

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023



ST. PIUS X PARISH

203-255-6134

834 Brookside Drive Fairfield, CT 06824

WWW.ST-PIUS.ORG

PARISH STAFF



PASTOR

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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

The Parish Office will be closed Friday, December 22, 2023 to January 1, 2024.

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, Friday, 9AM, 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. John the Baptist Preaching by Mattia Preti, ca. 1665, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco



Pastor's Note

Today's Readings

1st Reading:

Is 61:1-2A, 10-11

Res. Psalm:

Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

2nd Reading:

1 Thes 5:16-24

Gospel:

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
The Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, brings us one of the two days in the liturgical year when rose-colored vestments are used, a visible sign that the reason for our season of vigil is coming very soon. We know that the birth of Jesus is very near, and with that anticipation the entrance antiphon for Mass today calls on us to rejoice for our salvation is near at hand. Since this year gives us the shortest possible time for the Advent season, the urgency of our Lord's arrival is heightened. Thus far, our reflection on the season has focused on the nature and purpose of vigils. Knowing the time is short, how do we enter into the vigil-quality of this season without getting distracted by the fact that the goal is in sight?

Last week I wrote about the importance of keeping watch, being mindful and alert to the ways that God is present, and being aware of those places where God is calling us to grow in holiness. Silence is a tremendous tool for keeping an effective vigil, and for growing in our ability to hear the voice of the Lord. As we rejoice today in the spirit of Gaudete Sunday, we might take our next lesson in vigil-keeping from the Gospel we hear at Mass. Patience. Notice how John the Baptist is patient with the questions being put to him. The very questions themselves indicate a sense of urgency, and even suggest that they have been asked before. Perseverance. The Jews have waited for the Messiah, they have endured patiently (and sometimes impatiently), and have kept the vigil. Now they see John, a radical figure, and they begin to wonder who he is and if this is the sign of the Messiah they have long awaited. Even as the questions – “Who are you?” – have an urgent tone, they are asked within the context of a prophetic tradition that keeps the interlocutors grounded. They know that they cannot jump to

conclusions, that they must discern carefully, and that God's time is perfect. So it is that the questioners and the one being questioned patiently engage in dialogue. The questions and John's answers to them are necessary parts of the process of keeping watch. The prophets had long foretold that before the Christ would come the great prophet who would prepare the way. Thus, it is necessary to watch for and listen to the voice of one crying out in the wilderness. This mystery must be encountered first, and only after it has been discovered can the mystery of the Messiah be fully welcomed.

Next Sunday is both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. We mark two necessary mysteries. First, we will complete the last part of our vigil. Second, we will keep watch with the shepherds for the Messiah. It is important that we embrace both mysteries, both celebrations. Patience and perseverance is required. When we recognize that the complete vigil is needed and part of the process, we celebrate two distinct liturgies. I sometimes worry that the Christmas Eve vigil Masses can be approached as a task to get out of the way before the real party can begin. And so I would like to encourage an approach more like what we hear in the Gospel today. A necessary dialogue, patiently engaged, perseverance in hope, and an understanding that God is at the heart of these mysteries we commemorate. The most important part of our observance of Christmas is rooted in our liturgical celebration of Mass. We should see attending Mass as the heart of our Christmas observance, not something that interferes with opening presents or meal times. Please note the special Mass schedule for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Thank you for your understanding, as the marathon of Christmas Masses begins. And thank you for engaging with patience, perseverance, and today especially, with rejoicing, as we anticipate the coming of the Messiah, who is Jesus Christ the Lord.

Peace,
Fr. Sam

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 16

8:30AM.....+Jerry Padula.....F. Padula

5:15PM.....All Parishioners

Sunday, December 17

7:30AM.....+Etta & George Dieringer Parise Family

9AM.....+Mary Jane Kaner.....J. Kaner

11AM.....+William Barrett.....S. Barrett

Monday, December 18

8:30AM.....+Susanne Murphy.....S. Karl

Tuesday, December 19

8:30AM.....+Patrick Doohan.....Feeney Family

Wednesday, December 20

8:30AM.....+Lillian, Gregory & Greg Patti

Thursday, December 21

8:30AM.....+Ericka Pulos Mohr.....Feeney Family

Friday, December 22

8:30AM.....+Leo Heile.....P. Heile

4th Sunday of Advent Masses

Saturday, December 23

8:30AM.....+Anne & Nicholas Fabian

4PM.....All Parishioners

5:30PM.....+Joseph Walsh.....R. & R. DeCastro

Sunday, December 24

7:30AM, 9AM.....All Parishioners

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24

4PM, 6PM.....All Parishioners

Monday, December 25

12AM, 7:30AM, 9AM, 11AM.....All Parishioners



Sanctuary Lights will burn

in the Church for blessing upon the Park City

Men's Group

in the Chapel for blessings upon the Young at

Heart Group

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Offertory

Offerings	Dec 3	Dec 10
Weekend	\$ 12,718	\$ 13,961
Weekend 2022	\$ 13,837	\$ 11,967
Monthly	\$ 615	\$ 2,171
Mission	N/A	\$ 704
Immaculate		
Conception	N/A	\$ 1,963
Retirement Fund		
for Religious	N/A	\$ 1,659

