



St. Pius X Parish: A Roman Catholic Community

834 Brookside Dr., Fairfield CT 06824 • Parish Office 203-255-6134 • Religious Ed 203-259-4800 • Fax 203-255-5232 • st-pius.org

Pastor

Rev. Samuel S. Kachuba
fr.samuel.kachuba@diobpt.org

Deacon and Resident Priests

• Deacon Donald J. Ross
dnross@diobpt.org
• Rev. Eric Silva
frsilva@diobpt.org
• Fr. Colin Blatchford
fr.blatchford@couragerc.org

Director of Music & Organist

Michael Lantowski
mikestro@ymail.com

Faith Formation

• Shari Mellinger (Religious Ed)
sgarcia@st-pius.org
• Paola Pena (Dir. of Evangelization)
ppena@st-pius.org
• Emily Rauser (Life Teen & Edge)
erauser@st-pius.org

Parish Office

• Terri Dawes, Receptionist
tdawes@st-pius.org
• Cathy Coyle, Admin. Assistant
ccoyle@st-pius.org
• Kimberlie I. Leon, Business Manager
kleon@st-pius.org

Parish Corp. Lay Members

• Kathryn Vogt
• Arthur Wolf

Parish Finance Council Chair

Jeremy Joyce

Parish Office Hours

• 9AM-4PM (Mon-Thur)
• 9AM-12PM (Fri)

Parish Membership

We encourage every family in the parish to register as it is our only means of certifying you as a member of our parish family. Register online: www.st-pius.org.

Online Giving

Safe, Secure & Paper Free!
To sign up, go to
www.st-pius.org/onlinegive

St. Pius X Church is wheelchair accessible with parking at the sides of church.

Thank you for turning off all personal electronic devices before entering the church.

Weekly Mass Schedule (Church)

• Monday-Saturday: 8:30AM
• Monday: 7PM (Extraordinary Form)
• Saturday Anticipated Mass: 5:15PM
• Sunday: 7:30AM, 9AM, and 11AM

Holy Day Mass Schedule (Church)

• Vigil: 5:30PM
• Holy Day: 8:30AM, 5:30PM, 7PM (Extraordinary Form)

Confession (Church)

• Saturdays: 4PM-5PM
• Wednesdays: 7PM-8PM

Communion for the Homebound

If you or a loved one would like to receive Communion at home, contact Larry Rollins at lksgcrollins5@gmail.com

Devotions (Church)

• Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the First Friday of the month, 9AM-9PM
• Rosary and a Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is prayed 9AM, Fridays by parishioners in the Church.

Baptism

For information about Pre-Baptismal class and to schedule Baptisms, call the Parish Office.

Marriage

Registered parishioners should make arrangements one year in advance with the Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick

If you know a parishioner who is seriously ill and would like to be anointed, call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is available year-round to anyone who wants to inquire about our faith, baptism, or completing their initiation as Roman Catholics with Eucharist and/or confirmation. Call the Parish Office for more information.





WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 25

8:30AM +Donald J. Ross, Sr. C. & R. Earls
5:15PM+Liuba & Anthony Annuncio T. Annuncio

Sunday, March 26

7:30AM +Dianne Csedrik E., L., & L. Csedrik
9AM +Frank Agonito A. Lesko
11AM+Colligan Family Carpanzano Family

Monday, March 27

8:30AM +James Barrett Conneely Family

Tuesday, March 28

8:30AM +Margaret (Peggy) Cerulo Coords Family

Wednesday, March 29

8:30AM +Graciela Rodriguez S. Barrett

Thursday, March 30

8:30AM +Pereira & D'Cunha Families D'Cunha Family

Friday, March 31

8:30AM +Michele Hubler B. Hubler

Saturday, April 1

8:30AM +John Murphy S. Karl
5:15PM+Lorraine Jezierny C. Kelly

Sunday, April 2

7:30AM Lynn & Jack Curran Scott Family
9AM +Christoph Lindner McAuliffe Family
11AM+Livita Limatola Vona Family



**Sanctuary Lights in the Church
will burn this week in memory of
Margaret Weissauer**

**Sanctuary Lights in the Chapel
will burn this week in memory of
Thomas Lanese**

PRAYER REQUESTS

ST. PIUS X PRAYER LINE

We must never underestimate the power of prayer! Email your petitions and/or thanksgivings to Pat Heile, anytime, at stpiusxprayerln@aol.com.

