



ST. PIUS X PARISH

203-255-6134

834 Brookside Drive Fairfield, CT 06824

WWW.ST-PIUS.ORG



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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: van Honthorst, Gerard. *The Adoration of the Shepherds*, 1622. Oil on Canvas, Public Domain.



Pastor's Note

Today's

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Readings

1st Reading:

Mi 5:1-4a

Res. Psalm:

Ps 80:2-3,
15-16, 18-19

2nd Reading:

Heb 10:5-10

Gospel:

Lk 1:39-45

As this is the last bulletin before Christmas, I must try to include some final thoughts about the Advent season, as well as a reflection on the Nativity. I will attempt to do both by writing about the idea of discovery.

Advent is a season of discovery. We are invited to hear the voice of St. John the

Baptist, the one crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" This season of preparation allows us to examine our lives and discover those habits or attitudes that may have accumulated, making the path for Jesus to come to us a bit rough. In Advent, we have been called to turn away from sin, to clean out our souls so as to become a fit dwelling place for the Lord. And so there is an element of the Advent season that is for our own self-discovery. That self-discovery, though, is not an end in itself. Rather, discovering ourselves, we hopefully realize who we really are, that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, that we carry in ourselves the image and likeness of God, that we are made for God and, to paraphrase St. Augustine, our hearts are restless until they rest in Him. In this way, Advent leads us to Christmas.

The celebration of our Lord's Nativity is replete with evocative imagery. The shepherds are met by angels who send them on their way to Bethlehem, where they discover the Christ child lying in a manger. The Magi see the star and embark on a journey to discover the meaning of this great heavenly sign. We who celebrate are invited to the manger ourselves, to discover Christ waiting for us, also. In this celebration we might come to a deeper awareness of

what our Catholic faith means and how the mystery of the Nativity extends in space, time, and sacrament. Christ laid in a manger and the shepherds adored Him. He remains present for us now in the Eucharist, and we are invited to adore Him, both in the Tabernacle in the church, as we receive Him in Holy Communion, and when He is exposed in the Monstrance in our Adoration Chapel. Christmas invites us to discover Jesus Christ.

There is one additional element of discovery that has been on my heart the last few days. That is that the notion of discovery is not one-sided. While I am able to discover new ways of finding Jesus, new insight into His plan for me, new ways I can make the path level for Him, our Lord in a reciprocal way, also discovers me. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who places the wandering sheep on his shoulders. Jesus, the Word made flesh, breaks into our human history, our time and our space. He comes to seek us. When His search for us, His wandering creation, is met by our search for Him, the discovery is made complete. Jesus wants to find us, but so often we hide behind our status, our bad habits, our conviction that we could never be good enough for Him. May our celebration of Christmas be an invitation to come out from hiding, to allow Jesus to see us, even with our imperfections, and to experience being found by the God who comes to us with mercy.

On behalf of Fr. Brendan, Deacon Don, and the entire staff of St. Pius X Parish, I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy, and holy new year.

Peace,

Fr. Sam

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, December 23

8:30AM.....+Sam Alesci.....L. Carter

Tuesday, December 24

8:30AM.....All Parishioners
 4:00PM.....All Parishioners
 6:00PM.....All Parishioners

Wednesday, December 25

12:00AM.....All Parishioners
 7:30AM.....All Parishioners
 9:00AM.....All Parishioners
 11:00AM.....All Parishioners

Thursday, December 26

8:30AM.....+Louis Carbone.....D. Tomasko

Friday, December 27

8:30AM.....+Etamoya Doonan.....Feeney Family

Saturday, December 28

8:30AM.....+Dr. James Conway.....S&M Francis
 5:15PM.....+Anthony J., Mary Ann, Joseph, Lucy &
 Anthony M. Cialone.....Violone Family

Sunday, December 29

7:30AM.....All Parishioners
 9AM.....+Lorraine Papa.....M. Lantowski
 11AM.....+Sylvia Ann Jones.....M. Lantowski



Sanctuary Lights

Church in Memory of Susan McPadden
 Chapel in Memory of Marion & Luis Leon

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Offertory

Offerings	December 8
Weekend	\$ 13,345
Monthly	\$ 1,655
Cathedraticum*	<u>-\$ 3,310</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$ 11,690</u>

Last week you donated \$ 1,775 to the Retired Religious Fund. Thank you for your generosity!

*The Cathedraticum assessment imposed on parishes is utilized to support the administrative function of the diocesan curia.



