

THE PARISH PRESS

The monthly newsletter of St. Pius X Parish Community

A Reflection from Fr. Paul

Looking for a good joke to start the homily for the feast of the Epiphany, I came across this one:

Paddy had long heard the stories of an amazing family tradition. It seems that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 18th birthday. On that special day, they'd each walked across the local lake to the pub on the far side for their first legal drink. So, when Paddy's 18th birthday came around, he and his pal Mick, took a boat out to the middle of the lake. Paddy stepped out of the boat and nearly drowned: Mick just barely managed to pull him to safety. Confused, Paddy went to see his grandmother. "Grandma," he asked, "It's my 18th birthday, so why can't I walk across the lake like my father, his father, and his father before him?" Granny looked deeply into Paddy's troubled brown eyes and said, "Because your father, your grandfather and your great grandfather were all born in December, when the lake is frozen, and you were born in August."

This joke resonated with me, because I had been reflecting on the reality that customs that were special to me just don't work anymore. When I was a child, we observed Advent by praying with the Advent calendar each day. No Christmas songs were played, nothing was done about Christmas (as far as we children knew) until we went to bed on Christmas Eve: then the tree was put up, the presents placed under it, and the stockings filled (I NEVER NEVER got coal!!!!). Christmas songs could start and Christmas was celebrated until the Epiphany, after which the tree was taken down because it was drying out. The nativity scene stayed up until February 2nd, the official Church end back then of the Christmas season.

That is impossible today. Christmas music and promotions start earlier and earlier. All sorts of Christmas activities happen in December. In fact, I think it is safe to say that, for the most part, the celebration of Christmas is over the day after Christmas, January 2nd for sure!

January is a relatively quiet time in our culture. Maybe because it has become so challenging to prepare for Christmas and observe Advent in our culture, we can use this quiet time to reflect on what we have just celebrated and what it means to us. All the preparations, family gatherings, social events, and frenetic activity are over. What does it all mean to me?

I will be reflecting on these thoughts:

- human beings expected a powerful Messiah who would make them #1! They got a small baby born in a stable. How simple am I making my life?
- human beings expected a powerful Messiah who would make them #1. They got an itinerant preacher who showed that love and care for the outcasts and needy are the real power in life. How am I doing at loving and caring for those in need?
- human beings expected a powerful Messiah who would make them #1. They got someone willing to die on the cross to save others. Am I willing to sacrifice for the good of others?

These are just some of my thoughts. I invite you to make use of the quiet time after the celebrations of Christmas to reflect on what Christmas means to you and how it can help you live a fuller, more spiritually rewarding life.

And as we do so, let us support each other in prayer. I wish you and all your loved ones a healthy and blessed 2023. Thank you for having me as part of your St. Pius X family.

Paul James Portland, OFS

Parish Updates from Fr. Paul

I hope all is going well for you and that you had a spiritually enriching celebration of the birth of our Savior. I thank all those who shared their time and talents to make our celebrations so uplifting. It was a joy to have the children's Christmas pageant again! Thanks also to all who made our pancake breakfast such a wonderful community event.

Salvatorian Sunday

The weekend of January 14th and 15th, we will have our annual second collection to support the Society of the Divine Savior (the Salvatorian brothers and priests).

The Society has a large group of retired members, the expenses for new members coming in are great, and there are not too many in the middle earning stipends, so we depend on the generosity of others to help us. I ask you to be as generous as you can. I thank you for joining your call to bring the light of Christ to the world through our Salvatorian charism and way of doing things. I give thanks to God each day for every one of you. Please keep all members of our Salvatorian Family in prayer. You are certainly in ours, as we pray each day for our collaborators and benefactors.

Sister Parish Change

After I set up the wire transfer of funds to our sister parish, Santa Maria Nebaj, I e-mailed the pastor, asking him to inform me of the safe arrival of the funds and also informing him this would be the last time we would be sending money. His reply was very understanding, saying that he understood that there were many needs elsewhere and that they appreciated our support over these many years. We agreed that both communities would continue remembering the other in prayer. Our new sister parish is Mater Salvatoris parish (Mother of the Savior parish) in Nakapanya, Tanzania. It is a Salvatorian parish in one of the poorest areas of southern Tanzania. More information about the parish will be coming before our fall collection. Parishioner Sue Haertel will visit the parish this summer while she is in Tanzania, discussing ways we can make this relationship two way, in addition to praying for each other. Please keep both our former and our new sister parish in your prayers.

