

THE PARISH PRESS

The monthly newsletter of St. Pius X Parish Community

A Reflection from Fr. Paul

“We all must strive to be holy.” While in our head we would agree with that, it sounds like quite a challenge, if not impossible. But perhaps we need to reflect a little on what “to be holy” means.

First of all, it does NOT mean to be perfect. None of us is perfect, nor will we be perfect in this life. That is an impossible goal. Look at St. Peter, who boasted how great he was and then denied Jesus three times, abandoning him. St. Augustine, as a young man, led a “very loose” life. Mother Teresa of Calcutta admitted she didn’t feel anything about God’s presence for over 20 years. And so on and so on. Being perfect is NOT the definition of being holy, at least in this life!

So, what ARE we striving for when we “strive to be holy? Perhaps it will help to know that “holy” and “healthy” come from the same root word. To be “holy” means to be spiritually healthy. Being healthy physically does not mean being perfect. I can be declared “healthy” by a doctor, but still have cataracts maturing, be a few pounds over or under weight, have benign moles on my face and back, etc. In other words, the “healthy” me is not perfect.

So, to be “holy” is to be spiritually healthy, not perfect. Some of the points I use for examining how I am doing at “striving for holiness” are these:

Do I treat others well?

As I read the Gospels, the most critical point for living as Jesus did (read “being holy”) is to keep others and their needs in the forefront, as I make decisions on how to use the many gifts of time, talent, and treasure that God has given me. I need to keep myself healthy, physically and spiritually, but after that, am I including others and their needs in my decision-making process? This means not simply avoiding harm to others (killing, robbing, adultery, etc.) but reaching out to help, when needed.

Do I spend enough time talking and listening to the Lord?

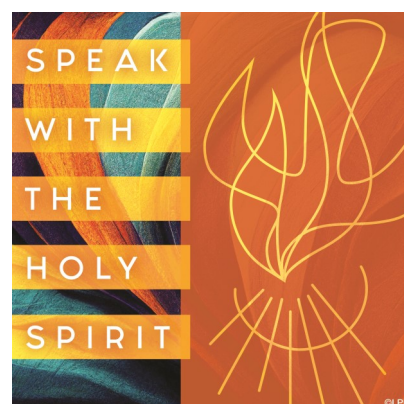
It is not easy to be selfless and think of others: it does not come to us naturally; we need God’s help. Am I allowing God to help me, both through participation in the community and its worship and through quiet time: sharing with the Lord and listening (read, allowing the Lord to lead me)?

Do I have the best priorities in life?

Maybe it can all be summed up by “do I have the same priorities in life that Jesus had?” Jesus often went off by himself to be with His Father. Other people and their needs were always a priority for Him. He was kind and welcoming to society’s outcasts.

As we continue through the Easter season, in which we celebrate the resurrection and prepare to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, let us thank the Lord for the gift of the Spirit, who will help us as we strive to be “spiritually healthy.” We just have to give the Spirit time and space each day to do that. Remember: we don’t have to be perfect; we just need to be growing.

As our springtime weather brings new life to the trees and flowers, may the gift of the Holy Spirit bring new life to us, as we strive to be spiritually healthy!



Parish Updates from Fr. Paul

Holy Week & Easter

The services over Holy Week and Easter were very spiritually uplifting. One visitor, leaving the Holy Saturday Vigil service, said to me, "I have been to services in many parishes and this was the most inspiring I have experienced." I thank all the ministers and musicians that made it possible, especially Kathy Wellenstein, who put an incredible amount of time and effort into the services, music, environment, etc.

Wauwatosa Catholic School

I am sad to report that our school will close at the end of this school year. It was a difficult decision, but one made in consultation with the school and finance offices of the archdiocese, and after exploring other options. Our enrollment this past year was 116, down from 200 pre-pandemic. We would not have survived these past two years without pandemic generated government aid. Demographics show that the birth rate has declined, so there are less children coming of school age, while there are multiple Catholic and public schools in a small area. Despite efforts to increase enrollment, including accepting Choice students, the conclusion of all participants was that our school is not sustainable, at least at the level of academic excellence that we have had over the 12 years of our existence. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me.

I thank our staff for their dedication to our students. They have done a wonderful job. We will do all that we can to help them as they transition to another school. I also thank our parents and children for being a part of the Wauwatosa Catholic community. Information will come shortly to those parishioners with a child or children in WCS, if it has not yet arrived, about financial assistance that the parish will offer to help you send your child to another Catholic school. May God bless all of you as you work through this difficult transition.

Love One Another Capital Campaign

If you have not yet participated in the capital campaign, Love One Another, you should have received a mailing from the diocese about it sometime in the last two weeks. I ask you to prayerfully consider support of this campaign. It is important for our parish community and the diocese. Thank you.