St. Pius X Offertory
 Online Giving



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



In Memoriam

Pray for our parishioners who recently passed:
 Rudolph E. (Rudy) & Ollie Jean Willie,
 Kathleen Sinclair & Antonia Perna



Baptisms

We welcome the newly baptized into the Church:
 Charlotte Mae Tabak
 Lucca Matthew Sandoval

FRI
20
 DEC

Parish Office Closes at 12PM & Reopens, Thursday, January 2 at 9AM

SUN
22
 DEC

Assemble Lunches for Merton House, After 9AM Mass, Community Room
 Christmas Pageant, 3PM, Church, Fellowship, 4PM, Community Room

WED
1
 JAN

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, January 1

Mass - Tuesday Vigil, 5:30PM, Wednesday, 8:30AM, 5:30PM, Latin Mass 7PM

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, honors Mary's role as the mother of Jesus Christ. The day is set aside to reflect on the role of Mary as a model of faith and obedience to God's will. It also emphasizes the importance of Jesus' birth and his nature as both divine and human.

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, 12PM, Wednesday, 10PM, Thursday, 8AM, 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. Fellowship to follow in the Community Room.



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 or email Cathy Hughes at chughes@st-pius.org.

YOUTH GROUP



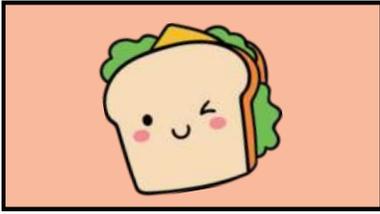
FAIRFIELD LIFE TEEN + EDGE

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 22, 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



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 profefurke@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!

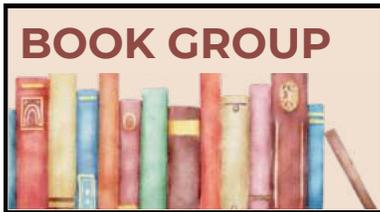


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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, SPRING SIGN-UPS

Thursday, February 6, 2025 - May 8, 2025, 9:30-11:30AM

Women of the parish are invited to join Walking With Purpose for our spring study, Passionate Discipleship. Throughout this Bible study, we will study 2 Timothy verse by verse as we immerse ourselves in Paul's last and deeply personal letter to his beloved friend and mentee, Timothy. Please visit www.st-pius.org/womens-groups/ for more information.

FELLOWSHIP



SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

December 22, 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!



YOUNG AT HEART GAME DAY

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

Wednesday, 1-3PM, Community Room, Canasta

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 6, 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 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.

Christmas is Almost Here!



Now it's only a few days until Jesus' birthday! Are you all ready for it? If you have an Advent wreath then this is the week that all the candles will be lit. Jesus is coming soon, so the light should be getting very bright!

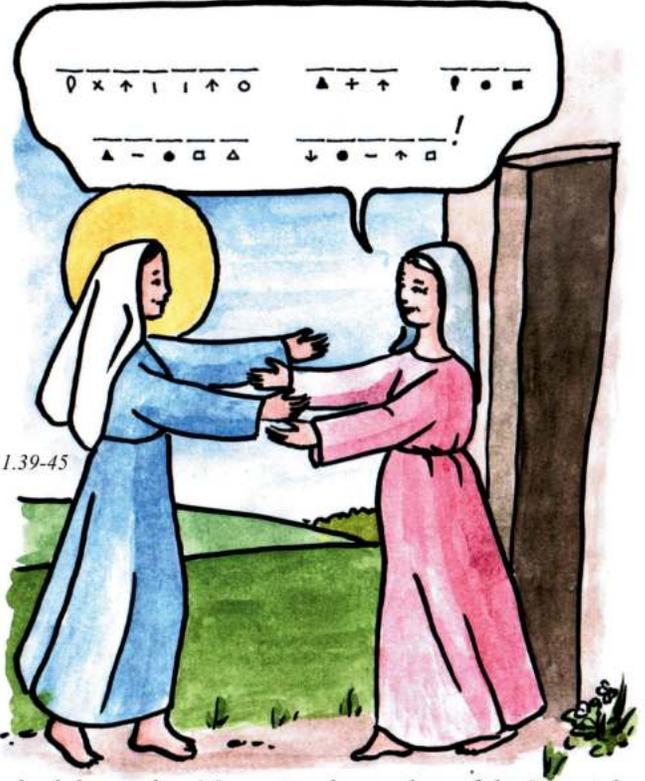
Do you have a Christmas tree? Do you know what it represents? A long time ago people used to have plays at Christmas time about how Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit from the tree, and how Jesus was born to save us from that sin. So a Christmas tree is there to remind us of why Jesus came.



