



ST. PIUS X PARISH

203-255-6134

834 Brookside Drive Fairfield, CT 06824

WWW.ST-PIUS.ORG



Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

PARISH STAFF



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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 Day	5:30PM, Vigil Mass, Church 8:30AM & 5:30PM, Holy Day, 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 open 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.

PARISH INFORMATION

Office Hours	Monday-Thursday, 9AM-4PM Friday, 9AM-12PM
Parish Phone	203-255-6134
Religious Education	203-259-4800
Parish Email	secretary@st-pius.org
Parish Address	834 Brookside Drive, Fairfield, CT 06824

Parish Corporation

Lay Members	Kathryn Vogt, Art Wolf
Parish Finance Council	Jeremy Joyce, Chair

Art Credit: Campin, Robert. *Saint John the Baptist*, 1415. Oil on Panel. Public Domain



Pastor's Note

Today's

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Readings

1st Reading:
Zep 3:14-18a

Res. Psalm:
Is 12:2-3, 4,
5-6.

2nd Reading:
Phil 4:4-7

Gospel:
Lk 3:10-18

The call to rejoice for the Lord is drawing near is the theme of the Third Sunday of Advent. The great feast of the Lord's Nativity is just days away, and though we are in the midst of preparations both spiritual and practical, we are reminded that these preparations in themselves ought to be a source of joy in this season. With that rejoicing in mind, we might examine with a fresh outlook the baptism

repentance that John the Baptist invites people to undertake in the Gospel today.

People from many places and from many backgrounds come to John to be baptized. His baptism is a visible symbol of repentance, a sign that the person being baptized has rejected their old life of sin and wants to live differently. Hence, in the Gospel today, John gives brass tacks advice to people about how to live justly and devoutly. Nothing that he says is especially challenging: share what you have with people who are in need, be honest in business dealings, be satisfied with what you have and don't use your position to bully or intimidate. Essentially, he says, "You know that you have sinned. Stop doing that." The things he tells the people to do are easily attainable. But when we think of "repentance," we do not often think in joyful terms. Why then, does the Church give us this story of repentance on a day when rejoicing is prescribed?

When I recognize my sins and the effect they have on my soul and on the lives of others, I quite understandably might find myself in some distress. While we are capable of knowing our sin, one effect of sin is that it blinds us to goodness, both God's goodness and our own potential for

being good. And so many of the people coming to John for baptism, knowing they were sinners, had to be convinced that they were capable of being good. When John tells them what to do, he is making the path to goodness accessible and easy, demonstrating that goodness is not a special privilege for just a few, but is something all of us are able to achieve in some measure. John the Baptist is making real for the people what they learned in the book of Deuteronomy: "For what great nation has gods so close to it as the Lord, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and ordinances that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?" (Deut. 4:7-8). The law of God is not meant to control or limit us, rather it is meant to set us free! To know that we can be free, and, indeed, that by coming among us in the flesh, Christ has set us free indeed.

So in this third week of Advent, as we rejoice in this gift of freedom, we can also rejoice in the gift of repentance. When I feel sorrow for my sin, my sorrow is offset by the joy of knowing that the mercy of God is available to me as a healing remedy. One of the best ways to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord at Christmas is to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. The practice of sacramental confession helps us, like those who flocked to John the Baptist, to recognize our sin and our need for God, to do something concretely to turn away from sin, and to receive the joy of knowing God's goodness, favor, justice, and closeness. If you have not yet done so this Advent season, I encourage you to avail yourself of this sacrament, so that your joy may be complete!

Peace,

Fr. Sam

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 14

8:30AM.....+Karl Corby IV.....S&M Francis

5:15PM.....+Dr. John & Nancy Coyle.....Coyle Family

Sunday, December 15

7:30AM.....All Parishioners

9AM.....+Robert Fox.....S&K Douglas

11AM.....+Mary Jane Kaner.....J. Kaner

Monday, December 16

8:30AM.....+Nicholas Huydic.....Huydic Family

Tuesday, December 17

8:30AM.....+Jack Niland.....Coyle Family

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

8:30AM.....+John Mahoney.....Christine Hughes

Friday, December 20

8:30AM.....+Mary Kay Joyce.....Carpanzano Family

Saturday, December 21

8:30AM.....+Michele Hubler.....B. Hubler

5:15PM.....All Parishioners

Sunday, December 22

7:30AM.....+George Schwab.....Feeney Family

9AM.....+Havlon Brockdorff.....Kelty Family

11AM.....+Alex Skultety.....J. Skultety

STEWARDSHIP

Due to publishing deadlines, the December 8 Offertory will be printed in next week's bulletin.



