

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023



ST. PIUS X PARISH

203-255-6134

834 Brookside Drive Fairfield, CT 06824

WWW.ST-PIUS.ORG

PARISH STAFF



PASTOR

Rev. Samuel S. Kachuba, S.T.L.
fr.samuel.kachuba@diobpt.org



PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Brendan H. Blawie, S.T.L.
frblawie@diobpt.org

Fr. Colin Blatchford.....Resident Priest
fr.blatchford@couragerc.org

Deacon Donald J. Ross.....Deacon
dnross@diobpt.org

Michael Lantowski.....Director of Music & Organist
mikestro@ymail.com

Shari Mellinger.....Director of Religious Education
sgarcia@st-pius.org

Paola Pena.....Director of Evangelization
ppena@st-pius.org

Emily Rauser.....Fairfield LifeTeen & Edge
erauser@setoncollaborative.org

Terri Dawes.....Receptionist
tdawes@st-pius.org

Cathy Coyle.....Administrative Assistant
ccoyle@st-pius.org

Kimberlie I. Leon.....Business Manager
kleon@st-pius.org

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

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 Homebound

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 to anyone who wants to learn more about our faith 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, Friday, Church
First Saturday Devotion to Our Lady, 9AM, Church

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.

Art Credit: St. Juan Diego, San Xavier del Bac Mission, photo by Lawrence OP



Pastor's Note

Today's Readings

First Reading:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalms: Ps 85:9-14

Second Reading:

2 Pt 3:8-14

Gospel:

Mk 1:1-8

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The season of Advent represents an invitation to keep watch, anticipating the arrival of Christ, the light of the world. In the life of the Church, a vigil is a unique liturgical celebration that introduces us to the mystery or feast being celebrated, inviting us to keep watch and prepare our hearts. Many of these vigils are celebrated only in

monasteries or religious houses, as the practice of anticipatory Masses (on Saturdays or the day before a holy day of obligation) has become more common. While we may not fully recover the liturgical expression of vigils, we can, I believe, find renewal in the spiritual and emotional disposition of keeping vigil.

One who keeps vigil must be, first of all, awake. A good vigil-keeper stays alert and awake, attentive to what is happening around them. They know what they anticipate, what they are looking for, and that attentive watching helps them be prepared. We most often associate vigils with the dark, small hours of the night. If we imagine keeping vigil we will often think of a solitary figure on watch. This suggests a degree of silence and solitude. In that silence and solitude, the one who keeps vigil will also review what they know about the thing or person expected. And so the vigil of Advent takes place as darkness increases. Throughout this season, the Scripture that we read at Mass reminds us of the hoped for Messiah, the one whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and the one whom Israel eagerly anticipates. As we keep this vigil in the darkness, we might also notice things becoming quieter. Though this season is full of busy activity, step outside on a winter's night and notice how quiet it is compared to the warmer seasons. While the nights are especially silent, the season of Advent reminds us to find silence. It is in silence that we can contemplate God more perfectly, in silence where we can find the space to think more clearly, and find the

space to focus, not on the busyness and noise of the season, but on the goal and purpose of the season, which is the coming birth of the Messiah.

In order to stay awake, to be attentive in silence and in solitude, we also need patience. How easy it would be for the one keeping watch to spend the entire time just wishing that the day would come, that the watch would be over. But an impatient vigil keeper is likely to miss something. In that darkened, silent space, patience is necessary. And so the weeks of Advent remind us to be patient – it is not Christmas yet! Even as our longing for the Christ the Light is increasing, there is good reason to wait. In these Advent weeks, God wants us to learn some spiritual lesson, to recognize Him in a way that we have not before, and to be attentive to His presence in places where previously it has been hard to see. Patience also reminds us that the vigil is something that stands apart, a unique task given to us, and not one to rush through or get out of the way.

There is more I could say about balancing the urgent feeling to finish something and the need to patiently work through the present moment, but my space is growing short for this column and there are still many days left of the Advent season. Instead, I will propose that we continue to keep watch for Christ, entering into the silence, staying alert, and preparing for the day when we will behold His light in a new way. And to keep us watching, I will also promise to pick up this theme again next week, to offer some ideas for that balance and that patience that is required for a truly fruitful Advent season.

