

The Invitation

No. 143 December 2017

**The Pastor's Corner
Fr. Paul Portland, SDS**

Dear friends,

With the feast of Christ the King (Nov 26), we end one Church year; with the first Sunday of Advent (Dec 3), we begin another. Around this time we also have our cultural celebration of Thanksgiving and the beginning of what is probably the most hectic month of the year. How can we unpack all of this spiritually?

First, I suggest tying together the end of the Church year and Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for and the end of a year is a good time to reflect on that. We have moved through the seasons of the year, through the seasons of our liturgical year, through the ups and downs of our lives. Our faith tells us that the Lord is accompanying us through it all. Our task is to become more and more aware of His accompanying presence. Let us thank the Lord for His presence and ask for the grace to grow in our relationship with Him.

Second, we can make a conscious effort during Advent to slow down and become more aware of God's accompanying presence and our need to strengthen our personal relationship with Christ. To help us do that, our parish is offering a number of resources this Advent:

1. Each Friday of Advent (Dec 8, 15, 22), we will have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel from after the 8 am Mass until noon. I invite you to take some quiet time out of your busy schedule, if possible, to be in quiet with the Lord. Start with the 8 am Mass, if possible

2. On a table in the vestibule of the church, there are resources to help your family build its relationship with Christ as you enter into the Advent spirit. One is a booklet of "Encouragement and Daily Prayers for Advent" by Pope Francis, called IN THE LIGHT OF HOPE. Take one of these booklets and use it to help you spend a few moments of quiet reflection with the Lord each day of Advent. It can be the material for your "One Percent Challenge" during Advent.

3. On the same table in the vestibule of the church you will find an Advent calendar for children, offering prayers, suggested scripture verses, or activities for each day of the season. This might be something you

can use as a family to make sure you are spending quality spiritual time together as preparation for celebrating Christ's birth.

As we begin the season of Advent, we pray: *Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts and help us to grow in a loving relationship with You!*



St. Pius X Very Own Pancake Breakfast and Secret Santa Workshop!

Come and Enjoy...

* Yummy Pancakes

Mouthwatering Sausage

* A little Holiday Shopping
for You and the Kids

* Maybe even Santa will stop by –
Bring your camera!

December 17

9 AM – 1 PM

school cafeteria

\$6.00 - adults

\$4.00 – children 5-13

Free - under 5 year

Advent Vespers:

Join the **Salvatorian Family for Advent Vespers**

Monday, December 4 7:00 pm

Sisters of the Divine savior

Community House Chapel

4311 N 100th Street

Vespers at

Cathedral of St John the Evangelist

812 North Jackson Street!

Sunday Dec. 3rd and 17th at 5:15 PM

Advent 2017

The season of Advent begins the weekend of December 2/3. During advent, we are called to prepare the way of the Lord, to watch and wait with hopeful expectation not only for the Nativity of Jesus in Bethlehem but also for all the ways God chooses to take flesh in us every day. Here at St. Pius we have a long tradition of reading out to those in need during the season of Advent. you are invited to participate in these efforts on the Sundays of Advent.

1st Sunday of Advent – Card Sunday

We prepare the way of the lord as we touch the hearts of parishioners who are homebound, in nursing homes or in hospice, by writing Christmas cards for them which we place in the basket in the sanctuary. The cards will be delivered, along with a holiday plant, when our shut-ins are visited by one of our Ministers of Care. (Watch the November bulletins for a list of names.)

2nd Sunday of Advent – Gift Sunday

We prepare the way of the Lord as we help to brighten the holidays of those in need when we place the gifts we have purchased in the sanctuary. They will be distributed to various organizations in the community. (A list of needed items will be in the November bulletins.)

3rd Sunday of Advent – Food Sunday

We prepare the way of the Lord as we bring our food donations for the hungry in our community to church so that others may have the opportunity to have joyful and nourishing holiday meals.

4th Sunday of Advent – Family Sunday

God is with us as we focus on being Christ to others – especially in our families. Please reflect on how you can be Christ to one another in you immediate, parish, community and global families. A list of suggestions will be found in the bulletin on this weekend.

Other Advent Services:

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Join in celebrating this holy day. The Collaborative Parish Liturgy will be held on Thursday, December 7th that 7:00 PM at St. Pius.

Communal Anointing of the Sick

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will take place at all the liturgies the weekend of December 9th/10th. All are invited to obtain the graces of this special sacrament.

