



ST. PIUS X PARISH

203-255-6134

834 Brookside Drive Fairfield, CT 06824

WWW.ST-PIUS.ORG



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

February 2, 2025

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: Janssens, Jozef. *Simon Predicts Mary's Suffering at Presentation in the Temple*. Diocesan Library of Art.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Saturday, February 1**
8:30AM.....Malina D’Cunha.....B & M D’Cunha
5:15PM.....All Parishioners
- Sunday, February 2**
7:30AM.....+John & Helen Guman.....B. Guman
9AM.....+James E. Gold.....DiGuido Family
11AM.....+David Wales.....Wales Family
- Monday, February 3**
8:30AM.....+George Greb.....Derby Family
- Tuesday, February 4**
8:30AM.....+Raymond Tomasko.....D. Tomasko
- Wednesday, February 5**
8:30AM...+Mark Thomas Driscoll..Fr. Sam Kachuba & SPX Staff
- Thursday, February 6**
8:30AM.....+Marie Sodaro.....R& M Mashia
- Friday, February 7**
8:30AM.....+Jane Chianese.....F & J Nunziata & Family
- Saturday, February 8**
8:30AM.....+Mark Thomas Driscoll.....A & C Coolidge
5:15PM.....+Marie Sodaro.....M & J Sullivan
- Sunday, February 9**
7:30AM.....+Mr. Vito J. Mario
9AM.....All Parishioners
11AM.....+Lucille McClure.....S & M Ryan



Sanctuary Lights
Church in Memory of Raymond Tomasko
Chapel in Memory of Mark Thomas Driscoll



Baptisms
We welcome the newly baptized into the Church: Brettlyn John Pappas

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Offertory

Offerings	January 19	January 26
Weekend	\$ 14,870	\$ 11,474*
Cathedraticum*	<u>-\$ 3,310**</u>	<u>-\$ 3,310**</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$ 11,560</u>	<u>\$ 8,164</u>
Latin America		\$ 718
CA Wildfires		\$ 2,831

*January 26 weekend totals include donations from the votive candles and the Monthly & Maintenance Funds. Thank you for your generosity!

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



2024-2025

ST. PIUS X PARISH

ANNUAL APPEAL

This year’s appeal will directly fund cash flow for operating expenses, school repairs, and emergency repairs. If you have not contributed yet, please prayerfully consider donating. Scan the QR code or drop a check in the offertory with SPX Annual Appeal in the check memo. Any amount is gratefully accepted and will help us reach our goal. Thank you!

55%

\$ 150,759

Donated

\$ 275,000

Goal



MON	
3	Senior Luncheon, 12PM, Community Room
FEB	
WED	
5	Tastebuds, 5PM, Community Room & Kitchen
FEB	
MON	
10	Spring Small Groups Start
FEB	



Pastor's Note

Today's Readings

1st Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4

Res. Psalm:

Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10

2nd Reading:

Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel:

Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Predicting the length of time remaining on the winter season by use of a burrowing mammal may seem like a quaint, if superstitious relic of a bygone era, commemorated only by an eccentric group of Pennsylvania men in top hats and a classic Bill Murray movie. Groundhog Day, though, has some surprising Catholic origins springing from a deliberate connection between the liturgical calendar, the changing of seasons, and observance of nature's rhythms.

February 2 stands on the liturgical calendar as the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (formerly the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary). The enduring name given to this feast is Candlemas. Forty days ago, we celebrated Christmas, the day of the birth of Christ. In keeping with the Jewish law, Mary and Joseph went to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after Jesus' birth to observe the ritual rites of purification and to make the customary offering (or presentation) for their son. Forty is a number that signifies fullness in Scripture. Thus, at the fullness or completion of these days, the Church traditionally marked the end of the Christmas season. With that end, we also note a shift in the Gospel stories from our Lord's birth to His public ministry. Thus, we move into a different time, that of Jesus' public ministry. But why "Candlemas?"

The great solemnity of the Nativity falls on the winter solstice, with the days following growing gradually longer. February 2 marks the halfway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox. If we take the Scriptural shift from the infancy narratives to the public ministry of Christ and the increasing hours of sunlight together, we can see the light of Christ symbolically reflected in the longer days ahead. With this focus on light, the custom of blessing the candles to be used in church on this day began to grow. On this day then

the Church not only commemorates an the important moment in the life of our Lord that encourages us to both allow the light of Christ into our hearts and to bring that light to the world, she also takes care of a practical matter by blessing the candles we use in worship. That's all well and good, but what has it got to do with groundhogs?

A solstice or equinox is not the only way people have considered weather and seasons, historically. Noticing that about this time every year, certain burrowing animals were emerging from their hibernation, Christians in Europe connected the liturgical calendar (Candlemas) to nature (animals out of their dens) and weather predictions. In Germany, for example, they had a saying that ran "If the badger sunbathes during Candlemas week, for four more weeks he will be back in his hole." Other countries substituted bears or hedgehogs for badgers, but with the same basic idea about the remaining weeks of winter. In the British Isles, a popular rhyme removed reference to animals but retained Candlemas, saying "if Candlemas Day be fair and bright winter will have another fight. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter won't come again." German immigrants to the United States and the Pennsylvania Dutch transferred the animal reference to the groundhog, made it six weeks more or less of winter, and dropped Candlemas from their prediction about the coming of spring.