St. Pius X Offertory
Online Giving



Consider switching to online giving—it's the easiest and safest way to donate. Get started started now: Scan the QR code or visit www.st-pius.org/giving/. Questions? Call the Parish Office at 203-255-6134.



We Stand With Christ
Construction Loan



- \$ 632,000 Current Loan Balance
- \$ 101,308 From 172 Gifts as of June 2024
- \$ 27,000 K of C Golf Outing Gift
- \$ 45,000 K of C Raffle Contribution



Sanctuary Lights

Church for Blessings on the Young at Heart Senior Group
Chapel for Blessings on the Park City Men's AA Group

SUN

15

DEC

Assemble Lunches for Merton House, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

WED

18

DEC

Sandwich Making for nOURish Bridgeport, 7PM, Community Room & Kitchen

SUN

22

DEC

Christmas Pageant, 3PM, Church, Fellowship, 4PM, Community Room

ADVENT



PRE-DAWN RORATE MASS

Saturday, December 21, 6AM, Church

The Rorate Mass is an ancient Advent tradition of offering a pre-dawn Mass in honor of the Blessed Mother in candlelight. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the Light of the world, who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady.

**ADVENT AT
ST. PIUS**



PRAYER



ADORATION

Monday, 9AM - Friday, 9PM, Chapel

Adore our Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament! Stop by and visit for a few minutes or consider signing up for an hour. We have the following hours open - Tuesday, 8AM, 10AM, Wednesday, 10PM, Thursday, 10AM, Friday, 5PM.

To sign up or to become a substitute visit www.st-pius.org/adoration/ or scan the QR code.



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.



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. If you'd like to pray for others, let Pat know and she will add you to the Prayer Line Team.

MUSIC MINISTRY



SCHOLA CANTORUM

Practice, Sundays, 10AM, Choir Loft

Join the Choral Schola and help lead the liturgical music at the 11AM Sunday Mass as well as various Holy Days throughout the year. Contact Michael Lantowski at mikestro@ymail.com or call 203-255-6134.

YOUTH CHOIR

Practice Thursdays, 4:30-5:30PM, Church

All children in grades 2-8 are welcome. The Youth Choir will sing at the 9AM Mass on the last Sunday of each month. Email Cidalia Kettles at cidmezzo@gmail.com or Michael Lantowski mikestro@ymail.com.

Christmas
AT ST. PIUS X

CHRISTMAS EVE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM
6:00 PM
12 AM MIDNIGHT MASS
CHORAL PRELUDE AT 11:30PM



CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

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

EVENTS



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 22, 3PM, Church

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.



DECORATE ST. PIUS X CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!

Monday, December 23, 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](tel:203-255-6134) or email Cathy Hughes at chughes@st-pius.org.

YOUTH GROUP



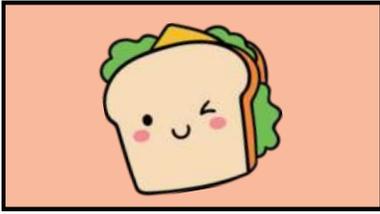
FAIRFIELD LIFE TEEN + EDGE

LIFE TEEN - High School, Sunday, 6:30-8PM, School Portable

EDGE - Middle School, Wednesday, 6:30-8PM, School Gym

Life Teen + Edge, hosted at St. Pius X, is open to any middle and high school student. We 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. For more information, email Bill.Staley@SetonCollaborative.org or visit www.fairfieldlt.com.

SERVICE



ST. PIUS X SANDWICH MAKING - MORE WAYS TO HELP!

Sunday, December 15, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

Join us in providing 250 lunches each month to **the Merton Center**. This Sunday we'll be assembling lunches during Coffee Hour. Questions? Email ccoyle@st-pius.org

Wednesday, December 18, 7-8PM, Community Room & Kitchen

Our Wednesday night efforts continue as we make sandwiches for **nOURish Bridgeport**. The Wednesday crew is set with donations but if you'd like to help set up, make sandwiches or clean up, please email stpiussandwichmaking@gmail.com.