FRIDAY ROSARY

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. Thank you to Pat for her dedication and service. All are welcome to attend!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office is open **9AM-4PM, Monday-Thursday** and **9AM-12Noon, Friday**. The staff works remotely when not in the office so you can email them anytime. We look forward to seeing you!



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Offerings	March 12	March 19
Weekend	\$ 12,167	\$ 12,815
Weekend 2022	\$ 11,985	\$ 11,220
Monthly	\$ 2,811	\$ 217
Mission	\$ 110	\$ 155
Maintenance	\$ 225	\$ 0
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 0	\$ 832

SEE PAGE 6 FOR AN UPDATE ON OUR ANNUAL APPEAL.

Sign up for Online Giving:

www.st-pius.org/onlinegive

Please consider increasing your weekly contribution to help us keep up with the increased costs of running our beautiful campus.



JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

(All take place in the Church)

• **Saturday, April 1**

8:30AM Mass
4PM-5PM Confession
5:15PM Palm Sunday, Vigil Mass

• **Palm Sunday, April 2**

7:30AM, 9AM, 11:00AM

• **Wednesday, April 5**

7PM-8PM Adoration & Confession

• **Holy Thursday, April 6**

7PM Mass of the Lord's Supper
Visitation at the Altar of Repose until 11PM

• **Good Friday, April 7**

8:30AM Morning Prayer
12Noon Stations of the Cross
3PM Celebration of The Lord's Passion
7PM Tenebrae

• **Holy Saturday, April 8**

8:30AM Morning Prayer
10AM Blessing of Easter Food
1PM-3PM Confession
7:30PM Easter Vigil

• **Easter Sunday Masses, April 9**

7:30AM, 9AM, 11:00AM (overflow seating in the Community Room)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today we celebrate the final Scrutiny, the rites of continuing conversion for those catechumens and candidates who will be joining us in the profession of the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil. This third and final moment is accompanied by the Gospel story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. It is the final miracle our Lord performs in his public ministry (the institution of the Eucharist and healing the high priest slave's ear in the Garden of Gethsemane are miracles that occur in a less-public setting during the days of His Passion). In this miracle, our Lord demonstrates his power over life and death, preparing us for the full realization of this power in the Resurrection.

As we read this Gospel, we should also attend to some other important elements that are present. Not only will we see our Lord's power over life itself, we will also see how deeply and closely He identifies with us, how He enters into our humanity in its fullness. First, we see what appears to be a delay on Jesus' part: He has heard that Lazarus is sick, but delays going to him. With this choice, we ought to recognize the reality that God sometimes asks us to wait for the answer to our prayers. When Jesus eventually goes to Bethel to be with Martha and Mary in their grief, His delay begins to make sense. Martha, famously too busy to be with Jesus when He visited, now runs to meet Him on the road. There, she pleads for the life of her brother. In Martha, we see our own experience of grief. She complains that if He had been there, Lazarus would not have died, just as we might cry out with a complaint or even anger to God in a moment of tragedy. But in almost the same breath, she shows us how to pray. "But even now, I know that whatever you ask, God will give you." Jesus reveals His identity once more: "I am the Resurrection and the Life." And He asks for her faith, which Martha readily gives. When Jesus is brought to the tomb, we read the shortest verse in the entire Bible: "Jesus wept." With His tears, our Lord shares even in the experience of human grief. There is no emotion, no human feeling, no aspect of that spectrum of our humanity, save sin, that He does not experience in His life. Thus Jesus sanctifies human grief. Finally, as the people question why He had not saved Lazarus, Jesus orders the stone rolled away from the tomb and commands Lazarus to come out. Even our doubt cannot stand in the way of the grace and power of God. Though He calls us to faith, even when our faith wavers, Jesus can still act.

