

THE PIUS PRESS

The monthly newsletter of St. Pius X Parish Community

A Reflection from Fr. Paul

Our December weekend retreat/workshop in Racine for candidates for religious life and their mentors, which I attended with our Salvatorian candidate, was given by Fr. Stephen Bevans, SVD, on Vatican II and Synodality. It was an excellent presentation and I'd like to share some of what was discussed with you.

Vatican II emphasized that the liturgy is central to us because Christ, as the main celebrant, makes us His body, the Church. Christ is present in the Word, the Eucharist, the priest, **and the community**. The document on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, emphasizes that the Church is **the PEOPLE OF GOD**, not an institution or hierarchy, but rather **the communion of all the baptized**, who form the Body of Christ, the Church. That means each one of us, through baptism, has the mission of bringing Christ to the world by how we live—laity included, not just clergy and religious.

Vatican II also emphasized that **we are the Church IN THE WORLD**, not separate from it. We are to bring Christ to those we meet as we go about our daily lives. That is why it is so important that we understand that each one of us has this responsibility, not just the clergy. The clergy cannot be in your families, in your workplace, in your world.

The understanding that each baptized person shares in the mission of the Church is the direct link to synodality: if we all share in the mission, then all of our voices have to be heard. Vatican II began this push and Pope Paul VI pushed it forward. It took a little pause under popes John Paul II and Benedict, but Pope Francis is picking it up again, inviting us to continue the implementation of the concept that the Church is the whole baptized people of God, each one with a personal responsibility to work for the mission of the Church: that all may know the Savior.

History shows that it takes about 100 years for a Church council to be implemented: there is an initial push, some resistance, and then finally the implementation. We are a little less than 60 years into that 100 years. Pope Francis is moving us forward again, helping us to understand that every baptized Christian has a responsibility and say in the mission of the Church.

As we begin a new year, my prayer for our community is that each one of us will grow in living out our baptismal commitment to bring Christ to the world in whatever life situation we find ourselves. Please join me in that prayer.

Parish Updates

Fr. Paul Portland, SDS

I hope you had a blessed Christmas celebration with family and friends. I thank everyone who supported our three special collections to ensure that others had a good Christmas: Card Sunday for our homebound parishioners, Gift Sunday (just the gift cards totaled over \$4,500!) and Food Sunday. May God bless you for your generosity.

I also thank those who made our Christmas celebrations special: the children in our pageant and their directors; those who provided music; the liturgical ministers; and those who cleaned and provided a beautiful environment. When we work together, each sharing our skills, we create a wonderful, spiritually enriching experience.

Emmaus 90

There is still time to register for and join this faith formation program, which began January 1st. I highly recommend it. More information can be found on page 3.

Children's Masses

The Pastoral Council has approved having occasional Masses at which children will do many of the liturgical ministries. A small committee will meet after the holidays to begin planning. I look forward to this: I always enjoyed the school Masses at Wauwatosa Catholic, where the children participated so well.

(continued on next page)

Parish Updates, cont.

Planning for the Coming Year

The Pastoral Council also approved a proposal to invite all ministries and committees to submit dates for meetings and events to Terese in May for the following July through June. She will create a spreadsheet that can be examined for conflicts and to ensure that events are reasonably spaced out. More information about this will be coming in the new year.

Parking Lot Safety

Because we are going to church, there might be a tendency to be a little more lax with safety measures. Please make sure you lock your car and do not leave anything in sight. There have been incidents on church parking lots, including our own.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2024. I am praying that all of us, as a community, will grow in our ability to reflect Jesus to the world by what we say and do. God bless and thank you for being a part of our community.

Operations & Finance

Dean Weyer

Director of Operations & Finance

Finances

As I write this, we are a few days short of the end of December, the half way point of our fiscal year. Our expenses continue to hold on pace to the budget. However, it is a bit early to share income information as a good number of parishioners make year-end contributions in these final days of the calendar year. Watch the bulletin and next month's newsletter for a stewardship update.

