



A Roman Catholic Community

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

Pastor

Rev. Samuel S. Kachuba

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Timothy A. Iannacone

Weekend Assistants

Fairfield Jesuit Community

Priest in Residence

Rev. Msgr. Ernest Esposito

Director of Music & Organist

Michael Lantowski

Pastoral Assistant

Kathleen Donnelly

Parish Corp. Lay Members

Kathryn Vogt
Arthur Wolf

Parish Finance Council Chair

Kevin Silk

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. Registration forms are available online at www.st-pius.org or at the Parish Office.

Parish Office Hours

9AM-4PM
Monday-Friday

St. Pius X Church is wheelchair accessible. Parking for the physically challenged is located at sides of church.

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

Mission Statement

We, the members of St. Pius X Parish, are a Roman Catholic family of faith rooted in the Eucharist, nourished by God's Word, and faithful to the sacramental life of the Church. We are committed to welcoming every person we encounter with the love and mercy of Christ. We strive to imitate Christ in all that we say and do. We are committed to teaching and sharing the Gospel, to supporting one another in prayer and action, and to reaching out to those in need, so that, as a community of disciples, we can embrace our parish patron's call to "restore all things in Christ."

Weekly Mass Schedule

8:30AM, Monday-Saturday
5:15PM, Saturday Vigil
7:30AM, 9AM, 10:30AM & 12Noon on Sunday

Holy Day Mass Schedule

5:30PM Vigil
8:30AM & 7:30PM Holy Day

Confession

4PM-4:45PM, Saturdays (Church)
7PM-8PM, Wednesdays (Chapel)

Devotions

The Rosary and a Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is prayed each Friday by parishioners at 9AM in the Chapel. Stations of the Cross take place at 7PM on Lenten Fridays in the Chapel.

Baptism

Pre-Baptismal class is held the first Sunday of every month at 1PM. Pre-registration is required. Call Kathleen Donnelly in the Parish Office for information. Baptisms are celebrated 1:15PM on Sundays.

Marriage

Registered parishioners should make arrangements one year in advance with the Parish Office. There are no Sunday weddings.

Anointing of the Sick

If you know a parishioner who is seriously ill, contact 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.

*Building in Faith Together:
Past, Present, and Future.*





WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 21

8:30AM +Forest Ruddy A. Lesko
5:15PM +Donna Muthersbaugh Dr. Bird

Sunday, April 22

7:30AM +Claire Young
9AM +Maria Artieri E. Porco
10:30AM +Yolanda Pope M. Austin
12Noon +Paddy Fox Curran Family

Monday, April 23

8:30AM +Jerry Ross Mr. & Mrs. S. Douglas

Tuesday, April 24

8:30AM +Alfonas Radwill Dr. & Mrs. Bird

Wednesday, April 25

8:30AM Intentions of All Parishioners

Thursday, April 26

8:30AM +Dr. Robert Stefano Sell Family

Friday, April 27

8:30AM +Josephine Lesenski B. & K. Elinskas

Saturday, April 28

8:30AM +Sr. Margie Mullen Reale Family
5:15PM +Teitell Family C. Teitell

Sunday, April 29

7:30AM +Robert Kosar Fr. Sam Kachuba
9AM +Albert & Margaret Johnson P. Johnson
10:30AM +Jean Devine Devine Family
12Noon +Mia Rose McCaffrey B., S., & T. Loh



**Sanctuary Lights in the Church
will burn this week in memory of
Rosemary Brosnan**



**Sanctuary Lights in the Chapel
will burn this week in memory of
Dolores Seelman**



**Altar Flowers in the Chapel this
week in memory of
Elizabeth Thompson**



ST. PIUS X PRAYER LINE

We must never underestimate the power of prayer!

Let our Prayer Ministry Team pray for you. Email petitions or thanksgivings anytime to Pat Heile at stpiusxprayerln@aol.com or call Ann Cole at 203-362-5178, Monday-Friday and feel free to leave a message.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Reimagining Faith Formation at St. Pius X Parish!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 2014, the Diocese of Bridgeport held a Diocesan Synod, a one-year process of reflection, discernment, and preparation for the future. Among many important initiatives to come from the Synod were two that impact St. Pius X in particular. The first was a Diocesan Catechetical Task Force, charged with examining faith formation (especially for children and youth) around the Diocese. The second was a diocesan-wide process of parochial strategic planning.

