

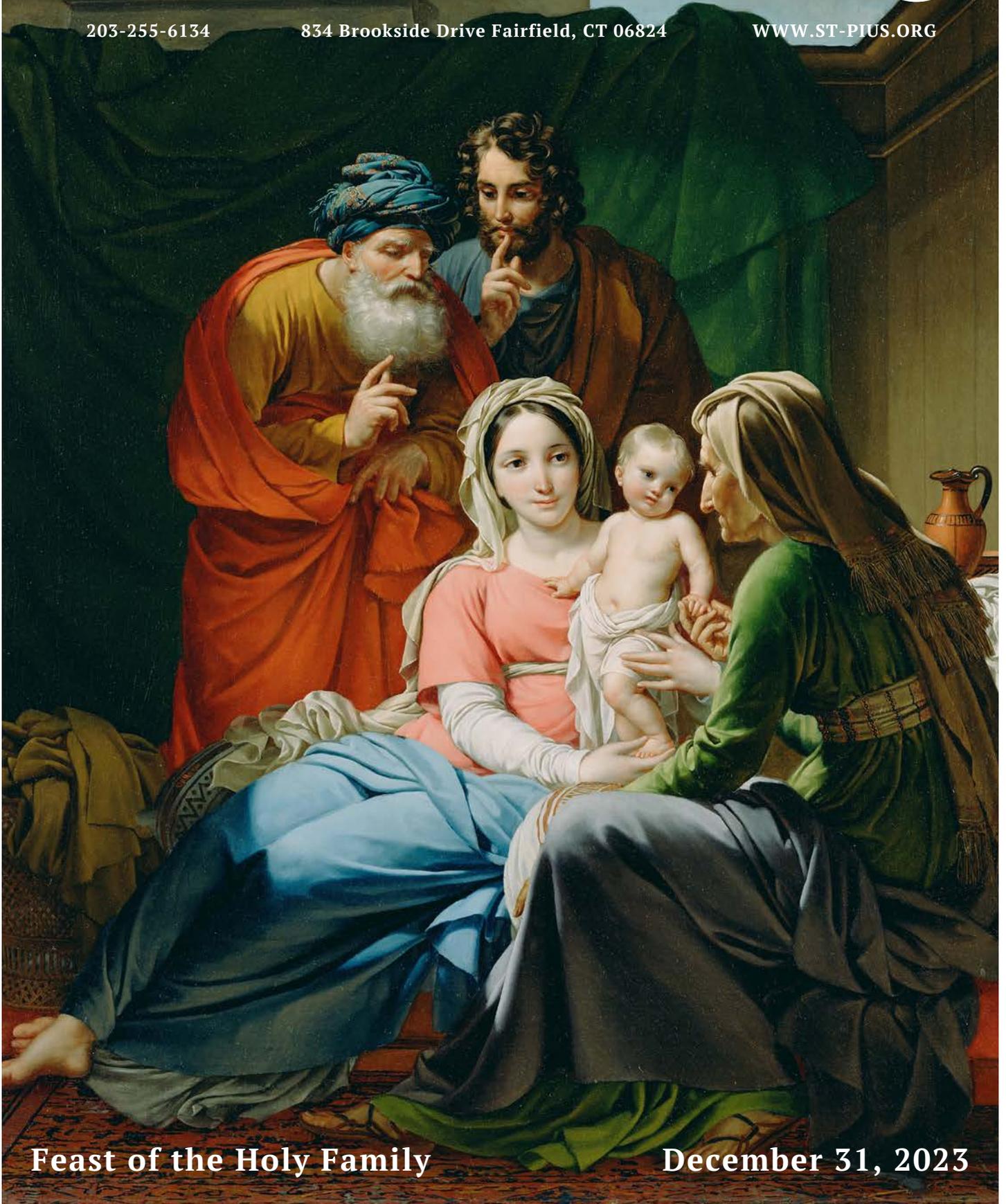
# ST. PIUS X PARISH



203-255-6134

834 Brookside Drive Fairfield, CT 06824

WWW.ST-PIUS.ORG



Feast of the Holy Family

December 31, 2023

## PARISH STAFF



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



PAROCHIAL VICAR  
Rev. Brendan H. Blawie, S.T.L.  
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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

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:stpiusxprayerln@aol.com).

Art Credit: "The Holy Family," by Joseph Paelinck, 1820.