This connection of seasons, creation, and liturgy brings us back to the events commemorated on Candlemas. Mary and Joseph follow the dictates of the law, that law which is given by God to help his people rightly order their lives. Just as nature follows a particular order, we are reminded of our place in nature with the blessing of candles – called, in the words of the Easter Exultet, "the work of mother bees" – and of our need to be obedient to divine law. With our lives rightly ordered, we will more perfectly experience the light of Christ and be equipped to bring His light and life to the world.

Peace,

Fr. Sam

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 one of our open hours - Monday, 11AM, Tuesday, 8AM, 10AM, 2PM, 11PM, Wednesday, 12AM, 3PM, 9PM, 10PM, Thursday, 4AM, 8AM, 1PM, 9PM, Friday, 5PM.



To sign up as an adorer or substitute, visit www.st-pius.org/adore365/ 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.



PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE

Our beautiful, handmade shawls are available to anyone in need of comfort and healing. Each piece is infused with prayer by our crafters and blessed by Fr. Brendan. To gift a shawl to someone or pick one up for yourself, contact Kim Leon at kleon@st-pius.org. Suggested donation is \$25 to cover the cost of yarn.

EVENTS



EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL NIGHT

Wednesday, February 12, 7PM, Church

Every one of every age is welcome! Bring your friends and family! Adoration, music, and confessions are from 7-8PM. This month, Fr. Sam will lead us in a meditation on the Eucharist. Fellowship to follow in the Community Room at 8PM.



SPX ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Monday, June 9

Don't miss this year's St. Pius X Golf Outing. Save the date and bring your friends to this amazing event! The Golf Committee is looking for volunteers, donations, and event sponsors. Email Paul Sposato at psposato523@gmail.com if interested.

FELLOWSHIP



SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

February 2, 9, 16, & 23 After 9AM Mass, Community Room

Come to the Community Room after the 9AM Mass for coffee and treats. If you would like to help, contact Genevieve Ritch at gfanelliritch@optonline.net or scan the QR code to contribute.



YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

Monday, February 3, 12PM, Community Room

Come and welcome Al DiGuido - parishioner, Saugatuck Sweets owner, and Al's Angels founder. We'll hear how Al's Angels supports children and families battling illness, natural disasters, and severe financial hardship. Lunch is \$7. Calling on all bakers to bring some sweet treats! RSVP required to Peter Carey at aandp1964@aol.com or 203-673-2081. And don't forget to wear your **RED** in honor of Valentine's Day!!!



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.



TASTEBUDS

Wednesday, February 12, 5-7PM, Community Room & Kitchen

Come to our Tastebuds gathering! Along with cooking demonstrations, we will review recipes, and enjoy the meal we created together. The cost is \$15. Email catherinemacdonaldcake@gmail.com to RSVP and scan the QR code to pay.



SERVICE



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.



SANDWICH MAKING

Saturday/Sunday, February 1/2

Join us in providing 250 lunches each month to the **Merton Center**. You can help in the following ways:

- **NEW!!!** Make Sandwiches at SPX, 3:30-5PM, Sat, February 1
- Make Sandwiches at Home and/or Donate Lunch Items
- Assemble Lunches, After 9AM Mass, Sun, February 2

All lunch items and sandwiches made at home must be dropped off in the Community Kitchen by **Saturday, February 1 at 3PM**. Scan QR code or email ccoyle@st-pius.org to sign up.





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 the yarn.

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.

WOMEN'S GROUPS



WELL-READ MOM BOOK GROUP

Saturday, February 15, 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 February book discussion is on *The Father's Tale* by Michael O'Brien. If you'd like to join, email karenlannigan0915@gmail.com.



WALKING WITH PURPOSE, SPRING SIGN-UPS

Wednesday, February 5 - May 7, 6:30-8PM OR

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

Women of the parish are invited to join 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.

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.



St. Patrick's Party

SAT, MARCH 1, 2025

6:30 PM, ST. PIUS X

Early Bird \$45 / person before Feb. 14

\$50 / person after Feb. 14

O'Neill's Irish Pub & Restaurant Catering
John Connor's Irish Express Band
Lenihan School of Irish Dance

Raffle Prizes, 50-50
B.Y.O.B.
Water, Soft Drinks, Ice Available

NAME(S) _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ #OF TICKETS _____

SEAT US WITH _____

**DROP RSVP WITH CHECKS MADE OUT TO ST. PIUS X IN THE OFFETORY BASKET OR AT THE PARISH OFFICE
EMAIL LIZ FEENEY, LIZBYRNEFEENEY@HOTMAIL.COM, WITH QUESTIONS**

JOIN A
**SMALL
GROUP**
THIS SPRING

REGISTER NOW



Visit www.st-pius.org/spring-small-groups/

NEW TESTAMENT BASICS FOR CATHOLICS - DEACON DON

Mondays, February 10 - March 10, 7-8:15PM

Dive more deeply into the salvation story of the New Testament.