At St. Pius X, our strategic planning process included a parish survey and a dedicated team of parishioners who, based on data from the survey and other demographic information, set a series of goals for the parish. Those goals were published for the parish and are available on the parish website (www.st-pius.org/strategic-planning/). One of the priorities identified in the strategic planning process was Catechesis and Education. Our parish goal for faith formation is focused on increasing involvement in faith formation at all age-levels, making resources more available to parishioners, and expanding our parish-wide understanding of the Catholic faith.

In the Fall of 2017, the Diocesan Catechetical Task Force issued its report (www.formationreimagined.org/document/). While there are many reasons to be hopeful in the Diocese, it is also clear that there is tremendous room for improvement in our catechetical endeavors. Adult faith formation has, in many cases, been lacking in the Diocese. A comprehensive view of faith formation as a life-long task and need has frequently been absent. Therefore, the Diocesan Catechetical Task Force has recommended that the Diocese reimagine faith formation.

With the Diocesan recommendation and our own parish goals in mind, we, the clergy and staff of St. Pius X Parish, have been critically evaluating our religious education programs. While we have made some changes in the last three years, we see a need for further modification in order to best respond to the real circumstances of our parishioners.

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SCRIPTURAL QUOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, “leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf.”



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

- April 15, 2018 Weekend Offering: \$13,663
- 2017 Weekend Offering was Easter, and was reported on the previous Bulletin with 2018 Easter offering.
- Monthly Offering: \$2,772
- Mission Offering: \$170

Thank you for being good and faithful stewards of God’s Blessings and Gifts!



CONGRATULATIONS!

We welcome these newly baptized children into our Family of Faith: James Joseph Ludwiczak, Grant Thomas McCormick and Lucas Stephen Spear.



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

II Mallory Mackenzie and Ryan Young

“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

— John 3:8

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Reimagining Faith Formation at St. Pius X Parish!

Continued from p. 2...

Catechesis in parishes across the United States has followed the same basic model for several decades. Meanwhile, our culture and the demands placed on Catholic families have changed in significant ways. Statistics show that within two years of receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, only about 20% of young people are still attending Mass. Our own analysis of our parish population suggests that only about 20% of the children attending religious education attend Mass with any regularity. There are many factors that cause this, including schedule conflicts, cultural pressure pushing religious practice to the margins, and a general sense of being disconnected from the parish community. This new vision for faith formation at St. Pius X is an attempt to meet Catholic families in their concrete circumstances, accompany them as they seek to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, and creatively respond to the needs of our culture. It has been a long-time coming, and the need to shift our methodology is critical.

After prayerful discernment and a thorough review of the findings of the Catechetical Task Force with the parish staff and with the parish strategic planning team, we are pleased to announce that we will embrace the Diocesan invitation to completely reimagine faith formation at St. Pius X. **Please take a moment to read the description of this new vision for our parish on pages 4-6 of the Bulletin.** If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

Peace,

P.S. You may also download a PDF of the New Faith Formation Vision at www.st-pius.org.



WEEKLY ROSARY FOR PEACE & HEALING

Fridays, immediately following the 8:30AM Mass.

Join us for this peaceful time of prayer following the **8:30AM Mass every Friday in the Chapel.** You can participate or simply sit, listen, and reflect. All are welcome!

NEW Faith Formation at St. Pius X Parish...

What is “faith formation?”

Faith formation is the life-long process of growing in the practice of the Catholic faith, in body, mind, and spirit. There is no age-limit in faith formation. It ought to be holistic on both an individual and communal level. This means that each individual is afforded the opportunity to grow in their Catholic faith as it relates to the whole of their person; to grow intellectually, spiritually, and as a person created in the image and likeness of God. Likewise, any endeavor in community faith formation can be holistic only if the whole community is considered and invited to participate.

Is Faith Formation replacing something?

Broadly speaking, faith formation has typically been a classroom-based endeavor, commonly called religious education or CCD (for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) and has focused on preparation for the sacraments of Confession, Communion, and Confirmation. As such, religious education has been an effort to educate children, typically ending around 8th or 9th grade. An unfortunate mentality of viewing Confirmation as “graduation” has followed this, leading many families to almost completely stop involvement in the life of the church after their children have been confirmed. Additionally, this model tends to leave parents out of the picture, rather than recognizing the essential role parents play in the formation of their children’s faith.

Three years ago, we began an innovative program called **Family Faith Formation**, which meets once a month. Parents and children participate and are provided with catechetical resources to use at home. This inter-generational element in our approach to faith formation is the model we seek to apply to all faith formation at St. Pius X Parish.

Our renewed approach to Lifelong Faith Formation broadens our outlook to include couples preparing for marriage (Pre-Cana), parents preparing to have their children baptized (Pre-Baptismal prep), families with very young children, elementary school children, middle school students, teenagers, young adults, single people, married couples, seniors, and those who wish to become Catholic (RCIA). Faith formation is an endeavor for every member and potential member of our community.