As Lazarus comes forth from the tomb, he is still wrapped in the burial cloths. Jesus says "Untie him, and let him go." He speaks both to death itself - "Death, you have no power over Lazarus!" - and to the people - "Let not the instruments and signs of death hold you bound ever again!" With this Gospel proclamation, our catechumens and candidates are also called to freedom and new life. It is the freedom and life that comes from following Jesus. Like Martha, they are called to arise, run to Jesus, and profess their faith. We who are already initiated are also called to this faith. We who have perhaps become accustomed to a particular way of living, who maybe have become used to a status quo in our faith journey, are called to arise, too, and run to Jesus. As Holy Week approaches, let our focus be on Jesus, the one who invites us to faith, and calls us to life. Let us run with Martha. Let us listen as Jesus reminds us that He is the Resurrection and the Life. Let us profess faith with Martha and Mary, "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." And let us hear those comforting words from Jesus that set us free from sin and death: "Untie him, and let him go."

Peace,

Fr. Sam



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

The Gospel: John 11:1-45 or John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or Dn 13:41c-62; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 or Mt 27:11-54



CONGRATULATIONS!

We welcome these newly baptized children into our Family of Faith: Daniel Joseph Altamirano, Raegan Eileen Wilsen



WEEKLY ADORATION

Wednesdays, 7:00PM-8:00PM, Church. Come, spend some time with the Lord each week! Eucharistic Adoration will be held in the church while confessions are being heard.

ADORE 365

Perpetual Adoration at St. Pius X

St. Pius X Parish is preparing to launch perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. With our Adore 365 effort, we are searching for people who are willing to commit to giving our Lord one hour each week. If you would like to participate in Perpetual Adoration or receive more information about this effort, please e-mail saintpiusxadoration@gmail.com, including your full name and phone number. Join us in adoring Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament!



DAY OF SERVICE

Saturday, April 8 9am-1pm. Join other Catholic Young Adults in the diocese from ages 18-35 in a day of service at Thomas Merton Center. Scan the QR code for more info.



CHAPERONES NEEDED!

We are looking for chaperones for our annual high school mission trip with Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) This year's trip is **June 18-23, 2023, in Richmond VA.** All chaperones must be at least 21 years old and VIRTUS trained. Please contact Emily Rauser at erauser@st-pius.org. More information about VIRTUS on page 6.



2023 BISHOP'S APPEAL

"As we work toward the renewal of the diocese, our task is nothing less than to invite people into the mystical Body of Christ by creating welcoming, vital and loving communities of faith. The Bishop's Appeal is an important vehicle to make that possible, by advancing our mission of engagement and accompaniment." — Bishop Frank Caggiano.

To give towards this year's appeal, or for more information, please visit 2023BishopsAppeal.org, call (203) 416-1470 or scan the QR code with your phone.

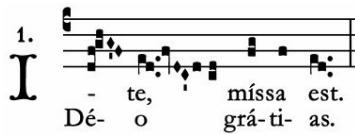
STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Fridays during Lent, 7pm in the Church. Pray and meditate on the Stations of the Cross, a simple, powerful devotion to mark the Passion of Christ and Jesus' sacrifice for us.

March 26, 2023, 5th Sunday of Lent

"I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies,
will live." — John 11:25



CHORAL SCHOLA

We are now in the process of looking for singers (high school – up) to join our newly formed Choral Schola that will lead the liturgical music at the 11:00am Sunday liturgy as well as various Holy Days throughout the year. The Schola will be made up of volunteers and professionals who are committed to gather together to assist the congregation in singing the Mass and offering special music to help elevate the liturgy.

