

Christmas

December 25, 2023



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NICHOLE LANTHIER

CATHOLIC ART & GIFTS

203-255-6134

ST. PIUS X PARISH



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.  
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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 Christmas Art" by Nichole Lanthier



## Pastor's Note

### Today's Readings

**1st Reading:**  
Is 52:7-10

**Res. Psalm:**  
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4,  
5-6

**2nd Reading:**  
Heb 1:1-6

**Gospel:**  
Jn 1:1-18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the Advent season, I have been reading "The Secret of the Bethlehem Shepherds," a new book by Fr. Dwight Longenecker published by Sophia Institute Press. I've long admired Fr. Longenecker's columns and commentary, so I was excited to pick up this short book. It is full of insight into the importance of the shepherds in the narrative of Jesus'

birth as we come to the Fourth Sunday of Advent and leap immediately into our celebration of Christmas, the presence of the shepherds and their significance is very much on my mind.

When we look at Bethlehem, we are reminded that it is the City of David. The paradigmatic King of Israel was born and raised in Bethlehem. Before becoming king, how did David occupy his time? He was a shepherd, caring for his father's flocks. As king, what was his role for Israel? To care for the flock of God, the Chosen People. In King David, we see the connection between the shepherd and the king. This city (and by the time Jesus was born it had diminished to more of a village, so "little town of Bethlehem" is a phrase that rings true!) is prophesied as the place from which the greatest of all kings will come. From Bethlehem, God will raise up the true king of Israel, the ultimate successor of David.

Bethlehem is not only the city of kings, it is also a town of shepherds. In the hills and pastures around Bethlehem, shepherds still care for sheep to this day. At the time Jesus was born, sheep were a necessary part of Jewish worship, as sacrifices of lambs and sheep were offered in

the Temple in Jerusalem day after day, and especially at Passover. The Passover lamb reminded Israel of God's saving power rescuing them from slavery, and as they ate the Passover lamb, the Jewish people were reminded further of God's providential care for them. Where did the lambs for this sacrifice come from? Fr. Longenecker points out that many of the lambs came from the shepherds of Bethlehem. Though the shepherds seemingly occupy a poor place in the social strata of Israel, their work is in fact integral to the entire worshipping life of the nation. It is to the shepherds who provide the sacrificial lambs for Israel that the news of the birth of Jesus, the Lamb of God, whose flesh is true food for the life of, not just Israel but the whole world, is first announced.

The shepherds understand the sacrifices of the Temple and the idea of the Lamb of God in a very immediate way. For them the lamb is no mere theory or pie in the sky thinking. Rather, they know the value of each and every sheep. They understand the inner workings of sacrifice, and live the sacrifice out as they keep watch over their flocks even in the night. The shepherds demonstrate for us what it is to make sacrifice and vigil deeply personal acts. We have kept watch over these last few weeks, preparing for the birth of Jesus. As we now celebrate His birth in our world, let us place ourselves with the shepherds and go in haste to greet Him, to rejoice at this great sign of life, and experience the awe they felt at being invited into this great mystery.

On behalf of Fr. Brendan and our entire staff here at St. Pius X, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy, new year.

Peace,

Fr. Sam

# MASS INTENTIONS

## 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

### Tuesday, December 26

8:30AM.....+George Dahm.....J. & A. Hedge

### Wednesday, December 27

8:30AM.....+Marie Farley.....Feeney Family

### Thursday, December 28

8:30AM.....+James Kiraly.....A. Kiraly

### Friday, December 29

8:30AM.....Samuel J. Teitell.....C. Teitell

### Saturday, December 30

8:30AM.....+Ed Kaplan

### Saturday, December 30

5:15P.....+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

# STEWARDSHIP

## Weekly Offertory

Due to publishing deadlines, our offertory will be printed in next week's bulletin.