THE BIBLE AND THE CHURCH FATHERS - PAOLA PEÑA

Mondays, February 10 - May 5, 7-9PM

Learn who the Early Church Fathers were and how they shaped the way we read Scripture.

THE CHOSEN SERIES - SEASON TWO, MIKE McPADDEN

Tuesdays, January 7 - February 25 - 7-8PM

Watch The Chosen at home and gather for a lively discussion on each episode.

YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUP

Tuesdays, Details coming soon!

ANGELS, DEMONS, AND MAN - FR. BRENDAN

Thursdays, February 13 - March 20, 6:30-7:45PM

Investigate the origins, nature, and purpose of angels and demons, and how they interact and influence the world around us.



by offering a pair of turtledoves.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Baby Jesus in the temple. God's people were supposed to offer their firstborn sons to the service of God, or make an offering of animals instead. Mary and Joseph were poor, so they followed the law

I OFFER MY WORK TO YOU, LORD!



Did you know that you can offer yourself to God too? You can use your life to do good and please God. A good way to start is to pray a "morning offering" every day. Tell God that you

I OFFER YOU EVERYTHING THIS DAY...



love Him and offer Him all your prayers, work, joys, and sufferings of the day. When you do everything for God you will be cooperating with Jesus in making the world a better and happier place!

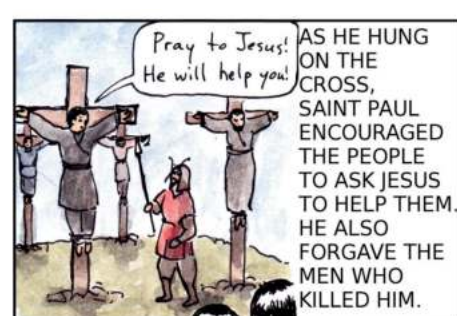
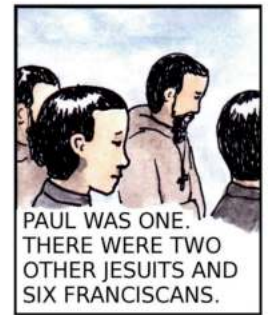
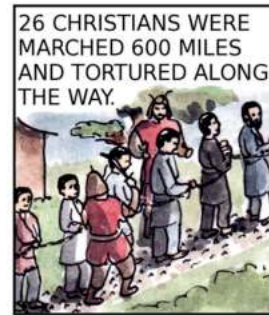
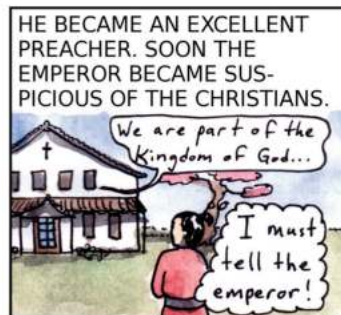
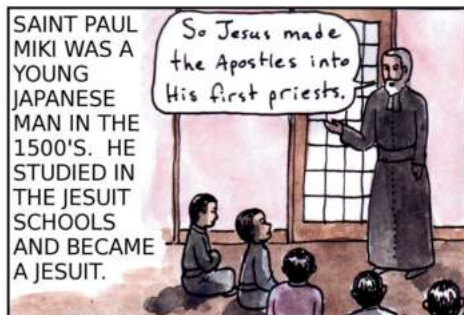
How can you start offering yourself to God today?



Can you help the Holy Family find their way to the Temple so that Baby Jesus can be presented there?

ST. PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS, PRAY FOR US!

FEAST DAY, FEBRUARY 6



WHEN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES CAME TO JAPAN AGAIN IN THE 1800'S, AT FIRST THE THOUGHT THERE WERE NO CHRISTIANS THERE, BUT THEN THEY FOUND THEM PRACTICING THEIR FAITH SECRETLY. OUR LORD USES THE SACRIFICE OF THE MARTYRS TO STRENGTHEN THE FAITH OF OTHER CHRISTIANS. FOR MORE CONTENT, VISIT THEKIDSBULLETIN.COM



Altar Server Training

"Your commitment to the altar is not only a duty but a great honour, a true holy service. . .Therefore in the liturgy you are far more than mere "helpers of the parish priest". Above all, you are servants of Jesus Christ, the eternal High Priest. Thus you altar servers especially are called to be young friends of Jesus. Strive to deepen and foster this friendship with him. You will discover that in Jesus you have found a true friend for life."

- St. John Paul II

MON	FEBRUARY 10	4:30PM - 5:30PM
WED	FEBRUARY 12	4:30PM - 5:30PM
FRI	FEBRUARY 14	4:30PM - 5:30PM

All children who have received their
First Holy Communion are invited to serve!

This training is for new servers and children only need to attend one of the sessions. Email frblawie@diobpt.org to sign up.