

THE PIUS PRESS

The monthly newsletter of St. Pius X Parish Community

A Reflection from Fr. Paul

As I reflected on the Gospel for the feast of Christ the King at the end of November, I was struck in a different way than ever before by Pilate's question, "What is truth?" This was caused, I think, by having endured a presidential campaign year in what is called a "battleground state," bombarded constantly by ads, people knocking on doors, etc.

What is "truth?" With the reality of social media and people believing whatever they want, discarding facts and ignoring what science says, it can become difficult to know.

In the midst of all the confusion and misinformation, we are blessed to have Jesus, who tells us the truth. I am not referring to dogmas or rules, but rather how to live our lives so that we can be happy and at peace. Here are some examples:

Forgive 70 times 7: there is so much wisdom in forgiving and not holding grudges. When I hold on to anger and resentment, I am unhappy. As I read somewhere, it is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die. Not only am I happier when I forgive, but the atmosphere in an office or a family will be more peaceful and comfortable for everyone.

Blessed are the meek: when I have to be right all the time, when I have to be first, when I have to be important, I am placing stress on myself. I have to do better, I cannot relax. When I can concentrate more on the welfare of others in addition to my own, I will be more relaxed, more pleasant to be around. I will be more comfortable and so will others.

When I was hungry, you gave me to eat: another way we put stress on ourselves is by wanting more and more "stuff," as we go through life. Why do we need the latest smart phone when the one we have works perfectly and takes care of all our needs? Why a bigger house? More clothes? Etc. When we can share with those in need, instead of worrying only about ourselves, we will be happier and those we have helped certainly will be, also.

All of these are win-win situations, that is, not only are we happier, but those around us will be happier and better off, also. These are just a few examples, but if we examine what Jesus calls us to by His words and actions, we will find that He always calls us to a win-win: it isn't just about "me"; it is about "us."

"What is truth?" If we want the real truth about life, what it means and how to live it, we simply have to pay attention to the words and actions of Jesus. There is no way we can go wrong! God bless.

Parish Updates

Fr. Paul Portland, SDS

Sister Parish Collection

Our donation of \$14,551 from this year's collection arrived in Tanzania. I received this note from the pastor: *I would like to thank you so much again for the contribution of this year. I already got informed that the money has been received by the Provincial Treasurer. I once again appreciate you and all the team you are working with. I am preparing my report and will send it to you as soon as I finish. May God bless all of you always and in all ways. My regards, Fr. Cuthbert.*

Prayer Network

Do you know that our community has a prayer network? If there is an intention that you would like the network to pray for, just send me an e-mail and I will let the group know. If you would like to be a member of the group and pray for these intentions, send me your e-mail and I will put you in. This is a wonderful way to support each other.

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Parish Updates, cont.

Parish Survey & Parish Goal

Periodically I have sent out a survey to all parishioners, asking how things are going and soliciting ideas for the future. This information has been very helpful to the Pastoral Council and other leadership teams in serving the parish. Various committees have discussed how often we should have a survey and when would be the best time of the year to do it. At its December meeting, the Pastoral Council decided that we should do a survey every other year and that it should be done in September or the beginning of October, so that the results can be sent out in the November newsletter, with an opportunity for discussion and questions at the annual parish meeting, held in mid-November.

It has also been a while since we have reviewed the parish goal. The Pastoral Council suggested that our next survey (September 2025) include questions about the goal, so we can determine if it is still relevant or if we need to discuss a new one. Our current goal is: *Energize and grow our membership by providing a welcoming environment with strong adult formation and activities for all ages to foster spiritual growth and a strong desire to make disciples of all people.* So, know that a survey will be coming in September, including questions about our goal. In the meantime, I am always open to suggestions on how things can be better. Thank you for your involvement.

Adult Formation Events

Thank you to Rob Hoffmann for the excellent faith formation opportunities that he is providing. The Advent Evening Reflection by Sr. Carol Thresher, accompanied by the musical performance by cellist Braden Zitoun, was a meaningful help to enter into the spirit of Advent. I have also heard positive things from those that have attended scripture and other discussions. I am sad that more do not take advantage of these opportunities. Time and effort spent on our faith formation is well worth it. Please consider joining in some of our opportunities in 2025.

