youth Choir. The choir sings at the 9AM Mass on the last Sunday of each month. Our singers are under the direction of our head cantor and CT certified music educator, Cidalia Kettles, and accompanied by Michael Lantowski, our Director of Music. For more information, reach out to Mrs. Kettles at cidmezzo@gmail.com or Mike at mikestro@ymail.com.

ALTAR SERVERS All children who have received their First Holy Communion are invited to become altar servers. Altar servers assist the priest in the celebration of the liturgy during Mass. If you are interested, email Fr. Brendan at frblawie@diobpt.org.

USHERS This simple but important ministry is looking for members to assist during Mass in collecting the offertory and helping to seat parishioners. To find out more information, email Mike Finneran at lakehillsfinns@gmail.com.

LECTORS Would you like to serve our community by proclaiming scripture during the liturgy? A thoughtful and prayerful presentation by our lectors helps open the hearts and minds of our community to the Word of God. Contact Fr. Brendan frblawie@diobpt.org.

ST. THÉRÈSE GUILD With deep love and reverence for the Holy Eucharist, the St. Thérèse Guild cares for the sacred altar linens on a rotating schedule. Training is provided. Email Fr. Brendan at frblawie@diobpt.org if you are interested.

MINISTRIES

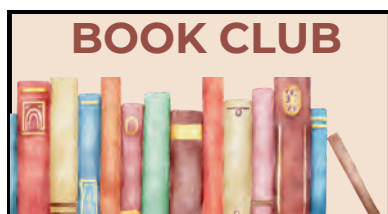
COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND FORMATION



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Saturday Mornings, 6:30AM, Community Room.

Join the men of the parish for prayer, conversation, and fellowship! For more information, contact Mark Drexel at drexel2424@optonline.net. We look forward to welcoming you!



WELL-READ MOMS BOOK CLUB

Saturday, December 9, 10-11:15AM, Munro Room

We invite you to our monthly discussion of great books and spiritual classics that encourage personal growth, friendship, and meaningful conversation. Our December book is "The Practice in the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence, a perfect read for the Advent season! Written in the 17th century by a French hermit, spiritual director, and member of the Order of Discalced Carmelites, it contains enduring wisdom for seeking God in your daily life. For more information or to RSVP, email Karen Lannigan at karenlannigan0915@gmail.com



SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, December 10, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

Come to the Community Room after the 9AM Mass for coffee and treats. This week's Coffee Hour is hosted by the Knights of Columbus. If you would like to help with the hospitality, contact Genevieve Ritch at gfanelliritch@optonline.net or scan the QR code to contribute. All are welcome!



OPERATION HOPE MEAL PREP

First Monday of Every Month, SPX Faith Center Kitchen

Our Operation Hope Meal Prep Team would love for you to join them. You're invited to help prepare and deliver a monthly meal for 50 of Operation Hope's clients. If you're interested in cooking, donating food or cash to this effort, scan the QR Code or contact Genevieve Ritch at gfanelliritch@optonline.net.



TASTEBUDS

Wednesday, December 6, 5-7PM, Community Room

Come to Tastebuds monthly gathering! Along with cooking demonstrations, we will review recipes, and enjoy the meal we created together. Our dinners will be paired with selections from Kindred Spirits in Fairfield. The cost to cover your meal is \$15. Email catherinemacdonaldcake@gmail.com to RSVP and scan the QR code to for payment.



MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND FORMATION



YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

Monday, January 8 & Monday, February 5, 12Noon, Community Room

Save the Date for these Upcoming Luncheons - In January, ring in the New Year with guest speaker Joe Pisani, columnist at Fairfield County Catholic. In February, our very own Fr. Brendan will be back by popular demand to speak about Eucharistic Miracles.



YOUNG AT HEART GAME DAY

Tuesdays, 10AM-12PM, Community Room, Mahjong

Wednesdays, 10AM-12PM, Community Room, Canasta

Bring a friend and meet us in the Community Room. You can just stop by for fellowship and conversation. Questions? Contact Margaret at blk125@msn.com or 908-399-2945.



WRAPPED IN LOVE, KNITTING MINISTRY

Our Knitting Ministry creates baptismal blankets for our newly baptized babies as well as prayer shawls for those who are ill. Each stitch is infused with the crafter's prayers for the recipients. Once completed, the items are blessed by Fr. Brendan. If you would like to join their efforts, contact Kim Leon at kleon@st-pius.org. We provide yarn.



WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Thursday, December 7, 9:30-11:30AM, Community Room

Walking with Purpose, a women's Catholic bible study, invites all women of the parish to a special Christmas Brunch and talk given by Fr. Sam. Please RSVP to Dawn Carpanzano at dawnmariec@sbcglobal.net by Monday, December 4.



FAIRFIELD LIFE TEEN + EDGE

Fairfield Life Teen + Edge invite local high school and middle school students into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Life Teen (High School) + Edge (Middle School) are hosted at St. Pius X and open to anyone at any church. Our mission 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!

LIFE TEEN - HIGH SCHOOL

Sundays, 6-8PM, Rel Ed School Portable

Dec. 3: Recharge-Finding Integrity Through Advent

Dec. 10: White Elephant Christmas Party

EDGE - MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wednesdays, 6:30-8PM, Rel Ed School Gym

Dec. 6: White Elephant Christmas Party

Dec. 13: Eucharistic Revival Night - 7PM-8:30PM

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

MY ADVENT CALENDAR



KID STUFF AT ST. PIUS X

- Sunday, December 3, After 9AM Mass, Community Room, Coffee Hour & Gingerbread House Decorating (RSVP required for Gingerbread Activity - catherinemacdonaldcake@gmail.com)
- Sunday, December 10 & 17, After 9AM Mass, Community Room, Coffee Hour
- Sunday, December 17, 3PM, Church, Christmas Pageant, Party to Follow in Community Room!



St. Nicholas,
Pray for Us!