Leadership Discernment

The nomination phase of our discernment for a trustee and three parish council members closed on April 23rd. Those who were nominated are being contacted and invited to an orientation/discernment session on May 10th, at which they will come to understand what the commitment will be and decide whether or not they are able to serve. The present council members will then choose the new members from those who leave their name in consideration. I thank all the nominees who are willing to come and learn more. Please continue to keep this process in your prayers.

Music Ministry

We continue our search for a choir director/musician/accompanist for our liturgies. Please keep this intention in your prayers. The position description and application information can be found at <https://bit.ly/PiusMusicJob>.

Well-deserved Honor

Congratulations to parishioner Gary Pokorny, who received the St. George Emblem from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting at a ceremony on April 22nd for his ministry to the scouting programs in the archdiocese.



Faith Formation

Rob Hoffmann

Director of Adult Formation

Welcome to May, a month devoted in the Catholic tradition to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The origins of this practice are not clear. We do know that May Day was a festival in ancient Europe and that traditions linking Mary, the Mother of God, to May began as early as the 1200's. Many pagan practices were transformed into church holidays. By the 1700's, many locations in Italy began viewing May as a month dedicated to Mary. The Society of Jesus helped this tradition to spread across Europe as they adopted the practice at their Roman College and encouraged it at all their other colleges (they were trying to counteract infidelity and immorality among the student body). Soon a majority of Catholic parishes followed suit. In 1965, Pope Paul VI encouraged special prayers of peace to be incorporated into the traditional May devotions. Mary has instructed us to pray and work for peace in many of her apparitions. Perhaps this month we could all pray to Mary to provide a veil of peace over many of the world's areas of conflict, as we ourselves practice peace in all our thoughts and deeds.

Join us in the month of May as we pray a special **Scriptural Rosary for Justice and Peace**. It will be in person Monday mornings after the 8:00 am Mass or join an online Zoom gathering Tuesday's and Thursday's at 6:00 pm. If you plan on attending the Zoom options, please register by calling the parish office or scanning the QR code to the right. I will send you more information including the Zoom link.



COMING THIS
SUMMER!

"LAUDATO SI':
ON CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME"
(A season of environmental, spiritual
& social programming)

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL
(A year of special programming
on the Eucharist &
living in communion)



Current Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Bible Study - The Gospel of John, Part 2

This is part 2 of our Bible Study on the Gospel of John. If you didn't join us for part 1, it's not a problem: you're welcome to jump right in! Please register if you plan on attending.

Day: Tuesdays (now - May 30th)

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: Zoom

or

Day: Wednesdays (now - May 31st)

Time: 8:30 - 10:00 am

Location: Francis Jordan room & Zoom

True Reformers:

Saints of the Catholic Reformation

Join us for this inspiring video discussion series in which we learn about Saints Thomas More, Ignatius of Loyola, Philip Neri, Charles Borromeo, Teresa of Avila and Francis de Sales.

These Saints were leaders in the church during the Catholic Reformation and continue to inspire us today.

Day: Sundays (now - May 28th)

Time: 9:15 - 10:15 am

Location: Francis Jordan Room

or

Day: Thursdays (now - June 1st)

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Registration only needed for the Zoom session.

To register for these programs, call the parish office at (414)-453-3875, scan the QR code to the right or sign up in the back of church.



Health Ministry

Pat Bruce

ERAS Senior Network

The ERAS Senior Network provides support for seniors and adults with disabilities in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. Below is a list of just some of what ERAS offers help with. For more services and information on ERAS, visit [eras.org](https://www.eras.org).

For the following services:

- Need help?
 - Call (414) 488-6930 to see if you're eligible.
- Want to help?
 - Call (414) 488-6931 or email erasvolunteer@eras.org
- Minor home repairs
 - Eras works with clients to help with minor tasks such as changing a light bulb, hanging a picture, assembling a small piece of furniture, etc.
- Friendly Phone Calls (FPC)
 - Eras volunteers are paired with an older adult for a weekly phone call to build friendship and fellowship. More than 80% of clients have reported feeling less isolated or lonely.
- Seasonal Yard Cleanup (Fall and Spring)
 - An individual or group of volunteers prepare your yard for the coming season. Volunteers wash windows, weed, rake leaves, move outdoor furniture, clean gutters, etc.
- Grocery Shopping
 - A volunteer will either drive a client to the store and assist them to complete their shopping, or shop for them and drop off the groceries at their home. This can include stock box delivery or food pantry pick up.
- Healthcare Rides
 - A volunteer will pick an older adult up at home and drive them to and from their medical appointment. Qualified clients can be taken to doctors appointments, dialysis, chemo, etc.
- Forms, Letters, and Bills
 - A volunteer will work with an older adult to help read documents or complete forms (no tax help is available).
- Lawn Mowing
 - A volunteer is matched with an older adult for the season and comes over regularly to mow their lawn.

