

# THE PIUS PRESS

*The monthly newsletter of St. Pius X Parish Community*

## Ash Wednesday is February 14th!

Join us for Mass at 8:00 am or 7:00 pm.

## A Reflection from Fr. Paul

In these past weeks, it has struck me how fast time flies. Advent was as short as it could be: 3 weeks. Christmas time was only 2 weeks and a day. Now Lent is almost upon us (Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>).

Each of these seasons reminds us of an essential aspect of our spiritual life. In Advent we prepare to celebrate the first coming of Christ, while reminding ourselves how important it is to prepare for His second coming. The celebration of Christmas reminds us that Christ came to save all people and we, in our baptism, committed ourselves to cooperate in that project by living in such a way as to bring Christ to those around us.

But that is hard and we often fail. Lent is the time for us to reflect on the times we have failed and seek forgiveness, asking ourselves what we can do to make sure we do better in the future. Lent begins with us being marked by ashes, reminding us that our life is temporary and we need to continually work to fulfill our baptismal commitment to bring Christ to the world. A common practice is to accept a voluntary penance as a sign of our desire to be a better person (children often give up candy, adults liquor).

This Lent I invite us to consider doing something positive in place of, or better yet, in addition to giving something up. For example, are there relatives, neighbors, or friends who are homebound and would enjoy some visits? Are there neighbors who could use help with some chores around the house? Is there a ministry I can volunteer for in my parish or a non-profit that serves the poor that could use my time and skills?

In short, let us make this Lent a time of reaching out and giving, not just giving up. May our observance of Lent make our celebration of Easter more meaningful. God bless.

## Parish Updates

*Fr. Paul Portland, SDS*

### Beware of scams

Parishioners have been getting e-mails, texts, and phone messages, supposedly from me, asking for help. (I am not special: this is happening to a number of pastors). Do not respond to any of these: I won't ask you for help that way. If you think something might be from me, call or send me a separate email before responding. Be safe!

### Communion for Those who Cannot Attend Mass in Person

Parishioner Shawn Dauer has volunteered to be a contact person for our Ministry of Care program. If you or someone in your family would like to have Communion brought to you by a minister of care, be it temporarily or long term, please contact the parish office and Shawn will get back to you to obtain the necessary information to connect you with a minister. I thank Shawn for volunteering to do this, as well as all those who fulfil this ministry!

### Family Mass

The parish survey that you took last fall indicated a need for more activities involving children and young families, especially since our school has closed and no longer brings the families together. With the approval of the Pastoral Council, Christina Ramsey is forming a committee to plan occasional Sunday liturgies at which our children will perform many of the liturgical ministries. The first Family Mass will be at 10:30 am on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Please see the information in this newsletter about opportunities for your children to be involved. Megan Gonzales has already held a movie night for families with small children and is planning more activities. I thank both Christina and Megan for their efforts on behalf of our children and young families!

*(continued on next page)*

## Parish Updates, cont.

### High School Scholarship

For a number of years, a former parishioner has been offering four-year scholarships to students from registered St. Pius X families who attend DSHA or Marquette University high schools. His passion is for single sex high school education. If you are an active, registered family and have child in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, please let me know if the child commits to one of those two schools and would like to apply for the scholarship. Later in the spring I will begin the process for selecting the recipient.

### Skate Nights

I am pleased to announce that skate nights will still be around. A group from St. Sebastian school (where a number of our parish children are attending) held a trial run in November and will continue our long tradition. We will announce more dates as they are scheduled for this spring. The Pizza Pops will continue keeping us happy as well. Thanks to all who are making this possible.

### Pancake Breakfast

All are invited to our annual Valentine's Day pancake breakfast, hosted by the Community Life Commission, on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. The group is also looking for new members. If you like to cook and make people happy with food, consider joining this group. Contact the front office and your information will be passed on to the committee.

## Operations & Finance

*Dean Weyer*

*Director of Operations & Finance*

### Finances

As is normally the case, with year-end/holiday giving and one of our quarterly Kingdom Prep High School rent checks, income in December was substantial (\$144,511). Though when compared to the budget, stewardship still lags about \$5,000 behind our budgeted pace. Our expenses continue to stay on pace to the budget.

What does that "substantial" December income cover? Well, some of our expenses this time of year include our...

- Annual property/liability insurance bill was \$25,593
- Average monthly payroll is about \$29,000
- Electricity bill has been averaging \$3,400/month
- Average monthly gas bill in the winter is \$6,750

All this plus the many thousands spent in support of our numerous ministries. Blessings on your generosity!