Communal Reconciliation Service

Sunday, December 10th at 6:00 pm at Pius X Parish

Christmas, The Nativity of the Lord

December 24 5:00

Nativity Pageant begins at 4:45

December 24 10:00 pm

Concert and Carols begin at 9:30

Feast of the Holy Family

December 30/31

Regular Weekend Schedule

Feast of Mary the Mother of God

January 1 8:00am

Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year

Feast of the Epiphany

January 6/7

Regular Weekend Schedule

Catholic Identity

Holly Cartier

Many of you know I am a librarian in a Catholic elementary school. The second graders came through the other day with the assignment to find a book on an animal for a research project. The last little boy came to the checkout desk without an animal book. I asked where his book was and he told me he wasn't going to do a report. I told him it was an assignment and he said he just wasn't interested. I let him go, and let his teacher know what he said.

At first I was amused, but it also set me thinking. How many assignments has God given me that I passed on because they weren't in my current agenda? Do I treat the Ten Commandments, the Corporal and Spiritual Acts of Mercy, the Laws of the Church as mere suggestions or as assignments for my life? What will the Great Teacher say to me when I get to my due date without my assignments completed? Will I be prepared for my Final Exam? So many gifts have been given to me..... *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked"* Luke 12:48.

This is our Faith, this is our Catholic Identity.

Holly Cartier (comments or discussion is welcome at hcarts.hc@gmail.com).

The Mission of St. Pius X Catholic Community is to nurture, deepen, celebrate and live out our identity as an apostolic community, a people who are called, gifted and sent by our God.

Served by the Society of the Divine Savior – Salvatorians

News from our School Wauwatosa Catholic

November flew by, with so many exciting things happening in our school community. Our 6th and 7th grade students once again participated in a camping experience. Camp Gray, located near the Wisconsin Dells is owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Madison. This two-day religious retreat allowed our students to explore nature and learn to become stewards of God's creation.

WCS signed up for a tree in Community Spirit Park (Cathedral Square). Our theme for the tree is World Peace. The ornaments for the tree are in the shape of a dove, to symbolize peace. The ornaments are made out of aluminum and decorated with permanent markers. Every student from K3 to 8th grade decorated a dove. They were allowed to add designs as they wished. Schools from the entire Milwaukee County area applied for a tree to decorate, approximately 80 schools were accepted. The tree is located on the west side of Cathedral Square Park on Jefferson St. Stop and see this outstanding display, which will be up through the holiday season.

In studying the transdisciplinary theme of "Where We Are in Place and Time," our K5 students are studying different cultures and traditions around the world. Our students are looking at their ethnic background, interviewing family members, and doing some library research to help them learn more about their family background. They had the opportunity to learn about different ways their friends celebrate holidays when they presented their assessment booklets to their class. A highlight of this study was their Thanksgiving Feast. Parents were asked to share a favorite food from their family or culture to bring for their holiday meal.

We celebrated our third Awards Day. The IB Learner Profile attribute emphasized during the month of November was Communicator. Students and members of the WCS community were honored for exemplifying this attribute. We also honored the 5th-8th grade students who earned honor roll grades during the 1st quarter. Certificates were given to those students who had perfect attendance with no absences and no tardies; a certificate of attendance was given to those students had no absences with only one tardy.

Our annual school auction was a wonderful success. We were able to raise over \$9,000 from the Raise the Paddle for IB portion of the auction. This was almost twice the amount we raised last year in this activity. This is so very important since all of the money raised in this section goes toward teacher training, which is a requirement for authorization. A huge thank you to all of the parishioners who were able to attend this event.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, please know that all of us in the Wauwatosa Catholic School community are thankful for your continued support, we would not be able to do all of the wonderful things without you!

A message from the Justice and Peace Commission:

In the spirit of gratitude that this time of year celebrates, we at St. Pius are grateful for the many ways our parishioners turn their gratitude into acts of generosity, sharing with others in countless ways.

One way that happens, is through our Special Needs Fund. This fund is made up of monies collected during weekend masses in the baskets at the front of church. The Justice and Peace Commission oversees the distribution of these funds and donations are made to local, national and international organizations as well as groups and individuals doing work that our parish has chosen to support. A portion of that fund is also available for specific parishioner needs, at the pastor's discretion.

