Dear friends,

I can’t believe I am writing this for the first newsletter of 2018. How time flies when you are having fun!

As I’ve shared with you a number of times, the Pastoral Council has made its main goal to help us grow in our relationship with Jesus, so that we become more vibrant disciples. To that end, it established our Formation and Discipleship (Evangelization) Task Force.

In 2017 our efforts to grow in our relationship with Jesus and to become better disciples included the One Percent Challenge; presentations by Br. Silas on the Sacraments, Ephesians, and the Mass; Advent reflection material for each family; and the Friday morning reflection group on the Sunday readings.

As we begin 2018, the Task Force has the following plans: the Friday morning reflection will continue, we are reviewing resources to choose a Lenten reflection booklet, Br. Silas is working on a four-session presentation for Lent, and we are offering the Post Game Review this coming weekend. I would like to give an overview of the Post Game Review:

At Mass you will receive a card similar to the one you received for the One Percent Challenge. While the One Percent Challenge invited us to spend 15 minutes of reflection time a day (I hope we are still doing it), the Post Game Review invites us to take a few moments to review our day, reflecting on where God was present. I quote from the official presentation:

These striking double-sided full color cards are designed to help people see how Jesus is alive and working in their daily lives. Based on the model of how football teams review post-game films to review highlights and diagnose missed opportunities, these cards are a modern take on the traditional Ignatian Examen to help people connect to Jesus and make a new daily game plan for their lives.

In other words, we are invited to examine how we are connected to Jesus, how we may have missed a connection, and how we can plan to do better. (I can testify that it is an excellent tool: in our community, we use the same spiritual exercise, but with themes from our Salvatorian Founder or religious life, rather than the football analogy. Don’t worry if you don’t like football: the exercise itself has nothing to do with football).

We have chosen to introduce this spiritual exercise at this time for three reasons: many people make resolutions at New Year’s and this would be an excellent one; the time of cold and darkness after Christmas is perhaps the quietest time of the year in our busy lives; and, finally, why not piggyback on the playoffs and Super Bowl, even if the Packers are not involved this year!

I invite you to pick up a card this Sunday at Mass and make it your New Year’s resolution to get in the habit of making an “examen” each evening. You will be amazed at how your spiritual life will grow. If you miss getting a card at Mass, you can download one from our parish website www.stpiusparish.org. What this is all about can be clearly seen from the introduction on the card:

Jesus is the perfect coach. He cares about you and wants you on His team. He knows how best to teach you the habits and skills you need to grow into the person He’s created you to be. He’s with you at every moment cheering you on and helping you to improve the game of your life. Let Him coach you to live your life better by taking time to review your day. Do this every day and you will see Him in your life.

I pray you will all take advantage of this opportunity. I wish you a happy and healthy 2018 “close to the Lord.”

Paul James Portland, SDS

2018 Financial Pledge Drive Drawing to a Close

Thank you to everyone who has returned pledge cards. As of the writing of the newsletter, we now have 226 pledges (47% of our parishioners) at $329,272 (77% of our goal). 87 (38%) of those that have replied have increased their pledge, WOW!

It’s not too late to make your pledge. In fact, please do so that the burden of additional follow-up calls can be lessened. Place your card in the offertory basket, drop it off in the church office, or call or email Dean Weyer 453-3875, Ext.16 or dweyer@stpiusparish.org.

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

**MGC Sunday Speaker Series**

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.

**News from our School**

**Wauwatosa Catholic**

Everyone at Wauwatosa Catholic School had wonderful Advent season. We spent the time preparing for Christmas in a variety of thoughtful, interesting, fun ways. Our school adopted two families within our community. Three “out of uniform” days were held during which students could make a monetary contribution or contribute non-perishable food items. Our 4th grade class was the hub for this project, 4th grade parents helped with the organization and shopping. During the last week of school before Christmas, the 4th graders organized and sorted the food, filled the food boxes and wrapped presents for the families. The two families received Christmas Baskets, gift cards and presents. Our school community was excited to participate in this project!