What will the re-imagined faith formation look like?

First, we extend an invitation to every member of the parish to participate in faith formation. Whether you are young or old, married or single, a parent with young children or a grandparent, you are invited to participate in some way in faith formation at St. Pius X Parish. Opportunities for everyone in our community to gather for faith formation will be offered every month, very similar to our current Family Faith Formation program, only with a broader audience in mind. Additionally, we will make resources available so that parishioners can engage their faith on an intellectual and spiritual level even if they are not physically at St. Pius X.

Second, sacramental preparation for Confession, Communion, and Confirmation will be offered. The norm will be for children to prepare for First Confession and First Communion in second grade. Children in fifth grade will prepare for Confirmation and will receive the sacrament in the fall of the sixth grade. As they begin

the very challenging middle and high school years, we believe that the grace of the sacrament of Confirmation will give them an indispensable spiritual foundation. Placing the sacrament of Confirmation at the beginning of middle school also reminds us that Confirmation is not graduation. Sacramental preparation will take place weekly during the school year. Parents of children who are preparing for a sacrament will attend five (mandatory) parent sessions offered during the year. It is vital for parents to be united with their children in preparing for sacraments. Only those students preparing to receive sacraments will have weekly classes. All other grade levels are encouraged to utilize the Pflaum Gospel weeklies, attend the monthly Lifelong Faith Formation gatherings, or participate in Edge or LifeTeen youth ministry.

Third, as children get older, it is important that they have an opportunity to engage their faith on their terms and with their peers. We will continue to offer our Edge Middle School Youth Ministry to students in middle school who wish to participate. Edge invites students to engage their faith in a very personal way, while also forming friendships with other middle schoolers who are serious about their faith. Edge leads naturally into our Life Teen High School Youth Ministry, which seeks to continue to build young people up in faith. Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Edge and Life Teen enable young people to understand how the Church responds to the current circumstances of the world and how they can best live out the Catholic faith in their present-day context. We are proud to be one of the 1800+ parishes in 31 countries offering Edge and Life Teen Youth Ministry!

Fourth, all parish ministries will have a faith formation component. Our parish is blessed with ministries that impact people of all ages and backgrounds. It is important that every ministry be seen as an aid to life-long discipleship.

Why make such drastic changes?

Families today face different demands than families ten or twenty years ago. Schedules are increasingly complex, which has led some families to feel a great deal of stress surrounding faith formation for their children. Faith formation should be a spiritual aid, never a source of stress. Furthermore, as our faith formation program attracts more and more people, it is increasingly difficult to provide a sufficient number of adult volunteers to serve our program’s needs. Finally, the most important factor in the religious formation of children is the practice of the Catholic faith within the family. Unfortunately, many people have focused on class attendance or years in a religious education program as the most important factor, at the expense of practicing the Catholic faith by attending Mass every Sunday. With a new approach to faith formation, we hope to encourage a deeper practice of the Catholic faith, placing regular Mass attendance at the center of our lives. These factors convince us that the way we have approached religious education is no longer an adequate way to share the Good News of the Gospel with our parish family and our wider community. Our response, therefore, is to embrace a

NEW Faith Formation at St. Pius X Parish...

vision of faith formation that allows the practice of the faith to be placed at the center.

What happens to all our catechists?

We still need you! Though our focus is shifting, your experience teaching the faith is vital. There is always a need for adults to volunteer in the important work of handing the faith on to the next generation. Whether you participate in our sacramental preparation program, in our monthly gatherings for lifelong faith formation, or as a Core Team member for Edge or Life Teen, you are needed!

What about students who have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation?

In June, our 8th graders will receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Our 7th graders who are currently in the process of preparation for the sacrament will complete their preparation and receive Confirmation in the fall (date TBD by the Bishop's Office). Students currently in 6th grade are invited to prepare for Confirmation this summer. Current 5th graders will receive Confirmation next Spring (at the end of 6th grade). A comprehensive schedule will be shared in the coming weeks.

I'm interested in the monthly gatherings for my family. I have kids who should be receiving sacraments this year. What do I do?

The monthly gatherings will be offered in three-month "blocks." Parishioners are invited to sign up for the entire year, or block-by-block. Children who are of age to receive sacraments should be enrolled in our weekly sacramental preparation program. We also encourage you to make use of the Pflaum Gospel weeklies, which supplement sacramental preparation and are a great tool for families to use as they grow in faith together at home.