Volunteer Opportunity of the Month

Each month I am highlighting an opportunity for involvement in our community. This month it is **servicing for FELLOWSHIP**. After both Sunday Masses, from Labor Day until Memorial Day, we serve coffee, juice, and Cranky Al's donuts to those who come to the cafeteria to spend time in community. Volunteers are needed for 2 shifts each weekend: one to set up before the 8:00 am Mass and be present during the first fellowship, the other to be present during the second fellowship and clean up afterwards. More volunteers are needed. You are able to choose the times that you will serve. For more information on what is involved or to get on the list of volunteers, please e-mail Sarah Willmering at sapphire12345678910@gmail.com. Please consider helping out. Thank you.

As we enter 2025, I thank you for being part of our community and accompany you in prayer: may 2025 be a healthy and spiritually enriching year for you and your family. God bless.

Paul James Portland, OFS



Braden Zitoun filled our church with beautiful music during the Advent Evening Reflection.

See more photos of our Faith Formation Advent programs on page 7!

Adult Faith Formation

Rob Hoffmann

Director of Adult Formation

Jubilee Year

I'd like to share a letter written by Pope Francis in 2022 on the upcoming Jubilee celebration next year.

"The Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church. Ever since 1300, when Boniface VIII instituted the first Holy Year – initially celebrated every hundred years, then, following its biblical precedent, every fifty years, and finally every twenty-five years – God's holy and faithful people has experienced this celebration as a special gift of grace, characterized by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God. The faithful, frequently at the conclusion of a lengthy pilgrimage, draw from the spiritual treasury of the Church by passing through the Holy Door and venerating the relics of the Apostles Peter and Paul preserved in Roman basilicas. Down the centuries, millions upon millions of pilgrims have journeyed to these sacred places, bearing living witness to the faith professed in every age.

The Great Jubilee of the year 2000 ushered the Church into the third millennium of her history. Saint John Paul II had long awaited and greatly looked forward to that event, in the hope that all Christians, putting behind their historical divisions, could celebrate together the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of humanity. Now, as the first twenty-five years of the new century draw to a close, we are called to enter into a season of preparation that can enable the Christian people to experience the Holy Year in all its pastoral richness. A significant step on this journey was already taken with the celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which allowed us to appreciate anew all the power and tenderness of the Father's merciful love, in order to become, in our turn, its witnesses.

In the last two years, not a single country has been unaffected by the sudden outbreak of an epidemic that made us experience first-hand not only the tragedy of dying alone, but also the uncertainty and fleetingness of existence, and in doing so, has changed our very way of life. Together with all our brothers and sisters, we

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



Christians endured those hardships and limitations. Our churches remained closed, as did our schools, factories, offices, shops, and venues for recreation. All of us saw certain freedoms curtailed, while the pandemic generated feelings not only of grief, but also, at times, of doubt, fear and disorientation. The scientific community quickly developed an initial remedy that is gradually permitting us to resume our daily lives. We are fully confident that the epidemic will be overcome and that the world will return to its usual pattern of personal relationships and social life. This will happen more readily to the extent that we can demonstrate effective solidarity, so that our neighbours most in need will not be neglected, and that everyone can have access to scientific breakthroughs and the necessary medicines.

We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity. Here I think in particular of the many refugees forced to abandon their native lands. May the voices of the poor be heard throughout this time of preparation for the Jubilee, which is meant to restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone. As the Bible teaches, "The sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you; for your cattle also, and for the beasts that are in your land, all its yield shall be for food" (Lev 25:6-7).

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Jubilee letter from Pope Francis, continued...

The spiritual dimension of the Jubilee, which calls for conversion, should also embrace these fundamental aspects of our life in society as part of a coherent whole. In the realization that all of us are pilgrims on this earth, which the Lord has charged us to till and keep (cf. Gen 2:15), may we never fail, in the course of our sojourn, to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home. It is my hope that the coming Jubilee Year will be celebrated and experienced with this intention too. Growing numbers of men and women, including many young people and children, have come to realize that care for creation is an essential expression of our faith in God and our obedience to his will.

I ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to accompany the Church on the journey of preparation for the grace-filled event of the Jubilee, and to you and your co-workers, with gratitude, I cordially send my Blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 February 2022, Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes.

FRANCIS”

**The Saints -
The Original Social Influencers**

Dates: Every Sunday*
Time: 9:15 - 10:15 am
Location: Francis Jordan Room

Let’s learn more about the Saints! Join us between the Sunday Masses as we explore the lives of the Saints whose feast days are celebrated that week.