I encourage everyone who has not yet turned in your pledge card for the 2024 Stewardship Pledge Campaign is to do so as soon as possible. It is important to our budgeting process to know our projected income in determining our ability to support our many ministries. And no one likes to make or receive those "did you turn in your pledge" phone calls. Please help the process by returning your card or pledging online at www.stpiusparish.org/stewardship.html!

Pius Continues to Support Catholic School Education!

We are fast approaching registration periods for Catholic elementary schools for the 2024/25 school year. Do you have or want to place your child(ren) in a Catholic elementary school? Please be aware of our policy 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 the school's non-parishioner tuition penalty! Additional assistance may also be available for even the base tuition costs, regardless of your income status.

We also would like to know of our Pius families that are attending Catholic high schools. There may be some assistance available for you as well.

Please contact me directly at 414-453-3875 x16 or dweyer@stpiusparish.org for more information.

Our Tenant

With the blessing of the Pius Pastoral and Finance Councils, Kingdom Prep will be launching an agricultural program for its students that will include the use of a greenhouse (similar to the one as shown below) that will be setup in the area that previously housed our playground. Students will be immersed in the experience of the complete life cycle of seedling to fully-grown plants. The plants will be used to build relationships in the community and with neighboring parishes. To learn more about the exciting things going on at Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School, check out kplhs.org.



Faith Formation

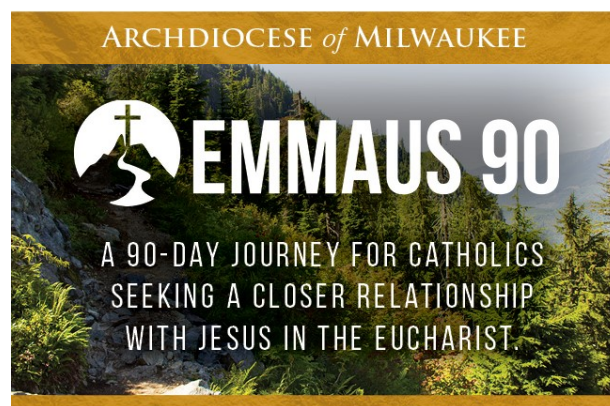
Rob Hoffmann

Director of Adult Formation

May the grace of God, the peace of Christ, and the blessings of the Holy Spirit along with the communion of saints wrap around you and carry you as you travel through 2024.

Faith Formation is taking a break in January while we prepare for Lent and Easter programs. In our work of preparation, I offer a short questionnaire asking you to let us know what days, times and formats work best for you to join us for formation. You will find it on the last page of this newsletter. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts, please fill it out and drop it in the baskets in the back of Church, or bring it in or mail it to the parish office by Monday, January 15th. An online version of the questionnaire is available at www.stpiusparish.org/adult-ministry.html.

On the next page is a spiritually inspirational piece from the Sunday, December 17th, 2023 *New York Times* that can offer hope and reflection for this new year.



Pilgrims receive:

- Daily prayer prompts
- Robust formation sessions (by livestream or recording)
- Daily challenges to grown in holiness
- Discussion questions for your small group
- A community walking with you

You can still register and join at www.archmil.org/emmaus-90.

Financial assistance is available. Contact Rob Hoffmann at (414) 453-3875 x 18 or rhoffmann@stpiusparish.org.

Youth Faith Formation

Sarah Daszczuk

Tri-Parish Director of Youth Ministry

SUMMER 2024

HS MISSION TRIP JUNE 17-23 KNOXVILLE, TN	HS STEUBENVILLE CONF. JULY 26-28 ST. PAUL, MN	MS MISSION TRIP JULY 8-11 KENOSHA, WI
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PARENT INFO MEETING:
 Jan. 21, 9:15am in the Christ King Parish Center.

Ready for a summer that will change your life?

Join us for a week of service or our weekend youth conference.

Space is limited, sign up today!

To learn more, visit

www.triparishfaithformation.org/mission.

Finding Light in Winter by Mary Pipher

The mornings are dark, the late afternoons are dusky, and before we finish making dinner, the daylight is gone. As we approach the darkest days of the year, we're confronted with the darkness of wars, a dysfunctional government, fentanyl deaths, mass shootings and reports of refugees crawling through the Darién Gap or floundering in small boats in the Mediterranean. And we cannot avoid the tragedy of climate change with its droughts, floods, fires and hurricanes. Indeed, the world is pummeled with misfortune.