This isn't a "sacrament year" for my kids, but we're interested in faith formation. What do we do?

You (and your family) are invited to participate in our monthly Lifelong Faith Formation gatherings. It is a wonderful way to engage your faith more and to participate in the life of the parish community. During the gatherings, you will work with other families and members of the parish as you engage the Catholic faith. We also encourage you to make use of the Pflaum Gospel weeklies, which supplement sacramental preparation and are a great tool for families to use as they grow in faith together at home. If you have children in middle school or high school, they might be interested in our Edge and Life Teen Youth Ministry. We encourage you to take advantage of the other resources being offered, as well.

I'm interested in Lifelong Faith Formation, but I do not have school aged children living at home with me. What do I do?

You are most welcome to participate in our monthly gatherings and to use the other available resources. Please register! You will be a vital contributor to discussions and activities and will both share your lived experience of the Catholic faith with others and benefit from the example and faith witness of the people you meet during our monthly gatherings!

I'm not interested in Lifelong Faith Formation OR My family schedule won't allow participation in monthly Lifelong Faith Formation gatherings at this time. What do I do?

Please know you are always welcome to start attending the monthly gatherings, or using the other available resources. If one of the "blocks" is not convenient for your schedule, perhaps the next one will be. If this year doesn't work for you, maybe next year! Please do take advantage of the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies which will be available to you and your family, as well as electronic resources we offer. If you have a child in second or fifth grade who has not received First Communion or Confirmation, your child should participate in the Sacramental Preparation program. These weekly sessions will run during the school year. Parents attend five parent sessions. The Sacraments are God's gift to us – as a Church and parish community, we want you and your children to receive the grace of the sacraments!

What do the parent sessions for parents who have kids receiving sacraments look like?

Each of the five parent sessions will involve a study of the foundations of the Catholic faith, with a special focus on how the sacramental life of the Church sustains a healthy spiritual life. The parent sessions will equip parents to accompany their children in sacramental preparation by enhancing parental understanding of the sacraments and suggesting ways to pray and discuss the faith with children. Time will be set aside in each session for prayer, community building, and reading Scripture.

I just want my kids to get their sacraments.

We're happy to help! Please sign up for the sacramental preparation program. Your child will attend weekly preparation sessions. There are five mandatory parent sessions for you, as well. We also encourage you to make use of the Pflaum Gospel weeklies, which supplement sacramental preparation and are a great tool for families to use as they grow in faith together at home.

My children attend Catholic school. Can we participate?

Yes! Local Catholic schools usually include some preparation for First Communion in the second-grade religion curriculum. Many second-graders receive First Communion with their classmates. Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, especially at the 5th grade level, is not part of the curriculum. We will work with you to ensure that sacramental preparation takes place for your children, and we welcome your participation in this journey of lifelong faith formation!

/my children never received the sacrament of Confirmation and are in high school/college/ adults. What can I/they do?

You are invited to receive this great sacrament! We will work with you to help you prepare for the sacrament. Simply contact the parish office and with you, we will work out a plan so that you can share in the graces poured out in the Sacrament of Confirmation. **CONTINUED on p. 6...**

NEW Faith Formation at St. Pius X Parish...

How do I register?

We are in the final stages of setting up our registration process to include online registration. As soon as it is up and running, you will receive an email inviting you to sign-up for Lifelong Faith Formation, and announcements will be published in our parish bulletin and made at all Masses. Once you have selected the Faith Formation opportunities in which you wish to participate, please fill out the corresponding registration form. Limited physical space and the need to prepare adequate hard-copy resources means that registration is very important.



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: There is no other name under heaven by which we are to be saved than the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene (Acts 4:8-12).

Psalm: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone (Psalm 118).

Second Reading: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2).

Gospel: I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11-18).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-28, 30-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:18



PETITIONS TO BE TAKEN TO LOURDES

Petitions accepted until the afternoon of April 30.

Parishioners Leslie and Mel Orendorf will be traveling to Lourdes, France on pilgrimage. It is customary to bring written petitions (and thanksgivings) in sealed envelopes to the shrine. The Orendorfs will carry our petitions to the shrine at Lourdes where they will be prayerfully offered during Mass. All are invited to put petitions in sealed envelopes and drop in designated baskets in Church/Chapel Vestibule **by the afternoon of Monday, April 30.**



How to Receive Holy Communion

There are two ways to receive Holy Communion:

1. The universal norm in the Catholic Church is to receive Communion on the tongue. This is the preference of the priests at St. Pius X Parish.
2. The second option, granted by special permission in 1969 and extended to the US in 1977, is to receive on the hand.

Please do...

