

THE PIUS PRESS

The monthly newsletter of St. Pius X Parish Community

A Reflection from Fr. Paul

In his 2020 encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis said, “The best way to dominate and gain control over people is to spread despair and discouragement.” I thought of that when I read a couple of commentaries about what is called the “Culture of Grievance” that is being used to divide our country. The “culture of grievance” is the tendency to paint everything as gloom and doom, encouraging people to see the negative.

What if, instead of always seeing the negative, we put on rose-colored glasses and see what is good, what we have? Some examples:

- Today I paid \$3.59 a gallon for gasoline. Am I able to be thankful that I can easily buy gasoline and it is not nearly as expensive as in other countries? When I lived in Rome 11 years ago, it was a little over \$9 a gallon! I wonder what it is now????.
- It is true that groceries are more expensive than they used to be, but am I grateful that I can go to Aldi or Metro Market and find almost anything that I want? There are many places in the world where people only have access to what they can grow or produce themselves or barter for. We are truly blessed with an abundance.
- Medical insurance has gotten more expensive, but am I grateful that, if I am sick or hurt, I have easy access to doctors, clinics, and hospitals? Many, many people in the world have no access to any of that.

I could go on with more examples, but I think you get the picture. Maybe what is involved is the beatitude “blessed are the poor in spirit”: someone who is poor in spirit is grateful for what they have and willing to share when they can, maybe like the first community of Christians who put everything at the feet of the apostles, so that everyone got what they needed.

When we are aware that all we have is a gift from God, we live with gratitude, not spending energy on the negative and what we don’t have. I invite us to reflect on all the good God is constantly giving us, thanking God from the bottom of our hearts. We are truly blessed!

Parish Updates

Fr. Paul Portland, SDS

Possible Mass Time Change on Saturdays

It has been proposed to change the Saturday Mass time from 5:00 pm to 4:00 or 4:30 pm. Reasons include making it easier in the winter for those who can’t drive at night, earlier finish for those with Saturday night plans, and attracting more people. If you haven’t yet shared your opinion and would like to, visit <https://bit.ly/SatMassTime> or scan the QR code.



There are also survey forms in the back of church.

Holy Week/Easter Services

I received many wonderful comments about our services. Here is one: *The many liturgies during Holy Week were prayerful and impressive. I say thank you for all the graces that came to us. Thanks, too, for all who helped to make it so prayerful.*

Discernment of Parish Leadership for 2024-2025

Our discernment process for 1 trustee and 3 pastoral council members is finishing up. Those parishioners who were nominated for the Pastoral Council are being invited to attend a discernment session with the current members of the Pastoral Council, at which the three new members will be selected. I am consulting with others to select the new trustee. Please keep the discernment process, as well as those who serve our community in leadership, in your prayers.

St. Bernard Parish

There is no further information on exactly when St. Bernard parish will close. Please continue to keep those going through this difficult transition in your prayers.

Living Waters

As of April 23rd, we have raised \$32,221 in this campaign. Adding in the \$4,184 collected over the past year, we currently have \$36,405 which is enough for 7 wells. Thank you to those who have donated. The campaign runs through Pentecost, May 19th, so there is still time to participate in this worthwhile project! Information on how to donate can be found on page 5.

Parish Updates, cont.

Family Mass

The children and families that participated in our second Family Mass on April 21st did an excellent job! I have been so impressed with how enthusiastic and well-prepared everyone is! If you would like to get your children involved in future Family Masses, e-mail Christina Ramsey at ramseyfamily2007@gmail.com. The next one will be in conjunction with the First Communion Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. It is a wonderful way to help children be more engaged in the Mass.

Volunteer Opportunity of the Month

Each month I am highlighting an opportunity for involvement in our community. This month it is being a hospitality minister at our Masses. A hospitality minister gives a warm, welcoming greeting to people as they arrive for Mass, while handing them a song book and answering any questions they may have. At the end of Mass, hospitality ministers hand out bulletins, say goodbye to people and thank them for joining us. In other words, these ministers are the welcoming hosts to our community celebration. Hospitality ministers have control over when they will serve by signing up for the Masses that they wish to volunteer at. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Kathy Wellenstein at kwellenstein@stpiusparish.org or (414) 453-3785 x14.

I repeat the motto of Kingdom Prep High School: *The strength of the wolf is the pack and the strength of the pack is the wolf. It is important to contribute to the community, not just benefit from all the ministry of others.*

Please consider being a hospitality minister or joining another parish ministry. Thank you.

Prayers Needed

Please continue to pray that we find the right fit for our music ministry (learn more at www.stpiusparish.org/careers.html), as we move into the future; that the Spirit guide those discerning the new bishop for our diocese; and for our children receiving their First Communion this year.

As we approach Pentecost, I pray that we continue to be open to the Holy Spirit, both as a community and individuals. God bless.