## Pastor's Note

### Today's Readings

#### 1st Reading:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

#### Res. Psalm:

Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

#### 2nd Reading:

Col 3:12-21

#### Gospel:

LK 2:22-40

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Though we are in those blessed days of repose and recovery after Christmas Day, it is always good for us to remember that the festivities of Christmas do not end on December 25. The Octave of Christmas, the eight days following the solemnity of our Lord's Nativity, give us ample opportunity to continue celebrating and receiving the grace of this divine intervention in human history. Today, we

celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. With this feast, we meditate on the reality that God becomes incarnate in the context of family life, and thus we see the dignity of the family in God's plan for the salvation of the world.

One of the enduring symbols of Christmas is the shepherd. Last week, I wrote about Fr. Dwight Longenecker's recent publication, *The Secret of the Bethlehem Shepherds*. The shepherds found Jesus in a dwelling not unlike those that they knew, surrounded by people not unlike themselves, and so learned the important lesson that God had come to His people as they were, that God loved His people even in the things that would seem too simple or ordinary. As we draw close to the end of the octave of Christmas and celebrate this feast of the Holy Family, we are reminded that the Incarnate Son of God dwells in the simplicity and ordinariness of a family. Family life is something with which we are, no pun intended, familiar.

While the manger shows the shepherds that God has come to dwell with them, the image of the family might not always resonate as easily for us moderns. It is no secret that some of us have experienced family conflict or breakdown, or that within our families we sometimes experience division or friction. The Holy Family, made up as it was of the Incarnate Son of God, the Virgin conceived without sin, and Joseph the Just Man, we might be tempted to think that the

Holy Family is an overly idealistic vision of family life. To be sure there was likely little if any conflict in the holy house of Nazareth. But if we look to the extended family and the ancestral line into which Jesus is born, we will see a different tale. Both Matthew and Luke begin their Gospels with a genealogy of Jesus. The ancestors of our Lord include some of the great figures of the Old Testament, but numbered among them are people who were famously unfaithful to God's covenants, publicly sinful, and generally not the perfect people we might expect God to choose for His family. Why then would Jesus enter into such a flawed human lineage? Jesus comes to perfect family life, to restore what was God's plan from the beginning. In Genesis, God creates Adam and Eve, and He makes them the perfect complement to one another, endowing them with the power to work with Him in the very act of creation itself, both by caring for the earth and by bringing new life into the world. Sin has disfigured that complementarity and that cooperation with God's design, but Jesus comes to elevate and perfect what is broken.

And so the perfection of the Holy Family ought not disturb us. Rather, the ideal presented by that Holy Family is a reminder of what we can be in our own homes. It is a reminder also of the dignity that God sees in each and every family. What God desires is that each family, striving for the perfection, charity, and holiness of the Holy Family, would become living images of His presence in the world. If we strive after the ideal of the Holy Family, our own lives will be more perfect, our own homes will be more peaceful, our families will be more whole. When our families – and here I must pause and thank all of you for the gift that your families are to this parish community and to me personally – are on that path to holiness, what transformation will be wrought in our town, in our state, our country, and our world!

O Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us!

Peace,

Fr. Sam

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday, December 30

8:30AM.....+Ed Kaplan  
 5:15PM.....+Maryanne Cahill.....Antonucci Family

## Sunday, December 31

7:30AM.....All Parishioners  
 9AM.....+Robert Baird.....Rev. Samuel Kachuba  
 11AM....+Anthony J., MaryAnn & Joseph Violone.....Violone Family

## Monday, January 1

8:30AM.....+Toni LaReau.....Rev. Samuel Kachuba

## Tuesday, January 2

8:30AM.....Thanksgiving.....D'Cunha Family

## Wednesday, January 3

8:30AM.....+Carolyn Cipriani.....A. & J. Connaughton

## Thursday, January 4

8:30AM.....+Kevin Michel.....Coords Family

## Friday, January 5

8:30AM.....+Connie & Anthony Mallozzi.....Gleason Family

## Saturday, January 6

8:30AM.....+Robert Swanbery  
 5:15PM.....+Patricia Fix.....C. Barry

## Sunday, January 7

7:30AM.....+Ralph Owen Cafiero  
 9AM.....+Rev. John Lavorgna.....Zwahlen Family  
 11AM.....All Parishioners