On December 19th our middle school students celebrated Christmas with their adopted grandparents at St. Anne’s Salvatorian campus. The students made ornaments for their grandparent. Students and their grandparents shared Christmas stories, decorated cookies, exchanged gifts and sang Christmas songs. It is truly heartwarming to watch the interaction between the generations. Students and “grandparents” alike look forward to the time spent with each other.

WCS is starting a Student Ambassador program. Student Ambassadors is a leadership opportunity for 5th through 8th grade students. Student Ambassadors provides students with the opportunity to represent and promote WCS. There will be 2 ambassadors per grade level. In order to serve as a Student Ambassador, each student had to complete a written application and participate in an interview with an interview committee. Students at each grade level took the process quite seriously. The interview committee was most impressed with the thoughtfulness and sincerity of the students. The team admitted that their job was a difficult one because each of the students was eager to serve! They were also more than able to elaborate on the mission of WCS and how we show our Catholic identity. Students will be informed of the results when school resumes in January.

We held our final Awards Program of 2017 on December 20. 21 students of the month were honored for exemplifying the IB Learner Profile attribute of “Principled.” The program began with an explanation by three of our award winners of what it means to be principled—and why it is a constant challenge. One of our K5 classes presented a power point in which each of the students told what principled means to them. Our students are phenomenal!

We know that we couldn’t do what we do without the support of the entire Wauwatosa School Community. The kick-off for Catholic Schools Week is Sunday, January 28. We will be hosting an Open House from 11:00 am. To 1:00 pm. Please join us and see what makes our school so very special.

We appreciate all of the help from the parishioners, please know you are always in our prayers!

**Plan to attend: Wauwatosa Catholic Open House – January 28**

11:00-1:00 pm  
Come celebrate Catholic Schools week with us!

**Parish Collaborative is Providing A Meal for Guest House Shelter for Men**

When: Wednesday, January 24th 2018  
Time: 5:00 to 8:00 PM

The Guest House currently provides shelter for 86 adult men. It is the largest publicly funded emergency shelter in Milwaukee.

We need volunteers to donate or prepare food and or serve for this one night commitment. This is an opportunity to help others as a Parish Collaborative family. If you are interested in donating food or your time, please email Linda Swiderski at soundfiddler@aol.com or Tony Burkart at burokart55@aol.com for specifics.

Thank you for volunteering/donating for this worthwhile evening of service. We will be preparing and serving a chili dinner.

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
Health Ministry News

Let’s Bring in the New Year in a Healthy Way With “Yoga for You”

All Parish members are welcome to attend alignment based yoga. The current session picks up on Monday, January 8th, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. room #101.

SAVE THE DATE: the next six-week session begins February 5th to March 12th.

Bring a yoga mat or a chair is available. Receive the benefits Yoga has to offer physical and spiritual. Classes are free, offered by Mary Snow a certified Yoga teacher.

Parking on the street or East parking lot. Enter the building off Wauwatosa Ave.

A message from the Justice and Peace Commission:

The Kurban Family – the refugee family from Myanmar (Burma) – will soon mark 3 years since they arrived in Milwaukee. Everything about their lives has changed in those 3 years. Imagine yourself embarking upon a new life in a country where you cannot speak the language, do not know the customs or traditions and are far from your native country and much of your family. When we hear on the news about Rohingya Muslims in Burma being horrifically persecuted we can understand why a young family like the Kurans is willing to take the chance to leave their country. For the most part, the family has done well. The three oldest children are settled well into a wonderfully diverse and caring school, dad has a steady job, and mom stays at home to take care of the youngest who is 2½ years old.

The family continues to express their gratitude to the people of St. Pius who helped them in countless ways when they first arrived in Milwaukee. Those of us who maintain contact with the family are always looking for ways to help them out. In the weeks to come, we’ll be offering opportunities for parishioners to again lend their support to the family. We’re also hoping to plan a visit to St. Pius with the family and offer everyone the chance to meet them again. More information will follow.

Also, keep Sunday March 11th open on your calendars. The Justice and Peace Commission is planning a “Mini Green Summit” right here at St. Pius. We’ll have a wide variety of organizations represented that will share a wealth of information about ways we, as individuals, families, and a community, can take tangible steps to Care for our Common Home. Please plan to join us from 11:30 until 2 in the cafeteria on March 11th.