Does your family have a nativity scene? It should be all ready for Christmas, but the Baby Jesus doesn't get put in the manger until Christmas Eve!



Answer to front page puzzle: Blessed are you among women! Answer to True or False: 1.true, 2.false, 3.false, 4.true, 5.true, 6.false, 7.true.



Luke 1.39-45

Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah. What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her?

Use the code to find out!

A B D E G L M N O R S U W Y
▲ ♪ ○ ↑ △ × - □ ● + ! ■ ↓ ♠

The Christmas Story

LONG AGO GOD SENT AN ANGEL TO MARY, WHO WAS A YOUNG WOMAN OF HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE. HE TOLD HER SHE WOULD BE THE MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH.

May it be done as you say!

MARY WAS ENGAGED TO A HOLY MAN CALLED JOSEPH. AN ANGEL APPEARED TO HIM TO TELL HIM WHO MARY REALLY WAS.

God has chosen Mary...

THEY GOT MARRIED AND JOSEPH TOOK GOOD CARE OF MARY.

THEN THE EMPEROR SENT EVERYONE TO THEIR HOME TOWNS TO BE REGISTERED.

SO JOSEPH AND MARY HAD TO TRAVEL ALL THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM.

WHEN THEY GOT THERE, THEY FOUND NO PLACE TO STAY EXCEPT A STABLE. SO THE BABY WAS BORN THERE!

THEN ANGELS CAME AND ANNOUNCED TO SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELDS THAT THE MESSIAH WAS BORN, SO THEY FOUND THE BABY AND WORSHIPPED HIM.

Happy Birthday Jesus!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we kick off this year's St. Pius X Church Annual Appeal, let me first thank you for your generosity last year. You helped us reach our Annual Appeal goal AND reduce the \$1+ million We Stand with Christ Construction Loan to \$633K. We are in the process of working with our Finance Council and the Diocese of Bridgeport to refinance this loan and will continue to pay down this debt. More to come on this in the New Year.

Now, for this year's Annual Appeal, let me share our critical needs: 1. Costs continue to rise, and our Church is being greatly impacted by this. So much so that we are reaching a tipping point: our Weekly Offertory is no longer allowing us to adequately meet these increased costs for basic maintenance of our 13-acre campus with multiple aging buildings, daily parish activities/events, and payroll for our parish staff. 2. Our 60-year-old School building continues to require significant repairs: a cracking/buckling Gym floor and a 15+year roof that sprung a severe leak this Thanksgiving Day.

As a result, our 2024-2025 Annual Appeal will directly address these concerns:

- **Goal:** \$275,000 (We met last year's goal of \$250,000. We raised \$250,483 from only 310 givers.)
- **Your donations this year will directly fund:**
 - Cash Flow for operating expenses to meet basic maintenance, activities/events, and parish staff payroll.
 - School Repairs: Leaking Roof and Gym Floor replacement and asbestos abatement.
 - New Maintenance Fund for unexpected repairs for our aging campus and buildings.

We have **2,480 registered parishioner households**. Did you know **only 25% or 640 contribute regularly to our Weekly Offertory, and only 13.5% or 310 participated in last year's annual appeal?**

With this in mind, I humbly ask everyone to prayerfully consider:

- Donating (any amount) so you can at least participate in our 2024-2025 Annual Appeal (**Goal: \$275,000**)
- Increasing your weekly donation by the price of a cup of coffee.
- Sending in your gift by December 31. This allows you to claim your donation on your taxes.

If everyone participates, no matter the amount, it will make a significant difference to sustain everything we love about, and benefit from, at St. Pius X.

With gratitude and my sincere thanks,

----Fold Above & Return Slip----

YES! I want to participate in the 2024-2025 St. Pius X Annual Appeal. Here is my gift:

\$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,500 \$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250 Other _____

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Credit Card# _____ Exp.Date _____ CVC # _____

Billing Name _____ Billing Address _____

(If different than above)

(If different than above)

Check Enclosed. Check # _____

Credit Card or Checks: payable to St. Pius X and mailed to address below.
Online: www.st-pius.org/onlinegive and put in Memo: SPX 2024 Annual Appeal.

St. Pius X Parish Office, 834 Brookside Drive, Fairfield CT 06824

Email_Dec2024