We can count ourselves lucky if we do not live in a war zone or a place without food or drinking water, but we read the news. We see the disasters on our screens. Ukraine, Israel and Gaza are all inside us. If we are empathic and awake, we share the pain of all the world's tragedies in our bodies and in our souls. We cannot and should not try to block out those feelings of pain. When we try, we are kept from feeling much of anything, even love and joy. We cannot deny reality, but we can control how much we take in.

I am in the last decades of life, and sometimes I feel that my country and our species are also nearing end times. The despair I feel about the world would ruin me if I did not know how to find light. Whatever is happening in the world, whatever is happening in our personal lives, we can find light.

This time of year, we must look for it. I am up for sunrise and outside for sunset. I watch the moon rise and traverse the sky. I light candles early in the evening and sit by the fire to read. And I walk outside under the blue-silver sky of the Nebraska winter. If there is snow, it sparkles, sometimes like a blanket of diamonds, other times reflecting the orange and lavender glow of a winter sunset.

We can watch the birds. Recently, it was the two flickers at my suet feeder with the yellow undersides of their wings flashing, the male so redheaded and protective, the female so hungry. Today, it may be the juncos, hopping about our driveway, looking for seeds. The birds are always nearby. Their calls are temple bells reminding me to be grateful.

For other kinds of light, we can turn to our friends and family. Nothing feels more like sunlight than walking into a room full of people who are happy to see me. I think of my son and daughter-in-law on my birthday, Zeke making homemade ravioli and Jamie baking an apple cake, their shining eyes radiating love. Or of my friends, sitting outdoors around a campfire in coats and hats, reciting poetry and singing songs.

We also have the light of young children. My own grandchildren are far away, but I spend time with 9-year-old Kadija. My husband and I are sponsoring her family; they arrived here from Afghanistan, with only the father speaking English, just a few months ago. Already, she can bring me a picture book and read "whale," "porpoise" and "squid" in a voice that reminds me of sleigh bells. I know someday she will be a surgeon, or perhaps a poet.

In our darkest moments, art creates a shaft of light. There is light in a poetry book by Joy Harjo, in a recording by Yo-Yo Ma and in a collection of Monet's paintings of snow.

The rituals of spiritual life will also illuminate our days. In my case, it is sun salutations, morning prayers, meditation and readings from Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese Buddhist monk and influential Zen master. Also, it's the saying of grace and the moments when I slow down and am present. Whatever our rituals, they allow us to hold on through the darkness until the light returns.

Finally, we will always have the light of memory. When I recall my grandmother's face as she read to me from "Black Beauty" or held my hand in church, I can calm down and feel happy. I feel the light on my skin when I remember my mother at the wheel of her Oldsmobile, her black doctor's bag beside her. Driving home from a house call, she would tell me stories from her life on a ranch in the Great Depression and during the Dust Bowl.

Deep inside us are the memories of all the people we've ever loved. A favorite teacher, a first boyfriend, a best friend from high school or a kind aunt or uncle. And when I think of my people, I'm suffused with light that reminds me that I have had such fine people in my life and that they are still with me now and coming back to help me through hard times.

Every day I remind myself that all over the world most people want peace. They want a safe place for their families, and they want to be good and do good. The world is filled with helpers. It is only the great darkness of this moment that can make it hard to see them.

No matter how dark the days, we can find light in our own hearts, and we can be one another's light. We can beam light out to everyone we meet. We can let others know we are present for them, that we will try to understand. We cannot stop all the destruction, but we can light candles for one another.

Mary Pipher is a clinical psychologist and the author, most recently, of "A Life in Light: Meditations on Impermanence."