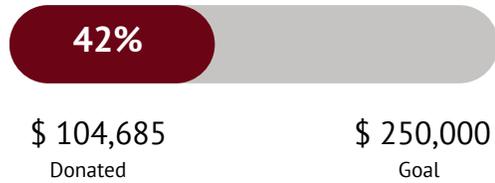
# STEWARDSHIP

## Weekly Offertory

Offerings	Dec 10	Dec 17
Weekend	\$ 13,961	\$ 11,115
Weekend 2022	\$ 11,967	\$ 12,397
Monthly	\$ 2,171	\$ 1,130
Maintenance	N/A	\$ 110
Immaculate		
Conception	\$ 1,963	N/A
Retirement Fund		
for Religious	\$ 1,659	N/A

## St. Pius X Annual Appeal

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



## Sanctuary Lights will burn

in the Church in memory of Florence Federico  
 in the Chapel for Susan McPadden

SUN 7 JAN	Coffee Hour, After 9AM Mass, Community Room
MON 8 JAN	Young at Heart, Senior Luncheon, 12PM, Community Room
WED 10 JAN	Tastebuds, 5-7PM, Community Room & Kitchen
FRI 12 JAN	Young Adult Adoration, 7PM Church, 8PM Fellowship, Community Room

## 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/](http://www.st-pius.org/adore365/) or scan the QR code.

### WEATHER NOTIFICATIONS

If the Adoration Chapel is closed due to inclement weather, you will receive an email or text message from Adoration Pro. **DO NOT COME to Adoration if the chapel remains open but you are uncomfortable driving due to weather.** Request a substitute through [www.st-pius.org/adore365/](http://www.st-pius.org/adore365/).



### 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!

### 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.

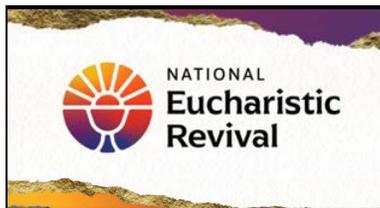
## EVENTS



### 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](http://www.fairfielddiac.com).



### EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL NIGHT

**Wednesday, January 17, 7PM, Church**

Come and listen to Fr. Sam, as he shares his testimony. There will be Adoration and Confession from 7-8PM and 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!



### WINE FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, February 10, After the 5:15PM Mass, Community Room**

Save the date! Our Tastebuds crew is hosting a wine class with vittles to snack on during the course of the night. Come lift a glass, learn about wine, all while raising money to pay down our building debt. More details to come. Email [catherinemacdonaldcake@gmail.com](mailto:catherinemacdonaldcake@gmail.com) with questions.

## EVENTS



### MARDI GRAS PANCAKE DINNER

**Tuesday, February 13, 5-8PM, Community Room**

Mark your calendars for our Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner. Support our Youth Ministry by purchasing tickets, families for \$40 and individuals for \$10. RSVP forms to be posted soon! Email Emily Rauser at [erauser@setoncollaborative.org](mailto:erauser@setoncollaborative.org) with any questions.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:cidmezzo@gmail.com) or Mike at [mikestro@ymail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:frblawie@diobpt.org) if you are interested.

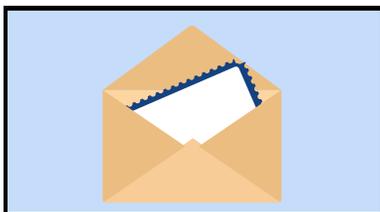
## MINISTRIES

### COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND FORMATION



### BAPTISMAL GARMENT MINISTRY

Every child baptized at St. Pius X receives a handmade baptismal garment that is lovingly created by this ministry. If you enjoy simple sewing and embroidery, email Eleanor Burke [profiburke@optonline.net](mailto:profiburke@optonline.net) and join their efforts.



### TOUCHING LIVES

Staying connected to those who are homebound or recovering from illness is the focus of the Touching Lives Ministry. Patti Mucha sends handmade cards to our parishioners at different times of the year to remind them they are loved and still part of our parish family. For more information, email Patti at [duckymoo@aol.com](mailto:duckymoo@aol.com).

# MINISTRIES

## COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND FORMATION



### WRAPPED IN LOVE

This group crochets and knits 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 help with this ministry, contact Kim Leon at [kleon@st-pius.org](mailto:kleon@st-pius.org). We provide yarn.



### SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

**Sunday, January 7, 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 the hospitality, contact Genevieve Ritch at [gfanelliritch@optonline.net](mailto:gfanelliritch@optonline.net) or scan the QR code to contribute. All are welcome!



