

Summer Updates

from St. Pius X Parish Community

A Reflection from Fr. Paul

I read an article in the New York Times by Jessica Gross entitled, "What Churches offer that 'nones' still long for." ("Nones" are those who no longer have an affiliation with any denomination, yet believe in God and consider themselves "spiritual"). I won't go into details because it is a long, 5-part presentation, but these three words capture the essence: community, consistency, and support.

Community: our Pius community is strong and you can feel it when we are together. People greet each other and seem to enjoy being together. **Consistency:** as we move through the Church year, it is comforting to know what is coming up, as did our forebearers and as will those coming after us. Our rituals and religious practices can root us in an ever-changing world. **Support:** many of you have commented to me how grateful you were for the support of the community in times of illness or the death of a loved one.

Sometimes we can float through life without being conscious of what we have that supports us. I invite us to take some time in the summer lull to reflect on what a gift our Pius community is to us and what a support we are to each other, resolving to build our bonds even stronger. We are truly blessed. Thank you for being a part of St. Pius X Catholic Community. May God bless each and every one of you and your family.



Two of our Garden Angels hard at work.

Parish Updates

I hope you are having an enjoyable summer! Here are a few updates:

Garden Angels

Our grounds look wonderful thanks to the hard work of the Garden Angels. Your ministry is greatly appreciated!

Love One Another Campaign

Our campaign has ended at 87% of our goal. I thank all who have contributed: your support will help our community and the diocese, as we move into the future. If you have missed contributing or pledging, [you can still do so](#).

Wauwatosa Catholic School

All but one of the teachers have found a job and the practical details of closing will hopefully be wrapped up by mid-September. Please remember we want to support you financially in sending your child to a Catholic school. If you would like to find out about assistance, please contact our Director of Operations and Finances, Dean Weyer.

Welcome Back Mass & Luncheon

Remember to put our Welcome Back Mass and Luncheon on your calendar for September 10th. Invite family members and/or friends to come with you. Hope to see you there! Watch for more information in the bulletins.

Sister Parish

We have received information on how our collection for our new sister parish (weekend of September 23rd/24th) will be used. Watch for articles from Sue Haertel sharing the information. Our Director of Adult Formation, Rob Hoffman, has just returned from visiting our sister parish and I am looking forward to his sharing what he has seen and experienced with us.

Have a blessed rest of the summer. You are in my prayers.

Faith Formation

Rob Hoffmann

Director of Adult Formation

The Summer Adventures of “The Three Sisters”

While most faith formation programs are taking a summer break, I thought we could take this time to celebrate our beautiful Wisconsin outdoors by exploring Pope Francis’ insight on the environment and society from his encyclical “Laudato Si.” While researching books to choose one for our summer book club, I was very excited when my wife introduced me to Robin Wall Kimmerer’s book “Braiding Sweetgrass”. This book takes a look at plants, ecology, and spirituality from a Native American perspective: being stewards of our planet rather than owning and possessing it.

In the book’s essay, “The Three Sisters,” Kimmerer tells of how the newly arrived Europeans judged indigenous agriculture practices as primitive and wrong. The European method, still practiced to produce food today, is to strip the land of all obstacles and create straight lines of plants that provide vast amounts of food. Using this method, they were able to feed more people than ever and have surpluses. But, we know the side effect of this method is the soil is stripped of nutrients and there are no natural insect repellants. We fix that with fertilizers and bug sprays that pollute the Earth.

“The Three Sisters” is a simple and ingenious way of growing food. Corn, beans and squash are planted in one single mound surrounded by many other planting mounds. The first “sister” is corn, which grows tall and strong and produces fruit which can be used as a grain. The second “sister” is beans, which can use the corn stalk to wrap around, creating a vertical garden. The root system of the beans creates nitrogen, a natural fertilizer that replenishes the Earth. The third “sister” is squash, a food source that can last far into winter. The squash plant shelters the ground, holding in moisture and with its prickly leaves, protects the sisters from pests.

Which means of producing food is best? “The Three Sisters,” while organic, is labor intensive and better suited to small communities. The industrial farms produce more, but may not be the best stewards of the land. I pray for the wisdom to find a balance or perhaps a new way to provide sustenance for our planet.

This summer, we have some natural, interactive displays. You’ll find sweetgrass plants at the front parish office entrance and to the north side of the church entrance. Along with the sweetgrass outside of church, there are pots with “The Three Sisters” plants.

Like Noah and the ark, we planted two of each seed (in case one seed was a dud). At first, the small plants were doing great, but after only a week, something cut the young corn down to the ground. This was bad as the beans need a firm stalk to climb and we didn’t have time to replant. Luckily, within a few days, because of the corn’s intact root

system, high temperatures, and rain, the corn grew again to about five inches tall. But once again, the corn was sliced off at the ground. I was now on a rescue mission. I headed to the garden center, but since you can’t buy mature corn plants in Wauwatosa, I bought potted sunflowers and planted them where the corn had been. While I hope that all the plants will grow up strong, I know that we may again lose some to animals. But, as my wife reminds me, the fruits and vegetables in our yards are for both us and the animals. And if the animals get it all, we should take comfort in nourishing them.