Love One Another Capital Campaign

As has been announced earlier, our parish will be participating in the diocesan capital campaign, Love One Another, the first half of this year. If you remember the "Faith In Our Future" campaign, this is similar, except pledges are over 5 years instead of 3. Sixty percent of the money raised will remain in the parish, 40% will go to support diocesan initiatives. We are still working to finalize our "case," that is, how we will use our portion of the funds. More information will be shared as we move into the campaign. Please keep the success of this campaign in your prayers.

As we begin a new year, I invite all of us to make sure it is a year of spiritual growth. I encourage you to take advantage of the Faith Formation opportunities that our Director of Adult Formation will be offering, as we move through the seasons of the Church year. One advantage of being a part of a community is helping each other to grow. I wish you a blessed, healthy 2023. You are always in my prayers. God bless.

Skate Night & Pizza

Invite your family and friends for a night of skating, pizza and fun!

Date: Saturday, January 28th

Time: Beginning skaters start at 6:00 pm, party skating starts at 6:30 pm, & open skate is from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: St. Pius X gym

Cost: \$5 per person, \$1 discount if you bring your own skates (no in-line, Sketchers or Heelys skates allowed)

If skating is not your thing, you are still welcome to come by and order a pizza to eat in or take home!

Please note:

Children under 18 must have an adult with them.

ALL skaters, children and adults, must have a signed waiver (children by a parent or guardian) before they can skate. They are available at www.stpiusparish.org/skate-night.html and in the lobby when you arrive. One signed waiver is good for the entire season.

Faith Formation

Rob Hoffmann

Director of Adult Formation

Happy 2023! I hope you had a blessed and meaningful Advent and Christmas season!

There are actually still a few days of the Christmas season left. Advent runs for the 4 weeks up to the birth of Christ and is a period of preparation, but in our current society it has become the Christmas season. But, here's a secret that most don't know: the Christian season of Christmas actually starts on December 25th and lasts through the Epiphany up to the Baptism of the Lord (January 9th)

The secret is that, after all the hustle and bustle of what we think of as Christmas, you can enjoy an additional two weeks of the season that the secular society doesn't know is available to them. A season of Christmas with no stress and no commercialism. Indulge yourself in the birth of Christ. So leave some decorations up, enjoy some Christmas readings, meditations, or watch a seasonal program. Reach out to someone that you may have missed connecting with. And of course, take advantage of the Faith Formation options that we have available to you. Here's what's coming up...

The Search

Dates: 7 weekly sessions on Sundays beginning January 8th

Time: Between the Masses, from 9:15-10:15 am

Location: Francis Jordan Room in the parish rectory

Can't make it on Sunday mornings? Join a Zoom session on Thursdays starting January 12th at 7:00pm.

Do any of these situations, or stories sound familiar?

- You get the big promotion, but it doesn't make you happy for more than a day or two.
- You buy the fancy car, but the thrill is over by the time you pull into the garage.
- The things we expect to fulfill us don't.
- Why is life this way? Why are we here? Not just here in these bodies on this planet and in this year. But why do we exist? Why are we filled with longing?

The Augustine Institute created an award-winning video-based series that's turning heads as it explores fundamental questions and mysteries like these. It's called *The Search*, and the national reception to it has been so enthusiastic that we are bringing it here, to our parish, for all our spiritual benefit and growth.

The Search, hosted by well-known Catholic evangelist Chris Stefanick, is a multi-part video based spiritual experience from the producers of the FORMED online platform (formed.org).

But *The Search* is not meant just to be watched . . . and it's certainly not meant to be watched alone. That's why we are hosting group sessions to watch, discuss, and grow from experiencing *The Search*.

We hope you will join us!

You only need to register if you plan on attending the Zoom sessions. To do so, please contact the parish office or me. My contact information is on the next page.

Faith Formation, continued

Bible Study, Part Two

Dates & Times: 4 weekly sessions meeting on Tuesdays beginning January 17th at 7:00 pm, or Wednesdays beginning January 18th at 8:30 am

Location: Francis Jordan Room & Zoom

Join us as we explore the early Church and the spread of Christianity in the Acts of the Apostles Part 2. What lessons can we learn from the Apostles? You need not have attended Part 1 of this series to attend these sessions.

We will meet in the Francis Jordan Room (accessed from the parish office doors), and will have a Zoom option for remote attendance. If interested, please contact the parish office or me (Rob Hoffmann). You can also sign up at the Faith Formation area in the church entryway.

Library News

Did you enjoy the Blue Book daily Advent prayers? If so, a selection of daily prayer books has been placed on the library bookcase in the church vestibule. Grab one to continue your prayer practice in January.