Our Finance Council made the decision to pull most of our savings out of the market and instead invest in money market and laddered CD pools at rates varying from 4.05-5.5%. While, in the end, we did not lose any principal with our previous investment in the Catholic Community Foundation, it did bounce around considerably over the past 20 months. It was felt that with favorable MM/CD rates and in these uncertain times, that we should secure the principal and take advantage of known/assured rates of return.

If you have not already done so, please return your stewardship pledge for 2024! You can use the card you received, pledge online at [www.stpiusparish.org/stewardship.html](http://www.stpiusparish.org/stewardship.html), call or email me. As we start the budget process for our 2024-2025 fiscal year, it is important that we have as clear an understanding as possible of our anticipated income as we project our ministry expenses.

### Pius Continues to Support Catholic School Education!

We are in the middle of registration periods for Catholic elementary schools for the 2024/25 school year. Do you have or want to place your child in a Catholic elementary school? Please be aware that we have funds to financially assist St Pius families who choose to send their child(ren) to a Catholic elementary school at another parish. Pius will cover any school's "non-parishioner tuition penalty"! Additional assistance is also available for even the base tuition costs.

In addition, we would like to know of our Pius families that are attending a Catholic high school. There may be some assistance available for you as well.

And, as mentioned in Fr. Paul's update, there is also a full (4 yr) scholarship available for a student attending either DSHA or MUHS (as an incoming freshman next fall).

PLEASE contact me at (414) 453-3875 x 16 or [dweyer@stpiusparish.org](mailto:dweyer@stpiusparish.org) for more information!

## Faith Formation

Rob Hoffmann

Director of Adult Formation

I would like to spend more time in daily prayer, you might also want to. My wife is wonderfully dedicated to her morning ritual of spiritual readings, meditation and sun salutations. This daily practice is evident in her calmness. I wish I was as dedicated to my mental and spiritual health. We know that Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. However, how do we do this? It can be rote; simply praying in our normal daily/weekly way, eating fish, donating an extra few dollars to a cause. This year I think we should follow the Lenten practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving with mindfulness, or with the practice of contemplative living. How can we experience the awe of Lent without slowing down and mindfully practicing it? Contemplative living will be a focus of Lenten faith formation this year, including our Ash Wednesday reflection, weekly Scripture conversation, Sunday morning videos, an evening reflection, Stations of the Cross and other Lenten opportunities. Here are the details...

## Liturgies & Faith Formation Opportunities

### Ash Wednesday Masses

**Date:** February 14<sup>th</sup>

**Times:** 8:00 am & 7:00 pm

### Ash Wednesday Reflection

**Date:** Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Location:** Francis Jordan Room  
(A light lunch will be served)

Or

**Date:** Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 5:00 - 8:00 pm

**Location:** Francis Jordan Room  
(A light dinner will be served)

After you receive your ashes, continue your Lenten journey with us as we discuss the question, "Where do we turn for forgiveness?" featuring the book *Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton*. You do not need to read the book beforehand to join us.

There will be two identical sessions offered; choose the day that works best for you! While the sessions are free of charge, we ask that you please register by calling the parish office, using the link or QR code on page 5 or filling out the sign up form in the back of church.

### More information coming soon on these Lenten events and services:

- A Lenten Evening Reflection with Br. Silas Henderson, SDS
- Stations of the Cross
- St. Pius X Tosa Young Adult Get Together on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm



Br. Silas Henderson, SDS

**Weekly Lenten Scripture  
& Spiritual Writing Series on:**

*Bridges to Contemplative Living  
with Thomas Merton*

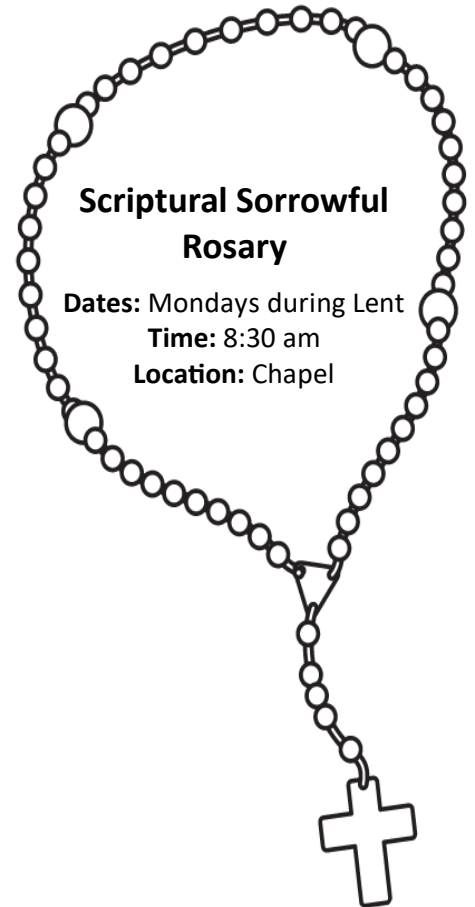
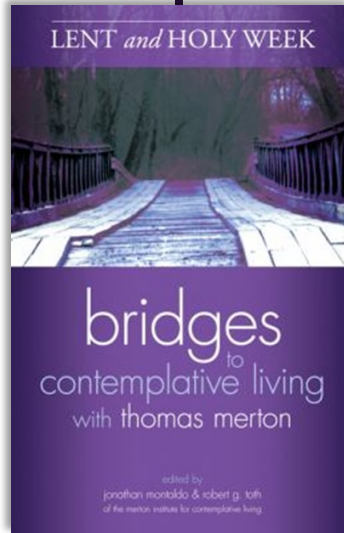
**Dates:** Wednesdays during Lent  
(starting February 21<sup>st</sup>)  
**Times & Locations:** 8:30 - 9:30 am in the  
Francis Jordan Room or 6:30 - 7:30 pm on Zoom

“Who am I?” “Who is God?” “Why am I here?”  
“What am I to do with my life?”

You are invited to join us for reflection and  
conversation every Wednesday during Lent.  
Each week we will discuss a different topic  
from the list below.

- Week 1:** Living More Deeply in Christ
- Week 2:** A Season for Compunction and Tears
- Week 3:** In All Things, Always Seeking God
- Week 4:** Choosing with Christ to Love the World
- Week 5:** In the Service of Peace Through Humility and Prayer
- Holy Week:** Returning to the Source of Our Unity in Christ
- The Resurrection of the Lord:** Liberated to Redeem the World

No registration is required for the in-person sessions, but if  
you plan to attend on Zoom, please RSVP using the link or QR  
code on page 5.



**Scriptural Sorrowful  
Rosary**

**Dates:** Mondays during Lent  
**Time:** 8:30 am  
**Location:** Chapel

**Catholicism Refresher**

Have you already been confirmed, but want to learn more about Catholicism or get a refresher? You are invited  
to our weekly sessions where we discuss different aspects of our faith with a group of adults preparing for  
Baptism and Confirmation. Everyone is welcome to join us for any or all of the sessions!

**Dates:** (Most) Mondays through March 25<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 6:00 - 7:00 pm  
**Location:** Francis Jordan Room or Zoom (see bulletin for updates on the location)

**Upcoming dates and topics:**

- February 5<sup>th</sup> - The Creed – Holy Spirit
- February 12<sup>th</sup> - Church as Community
- February 19<sup>th</sup> - Church as Institution
- February 26<sup>th</sup> - The Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)
- March 4<sup>th</sup> - The Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick)
- March 11<sup>th</sup> - The Sacraments of Commitment (Matrimony and Holy Orders)





**Dates:** Sundays during Lent

**Time:** 9:15 - 10:15 am

**Location:** Francis Jordan Room

Emmaus 40? Sure, why not. We launched this 90 day program on January 1<sup>st</sup> as a daily Scripture reflection, weekly small group discussion and weekly live video lecture series.

Was 90 days too much of a commitment? Why not try the 40 days of Lent. You can join the program on Ash Wednesday and add Emmaus 40 to your Lenten journey.

**To register:** call the parish office, use the link or QR code on this page or sign up at the back of church.

**Cost:** \$20 per "pilgrim" or \$40 per "family" (No one will be denied due to financial circumstances, please let us know if you need assistance).

**Registration Link  
& QR Code:**

[bit.ly/425Pz2B](https://bit.ly/425Pz2B)



Contact Rob Hoffmann  
in the parish office at  
(414) 453-3875 x 18  
or [rhoffmann@stpiusparish.org](mailto:rhoffmann@stpiusparish.org)  
for more information  
on these programs.

## Stewardship Commission

*Sue Haertel, SDS*

We have wonderful news from Fr. Cuthbert over at our sister parish, Mother of the Savior in Nakapanya, Tanzania! Your support, both in donations and prayers, is truly making a difference.