...respond "Amen" when the priest or Extraordinary Minister presents you with the Body of Christ. No other word should be spoken at that time.

...stand close enough that the priest or Extraordinary Minister does not have to reach far. If receiving on the tongue open your mouth, extending the tongue very slightly.

...if receiving on the hand, hold your hands high enough that they create a sort of throne. The hand you write with should be beneath the other hand. With the bottom hand, take the host and **immediately** place it in your mouth. Your hands should be flat – if your hands are at an angle, there is a significant risk of the host slipping out of your hands.

Please do not...

...receive with just one hand – it is extremely irreverent to receive with one hand and is a sign of grave disrespect.

...receive in the hand if you are carrying a child, or holding car keys, or your hands are otherwise occupied. We have had parents nearly drop children, children nearly knock the host out of their parents' hands, and other mishaps and accidents. There is no reason to multi-task while receiving Holy Communion. In these situations, please simply receive on the tongue.

...put two hands out side-by-side, as it is impossible to know in which hand you wish to receive.

...flip the Eucharist from one hand to another.

...receive on the hand if your hands are covered by gloves or sleeves or are visibly dirty.

...grab the Eucharist from the priest/minister.

...hold your hands so low that they can't be seen.

Whether you receive on the tongue or in the hand, it is necessary for all of us to follow these basic guidelines to ensure that we demonstrate the reverence and respect our Lord is due and thus witness our faith in the Eucharistic Lord to all.



OPENING YOUR HEART CONNECT COFFEE TALK

Outside Activities—Set the World on Fire

Please join us **9:15AM-11:30A, Thursday, April 19 in the Community Room**. Together, we will discover and discuss how we can bring about positive change in our world and to see what God can do through us! Just come as you are for some coffee, fellowship and a chance to see what Walking with Purpose (WWP) is all about. We are also excited to welcome guest speaker, Elizabeth Schneider, the Director of Family Services at the Tiny Miracles Foundation, who will speak about having a positive impact on the world.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. PIUS X—REGISTER TODAY!

Open to men and women age 18 and up—only 20 spots left!

Register today to give blood 9AM-2PM, Saturday, April 28 in the St. Pius X Religious Education Center. Schedule your appointment: www.redcrossblood.org or 800-RED-CROSS.



ST. PIUS X KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

All are welcome at our next event...

● **5th Sunday Rosary Program—come pray with us!** Join us after the **9AM Mass, Sunday, April 29 in the Chapel**.



ST. PIUS X CALL TO MILITARY

*You answered our country's call to serve.
Let your parish support you on your journey.*

Whether you're active, or a veteran, we want to hear from you. We're working on activities for veterans and active service members to support each other as a parish and as brothers/sisters in arms. Contact Russell Edgett, Afghanistan veteran, parishioner and founder of *The Freedom Isn't Free Ride* at 475-225-9694 or RussellJ.Edgett@gmail.com.



Concert in the
Key of "M"
St. Pius X Church
Fairfield
Sat. May 5, 2018
8:00 pm

THE MENDELSSOHN CHOIR OF CONNECTICUT

Special event here at St. Pius, May 5.

The Mendelssohn Choir of Connecticut, under the direction of founder and Artistic Director, Carole Ann Maxwell, presents *Music in the Key of "M" 8PM, Saturday, May 5 here at St. Pius in the Church*. Mozart's early and inventive *Missa brevis in D* of 1774 (his first ever to be printed) is the featured work. Mendelssohn's *Andenken*, a wistful song of a grief-tinged springtime and a Chopin Mazurka come from the 19th century, while works by Paul Mealor, Dan Forrest (*The Music of Living*) Kevin Memley, Andrew Lloyd Webber (*Music of the Night*), and Leonard Bernstein (*Make Our Garden Grow*) bring us into the 20th and 21st centuries. Tickets are \$30 for general admission, \$25 for seniors, and \$10 for students. Buy tickets at the door or www.mendelssohnchoirofct.org.



WILL YOU TAKE A BABY BOTTLE...

and help the mothers of Good Counsel Malta House?

The weekend of **May 26-27**, Good Counsel Malta House of Connecticut will be visiting and asking for prayers and financial support for homeless, pregnant mothers and their babies. The Norwalk-based home is the first home to open in Fairfield County, and is the only home of its kind in Connecticut. They've welcomed 300+ babies since opening in 1998! Consider taking a baby bottle home to fill with spare change, dollars, checks, or whatever you can, and return by June 10-11 in the bin in the church vestibule.



MEDITATION

Certain realities in life are only seen through eyes that are cleansed through our tears. Let us learn how to weep. —Pope Francis