*No session on January 12th

ADULT FAITH & WELLNESS CIRCLE PROGRAM

Do you remember your last New Year’s resolution? Did you make the changes you aimed for? If the answers to these questions is not what you wanted, consider joining one of our **Faith and Wellness Circles** this January!

Participating in a Faith & Wellness Circle with members of our St Pius X parish community is an excellent way to set a realistic goal and start the steps to meet it. In this program, you can engage in meaningful conversations about the integration of faith and wellness that have the power to change what you want in your life.



The program consists of one-hour sessions with Circle members for 6 weeks, giving you time and support to select, start and keep your resolution.

A Faith and Wellness Circle:

- Focuses on possibilities, not problems
- Will help you “be still” and hear God’s call to you
- Invites you to share what you want, how you want
- Will help you reduce and better manage stress
- Will help you take concrete steps toward achieving you goals

Several members of our St Pius X community recently met for a learning and training session to prepare as facilitators of our Faith and Wellness Circles earlier this month.

The kickoff session will be held at St Pius the week of January 19th. Subsequent sessions will be scheduled and can be held in person or via Zoom, depending on the preference of your Faith and Wellness Circle members.

The Faith & Wellness Circle program is based on the premise that wholeness is a gift from God and how fully we choose to manifest that wholeness in all aspects of our lives is a gift back to God. Join us for this wonderful opportunity to aid and inspire your walk with Christ.

Register by calling the parish office, visiting <https://bit.ly/4fEFos5> or scanning the QR code. After you register, program materials will be emailed to you so you can start to familiarize yourself with the self-assessment and program sessions.



Stewardship

Sue Haertel

Well Update

Another well has been built! Learn about how this new well is benefiting the people of Jamhuri!

Dear Madam Sue and all,

It's my pleasure to inform you that SWLD has successfully completed a well in the Jamhuri community. Currently, there are over 800 people who will use this well; most of them are small-holder farmers. The well has greatly enhanced the availability of clean water, which is required for drinking and sustaining human life. We are enthusiastic about how it will improve the general health of the community and agricultural output.

This village has struggled for many years to obtain clean water for domestic use. The people faced a severe shortage of water and they used to get their water from traditional shallow wells, which were considered unsafe. Waterborne diseases and infections were extremely common in the village.

Apart from sickness, the village's persistent water problems caused a slew of issues, including poverty and decreasing economic production. With the building of this well, we anticipate a considerable decline in water-borne diseases and an increase in everyone's quality of life. By strengthening farmers' health and enabling them to fully engage in crop production, this well will promote food security for the entire community and boost the economy.



To help their community, the village leadership searched for a benefactor but was unsuccessful. We are grateful to the Living Water Project at St. Pius X for providing the funding, without which this project would not have been viable. An elderly woman shared with us her experience of waking up every day early in the morning and walking several kilometers to fetch drinking water from a nearby village. That was a terrible experience!

During the handing over of this well, the villagers conveyed their sincere gratitude to the St. Pius X community and the donors. This project has saved many women from previous water ordeals. This change will not only enhance health standards but also help individuals break the cycle of poverty. We anticipate increased collaboration and creativity as the community expands, improving everyone's futures.

*Thank you very much,
Dr. James Nyangas
President of Safe Water for Life & Dignity (SWLD))*

Justice & Peace

Joan Quinn

Special Needs Donation Baskets

Many parishioners, especially those who have just joined, are not aware of all the organizations and programs that their donations to “the baskets in the front of church” support.

The money goes into the Special Needs Fund which is overseen by the Justice and Peace Commission along with Fr Paul. As a part of the universal Church, our parish should be supporting advocacy and charitable groups at a local, national, and international level, which we definitely do, mostly through the Special Needs Fund.

Your donations have supported food programs since we have chosen Food Insecurity as our focus. These include:

- The Wauwatosa Food Pantry
- Tosa Cares
- Kinship Community Food Center
- Fondy Food CSA
- The Hunger Task Force

We also support the following local organizations:

- The ERAS Senior Network
- Legal Action of Wisconsin (a result of our focus on eviction for several years)
- MacCannon Brown’s Homeless Sanctuary
- Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School (the school that rents our school building and does amazing things for the community)

Nationally, we support advocacy groups such as:

- Bread for the World
- Feeding America
- Pax Christi

St. Pius X has been involved internationally for years now with our first sister parish in Guatemala and now with Mother of the Savior in Tanzania. Our Living Waters Campaign has been a Lenten project, building 50 wells in Tanzania, for an amazing 22 years.