OPERATION HOPE MEAL PREP

Last Monday of the Month, Community Kitchen

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.



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 and join their efforts.



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. We provide yarn.

MEN'S GROUPS



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!

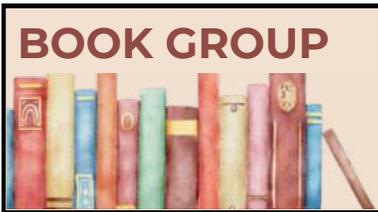


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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.

WOMEN'S GROUPS



WELL-READ MOM BOOK GROUP

Saturday, January 25, 9AM, Munro Room 2

Well-Read Mom accompanies women in the reading of great books and spiritual classics to encourage personal growth, friendship, and meaningful conversations about goodness, beauty, and truth. Our January book discussion is *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. If you'd like to join, email karenlannigan0915@gmail.com.



WALKING WITH PURPOSE, ROOTED AND RADIANT

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 - January 29, 2025, 6:30-8PM OR

Thursday, October 3, 2024 - January 30, 2025, 9:30-11:30AM

We will seek to understand the challenges that faced the Colossians, recognizing that they are remarkably similar to our own challenges today. For questions, contact Dawn Carpanzano at dawnmariec@sbcgloal.net or 203-984-3132. Visit www.st-pius.org/womens-groups/ or www.walkingwithpurpose.com for more information.

FELLOWSHIP



SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

December 15, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

This weekend's Coffee Hour is hosted by the **Knights of Columbus!** Come to the Community Room for coffee and french toast. All are welcome!



YOUNG AT HEART GAME DAY

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

Wednesday, 1-3PM, Community Room, Canasta, NEW TIME!

Bring a friend and meet us in the Community Room. Learn how to play or just stop by for fellowship and conversation. Questions? Contact Margaret at blk125@msn.com or call her at 908-399-2945.



YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

Monday, January 13, 12PM, Community Room

What better way to kick off the New Year than with some fire safety tips from Fairfield Fire Inspector Ron Varga. Ron will join us to talk to us about fire safety, smoke detectors, cooking safety, candle safety, and other helpful safety tips. Calling on all bakers to bring some sweet treats! RSVP required to Peter Carey at aandp1964@aol.com or 203-673-2081. See you in the New Year!



TASTEBUDS BREAD BAKING

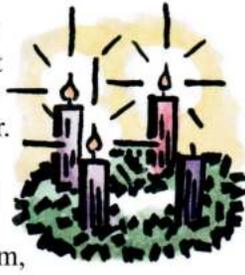
Sunday, January 12, 3:30PM, Community Room

Save the date for a special edition of Tastebuds. Learn the tips and tricks of making bread with your friends and family. More details to come! Email catherinemacdonaldcake@gmail.com with questions.



In today's Gospel reading we hear about the people being filled with expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Saint John the Baptist told the people how to prepare for his coming- by doing good and repenting of their sins.

At first the people thought that John the Baptist might be the Messiah. But Saint John was only a messenger. We can think of him as a sign-post pointing the way to Jesus. People came to see and hear him,



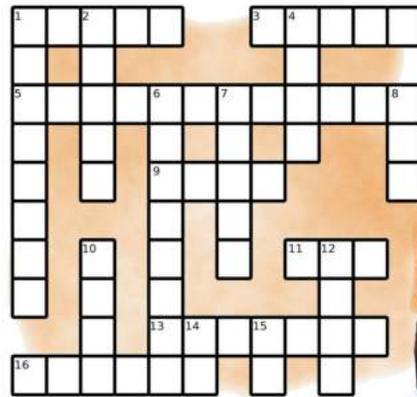
and he showed them the way to God.



How can you be like Saint John the Baptist and show other people the way to Jesus?

Answers to Crossword Puzzle:
 Across: 1. peace 3. shall 5. thanksgiving 9. near 11. all
 13. sisters 15. Christ Down: 1. petition 2. again 4. have
 6. kindness 7. guard 8. God 10. your 12. Lord 14. it 15. to

www.thekidsbulletin.com



Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom and fit them into the puzzle. a=across d=down



Brothers and _____ (13a): Rejoice in the _____ (12d) always. I _____ (3a) say _____ (14d) _____ (2d): rejoice! Your _____ (6d) should be known _____ (15d) all. The Lord is _____ (9a). _____ (4d) no anxiety at _____ (11a), but in everything, by prayer and _____ (1d), with _____ (5a), make _____ (10d) requests known to _____ (8d). Then the _____ (1a) of God that surpasses all understanding will _____ (7d) your hearts and minds in _____ (16a) Jesus.