Peace,

Fr. Sam

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 9		
8:30AM	+Sheila Lamont	A. Olson
5:15PM	+Patricia Norka	Buckley Family
Sunday, December 10		
7:30AM	+Kirik & Parise Families	Parise Family
9:00AM	+Joseph Walsh	R. Zmarzlak
11:00AM	+Vona Family	Vona Family
Monday, December 11		
8:30AM	+Lucrecia Mamzano	J. Guerara
Tuesday, December 12		
8:30AM	+Connie, John & Anthony Mallozzi	Gleason Family
Wednesday, December 13		
8:30AM	+Andrew Orosz	K. Grosso
Thursday, December 14		
8:30AM	+Dr. John & Nancy Coyle	Coyle Family
Friday, December 15		
8:30AM	+Bob Karl	S. Karl

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Offertory

Offerings	Nov 26	Dec 3
Weekend	\$ 12,895	\$ 12,718
Weekend 2022	\$ 15,282	\$ 13,837
Monthly	\$ 145	\$ 615
Maintenance	N/A	\$ 256
Votives	N/A	\$ 433
Thanksgiving	\$ 536	N/A

St. Pius X Annual Appeal

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



\$ 80,425

Donated

\$ 250,000

Goal



150

Gifts

2,460

Registered Families

Second Collection

There will be a second collection this weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious.



Sanctuary Lights will burn

in the Church in memory of Eileen M. Donnelly
in the Chapel for blessings on our Prayer Shawl
Ministry



Baptisms

We welcome the newly baptized into our Faith
Family: Penelope Mae Bradford, Emmy Blake
Moriarty

SUN

10

DEC

Coffee Hour, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

WED

13

DEC

Eucharistic Revival Night, 7PM, Church, Fellowship, 8PM, Community Room

SUN

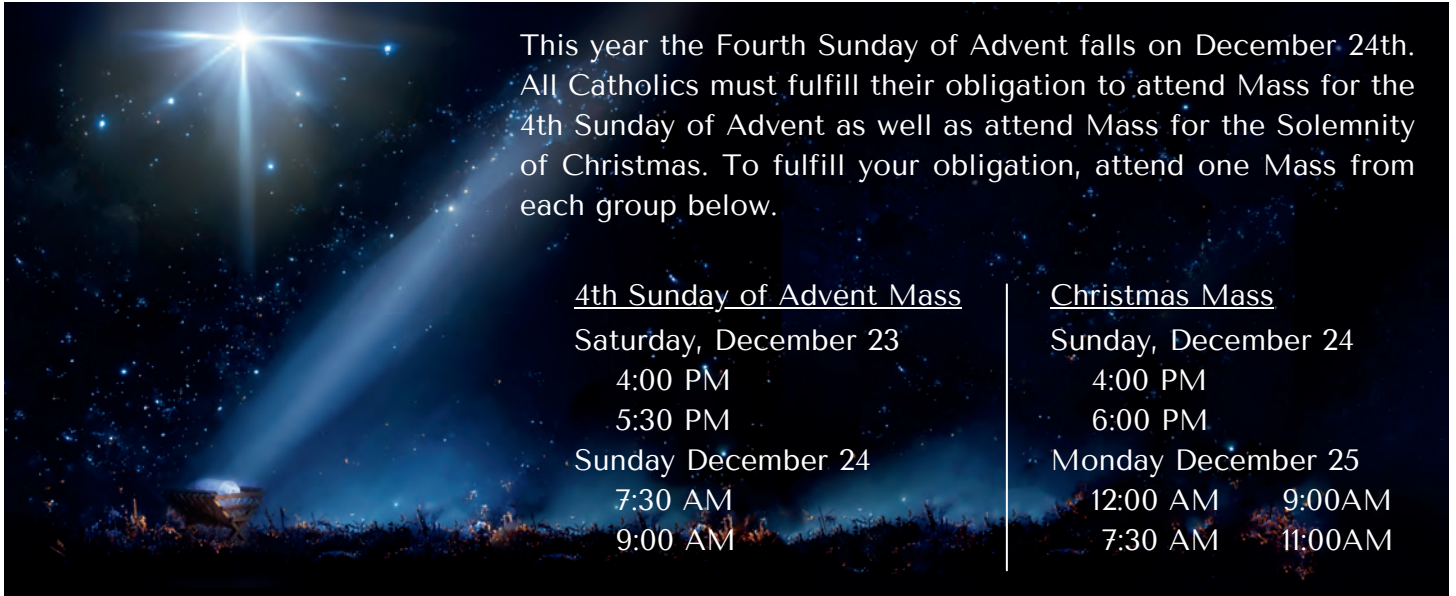
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DEC

Coffee Hour, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

Christmas Pageant, 3PM Church, Fellowship to Follow, Community Room

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



DECORATE ST. PIUS X CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!