When singing during the celebration of the Mass, we are reminded of the saying “one who sings prays twice.” The Schola’s purpose is to enhance the liturgy in a manner that promotes participation by all with joy and reverence.

Research has shown for some time that singing in a choral ensemble has tremendous benefits for physical and mental well-being. There are positive physical outcomes and mental health benefits. These are related to improved cardiovascular fitness (including lung function), as well as improved mood and general alertness, often allied to a feeling of being spiritually uplifted.

We hope that you will consider using your voice for this important ministry as we grow as a parish community. Some prior music experience would be helpful but is not necessary. Training will be provided. Rehearsals will be scheduled at everyone’s convenience, but some commitment will be expected.

Please feel free to contact Michael Lantowski via e-mail at mikestro@gmail.com (203-255-6134 ext. 119) or come see me after any Mass to inquire.



MEN'S WEEKLY GATHERING

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!



SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, April 2, Community Room. Join us for coffee hour after the Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass for food and fellowship. This is a great way to get to know each other better and support an important parish ministry. If you would like to help with coffee hour, please scan the QR code above or email Genevieve Ritch at Gfanelliritch@optonline.net.



FAIRFIELD LIFE TEEN + EDGE

Fairfield Life Teen and Edge invite high school and middle school students into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Life Teen and Edge are hosted at St. Pius X and open to anyone from any church.

High School Life Nights, Sunday, 6-8pm, Portable

- March 26: Saint Staff-Suffering with the Saints
- April 2: Movie Night
- April 9: No Life Teen

Middle School Edge, Wed, 6:30-8pm, School Gym

- March 29: Into The Ages-How Does the Mass Change the World?
- April 5 & 12: No Edge

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.

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



TASTEBUDS

Join us for Tastebuds monthly gathering as we explore seasonal and celebratory cooking that will allow us to grow together in community and connect our faith to our food! Cooking demonstrations will review a menu, recipe, and the process of bringing the meal to the table. Each gathering will end with a dinner of our creations. The next gatherings will take place **5PM-7PM, April 12 and May 3, in the Community Room.** To attend, email Catherine MacDonald at catherinemacdonaldcake@gmail.com. Cost to cover your materials and meal is \$10. Kindred Spirits has generously contributed the wine pairing sample.



TURKEY & SYRIA

SHOE COLLECTION FOR TURKEY & SYRIA

On February 6th, a devastating 7.8 magnitude hit the countries of Turkey and Syria, leaving 45,000 dead and over 500,000 homeless. The Natural Disaster Relief Club at Hopkins is partnering with Funds2Orgs to host a shoe drive to help the victims of this horrible event. Please place gently worn or new pairs of shoes in the collection box through April 13th. The box will be in the church vestibule. Thank you for your help. – Nicolas Ciminiello, parishioner & student at Hopkins



YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEONS

12Noon in the Community Room

• **April 3, Tobias Toys & Trains.** Join us and learn from proprietor Mark Tobias everything you ever wanted to know about vintage toys and trains! Mark is a seasoned and knowledgeable dealer, broker and consultant with 40 years' experience, specializing in vintage toys and trains. He collects antiques and was an auctioneer for 35 years. Mark is a lively and dynamic speaker and will share lots of fun facts and history about toys and trains that we all love and remember. For more info on Mark, visit www.tobiastoysandtrains.com.

• **May 8, (Note date change) P.T. Barnum.** Join us to hear from the Barnum Museum Docent Marian O'Keefe as she shares the history of Phineas Taylor Barnum (P.T. Barnum.) Barnum was an entrepreneur, museum proprietor, business leader, politician, urban developer, community benefactor, philanthropist, temperance leader, emancipationist, lecturer and author. He was committed to the intellectual and cultural development of society and was a voice for the pursuit of freedom and choice. This is your chance to learn more about this remarkable entrepreneur and entertainer in 19th century America.

• **June 5, Fairfield Museum Take 2!** Walt Matis, program coordinator of the Fairfield Museum, returns! We asked and Walt agreed to come back and continue his lively discussion about the history of our beloved town of Fairfield.