St. Pius X Annual Appeal

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

39%

\$ 97,655

Donated

\$ 250,000

Goal

7%

182

Gifts

2,460

Registered Families



Baptisms

We welcome the newly baptized into our Faith

Family: Natale Picco IV, Isabella Gianna Conetta



In Memoriam

Pray for our parishioners who recently passed:

Michael CoSenza Jr.

SUN

17

DEC

Coffee Hour, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

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

THURS

21

DEC

Christmas Decorating, 4PM, Church

MON

24

DEC

Midnight Mass Choral Prelude, 11:30PM, 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. On Saturday, December 23, confessions will be heard from 3-4PM.

<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'd like to help decorate the Church, call the Office at 203-255-6134 or email Paola Peña at ppena@st-pius.org.

MIDNIGHT MASS CHORAL PRELUDE

Sunday, December 24, 11:30PM

The Schola Cantorum and Cantors will present a Christmas Prelude Concert prior to Midnight Mass. All are invited to come and prepare their heart for Our Savior's birth.

EVENTS



EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL NIGHT

Wednesday, January 17, 7PM, Church

Join us as our pastor, Fr. Sam, shares his testimony. There will be Adoration, Music, and Confession from 7-8PM. Fr. Sam 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 - 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.

The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed on Friday, December 22, 9PM, and exposed again on Tuesday, December 26 at 9AM.



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 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

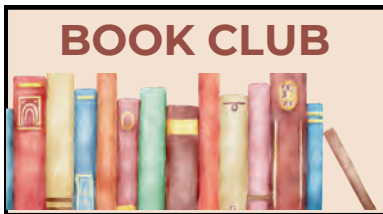
COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND FORMATION



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, 6:30AM, Community Room

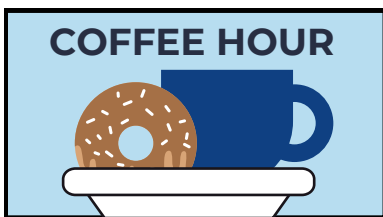
Join the men of the parish for prayer, conversation, and fellowship! For more information, contact Mark Drexel at drexel2424@optonline.net. We look forward to welcoming you!



WELL-READ MOMS BOOK CLUB

Saturday, January 6, 10-11:15AM, Munro Room

We invite you to discuss great books and spiritual classics that encourage personal growth and friendship. In January, we will discuss "Four Quartets" by T.S. Eliot, an enduring masterpiece, which he considered his greatest work. For more information or to RSVP, email Karen Lannigan at karenlannigan0915@gmail.com



SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, December 17, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

Come to the Community Room after the 9AM Mass for coffee and treats. If you would like to help with 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 the 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 gathering! Along with cooking demonstrations, we will review recipes, and enjoy the meal we created together. Our dinners will be paired with Kindred Spirits selections in Fairfield. The cost is \$15. Email catherinemacdonaldcake@gmail.com to RSVP and scan the QR code to pay.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

First Tuesday of the Month, 7-8:30PM, Community Room

All men of the parish are welcome to the Knights of Columbus St. Pius X Council. The Knights meet each month to deepen their faith and fellowship while doing good works for the parish and greater community. Email Tyler Lomnitzer at Tyler.Lomnitzer@KofC.org for more information.

MINISTRIES

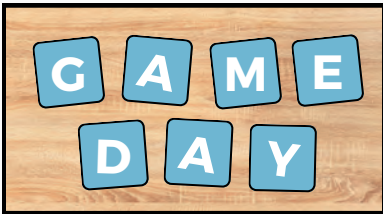
COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND FORMATION



YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

Monday, January 8, 12PM, Community Room

Ring in the New Year with guest speaker, Joe Pisani, columnist at Fairfield County Catholic. Joe will talk about "The First 100 Years Are the Hardest," a humorous look at the challenges, blessings and opportunities for the AARP generation and beyond. RSVP to Peter Carey at aandp1964@aol.com or 203-673-2081. Let Pete know if you can bake!



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 for fun and fellowship! 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

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

EDGE - MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

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.

MY ADVENT WREATH

In Advent, we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus on Christmas Day. Today is Gaudete Sunday! Gaudete means "rejoice" and we do so by lighting the pink candle of hope as we are now halfway through Advent and even closer to celebrating our Lord's birth.





Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon



Walking With Purpose



Advent by Candlelight