Every year, our parish receives many requests for financial support and those requests are increasing in number. On a regular basis, we support these organizations: Greater Tosa Interfaith (helping our neighborhood's elderly), the Repairers of the Breach (a daytime homeless shelter), the Greater Milwaukee Free Clinic (providing health care for the uninsured or under insured), Bread for the World (a national organization advocating to end hunger), Pax Christi (a national organization working for peace in our world) and our Summer Outreach Ministry (our youth ministry outreach). We have received many thanks from these organizations that rely on such generous support for their continued work. We also use these funds to support groups that work in areas that the Justice and Peace Commission has chosen to bring to light, such as the Jesuit Refugee Services, when we considered the issue of justice for immigrants.

While it is always a joy to watch the youngest members of the parish eagerly bring money forward to place in the baskets, adults are encouraged to do so as well. If you are interested in having a record of your donations, checks can also be placed in the basket, made out to St. Pius, with "Special Needs Fund" on the memo line.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Throughout the years, many, many people have benefited from our parish's generosity.

Adult Formation Opportunities:

Friday Morning Prayer: Join the group that meets with Br. Silas Henderson, SDS after the 8:00 AM Mass in the rectory each Friday morning. Read and learn about the Mass readings for the next Sunday and share in discussion and prayer. All are welcome.

Scripture with Scholars

Please note: Save the date: **Wednesday, December 6, Rev. Michael Wiczak**, associate professor of liturgical studies at the Catholic University of America and former rector of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary will speak on the history and theology of Eucharistic celebration, sacramental liturgy, history of liturgy and liturgical celebration of the saints. !

MGC Sunday Speaker Series

Save the date and plan to attend the Sunday Speaker Series at Mother of Good Counsel Parish on Sunday, January 14 with Bishop Jeffery R. Haines, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, for his talk on "Evangelization". There will be an opportunity for questions and dialogue following Bishop Haines presentation.

Three more Sunday Speaker Sessions to follow February 11, March 18, and April 22 with a variety of spiritual topics.

2018 Financial Pledge Drive Continues

We ask you to pray and reflect on your gifts from God, your faith in God and your individual gifts back to God, and return your pledge card at Mass or mail it to the office. If you give through EFT (electronic fund transfer) please return your card with any updates, or sign up for EFT during this pledge drive. As of November 22, pledges totaling \$292,910 have been received from 182 families. That's 38% of our parishioners and 69% of our \$425,000 goal.

Thank you in advance for your support
of our parish ministries.

Year-End Contributions for 2017

You are reminded that contributions for calendar year 2017 must be received in the parish office by December 31, or in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31, 2017.

A check dated December 31 or earlier, but not in the parish's possession or in a valid postmarked envelope, and received by the parish office on January 1 or later, is a 2018 contribution.

Thank you for your financial support
of our Parish Mission!

Prayer Network

If you, or if you have a relative or friend who is struggling with illness, loss of a loved one, a spiritual crisis or any of countless other life challenges, we have a group of parishioners who have committed to interceding in prayer on your or their behalf.

If you would like to have someone included in the daily prayers of the network members or if you would like to become a member of the network, interceding on behalf of others, contact John Kielich at jkielich@wi.rr.com or at my home phone 414-449-5094.

Because of HIPAA policies, a hospital cannot notify the parish of admittance of a parishioner, so a family member must take the initiative. To arrange for a priest to visit a loved one in the hospital, please contact the parish office.

Lessons and Carols

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

Sunday Dec. 10th at 5:15 PM

Each Advent we gather to celebrate this holy season in word and song. Central to this service are readings from the Old Testament prophets and the chanting of the "O" Antiphons.

Music will be provided by the Cathedral Choir, Men's Schola, Women's Choir, Hand bell Ensemble, and the Cathedral's two organs.

Come early for some holiday shopping
Christmas Market – Made in Milwaukee
Located in the Cathedral Atrium
10:00AM-5:00PM

Music, refreshments, handmade gifts from local
vendors, raffle prizes.

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If you would like to join the new email list, please visit the parish website stpiusparish.org and **look for the email sign-up link** to subscribe to our mailing list. Using email for parish information saves us money for postage as well as paper costs. Please sign up today.

About this Newsletter:

The Invitation

The Stewardship Commission publishes this newsletter as an outreach to all parish members. If you have a question, suggestion, or something you'd like included, please contact Sue Haertel (414-259-0758 or shaertel@wi.rr.com).