Medicare support is also available. Milwaukee County staff and volunteers will help newly eligible people enroll in the insurance program.

- Need help?
 - Call (414) 289-6436 to connect with the program at the County.
- Want to help?
 - Call (414) 488-6931 or email erasvolunteer@eras.org.

Stewardship Commission

Sue Haertel, SDS

This month, Dr. James Nyangas, PhD, President of Safe Water for Life and Dignity (SWLD), reports on a well built in the village of Kinyeto:

Dear Sue and all,

I am glad to let you know that we have completed the St. Pius X Living Water Project at Kinyeto village, Singida. This village is located about 543km Northwest of Morogoro city. Currently, there are over 970 people benefitting from this project, the majority being smallholder farmers.

In the past, the people of Kinyeto village had a severe shortage of clean water. During site visits, we were struck by the fact that we found many villagers fetching water from small holes which they had dug at the riverbed. They also had a few traditional shallow wells, many of them have been affected by drought. Such water sources were insufficient and not sustainable for a large community. It was for these reasons that SWLD decided to help this village after receiving the Living Water Project funds.

As we have successfully accomplished this project, many villagers expressed their joy and gratitude to the Living Water Project for this new well. It is our anticipation that this well will contribute towards improving the livelihoods and lessening the sufferings of the villagers.

At SWLD, we continue to thank you for your continuous commitments and support to our people. The Living Water Campaign this year was a great success and it is an expression of great love the people of St. Pius X Parish Community has for the poor. Water is a gift of life, an important ingredient to human life – it's the living water.

Many blessings and love to you.

*Thank you,
Dr. James Nyangas, PhD*



Catholic Identity

Holly Cartier

The following was written by a colleague and friend, Megan O'Brien. It touched me and, with her permission, I want to share it with you.

Genesis 1:27 says, "God created man in his own image. . ." This doesn't mean he created us in his image in human form, but that we, humans are created in the image of God in our moral, spiritual nature. I listened to a sermon this morning from one of my favorite pastors about being "damaged goods." It was one of the best teachings I've heard in a while.

Everyone is damaged. Something happened to make you feel insecure, or have a fear of abandonment, or low self-worth. Maybe you have an anger problem or you made a sinful mistake and now you carry that mistake around with you, like you're wearing a scarlet letter on your chest. Or... or...or... (fill in the blank). And all these things affect us, our relationships with others, and our relationship with God. We may have "bad" things about us that others are able to see, thus appearing to be "damaged goods."

This pastor used a good example to get his point across: when you go to the store to buy something, you usually don't pick a box that is broken, bent, dirty, or ripped. You want the box that looks "good." If you do choose the box that is broken, you want a discount. However, the contents inside both of the boxes are exactly the same. The contents never changed, just the outside appearance.

And this is what God says to us every day and what he is always trying to remind is of: "I see you. You're broken. Dirty. Sinful. Not in perfect condition. You are damaged goods. But I know the contents inside of you, because I created you in my image. I still choose you."

Don't be labeled by these things that have "damaged" you. People may still call them out. But God has given you a new name. He still pursues you. You may be in a broken situation, but God is looking out for you, He can heal you and help you and show His grace and love to you. He wants a better life for you. You may run in the opposite direction, but he is still saying "yup, I'm still here."

God loves us too much to leave us in our broken and "damaged goods" state. Welcome Him into your life as He welcomes you into life with Him.

This is our Faith, this is our Catholic Identity.

Holly appreciates feedback at hcartshc@gmail.com.

- PROVIDING CLEAN WATER & HOPE -

The Living Waters Project



A previous water source

Building the new well

Celebrating their clean source of water & hope for a better future!

One of the many wells built from your donations!

DONATE TODAY!



Living Water envelopes are in the back of church and in your packet of envelopes you received this month. If you donate by check, please make it payable to St. Pius X, and put "Living Waters" in the memo line. To donate online, visit bit.ly/PiusLivingWaters or scan the QR code.

Thank you for your support!



Wauwatosa Catholic School

Karen Scharrer-Erickson
Curriculum Coordinator

April was such a wonderful month at Wauwatosa Catholic School. It presented our whole community with an opportunity to truly reflect on the mystery of Easter. We had many opportunities for worship, including participating in the Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday. In the first grade classroom, Ms. Stienke taught her students the importance of serving others as Jesus did by washing each other's feet. Students from second through eighth grade had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. What a thoughtful, reflective way to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter Sunday.