### OPERATION HOPE MEAL PREP

**First Monday of the Month, Community Kitchen**

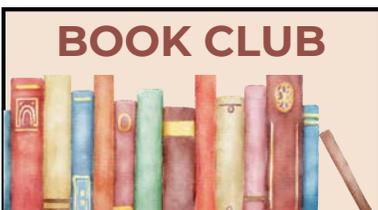
Our Operation Hope Meal Prep Team would love for you to join them. You're invited to help prepare and deliver a monthly meal for 50 of Operation Hope's clients. If you're interested in cooking, donating food or cash to this effort, scan the QR Code or contact Genevieve Ritch at [gfanelliritch@optonline.net](mailto:gfanelliritch@optonline.net).



### 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](mailto:catherinemacdonaldcake@gmail.com) to RSVP and scan the QR code to pay.



### 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](mailto:karenlannigan0915@gmail.com)



### 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 a join one of their scripture studies. To find out more information, email Dawn Carpanzano at [dawnmariec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dawnmariec@sbcglobal.net) or visit [www.st-pius.org/www](http://www.st-pius.org/www).

# MINISTRIES

## COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND FORMATION



### 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](mailto:Tyler.Lomnitzer@KofC.org) for more information.



### 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](mailto:drexel2424@optonline.net). We look forward to welcoming you!



### 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](mailto: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. You can just stop by for fellowship and conversation. Questions? Contact Margaret at [blk125@msn.com](mailto:blk125@msn.com) or 908-399-2945.



### FAIRFIELD LIFE TEEN + EDGE

Life Teen + Edge, hosted at St. Pius X, is open to any middle and high school student from 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! Any adults interested in supporting our youth by helping on the CORE team, contact Emily Rauser at [erauser@setoncollaborative.org](mailto:erauser@setoncollaborative.org) or for more info, visit [www.fairfieldlt.com.org](http://www.fairfieldlt.com.org).

### LIFE TEEN - HIGH SCHOOL

**Sunday, 6:30-8PM, School Portable**

Jan. 7: Winter Kick-Off

### EDGE - MIDDLE SCHOOL

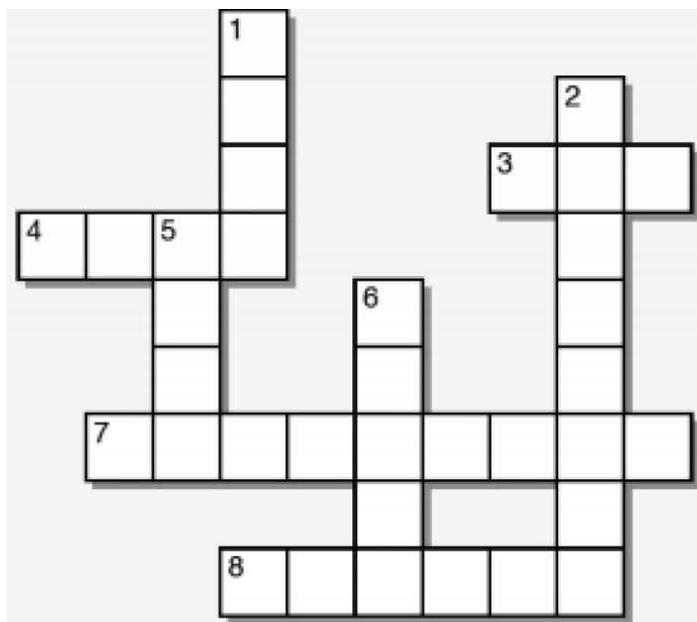
**Wednesday, 6:30-8PM, School Gym**

Jan. 10: Winter Kick-Off

## SIMEON AND BABY JESUS



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE FROM CATHOLICMOM.COM



### ACROSS

3. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to fulfill the \_\_\_\_ of the Lord.
4. Today we honor the \_\_\_\_\_ Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
7. This is the city where Mary and Joseph took Jesus for The Presentation at the Temple.
8. The earthly Father of Jesus.

### DOWN

1. The Mother of Jesus.
2. The town where Jesus grew up.
5. Today's Gospel is from the Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Prophet in the Old Testament who God told to lead His people out of Egypt.

### WORD BANK

Luke	Nazareth	Holy	Moses
Mary	Jerusalem	Law	Joseph

“When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.” Luke 2:22, 39-40



# Merry Christmas

& HAPPY NEW YEAR