Catholic Identity

Holly Cartier

I was watching the History Channel presentation of 'The Bible' and in it Peter questions Jesus, "What is it you want to do?" Jesus responds, "Change the world." My mind, working as it does, immediately jumped to the hymn, "Change our Hearts" by Ryan Cooney. "We are the people your call set apart..."

God calls me to start small by changing my heart. I can't command media attention and call everyone in the country or even Wauwatosa to make a change, but I can bring peace to myself, and possibly to the people around me, by adopting a more prayerful and positive attitude. In the Spirit of the Resurrection, it is the time for me to continue my Lenten journey and make a change. I can't get to the Ascension and Pentecost more quickly: my journey is predetermined. I can make the journey a more pleasant one for myself and those sharing it by changing my attitude, changing my heart. Can this change, change the world? I believe it can. I believe, like Jesus, we can change the world.

This is our faith, this is our Catholic Identity.

Holly appreciates your comments at hcarts.hc@gmail.com.

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Operations & Finance

Dean Weyer

Director of Operations & Finance

Finances

Now nine months into our fiscal year, we are a bit ahead of pace to our balanced budget. Barring something unforeseen of significance, we will end the fiscal year on June 30th with income that will cover our expenses with some reserves for the “piggy bank”. THANK YOU to all who support the St. Pius X Parish Community with your financial support and prayers!

The Apartment Development

In regards to the apartment development in our former parking lot that we all are anxiously awaiting, I recently received this message from one of their associates: “We are actively working with lenders & investors to complete the financing package this year. We’ll let you know as soon as we have a start date scheduled”.

Skate Nights

A huge “THANK YOU” to the St. Sebastian school community (staff & parents) for their efforts to keep Skate Nights alive here at St. Pius X! With the help of a transition team of Pius parishioners and the famous “pizza pops”, they held five events this school year. We’d love to have more Pius volunteers for next season! Let me know if you are interested.

Help Needed

We’re looking for some help to clear the church and school entrances when snow arrives before our service can get to us. If you are interested or know of someone, please have them contact me!



Students and staff setting up the Kingdom Prep greenhouse

Our Tenant

With the blessing of the Pius Pastoral and Finance Councils, Kingdom Prep has launched an agricultural program for its students that includes the use of a greenhouse like structure that was setup in the area that previously housed our playground. Students have been immersed in the experience of the complete life cycle of seedling to fully-grown plants.

The plants will be used to build relationships with neighboring parishes and communities. One way they will be doing this is by having a plant sale on Saturday, May 18th - check out page 7 for more information!

To learn more about the exiting things going on at Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School, check out kplhs.org.

Pius Supports 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 enroll your child(ren) in a Catholic elementary school? Please be aware that we have funds to financially assist St. Pius X 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 to help with 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. Contact me for more information!

Dean Weyer’s contact information:

Phone: (414) 453-3875 x16

Email: dweyer@stpiusparish.org

Faith Formation

Rob Hoffmann

Director of Adult Formation

May, the Month of Mary

There are two months dedicated to the Virgin Mary, May and October, with May dedicated to devotion to Mary and October dedicated to the rosary. The May tradition is perhaps eurocentric as it is associated with springtime in the northern hemisphere. It may also have its roots in antiquity. In May the ancient Greeks honored the Goddess of Fecundity (fertility) and the Romans the Goddess Flora. In the medieval period we see the beginning of May Marian devotion in pockets in and around Europe. The idea really blossomed during the baroque period with widespread devotion of 30 daily spiritual exercises, and this continued until the 19th century. You may have memories of honoring Mary in May such as in the custom of the May crowning.

Hail Holy Queen

We can use this opportunity to honor and seek intercession of Mary. But, why do we honor Mary as Catholics? We need to remember that Jesus and the very early church were Jewish. In the Old Testament days of ancient Israel, the king's wife didn't sit at his right hand, but rather his mother did, hence the Queen Mother. She would sit on a throne and was an advocate for the people. Individuals and communities would bring petitions to her and in turn she would present them to her son, the king. Today we don't worship Mary: that is reserved for God. We honor Mary and we present our petitions to her, knowing that she will present them to her Son.

With that in mind, we invite you on Wednesday, May 15th, at 6:00 pm to a special prayer service in church in front of our beautiful wood carved Mary, Mother of God statue. Together we will pray for peace, healing, and reconciliation in our own lives, in our country, and around the world.

Here are some other ways to honor Mary in the month of May or anytime:

- Turn on Formed (signup.formed.org) for hundreds of Mary related programs.
- Open your free app Amen (amenapp.org) and listen to Marian meditations or pray the rosary.
- Visit our mini-library in the church vestibule for books related to Mary.