Join our Parish Email List

We now have 219 families on our email list and we send about 320 paper copies of the newsletter each month. If you are not on the email list, you do not receive Fr. Paul’s Bulletin letter each week, or notices of parishioner funerals. Just a reminder: when you receive the emails from church, please share them with the rest of your family household.

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

Volunteer Opportunities A Quick Look:

Here is a quick list of ways you can become involved this month. Our time and talents can be shared in a small opportunity or something larger, and always in prayer.

Stewardship: Share your gifts of time, talent and treasure. Attend Mass and support our many ministries. Return your pledge card if you haven’t already.

Food Pantry: The poor and hungry in Wauwatosa need our donations of food for the Tosa Food Pantry. Place donations in the back of church each week!

Repairers of the Breach: Drop off slightly used clothes or toiletries in the back of church. Winter is here and warm clothing is needed. (Most clothing items sizes: M, L, XL, 2X or 3X)

Better Earth Clothing Drive: Bring clothing, linens or shoes and place them in the box in the back of church. Useable clothing is re-purposed, and the rest is recycled. All donated items are weighed and our parish receives 10 cents a pound. More importantly, we are keeping these items out of landfills.

Stress in Your Marriage?

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples who feel bored, frustrated or angry in their marriages. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend retreat in the Milwaukee area January 12-14, 2018 at the Siena Center in Racine, please call 414-502-7685, or email: lakeshore@retrouville.org, or visit our website at http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com.
Living Waters Summary – Since 2012

2017 – Six Wells
2016 -- Five Wells
2015 – Four Wells
2014 – Three wells
2013 – Two Wells
2012 – Two Wells

Starting in 2012, St. Pius X Parish has donated wells that provide fresh, clean water to villages in rural Tanzania through the Safe Water for Life and Dignity group (SWLD). Fr. Dan Pekarske, SDS inspired the young seminarians who founded SWLD when he was teaching at the Salvatorian Seminary in Morogoro, Tanzania. The men of SWLD donate their time. All money donated goes to surveying, educating villagers, testing the water, and building the wells. Each well donated can serve between 500-1000 people.

Through the generosity of Pius Parishioners we have donated 22 wells in the past five years, (over $100,000), and have improved the lives of over 20,000 people.

The fresh, clean water in these wells decreases the prevalence of water borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid, and it often means that girls may be able to attend school instead of walking to get water for hours each day. If the people have enough water, they can grow more crops and the way of life is improved for all.

Look at the pictures on the bulletin board and in the binder in the back of church.

Asante sana!
(Thank you very much)

Mungu awabariki sana
(May God bless you so much)

Read these words from James Nyangas Tanzania:

The good news is that this well has been completed today and handed over to the villagers. I can’t explain how joyfully the villagers are celebrating their Christmas with the new well. It is such a great gift to our poor ones sharing the love of Christ by bringing clean water to the households, safe water saves life!

We thank you at St. Pius and the whole Living water project committee for blessing our people and the joy you have brought to them. Safe water has reduced their painful workload and set them free from diseases and poverty.

On behalf of SWLD, all beneficiary villages and my family I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New year 2018.
*ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE*
While walking through the mall on a Christmas shopping venture, I came upon a kiosk where the vendor had a display of artworks comprising of thoughtful maxims. One in particular caught my attention. “What if you were to wake up today with only those things for which you thanked God yesterday.” The message, in reflection, was a little disconcerting as I didn’t recall thanking God for anything the previous day. Were the message reality, I wouldn’t have awakened with anything or, perhaps, not have awakened at all. So thank you Lord that the message is only thought provoking and not reality.

Most of us, undoubtedly, thank God from time to time, especially when receiving a favorable answer to a prayer or an unexpected blessing. The challenge is to be grateful for everything we are experiencing in our life, even in times when we may be experiencing difficulties. Like love, gratitude is a choice, a choice made in faith that our loving God is providing us with exactly what we need in the present moment of our life. An effective way of stimulating gratitude in every situation is to reflect on what one’s life would be like without the blessings. In challenging times, the blessings may be those who are helping us through the difficulty.