*Dear St. Pius X parishioners,*

*This new year has began in style as we've acquired a new organ for our parish, courtesy of your generosity!*

*As we evangelize, be rest assured our Christian community is praying for you. Thank you for your continued support and God bless you.*

*Fr. Cuthbert*



## Health Ministry

### Welcome Cards

Have you recently welcomed a little one to your family? Our parish would like to join in celebrating the arrival of your newborn, adopted or fostered child by sending a special greeting card. A member of our Health Ministry Committee may reach out to you at church or you can contact the parish office at (414) 453-4875 to let us know about new additions. Thank you for allowing us to share in your joy and welcome your child!

### Hearing Help at Pius and Beyond

If you are about to purchase new hearing aids, you can ask to have a device called a T-coil installed. This will enable you to directly connect with the sound system in church AND many theaters, libraries, and public venues. We are one of the few churches in the Milwaukee area to offer this unique benefit so you can better hear and participate with your faith community.

### Does Your House Need Help?

The City of Wauwatosa Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program may be able to help!

#### *Eligible Properties:*

Owner occupied single family homes and duplexes located in Wauwatosa

#### *Eligible Projects:*

Accessibility improvements, plumbing & electrical, interior & exterior refinishing, structural repairs, water & heat projects, energy conversation

#### *Conditions:*

- Interest Rate: 0%
- Repayment is deferred while owning and living on the property
- Loan approval is based on:
  - Income eligibility
  - Equity in the property
  - Credit score
  - Type of work to be done

#### *Technical Assistance:*

A rehabilitation specialist will provide guidance throughout the process

For more information contact (414) 479-8933 or [HomeRepair@wauwatosa.net](mailto:HomeRepair@wauwatosa.net).

### ***A Thank You from ERAS...***

Eras Senior Network extends a heartfelt thank you to St. Pius X Parish for donating gift cards and books of forever stamps for our clients in need. Your generosity went beyond traditional gift-giving, creating a ripple effect of compassion, kindness, and the true warmth of the holiday spirit.

With the help of your donations, Eras was able to assemble an incredible 409 self-sufficiency care packages for older adults and adults with disabilities in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County. We surpassed our goal of \$50 per client and were able to send clients \$65 -\$70 in gift cards to stores like Walmart and Pick 'n Save, alongside books of forever stamps. These items empower and provide essential assistance to those living on fixed incomes during the winter season.

Once again, thank you so much for being an integral part of Eras Senior Network's mission. Your kindness brighten the holiday season for so many!

## Justice & Peace

### **Food Insecurity**

The Justice & Peace Commission continues to learn about the issue of food insecurity. We have decided to roll out the first phase of this initiative during Lent as the Lenten themes of prayer, fasting and almsgiving match well with our topic.

During each week of Lent, we will provide information and suggested actions along with a prayer. Topics will include items such as

- What is food insecurity?
- How does food insecurity affect child development?
- What is the degree of food insecurity in Wauwatosa and the city of Milwaukee?

Future planning may include a "hunger banquet", a tour and possible working at an urban garden project, and a panel discussion in the fall. We will provide details on those items as they are finalized and hope you will join us!

## Family Masses at Pius

In order to involve our children and families more fully in the experience of the Mass, St. Pius X will host Family Masses in the coming months. At these 10:30 am Masses, teens and children will perform liturgical ministries, while whole families can serve as hospitality ministers. Family Masses will occur on March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup> (First Communion), and June 16<sup>th</sup> (Father's Day) for this school year. A short practice will take place after the 10:30 am Mass the Sunday prior to the Family Mass. If your family or children are interested in serving in one of the following roles, please contact Christina Ramsey at: [ramseyfamily2007@gmail.com](mailto:ramseyfamily2007@gmail.com).

- Lector
- Reading the Prayers of the Faithful and announcements
- Bringing up the gifts at offertory time
- Hospitality Ministers
  - Greet church members as they enter and leave the church
  - Hand out song books at the beginning of Mass and bulletins at the end of Mass
  - Invite people from the pews for communion
- Acolyte
  - Assist the celebrant during Mass

## Catholic Identity

*Holly Cartier*

I started the new year with a long term commitment to replace the fifth grade teacher at Holy Apostles for the rest of the school year. It was a momentous decision and one I placed in God's Hands. This was very difficult for me as I want to be in CHARGE of my own life. But when I was ready to make this decision in early December, the option was not there, and when the position was offered to me I had already decided that it was not for me.

Then I received the job offer; initially I asked for time to think about it. I got home and did what I should always do, I prayed about it instead of just thinking. As I was kneeling there, I truly heard a voice encouraging me to be the disciple God wants me to be, bringing all to Christ and Christ to all. Now, three weeks in, I jokingly said to one of the other teachers that taking this job was perhaps making up for the things I probably should not have done in grade school. And thinking about it, I know I need to apologize to at least several of the Salvatorian Sisters who taught at St. Pius X when I attended.