Source: www.nytimes.com/2023/12/11/opinion/love-light-winter-darkness.html

Health Ministry

Free Harm Reduction Kits Saves Lives

In an effort to prevent overdoses, the Wauwatosa Health Department provides free harm reduction kits. You can pick up the free harm reduction kits from the Health Department Lobby, located on the first floor of City Hall located at 7725 W North Avenue. It is open Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Kits contain a box of Narcan (2 doses), fentanyl test strips, a medication disposal packet that deactivates medication, a CPR face shield, information about local resources, and a business card for the substance use specialist in the health department. The Health Department also had gun locks available separately from the kit. All of this is available for free. (You do not need to be a resident to pick one up.)

The Health Department's efforts include prevention and risk reduction around opiates, prescription drugs, marijuana, and alcohol use. If you or someone you know needs assistance with substance use, please contact Hannah Feest, Public Health Specialist – Substance Use, at (414) 831-5542 or hfeest@wauwatosa.net.

Also, Milwaukee County's Department of Health & Human Resources and Behavioral Health Services, have placed 11 Harm Reduction Vending Machines within critical need areas of the county.

These vending machines provide free access to harm reduction and prevention supplies, including fentanyl test strips, nasal naloxone, medication deactivation pouches, medication lock bags, and gun locks. The area will be expanding in 2024.

To view the map for their locations, the Overdose Data Dashboard (includes Wauwatosa) and more information visit: county.milwaukee.gov/EN/DHHS/BHD/Harm-Reduction-Vending-Machines.



Thank you to all those who brought in Christmas cards and colored pictures for the homebound and to those who put together the cards and poinsettias!



Justice & Peace

The members of the Justice and Peace Commission continue to gather information about the topic of food insecurity and organizations that serve those that are food insecure.

In the new year, we hope to provide information and activities to heighten everyone's awareness of this grave social problem. Ideally, we will create a calendar of events and actions to lead us through and beyond Lent. Watch for updates in upcoming newsletters and the weekly bulletin.

BUT DID YOU KNOW? At St. Pius X, we have a long history of helping those in need of food. At this time, we:

1. Provide meals once a month for the St. Vincent de Paul meal program
2. Have food drives three times a year for the Tosa Food Pantry
3. Collect hundreds of pounds at our Advent Food Sunday donation drive
4. Financially support Bread for the World, an advocacy organization to end world hunger.



A worker from the Hunger Task Force collecting the Advent Food Sunday donations. And this wasn't even all of it!

Catholic Identity

Holly Cartier

With the crazy wonderfulness of Christmas behind us, I am feeling very reflective. While I don't really believe in New Year's resolutions, based on my track record, I feel as though this is a chance to change some things in my life. While I try to be active in my faith community, I am hoping to be a better representative of a life in Christ.

During one of our Friday reflections on the Sunday readings (after Friday morning Mass), a participant talked about faith in action. I have been contemplating this phrase and, as any child of the internet age, decided to google it. In the Bible, James says "Faith without action is dead." Others say faith is the noun, the ability to believe, but that ability must be used and acted upon in order for our faith to be an active living thing.

Throughout the gospels we can see Jesus urging those he worked with to take action, those he cured and those he taught. "Take up your cot, your faith has saved you," "Go your way," "Go show yourselves to the priests," "Come to me, Peter." For all who asked for a cure, for belief, for God to work in their lives, Jesus demanded an act of faith. I believe God is still asking us to act on our faith and I am intent on trying to grow my faith through action in this new year. In his Christmas day homily, Fr. Paul called us all to action, to be the ones who bring Christ to our workplace, our home, our community. Let us all work together to make a change in our world, bringing Christ to all and all to Christ.

This is our faith, this is our Catholic Identity.

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

Stewardship Commission

Sue Haertel, SDS

The villagers in Giovuva are celebrating their new well thanks to your generosity! Find out more about the villagers and their new well in the letter below.

Dear St. Pius X Community,

I am delighted to report on the successful completion of a Living Waters Project well at Giovuva village. The village is home to over 800 people; the majority of which are small-holder farmers. For many years, villagers had been living without access to clean water for domestic uses. They relied on unprotected traditional shallow wells, and consequently, the villagers were frequently hospitalized due to the use of contaminated water. The village leadership struggled for many years to secure funding or a donor to build the water project, but with no avail. Fortunately, when they reached to us at SWLD, we examined the situation and found that this village was really in need of safe water. During our site visits, we found villagers drinking dirty water from the traditional unprotected shallow wells, which by all measures were unsuitable for human consumption.