Thursday, December 21, 4PM, Church

St. Pius X needs help getting ready for Christmas! If you're interested in decorating the Church, call the Parish Office at 203-255-6134 or email Paola Peña at ppena@st-pius.org.

EVENTS



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, Fellowship to Follow, 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.



YOUNG ADULT ADORATION

Friday, January 12, 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.

PRAYER



ADORATION

Monday, 9AM-Friday, 9PM, Chapel

Adore our Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament! Consider signing up for:

- 1) Any hour that does not currently have an adorer - Thursdays: 3PM, Fridays: 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

First Saturday, 9AM, Church

Join us for a devotion to Our Lady. We will pray the Rosary, Litany of Loreto, and follow with Benediction.

ROSARY AND CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

Friday, 9AM, Church

Come pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy lead by Pat Heile. All are welcome to attend!

MINISTRIES



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 Thursday, 7-8:30PM, 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 Thursday, 4:30-5:30PM, 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 lakehillsfins@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

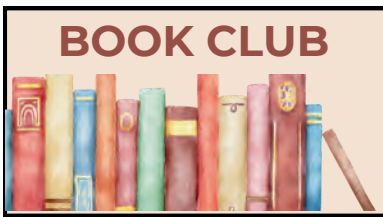
COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND FORMATION



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, 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, January 6, 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. For more information or to RSVP, email Karen Lannigan at karenlannigan0915@gmail.com



SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, December 10 & 17, 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, January 10, 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, 12PM, 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

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

Wednesday, 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.

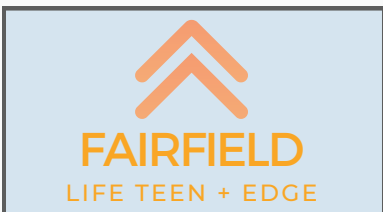


WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Wednesday, 6:30-8:30PM, Munro Room

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

Walking with Purpose, a women's Catholic bible study, invites all women of the parish to join one of their scripture studies. To find out more information, email Dawn Carpanzano at dawnmariec@sbcglobal.net or visit www.st-pius.org/wwwp.



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

Sunday, 6-8PM, Rel Ed School Portable

Dec. 10: White Elephant Christmas Party

Jan. 7: Winter Kick-Off (6:30-8pm)