GOD SHALL TO LORD YOUR
 CHRIST ALL KINDNESS SISTERS
 THANKSGIVING PEACE IT PETITION
 NEAR AGAIN GUARD HAVE

ST. PETER CANISIUS, PRAY FOR US!

FEAST DAY, DECEMBER 21

PETER CANISIUS WAS BORN IN HOLLAND IN 1521. HE STUDIED IN COLOGNE, GERMANY, AND RECEIVED HIS MASTER'S DEGREE WHEN HE WAS 19.

WHEN HE WENT TO A RETREAT LED BY BLESSED PETER FABER, HE DECIDED TO BECOME A JESUIT PRIEST.

I want to be one of these priests!

FR. PETER WAS A GREAT PREACHER, AND BROUGHT THE UNIVERSITIES BACK FROM PROTESTANTISM.

The Church's authority is from Christ

Who made the world?

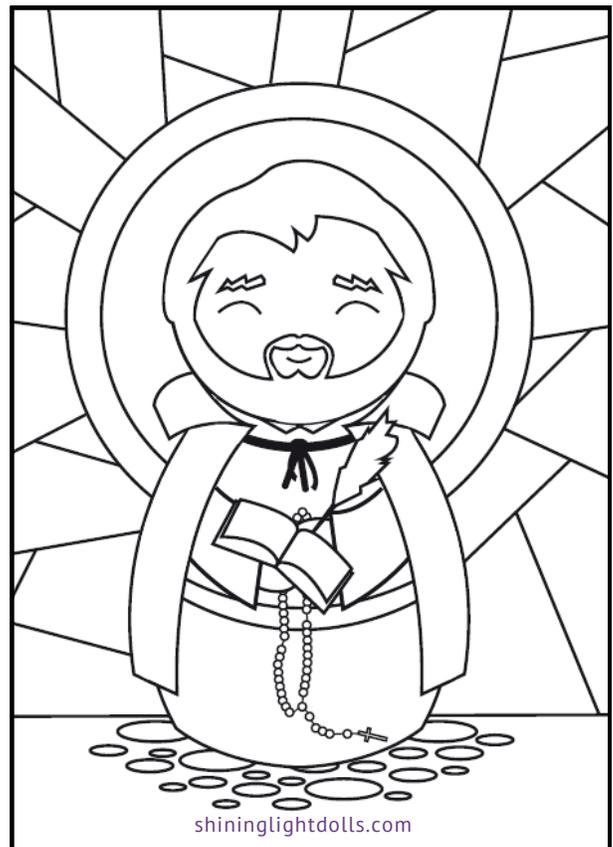
HE ALSO WORKED WITH THE POOR AND SICK, AND TAUGHT CHILDREN.

HE WAS SENT TO THE COUNCIL OF TARENT, A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE POPE AND BISHOPS.

AFTERWARD HE HAD TO SMUGGLE THE DOCUMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL INTO PROTESTANT GERMANY.

SAINT PETER WAS COMMISSIONED TO WRITE A CATECHISM, A BOOK EXPLAINING THE FAITH FOR THE PEOPLE. HE DIED AT AGE 76.

SAINT PETER CANISIUS KNEW IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS. AFTER HE WROTE THE CATECHISM, HE WROTE ANOTHER- FOR CHILDREN. NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU ARE, YOU SHOULD TRY TO LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT GOD. HOW CAN YOU DO THAT?



shininglightdolls.com



Catholic Heart Work Camp 2025

Seton Collaborative Youth Group

We will be flying to Nashville for a week of service work in Music City, USA. Open to all high school students. Total trip cost is \$1,250/person. Scholarship and fundraising opportunities are available. Visit www.FairfieldLT.com to register and for more info!

Secure your spot!
\$250
Deposit

Fundraising opportunities available!

Package Includes



- ✔ Camp Registration & Programs
- ✔ Airfare & Ground Transport
- ✔ Lodging & Most Meals
- ✔ S.W.A.G.



June 22-28, 2025



Register by Jan. 5, 2025 www.FairfieldLT.com