Questions & More Information

If you would like to know more about these programs, feel free to call or email me at (414) 453-3875 or rhoffmann@stpiusparish.org.

Health Ministry

Pat Bruce

Free At-Home, Rapid COVID-19 Tests Available Through COVIDTests.gov

[COVIDTests.gov](https://www.COVIDTests.gov) is again open for a limited round of ordering this winter. All U.S. households can order a total of four at-home COVID-19 tests that will be mailed directly to them for free. The Administration will also make tests available to individuals who are blind or have low vision through this program. People who have difficulty accessing the internet or need additional support placing an order can call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489) to get help in English, Spanish, and more than 150 other languages – 8:00 am to 8:00 pm E.T., Monday to Friday and 8:00 am to 5:00 pm E.T. on weekends. For more information, people can visit www.COVIDTests.gov.

Support for Veterans

Below is a list the Chaplain at the Milwaukee VA has put together for Veterans needing assistance. There is also a training opportunity for community members.

1. Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 (press 1), confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to 838-255
2. [Chaplain Service](#) is available for one on one pastoral counseling and care. We even have chaplains on our team who are veterans and can provide that additional layer of understanding and empathy. Please contact us at (414) 384-2000 ext. 42160. For community members looking for a training opportunity, the Chaplain Service line offers a Moral Injury training for church groups and religious organizations. The training is free for organizations and participants. Please reach out for additional details. For more information on chaplain services, visit www.va.gov/milwaukee-health-care/chaplain-services.
3. Our [Mental Health](#) team is also available for outpatient and inpatient needs. Call them at (414) 384-2000 ext. 42098. More information can be found at www.va.gov/milwaukee-health-care/health-services/mental-health-care
4. [Whole Health](#) is a service line that provides resources for healthy living through groups and ongoing classes. Contact Whole Health at (414) 384-2000 ext. 43611. For more information, visit www.va.gov/milwaukee-health-care/programs/whole-health-calendar.
5. Find additional information and more great services at www.va.gov/milwaukee-health-care/.

Wauwatosa Catholic School

Nicolle Schroeder
Principal

Celebrating Catholic Schools' Week 2023 at WCS

Catholic Schools' Week starts January 29th. Find out how we will be celebrating below...

Sunday, January 29th

Celebrating our Parish(es)

Join us at Mass at either St. Pius X or St. Bernard's (8:00am and 10:30 am at both parishes). Look for our WCS students as they help at the Masses. At 12:30pm, join us at school as we open our doors for our official Open House. Come take a tour; meet our dedicated staff members, students, and family members. See you then!

Monday, January 30th

Celebrating our Global Community (International theme)

A central aspect of Catholic education is learning the current reality of others in our Global Community. At WCS, students will have the opportunity to hear from natives of other countries who will share stories and information about their homes.

Tuesday, January 31st

Celebrating our Students (PJ day)

Schools celebrate students during National Catholic Schools Week by planning enjoyable and meaningful activities for them and recognizing their accomplishments. WCS students will be able to wear their favorite pajamas to school!

Wednesday, February 1st

Celebrating our Nation (Red, white, and blue day)

On National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools, students, families, educators and other Catholic school supporters communicate the value of Catholic education to government leaders. We will honor Officer Tracy Burbach as she retires this month from her role as Student Resource Officer.

Thursday, February 2nd

Celebrating Faculty, Staff and Volunteers (Spirit Wear day)

On this day, schools will honor teachers and principals as well as administrators and staff who support them in their work and thank those who provide volunteer service. Come cheer on WCS staff as they take on the students in a fun game of volleyball. May the best team win!

Friday, February 3rd

Celebrating Vocations (Dress up as your career day)

By focusing on faith, knowledge and service, Catholic schools prepare children to use their God-given talents to the fullest later in life. Students are invited to dress up as they would in their future careers. It's never too early to plan goals for the future.

Saturday, February 4th

Celebrating Families

Parents, guardians and other family members play a vital role in Catholic education. Not only do they volunteer at the school, they instill values and expectations for academic excellence in their children at home. A special thanks goes out to our WCS parents and guardians for the academic and spiritual formation they provide to their children.

Stewardship Commission

Sue Haertel, SDS

James, the president of Safe Water for Life & Dignity (SWLD), has written to us about another well built for villagers in Kilosa-njiapanda and the surrounding area:

I am glad to let you know that SWLD also completed another living well at Kilosa-njiapanda village, which is about 125km west of Morogoro. More than 700 people will benefit from this well, the majority of which are small holder farmers who are poor and live in difficult situations. The lack of water made the living situation much worse as villagers used to fetch water from unprotected sources, which caused the spread of water borne diseases.