Below, I have broken up the Hail Mary prayer, and added what I think the meaning of each line is or what it represents. Take a moment to pray through it and ponder each line.

Hail Mary	hail meaning "to rejoice."
full of grace,	grace meaning "filled with the presence of God".
the Lord is with you.	this first sentence is the greeting Gabriel used at the Annunciation.
Blessed are you among women,	among all the women on earth God chose her.
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.	this sentence is the greeting from her cousin Elisabeth.
Holy Mary,	more than just blessed but sanctified.
Mother of God	the mother of Jesus, God incarnate.
Pray for us sinners,	(we all have bad days)
now and at the hour of our death.	Mary can intercede for us every day until our end.



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Stewardship Commission

Sue Haertel, SDS



One of the previous sources of water



Unloading the well parts



Installing the final pieces

Ms. Mwajuma

Over 1,200 people are celebrating the completion of a well in the community of Kwaporomoka, Tanzania!

One of those celebrating is Ms. Mwajuma, an elder women whose family was struggling due to the lack of safe water. She used to wake up early in the morning and walk for several miles searching for water, and finding it in unclean and unsafe sources.

During the dry season, the majority of those sources became completely dry, the few remaining had very little water in them. The use of the small water sources caused conflicts among the villagers.

A close, safe, clean, reliable source of water was very much needed for Ms. Mwajuma and her community.

The story of Ms. Mwajuma is a reality representing the sufferings of many women in rural Tanzania. While her community has been blessed with a well, there are still many others who are going through what went she went through every day.

With your generous donations (great or small), people in Tanzania, and around the world, are and will be safer, healthier and happier!

Learn More about the Living Waters Project & How to Donate

Visit www.stpiusparish.org/living-waters-project.html or scan the QR code for more information and to donate online. To donate by cash or check, please use one of the envelopes in church. You can also send a check made out to St. Pius X with "Living Waters" in the memo line.



Celebrating the new well!

Health Ministry

Pat Bruce

Why the Opioid Epidemic Doesn't Stop at our Church Doors



Recently, the Health Ministry added Narcan kits to our first aid cabinet in the vestibule of church and two members of St. Pius X Health Ministry attended Narcan training offered through Wauwatosa Public Health. Why? Because the Opioid epidemic doesn't stop at our church doors. Narcan (Naloxone HCl) is a nasal spray emergency treatment

designed to rapidly reverse the effects of a life-threatening opioid emergency.

Opioids including the older term opiates are a class of drugs that derive from or mimic natural substances in the opium poppy plant. Opioids work in the brain to produce a variety of effects including pain relief. Some of the most common opioids which may also be semi-synthetic and synthetic are: morphine, codeine, hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, fentanyl, meperidine, methadone, tramadol and heroin, an illegally manufactured synthetic opioid made from morphine. There are enough prescriptions written in Wisconsin for 45.8% of our residents to have an opioid. Unfortunately, 846 Wisconsinites died from an opioid overdose and nationally 81,024 people died in the 12 months ending February 2023. In Wisconsin, prescription opioids are a factor in 35.6% of opioid overdose deaths and heroin is a factor in 38.7% of deaths. Altogether opioids are a factor in 78.4% of all overdose deaths. That puts Wisconsin at 4.8% above the national death rate.

Having Narcan readily available in our first aid kit cabinet allows for a prompt response to an opioid overdose on the church premises. This can potentially save a life while we are waiting for professional medical help to arrive. It does NOT hurt if the person is NOT having an overdose. We at St. Pius X support community outreach and often host open events and support groups. By including Narcan we demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of our congregation and the wider community. It shows a proactive approach to addressing the crisis and offering assistance to those that may be struggling with opioid disorders or even the person who mistakenly retook their pain medication.

So, what do we do now? First, recognize the signs during an overdose, breathing can be dangerously slowed or stopped, causing brain damage or death. It is important to act fast. Signs include: unusual sleepiness or unresponsiveness, breathing will be slow or absent, slow heart beat or low blood pressure, skin feels cold and clammy, pupils are tiny, nails and lips are blue.

Second: Learn how to respond. It may be hard to tell if a person is experiencing an overdose. If you aren't sure, it's best to treat it like an overdose — you could save a life. Here's what to do:

1. Have someone call 911 immediately or call after administering the first dose.
2. Administer naloxone (Narcan®) the very easy-to-use directions are on the box. It is as easy as holding the nasal spray device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger, inserting the nozzle into either nostril and pressing the plunger firmly to give the first dose (follow directions for more than one dose).
3. Try to keep the person awake and breathing.
4. Lay the person on his or her side to prevent choking on vomit.
5. Keep watch until emergency workers arrive.

Important, if you are afraid to do this, call out for help.