Having just completed the holiday season – Thanksgiving through Christmas – wherein being thankful is more bountifully expressed, consider continuing (or developing) an attitude of gratitude to our Lord throughout the coming year as a spiritual resolution. For as we pray at every Mass at the beginning of the Preface “It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks…” Perhaps American poet, Maya Angelou, said it best; “Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer.”

*PRAYER INTENTIONS*
We encourage all parish members to include the following intentions in your daily prayers during the coming month.

For Christian unity; that all Christians may be one in faith, hope and charity.

For an end to terrorism in the world, and for the healing of all hatred and division.

In thanksgiving for all who serve our faith community, whether as staff or volunteers.

For all the sick and shut-in members of our faith community and for all the intentions on our Wailing Wall in the rear of our church.

*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 on 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.

*MONTHLY SCRIPTURE REFLECTION*
Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
(1 Th 5: 16 - 18)
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 AA 12:15 pm 101, Conf Rm Agenda C 6:15 R/LR/DR, Apt Dartball 7 pm 101</td>
<td>4 Health Min. 7 pm R/DR</td>
<td>5 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm AA 7 pm 101, Conf Rm Ref on Sun script 8:30 R/DR</td>
<td>6 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Fellowship (Tosa Trio) 9 am Café YM 6 pm Mass, Church, Rm 101, 103, 104, R/LR/DR, Café, School</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9 Yoga 11 am 101 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm Liturgy 6 pm R/LR</td>
<td>10 AA 12:15 pm 101, Conf Rm J4J 7 pm Church</td>
<td>11 Stain Glass Sing 3:30 Choir Rm B Scouts 6:30 101</td>
<td>12 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm AA 7 pm 101, Conf Rm Ref on Sun script 8:30 R/DR</td>
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<td>Epiphany</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16 Rose So. 7 pm 101 Personel 5:30 pm R/LR</td>
<td>17 AA 12:15 pm 101, Conf Rm J&amp;P 7 pm R/LR</td>
<td>18 Stained Glass Sing 3:30 Choir Rm Choir 7:15 Church</td>
<td>19 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm AA 7 pm 101, Conf Rm Ref on Sun Script 8:30 R/DR</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Fellowship-Steward 9 am Café Family Game Night 4-8 pm Café Child Faith Form 9 am School</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16 Yoga 9 am 101 C Scouts 6:30 101 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm Stewardship 6 pm R/LR</td>
<td>17 Rose So. 7 pm 101 Personel 5:30 pm R/LR</td>
<td>18 Stained Glass Sing 3:30 Choir Rm Choir 7:15 Church</td>
<td>19 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm AA 7 pm 101, Conf Rm Ref on Sun Script 8:30 R/DR</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Fellowship (PC) 9 am Café YM 6 pm Church 101, 102, 103, 104, School, R/DR, Café, Gym Child Faith Form 9 am School</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23 Yoga 9 am 101 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm Finance C 6 pm R/LR First Reconciliation 6 pm @ Christ King</td>
<td>24 AA 12:15 pm 101, Conf Rm J4J 7 pm Church Dartball 7 pm 101 Deanery meeting 1:30 pm R/LR</td>
<td>25 Stained Glass Sing 3:30 Choir Rm B Scouts 6:30 101 Choir 7:15 Church</td>
<td>26 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm AA 7 pm 101, Conf Rm Confirmation Ret. R/LR/DR, Church, Café, Gym, School Ref on Sun Script 8:30 R/DR</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Confirmation Ret. 101, Conf Rm, R/LR/DR, Church, Café, Gym, School</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm</td>
<td>31 AA 12:15 pm 101 PC Agenda 6:15 R/LR/DR, Apt.</td>
<td>31 Stained Glass Sing 3:30 Choir Rm B Scouts 6:30 101 Choir 7:15 Church</td>
<td>27 AA 11 am 101, Conf Rm Confirmation Ret. R/LR/DR, Church, Café, Gym, School Formation Task Force 9am R/LR</td>
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