Women and children became victims of water scarcity as the shortage of water caused them to walk for long distance to search for water, during which they encountered several harassment and gender violence from malicious people. It is in this respect that SWLD decided to make an intervention, change the condition and prevent future likelihood of the problem. This well project improves both the livelihoods and increased the protection of women and children against various forms of risks, harassment and violence. Many thanks to the living water for support, which is playing a great role in the alleviation of poverty other predicaments.

Thanks a lot,

Dr James Nyangas, PhD



Catholic Identity

Holly Cartier

From the time we are born, we are living in a state of tension. Between life and death, hope and despair, love and fear, our lives are unbalanced and we are often paralyzed, unable to make decisions or go forward.

Then we turn to our Father who steps in like the master handyman and says, "Let me fix that for you." He takes all our burdens onto himself and smooths our rough edges, levels our uneven floors, and tweaks all the hard stuff to make our lives better.

In the New Year, the chance to rework our lives with God's hands is once again within our reach. If we have used Advent to refresh our pattern of daily prayer, the opportunity to continue this habit is here.

R-E-L-A-X has become a watchword of our generation and putting our trust and lives in God's hand and releasing ourselves into his control is a resolution we can all make for the New Year. After all, as much as we wish to have control, our lives are really in His hands.

This is our Faith, this is Our Catholic identity.

Holly welcomes comments at hcarts.hc@gmail.com





St. Pius X Parish Community Calendar January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Mass for the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, 8:00 & 10:30am	2 Mass, 8:00am <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	3 Health Ministry, 6:00pm, MA J&P, 7:00pm, FJ	4 Mass, 8:00am Formation & Evangelization, 7:00pm, FJ	5 Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-8:45pm, Church	6 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	7 Reconciliation 4:00-4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm
8 Mass, followed by fellowship, 8:00am The Search (Discussion Group), 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, followed by fellowship, 10:30am	9 Mass, 8:00am Liturgy Commission, 6:00pm, FJ	10	11 Mass, 8:00am Pastoral Council, 7:00 pm, FJ J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church	12 Boy Scouts, 6:15pm, 101 The Search (Discussion Group), 7:00pm, Zoom Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-8:45pm, Church	13 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	14 <i>Salvatorian Sunday</i> Reconciliation 4:00-4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm
15 <i>Salvatorian Sunday</i> Mass, followed by fellowship, 8:00am The Search (Discussion Group), 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, followed by fellowship, 10:30am	16 Mass, 8:00am Stewardship Commission, 5:30pm, FJ	17 Bible Study, 7:00-8:30pm, FJ	18 Mass, 8:00am Bible Study, 8:30-10:00am, FJ J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church	19 The Search (Discussion Group), 7:00pm, Zoom Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-8:45pm, Church	20 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	21 Reconciliation 4:00-4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm
22 Mass, followed by fellowship, 8:00am CGS Levels 1, 2 & 3, 9:00-10:15am, CK The Search (Discussion Group), 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, followed by fellowship, 10:30am Baptism Preparation Class, 11:30 am, FJ HS Alpha, 6:30-8:00pm, CK	23 Mass, 8:00am CGS Level 1, 9:30-11:00am, Pius Finance Council, 6:00pm, FJ	24 Bible Study, 7:00-8:30pm, FJ	25 Mass, 8:00am Bible Study, 8:30-10:00am, FJ CGS 3, 2:30-4pm, CK CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK CGS 2, 6-7:30pm, CK	26 CGS Level 2, 4:00-5:30pm, CK CGS Level 3, 5:45 - 7:15pm, CK Boy Scouts, 6:15pm, 101 The Search (Discussion Group), 7:00pm, Zoom Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-8:45pm, Church	27 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ CGS 1, 10:00-11:30pm, CK	28 Reconciliation 4:00-4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm Skate Night, 6:00-9:00pm, Gym
29 Mass, followed by fellowship, 8:00am CGS Levels 1, 2 & 3, 9:00-10:15am, CK The Search (Discussion Group), 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, followed by fellowship, 10:30am Middle School YM, 4-5:30pm, SB HS Alpha, 6:30-8:00pm, CK HS Small Groups, 6:30-8:00pm, CK	30 Mass, 8:00am CGS Level 1, 9:30-11:00am, Pius Personnel Commission, 6:00pm, FJ	31 Bible Study, 7:00-8:30pm, FJ	<p>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) MGC = Mother of Good Counsel SB = St. Bernard's WCS = Wauwatosa Catholic YM = Youth Ministry</p> <p>All Masses are in the church.</p>			