We celebrated our first Very Important Person, or, "VIP" day in three years on Thursday, April 6th. Mrs. Ramsey made the day an extra special one by organizing four activities that the students and their VIP's rotated through, allowing them to spend quality time together. At the end of the morning the entire school community gathered in church to participate in the Stations of the Cross. Many thanks to Mrs. Ramsey for all the work she did to make this a truly special day for our students and their VIPs.

The month ended in a flurry of activity. Our second graders are preparing for their First Eucharist and have been reflecting on the History of the Gifts of God, leading up to the greatest gift—the gift of Himself in the person of Jesus. They know that Jesus is present to us in the Eucharist. The second graders from St. Pius X will be receiving this sacrament on May 7th.

Our third, fourth and fifth graders are working on their entries for our Global Showcase. The third graders will be presenting a Living Wax Museum. They have each chosen a famous person to research and then "become" at the Global Showcase.

The fourth graders chose a famous artist to research. They are working on a piece of art which is similar to the artist's work. This piece of art along with what they have learned about the artist will be presented when they also "become" their artist on the night of the Global Showcase!

The fifth graders will present a Science Fair. They have been researching their topic and learning more about the Scientific Method. Their questions are interesting and exciting to them. They look forward to sharing their results!

Please visit our Global Showcase on Wednesday, May 10th. We will be presenting from 6:00 - 7:30 pm and welcome everyone to see what our students have accomplished.

Our eighth graders have been working on their Community Project. They will be building a museum-like exhibit focused on the struggles of the Jewish people as well as the struggles of our African American people. For their individual Community Project, the students were asked to name what they thought was the most significant event in the past century. They researched this topic and were asked to develop a community project related to this "most significant event." Their topics range from homeless Milwaukee Veterans to suicide. Many of them are working towards raising awareness. All of the students are taking this project seriously, and are looking forward to sharing their research, as well as what they are doing to help our community. The Community Project presentations will take place at school on Wednesday, May 3rd from 6:00 - 7:15pm. All are welcome!



St. Pius X Parish Community

May 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Health Ministry Workshop, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, FJ	2 LOA volunteer mtg, 5:30pm, FJ Health Ministry, 6:00pm, MA Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom Justice & Peace, 7:00 pm, FJ Bible Study, 7:00-8:30pm, Zoom	3 Mass, 8:00am Bible Study, 8:30-10am, FJ & Zoom CGS 3, 2:30-4pm, CK CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK CGS 2, 6-7:30pm, CK Formation & Evangelization, 7:00pm, FJ	4 Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom True Reformers 7:00-8:00pm, Zoom	5 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sun. Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ CGS 1, 10:00-11:30pm, CK	6 Reconciliation, 4:00-4:30pm, Church Mass, 5:00pm
7 Mass, followed by fellowship, 8:00am True Reformers 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass with First Communion, followed by fellowship, 10:30am	8 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel	9 Seniors Club Board Mtg, 10:30am, MA LOA volunteer mtg, 5:30pm, FJ Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom Bible Study, 7:00-8:30pm, Zoom	10 Mass, 8:00am Bible Study, 8:30-10am, FJ & Zoom Pastoral Council, 7:00pm, FJ	11 Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom Boy Scouts, 6:15pm, 101 True Reformers 7:00-8:00pm, Zoom	12 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sun. Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	13 Reconciliation, 4:00-4:30pm, Church Mass, 5:00pm
14 Mass, followed by fellowship, 8:00am True Reformers 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, followed by fellowship, 10:30am	15 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Stewardship Commission, 5:30pm, FJ	16 LOA volunteer mtg, 5:30pm, FJ Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom Bible Study, 7:00-8:30pm, Zoom	17 Mass, 8:00am Bible Study, 8:30-10am, FJ & Zoom	18 Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom True Reformers 7:00-8:00pm, Zoom	19 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sun. Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	20 Reconciliation, 4:00-4:30pm, Church Mass, 5:00pm
21 Mass, followed by fellowship, 8:00am True Reformers 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, followed by fellowship, 10:30am	22 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Finance Council, 6:00pm, FJ	23 Seniors Mass & Lunch, 10:00am, Church, MA & FJ LOA volunteer mtg, 5:30pm, FJ Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom Bible Study, 7:00-8:30pm, Zoom	24 Mass, 8:00am Bible Study, 8:30-10am, FJ & Zoom	25 Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom Boy Scouts, 6:15pm, 101 True Reformers 7:00-8:00pm, Zoom	26 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sun. Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	27 Reconciliation, 4:00-4:30pm, Church Mass, 5:00pm
28 Mass, 8:00am True Reformers 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, 10:30am	29 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Parish office closed <i>Memorial Day</i>	30 LOA volunteer mtg, 5:30pm, FJ Rosary, 6:00pm, Zoom Bible Study, 7:00-8:30pm, Zoom	31 Mass, 8:00am Bible Study, 8:30-10am, FJ & Zoom	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)		