Lunch for all events is \$7 for sandwiches, chips, soda, water, coffee, tea, and dessert. **RSVP required to Peter Carey at aandp1964@aol.com or 203-673-2081.** Also let Pete know if you can bake a treat. Spread the word and invite your friends to join us!

Day Trip to Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam:

We're planning a bus outing in May to the Goodspeed for a Wednesday or Thursday matinee to see the classic musical Gypsy. For more information on the play, go to www.goodspeed.org and then email Peter Carey at aandp1964@aol.com and tell him if you're interested. The cost for bus, lunch next door at the Gelston House, and the play will be \$132/person. Grab a friend or two and join us!

★ GAME DAY ★

YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS GAME DAY

Join us at **Young at Heart Seniors Game Day** to enjoy a variety of games such as Mah Jongg, cards, and Canasta! If anyone knows Canasta and can help us learn it, we'd love to have you join us. If these games are not your thing, bring your own OR just come and meet new friends and have fellowship and conversation. See you in the Community Room **10AM-12Noon, on Tuesdays.** Questions? Contact **Margaret** at blk125@msn.com or **908-399-2945**. Stop by and check it out!



ST. PIUS X ANNUAL APPEAL NEEDS YOU

Donated to Date: \$190,932
of Donors: 288 out of 2,300+

This Year's Needs:
\$275,000 for School building renovations
\$1.2 Million to pay off construction loan

We still have some very important financial challenges. If you have not yet contributed to the St. Pius X Annual Appeal, we ask you to prayerfully consider it. Your gift, no matter the size, will make a difference.

- Our 60-year-old school building is used daily and requires significant repairs/updates: approx. **\$275,000**.
- We have a **\$1.2 million** outstanding bank loan from the renovation of the church that must be paid off.

We humbly ask ALL families to donate in some way.

TWO WAYS TO DONATE:

- **Online** at www.st-pius.org/onlinegive
- **Mail or Drop in Offertory** a check and put ANNUAL APPEAL in the memo. **THANK YOU!**

Wrapped in Love

HOME-MADE PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING

If you or anyone you know needs healing, you may request a St. Pius X Prayer Shawl. These beautiful prayer shawls have been lovingly made by a group of dedicated parishioners and blessed by Fr. Sam. To request a prayer shawl, email Kimberlie Leon at kleon@st-pius.org. Kim will coordinate your pickup. A minimum donation of \$25 per shawl is welcomed to defray the yarn cost. And, if you are interested in joining our group of prayer shawl knitters/crocheters, let Kim know!



The Diocese of Bridgeport requires volunteers to have a background check and complete a training program, "Protecting God's Children." Volunteers may sign up for the free class online by scanning the QR code or visiting www.bridgeportdiocese.org/safe-environments/virtus/. The class is 3 hours and may be taken virtually or in person at locations in the diocese. One completed, a copy of the certificate must be submitted to the parish office prior to beginning duties as a volunteer.



you are called.

HIGHLIGHTS



FELLOWSHIP

Over the course of 3 days (March 10-12), 40 people gathered for meals, prayer, and small group discussions to talk about salvation, suffering, and a personal relationship with Jesus.

MOTHER OLGA

We had the chance to hear from nationally acclaimed Catholic speakers throughout SEEK. We also had the great blessing of having Mother Olga join us for a talk on suffering, and to be reminded to hold on to the truth that God is not done writing our story. Her talk can be found on our church podcast, "Roar like The Lamb." (Use QR Code. Available on all platforms)



DIVINE INTIMACY

"Would you talk to a baby the way you talk to yourself?"
- Chika Anyanwu (SEEK presenter)

This powerful weekend was also a great reminder to those who attended that they are loved and delighted in by the Father simply because they exist. Through Adoration, Mass, and Sacraments - God has given us a constant reminder that he draws near to us in order to abide in us.