It is ONLY through the generosity of our parishioners that we are able to provide this kind of support to programs close to home and those thousands of miles away. THANK YOU for your unending compassion to care for the neighbors among us, near and far!

Catholic Identity

Holly Cartier

New Year's resolutions are a challenge for most everyone to keep. Most people have decided not to work on them after the first few days or weeks. But following our parish initiative of noticing how people act as Christ in our lives and offering a bracelet to thank them, I decided this is an initiative I want to continue, as a resolution worth keeping. If I can't always offer a bracelet, I can at least acknowledge the role of that person in making my world a better place. A smile and a thank you, an appreciative word letting them know I see and am aware of the kindness offered, will return the blessing that person has been to me. After a year or more of experiencing deep division around me, I am more than ready to make being Christlike to others a resolution for the rest of my life. I want to assume the role of peacemaker in my work, my parish, my family, and my community. Won't you all join me in making our world a world of our Faith, our Catholic Identity?

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

Health Ministry

Public Health Vending Machine

In the December 2024 issue of the Pius Press, Health Ministry introduced you to the new Wauwatosa public health vending machine which is available 24/7 for the *community to access free health and harm reduction resources*. It was suggested we share everything the vending machine currently includes*:

- Naloxone (Narcan)
- Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips
- Medication disposal packets
- Pregnancy tests
- Menstrual products
- COVID-19 test kits
- Safer sex kits
- Gun locks
- Personal hygiene kits
- Hand warmers
- Rain ponchos
- Socks
- First aid kits

The vending machine is located outside of Wauwatosa's City Hall near the employee entrance on the south side of the building.

*Some items will change when the weather becomes warmer in the spring.



Faith Formation Photos



Participants in our *Waiting for the Savior* program met weekly during Advent.

They enjoyed a delicious lunch, fellowship and discussion on spiritual writings.



Sr. Carol Thresher, SDS, shared an inspirational message with us at our Advent Evening Reflection.



St. Pius X Parish Community

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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			1 Mass, 9:30am Parish Office Closed <i>Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, a holy day of obligation</i>	2	3 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	4 Reconciliation 3:30-4:00pm, Chapel Mass 4:30pm
5 Mass, 8:00am Mass, 10:30am	6 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Finance Council, 6:00pm, FJ Formation & Evangelization, 7pm, FJ J4J Rehearsal, 7:00pm, Church	7 Health Ministry, 6:00pm, Zoom	8 Mass, 8:00am Pastoral Council, 7:00 pm, FJ	9	10 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ	11 Reconciliation 3:30-4:00pm, Chapel Mass 4:30pm
12 - Fellowship Sunday Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 9:00-10:15am, CK Mass, 10:30am CGS 2/3, 1-2:30pm, CK	13 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Yoga, 8:30-9:30am, 101 CGS 2, 4:15-5:45, CK	14 Justice & Peace, 7:00pm, FJ	15 Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK	16	17 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ CGS 1, 10:00-11:30pm, CK	18 Reconciliation 3:30-4:00pm, Chapel Mass 4:30pm <i>Salvatorian Sunday</i>
19 - Fellowship Sunday Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 9:00-10:15am, CK The Saints, 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, 10:30am CGS 2/3, 1-2:30pm, CK Middle School YM, 6:30-7:45pm, CK High School YM, 6:30-7:45pm, CK <i>Salvatorian Sunday</i>	20 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Yoga, 8:30-9:30am, 101 CGS 2, 4:15-5:45, CK	21	22 Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK	23	24 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ CGS 1, 10:00-11:30pm, CK	25 Reconciliation 3:30-4:00pm, Chapel Mass 4:30pm
26 - Fellowship Sunday Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 9:00-10:15am, CK The Saints, 9:15-10:15am, FJ Mass, 10:30am CGS 2/3, 1-2:30pm, CK Middle School YM, 4:30-5:45pm, CK Alpha, 6:30-7:45pm, CK High School YM, 6:30-7:45pm, CK	27 Mass, 8:00am Rosary, 8:30am, Chapel Yoga, 8:30-9:30am, 101 CGS 2, 4:15-5:45, CK Stewardship, 5:00pm, FJ Finance Council, 6:00pm, FJ	28	29 Mass, 8:00am CGS 1, 2 & 3, 4:15-5:45pm, CK	30	31 Mass, 8:00am Reflection on Sunday Scriptures, 8:30am, FJ CGS 1, 10:00-11:30pm, CK	