If you would like to look at the Narcan box, it is in the lower first aid cabinet by the bathroom in the back of church (the vestibule). Look for this sign: →



Interested in learning more? Wauwatosa Public Health offers a free 90-minute class that anyone can attend every other month. The next one is Tuesday May 14th, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm in the Lower Civic Center at Wauwatosa City Hall, 7725 W North Avenue. For information, call (414) 831-5542. Free kits are also available.

Pat Bruce is a retired social worker and chair of the St. Pius X Health Ministry Committee. She used the following sources: Wauwatosa Public Health, Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Co., Fresh Coast Alliance Training Ctr., MI., National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics 2024

Get Your Calendars Out!

Save the dates for these May activities and opportunities!

Skate Night

Date: Saturday, May 4th

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: St. Pius X Gym

This will be the last Skate Night until the fall, so don't miss out! For more information and to fill out the RSVP and waiver form online, visit stpiusparish.org/skate-night.html. Snack concessions will be available for purchase as well as homemade pizza by the Pizza Pops!

Sponsored by St. Sebastian Catholic School

"Dinner and Learn" on Chiropractic Care

Date: Monday, May 13th

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Francis Jordan room

Are you looking for ways to decrease stress and increase productivity in your life? How can chiropractic care make a difference in healthy living?

Join us for a half hour "lunch and learn" (or a "dinner and learn" in this case) to explore how chiropractic care could make a difference!

Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, May 8th to the parish office so we can get an accurate food count. On the night of the event, please enter the parish office doors off of Wauwatosa Avenue. This event is sponsored by Health Ministry and offered by Advantage Chiropractic.

Prayer (Service) for Peace

Date: Wednesday, May 15th

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: St. Pius X church

Join us as we pray for peace, healing and reconciliation in our own lives, in our county and around the world.



Kingdom Prep Flower Sale

Date: Saturday, May 18th

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: Church/Kingdom Prep parking lot

Support the students at Kingdom Prep by purchasing flowers that they have carefully grown over the past few months at their flower sale!

They will have hanging baskets, flowers to transplant and an interactive succulent bar. You are sure to find something beautiful to enhance your home!

Volunteer Gardening Day

Date: Saturday, May 18th

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 am

Location: Meet outside the parish office doors

Volunteers are needed to assist the Garden Angels group for one morning. No gardening experience required! The Garden Angels maintain the plant and flower beds around the church and in front of the convent.

We'll be doing a number of tasks to prepare for the coming growing season including removing dead plant material, edging along flower beds, pulling weeds, amending soil with compost and transplanting. This is only a one day event not a commitment to help all summer.

You do not need to sign up, just show up or call/text Joel Mouradian at (414) 520-8481 if you have any questions. Also, if you have any gardening tools, please bring them along.

Seniors Club Mass & Luncheon

Date: Tuesday, May 18th

Time: 10:00 am

Location: St. Pius X

More information to come!





St. Pius X Parish Community

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Key 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 = Join us for donuts, juice and coffee served after the Sunday Masses in the cafeteria</p>			<p>1 Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK CGS 3, 6-7:30pm, CK Formation & Evangelization, 7:00pm, FJ</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ CGS 1, 10:00- 11:30pm, CK</p>	<p>4 Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Chapel Mass, 5:00pm Skate Night, 6:00pm, Gym</p>
<p>5 - Fellowship Mass, 8:00am Mass, 10:30am</p>	<p>6 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Liturgy Commission, 6:00pm, FJ J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church</p>	<p>7 Seniors Club Board, 10:30am, MA Health Ministry, 6:00pm, FJ</p>	<p>8 Mass, 8:00am Pastoral Council, 7:00 pm, FJ</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ</p>	<p>11 Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Chapel Mass, 5:00pm</p>
<p>12 - Fellowship Mass, 8:00am Mass, 10:30am</p>	<p>13 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Health Ministry Workshop, 5:30pm, FJ J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church</p>	<p>14 Justice & Peace, 7:00pm, FJ</p>	<p>15 Mass, 8:00am Prayer for Peace, 6:00pm, Church</p>	<p>16 Celebration Singers, 7:00-8:30pm, FJ & MA</p>	<p>17 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ</p>	<p>18 Volunteer Gardening Day, 9:30-11:00am, meet outside parish office doors Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Chapel Mass, 5:00pm</p>
<p>19 - Fellowship Mass, 8:00am Family Mass & First Communion, 10:30am</p>	<p>20 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Stewardship Commission, 5:30pm, FJ Finance Council, 6:30pm, FJ</p>	<p>21 Seniors Mass & Luncheon, 10:00am, Church, FJ & MA</p>	<p>22 Mass, 8:00am</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ</p>	<p>25 Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Chapel Mass, 5:00pm</p>
<p>26 Mass, 8:00am Mass, 10:30am</p>	<p>27 Parish office Closed Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel <i>Memorial Day</i></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Mass, 8:00am</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ</p>	