Please watch our plants grow, join our book club, and look for more “Laudato Si” opportunities in the near future.

God bless and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Current & Upcoming Faith Formation Programs

St. Pius X Book Club

“Braiding Sweetgrass”

Join us as we read the spiritual and ecological book “Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

This book is a collection of essays, which makes for easy reading and allows participants to join just some or all of the group discussions. We even have a copy of the book for you to use!

Meetings take place in the Francis Jordan Room between the Sunday Masses (9:15 - 10:15 am) on the following dates:

Sunday, August 6th

Section 3 (pages 119 - 201)

Sunday, August 20th

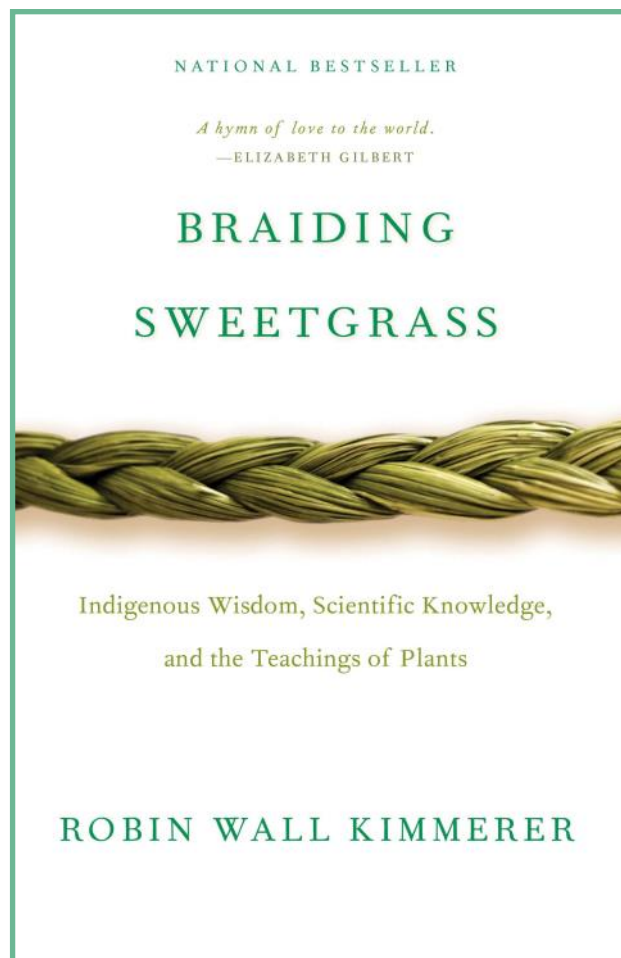
Section 4 (pages 203 - 300)

Sunday, September 3rd

Section 5 (pages 301 - 379)

To sign up, fill out the registration sheet in the back of church or fill out our online form at <https://bit.ly/43v7D5G>.

You are welcome to join at any time!



Save the Date

for

Pizza, Popcorn & a Documentary

Date: Tuesday, August 29th

Time: 11:00 am

Location: Francis Jordan Room

Enjoy a delicious lunch and then watch a faith-based documentary!

More information, including what documentary we will be watching, is coming soon!



St. Pius X Parish Community

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Key 101 = Room 101 CGS = Catechesis of the Good Shepherd CK = Christ King FJ = Francis Jordan Room (R/LR) MA = Mary of the Apostles Room (R/DR)		1	2 Mass, 8:00am	3 Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom*	4 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sun. Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	5 Reconciliation, 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass, 5:00pm
6 Mass, 8:00am Book Club, 9:15- 10:15 am, FJ Mass, 10:30am	7 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Church Liturgy Commission, 6:00pm, FJ	8 Justice & Peace Commission, 7:00pm, FJ	9 Mass, 8:00am	10 Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom*	11 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sun. Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	12 Reconciliation, 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass, 5:00pm
13 Mass, 8:00am Mass, 10:30am	14 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Church	15 Mass, 8:00am Mass, 7:00pm <i>Feast of the Assumption</i>	16 Mass, 8:00am	17 Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom*	18 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sun. Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	19 Reconciliation, 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass, 5:00pm
20 Mass, 8:00am Book Club, 9:15- 10:15 am, FJ Mass, 10:30am	21 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Church Stewardship Commission, 5:30pm, FJ	22	23 Mass, 8:00am	24 Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom*	25 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sun. Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	26 Reconciliation, 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass, 5:00pm
27 Mass, 8:00am Mass, 10:30am	28 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Church Finance Council, 5:45pm, FJ	29 Pizza, Popcorn and a Documentary, 11:00am, FJ	30 Mass, 8:00am	31 Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom*	*Contact the parish office or visit https://bit.ly/Rosary4JP to request the Zoom link.	