Thanks to the funds from the Living Waters Project, this well became a reality. Your project is a fundamental strategy in the fight against poverty among villagers and increasing social justice. During project inception visits we noticed that every morning, poor women walked for several miles to secure a few liters of water for household uses. This means of collecting waters from several kilometers was less efficient and caused hindrance to economic progress, especially to agrarian communities. This well is good news to many as it breaks the chains of sufferings and poverty. On behalf of SWLD and the villagers, I sincerely express much thanks to you for supporting our thirsty poor.

Many thanks,

*Dr. James Nyangas
President of SWLD
(Safe Water for Life & Dignity)*





St. Pius X Parish Community

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 Mass, 9:30am Parish Office Closed <i>Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**</i>	2 Health Ministry, 6:00pm, MA	3 Mass, 8:00am Formation & Evangelization, 7:00pm, FJ	4	5 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	6 Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm	
7 - Fellowship Sunday Mass, 8:00am Mass, 10:30am	8 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Liturgy Commission, 6:00pm, FJ J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church	9 J&P, 7:00pm, FJ	10 Mass, 8:00am Pastoral Council, 7:00 pm, FJ	11 Boy Scouts, 6:15pm, 101 Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 7:15- 8:45pm, Church	12 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	13 Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm	
14 - Fellowship Sunday Mass, 8:00am Mass, 10:30am	15 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Stewardship Commission, 5:30pm, FJ J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church	16	17 Mass, 8:00am	18	19 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	20 Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm <i>Salvatorian Sunday</i>	
21 - Fellowship Sunday Mass, 8:00am Mass, 10:30am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 9:00-10:15am, CK Baptism Preparation Class, 11:30 am, FJ CGS 1 & 2, 1:00-2:30pm, CK <i>Salvatorian Sunday</i>	22 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel CGS 2, 4:15-5:45, CK Finance Council, 6:00pm, FJ RCIA, 6:00pm, Zoom J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church	23	24 Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK CGS 3, 6-7:30pm, CK	25 Boy Scouts, 6:15pm, 101	26 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ CGS 1, 10:00- 11:30pm, CK	27 Reconciliation 4:00- 4:30pm, Church Mass 5:00pm	
28 - Fellowship Sunday Mass, 8:00am Mass, 10:30am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 9:00-10:15am, CK CGS 1 & 2, 1:00-2:30pm, CK Middle School YM, 4-5:30pm, CK HS Alpha, 6:30-8:00pm, CK HS Small Groups, 6:30-8:00pm, CK	29 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel CGS 2, 4:15-5:45, CK RCIA, 6:00pm, Zoom J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church	30	31 CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK CGS 3, 6-7:30pm, CK	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 Sundays = Join us for donuts, juice and coffee served after the Sunday Masses in the cafeteria <i>*Contact the parish office or scan the QR code to request the Zoom link.</i> <i>**Not a holy day of obligation</i>			

St. Pius X Parish Community Adult Faith Formation Survey



Thank you for completing this survey! You may choose more than one answer for the questions below. Please return this by Monday, January 15th to the baskets in the back of Church, or bring it in or mail it to the parish office. You can also fill it out online at www.stpiusparish.org/adult-ministry.html.

How do you prefer to learn?

- In a small group
- On my own
- Formal classroom setting
- Mini-retreats

Which days are most appealing for programs?

- Sunday
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday

Any other comments or requests?

What type(s) of media do you prefer using to get your information?

- Print materials
- Video presentations
- Audio presentations (CD or streaming)
- Live presentations
- Websites

What times of the day are the most appealing for programs?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8:00 am | <input type="checkbox"/> 2:00 pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00 am | <input type="checkbox"/> 3:00 pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10:00 am | <input type="checkbox"/> 4:00 pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 am | <input type="checkbox"/> 5:00 pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12:00 pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 6:00 pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:00 pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 7:00 pm |