## St. Pius X Annual Appeal

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



\$ 97,655	\$ 250,000
Donated	Goal



182	2,460
Gifts	Registered Families



### Sanctuary Lights will burn

in the Church in memory of Ann Kinnally  
 in the Chapel in memory of Greg Patti



### In Memoriam

Please pray for our faithfully departed parishioners: Maura C. Murphy

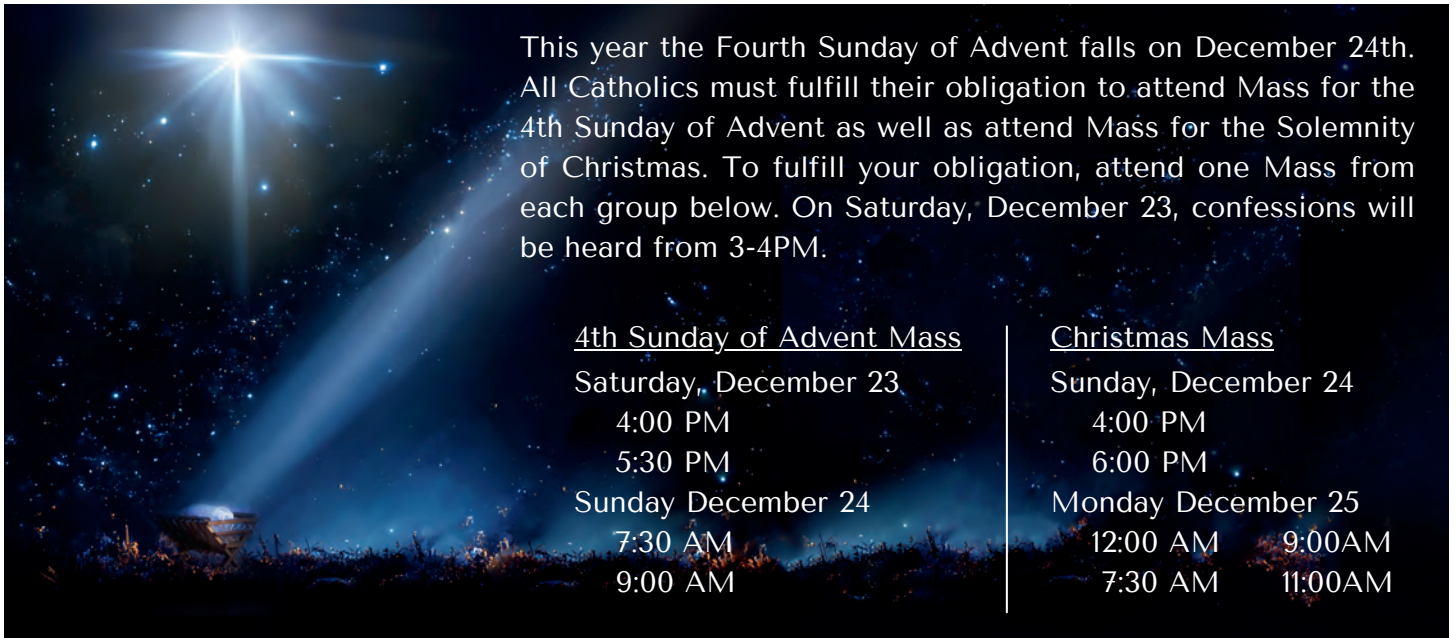


### Baptisms

We welcome the newly baptized into our Faith Family: Wynn Rose Dabrowski, Rose Emily Walker

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

## 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



### 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.



### GIVING TREE

Thank you for supporting the Advent Giving Tree. Through your generosity, we provided gifts of food, clothing and more to our neighbors at 12 local agencies. Thank you to Doug and Cathy Van Tornhout, Ray and Ramona DeCastro, Susan and Tony Matturo, Jane Ellen and Joe Collins and Susan Barrett for organizing this annual giving event. It's a blessing to be able to share with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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



### EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL NIGHT

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

Join us as our pastor, Fr. Sam, 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!

## 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/](http://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](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 [lakehillfinns@gmail.com](mailto:lakehillfinns@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



### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Saturday, 6:30AM, Community Room**

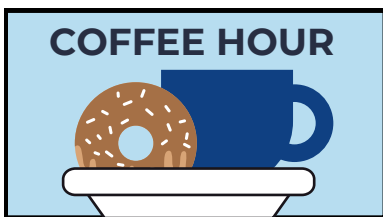
Join the men of the parish for prayer, conversation, and fellowship! For more information, contact Mark Drexel at [drexel2424@optonline.net](mailto:drexel2424@optonline.net). We look forward to welcoming you!



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



### 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, 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](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.



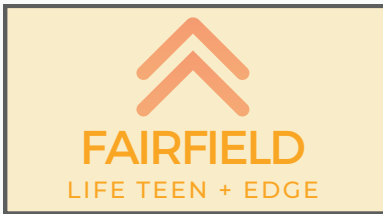
### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**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.

# MINISTRIES

## COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND FORMATION



### 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



### 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.



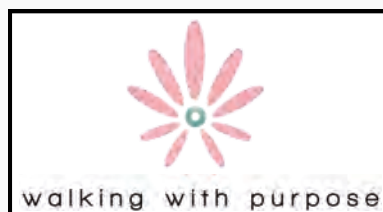
### BAPTISMAL GARMENT MINISTRY

This ministry lovingly sews and embroiders the baptismal garments given to each child baptized at St. Pius X. If you would like to join their efforts, contact Cathy Coyle at [ccoyle@st-pius.org](mailto:ccoyle@st-pius.org) for more information.



### 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 join their efforts, contact Kim Leon at [kleon@st-pius.org](mailto: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](mailto:dawnmariec@sbcglobal.net) or visit [www.st-pius.org/www](http://www.st-pius.org/www).



“BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD  
AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL,”  
WHICH MEANS “GOD IS WITH US.” - MATTHEW 1:23



# CHRISTMAS AT ST. PIUS X



**Gingerbread Decorating**



**K of C Coffee Hour**