EDGE - MIDDLE SCHOOL

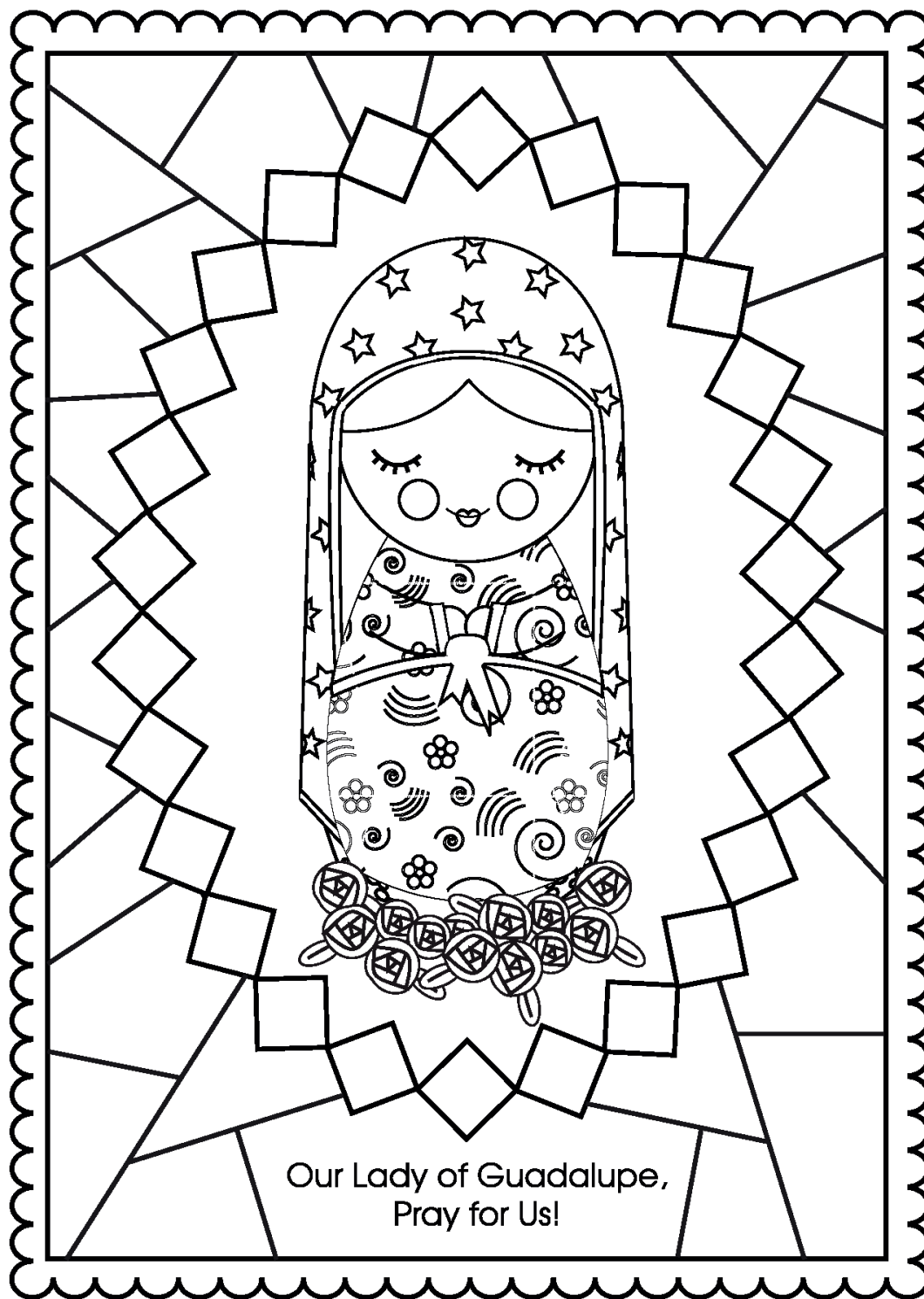
Wednesday, 6:30-8PM, Rel Ed School Gym

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

Jan. 10: Winter Kick-Off

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.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, FEAST DAY, DECEMBER 12

Our Lady appeared before Saint Juan Diego, a poor Aztec Indian peasant, on a hill in Mexico in 1531. Clothed like an Aztec princess, Mary spoke to Juan in his own language. She asked Juan to go to the local bishop and instruct him to build a church in her honor on that very spot. After first being refused by the bishop, Juan returned to the bishop with a sign given to him by Mary—roses that bloomed, impossibly, in winter. When he opened his tilma, or cloak, the roses spilled out, and inside the tilma was imprinted the beautiful image of Mary as she appeared to Juan. The bishop built the church, and Mary's love and compassion were extended to the people of Mexico and beyond. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas and to this day, millions of people visit her shrine in Mexico City to see her image on Juan's tilma.




JOIN IN ON OUR LONGSTANDING TRADITION OF THE
ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH

GIVING TREE



GRAB A TAG,
PURCHASE THE LISTED ITEM,
RETURN THE GIFT TO THE TREE WITH TAG ATTACHED
BY THE WEEKEND OF DEC 9/10



BUSY? USE THE QR
CODE TO DONATE,
WE'LL DO THE
SHOPPING FOR YOU!



THE GREATEST NEED IS FOR WALMART & DOLLARTREE GIFT CARDS!
THESE STORES HAVE EVERYTHING OUR NEIGHBORS NEED AND ARE
ACCESSIBLE ON THEIR LOCAL BUSLINES.

THE CARDS ARE ONLY SOLD DIRECTLY BY THESE RETAILERS.
PURCHASE THEM IN ONE OF THREE WAYS.

- VISIT OUR LOCAL DOLLARTREE OR WALMART.
- BUY ONLINE AT THE STORE WEBSITE, CARDS ARE MAILED FOR FREE.
- DONATE VIA THE QR CODE AND WE'LL PICK THEM UP FOR YOU!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL CATHY OR DOUG VAN TORNHOUT AT
STPIUSXGIVINGTREE@GMAIL.COM.