Along with readin', writin', and 'rithmetic, I am also teaching fifth grade religion. The connection between my faith, my students, and my soul becomes stronger with every lesson. Listening to the voice of the Spirit and allowing myself to go where God leads me, I know, will bring me home.

*This is our faith, this is our Catholic Identity.*

Holly appreciates your comments at [hcarts.hc@gmail.com](mailto:hcarts.hc@gmail.com).

# Valentine's Day

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST




Sunday, February 11th  
 9:00 am - 12:15 pm  
 St. Pius X Cafeteria

**Tickets sold at the door**  
 \$7.00 - Adults  
 \$4.00 - Kids (ages 5-12)  
 Free - Kids (under 5)  
 Maximum of \$20 per family



Sponsored by the Community Life Commission



# St. Pius X Parish Community

## February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ CGS 1, 10:00- 11:30pm, CK	3 Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm
<b>4 - Fellowship Sunday</b> Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 9:00-10:15am, CK Mass, 10:30am CGS 1 & 2, 1-2:30pm, CK Middle School YM, 4-5:30pm, CK HS Alpha, 6:30-8pm, CK HS Small Groups, 6:30-8pm, CK	<b>5</b> Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel CGS 2, 4:15-5:45, CK RCIA, 6:00pm, MA or Zoom	<b>6</b> Seniors Club Board Meeting, 10:30am, FJ	<b>7</b> Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK CGS 3, 6-7:30pm, CK Formation & Evangelization, 7:00pm, FJ	<b>8</b> Celebration Singers Rehearsal, 7:00- 8:30pm, Church	<b>9</b> Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ CGS 1, 10:00- 11:30pm, CK	<b>10</b> Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm
<b>11</b> Mass, 8:00am Pancake Breakfast, 9:00am-12:15pm, Cafeteria CGS 1, 2 & 3, 9:00-10:15am, CK Mass, 10:30am CGS 1 & 2, 1-2:30pm, CK	<b>12</b> Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel CGS 2, 4:15-5:45, CK RCIA, 6:00pm, MA or Zoom J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church	<b>13</b> Health Ministry, 6:00pm, FJ Young Adult Get Together, 6:30pm, TBD J&P, 7:00pm, FJ	<b>14</b> <b>Mass, 8:00am</b> Ash Wednesday Reflection, 11am-1pm, FJ CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK CGS 3, 6-7:30pm, CK <b>Mass, 7:00 pm</b>  <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ CGS 1, 10:00- 11:30pm, CK Ash Wednesday Reflection, 5:00-8:00pm, FJ	<b>17</b> Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm
<b>18 - Fellowship Sunday</b> Mass, 8:00am Emmaus 40, 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, 10:30am Middle School YM, 4-5:30pm, CK HS Alpha, 6:30-8pm, CK HS Small Groups, 6:30-8pm, CK	<b>19</b> Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Stewardship Commission, 5:30pm, FJ RCIA, 6:00pm, MA or Zoom J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church	<b>20</b> Seniors Mass & Luncheon, 10:00am, Church, FJ & MA	<b>21</b> Mass, 8:00am Scripture Series 8:30-9:30am, FJ CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK CGS 3, 6-7:30pm, CK Scripture Series 6:30-7:30pm, Zoom Pastoral Council, 7:00 pm, FJ	<b>22</b> Celebration Singers Rehearsal, 1:00- 2:30pm, Church	<b>23</b> Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	<b>24</b> Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm  Skate Night
<b>25 - Fellowship Sunday</b> Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 9:00-10:15am, CK Emmaus 40, 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, 10:30am CGS 1 & 2, 1-2:30pm, CK Middle School YM, 4-5:30pm, CK HS Alpha, 6:30-8pm, CK HS Small Groups, 6:30-8pm, CK	<b>26</b> Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel CGS 2, 4:15-5:45, CK RCIA, 6:00pm, MA or Zoom Finance Council, 6:00pm, FJ	<b>27</b> Liturgy Commission, 6:00pm, FJ	<b>28</b> Scripture Series 8:30-9:30am, FJ Scripture Series 6:30-7:30pm, Zoom	<b>29</b> Celebration Singers Rehearsal, 7:00- 8:30pm, Church	<b>Key</b> 101 = Room 101 CGS = Catechesis of the Good Shepherd CK = Christ King FJ = Francis Jordan Room MA = Mary of the Apostles Room YM = Youth Ministry Fellowship Sundays = Join us for donuts, juice and coffee served after the Sunday Masses in the cafeteria	