

# THE PIUS PRESS

*The monthly newsletter of St. Pius X Parish Community*

## A Reflection from Fr. Paul

It is interesting to note that our words “healthy” and “holy” come from the same root. The Anglo-Saxon word “hal,” the root word of health, had several interrelated meanings: healthy, whole, holy and healing.

So I think it is fair to say that to be “holy” means to be healthy spiritually. There are many aspects to being “holy,” but some of the most important, in my opinion, are these:

The first is to remember that love of God is the greatest commandment and needs to be our main life goal. If I am to be in love with someone, it means I have a relationship with them. So loving God means having a personal relationship, speaking, sharing what is happening, and listening. And to have that relationship, we need to spend time, ideally each day, speaking with the Lord and then being quiet and listening.

The second is to allow our personal relationship with God, our love of God, to flow into love for other people. Jesus made it clear that loving others is how we truly live out our love of God. Jesus calls us to be kind, generous, forgiving, non-judgmental, patient, etc.

So the more we spend time in conversation with the Lord and live the law of love, the holier we will become, that is, the healthier we will be spiritually.

And the ironic thing is this: being healthy spiritually is a big factor in being healthy physically and mentally. When I can let go of hurts and anger, forgiving others, I am happier and have less stress. When love of God shown through love of neighbor is my priority in life, I am happier and have less stress, because I am not trying to be #1, I am not trying to amass more and more, I am not carrying hostile feelings towards others. And you know what? When I am happier and have less stress, I will be healthier physically and mentally. So spiritual health actually feeds into physical and mental well-being.

Lent is a time to reflect on how life is going, adjusting priorities if they are out of balance. Let’s make sure that growing in love of God as shown in love of neighbor is our highest priority. Then we will be healthier spiritually, mentally, and physically. God bless.

## Parish Updates

*Fr. Paul Portland, SDS*

### Help Help!

Our Holy Week services (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday), as well as Easter Sunday, are the highlight of our liturgical life. This Holy Saturday will be extra special because we will be welcoming 1 adult into our community through baptism and 5 will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. However, for our services to function well, we need sufficient liturgical ministers. Below is a list of what is still needed. If you can help, please contact Kathy Wellenstein, our Director of Liturgy & Music, at [kwellenstein@stpiusparish.org](mailto:kwellenstein@stpiusparish.org) or (414) 453-3875 x 14 to volunteer. Thank you.

### Ministers Needed for Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 24<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 am

1 Lector

Holy Thursday – March 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm

1 Acolyte

Good Friday – March 29<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm

1 Acolyte

2 Hospitality

Holy Saturday – March 30<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 pm

1 Acolyte

3 Hospitality

Easter Sunday – March 31<sup>st</sup> – 8:00 am

2 Acolytes

1 Hospitality

Easter Sunday – March 31<sup>st</sup> – 10:30 am

3 Acolytes

2 Hospitality

*(continued on next page)*

## Parish Updates, cont.

### Living Waters

Our Lenten project of building wells in rural Tanzania, so that people have safe water, is in full swing. As of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we have raised \$12,256 in this campaign. Adding in the \$4,184 that was contributed after the 2023 campaign ended, we have a total of \$16,440, which is enough for 3 wells. Please make sure you participate in the campaign, if you are able, which runs through Pentecost (May 19<sup>th</sup>). For more information on the project and to donate online, visit [www.stpiusparish.org/living-waters-project.html](http://www.stpiusparish.org/living-waters-project.html) or scan the QR code. To donate by cash or check, please use one of the envelopes in church. You can also send a check made out to St. Pius X with "Living Waters" in the subject line. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile project!



### Family Mass

Our first Family Mass, in which children will perform liturgical ministries, is coming up on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am Mass. The next one will be on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Visit our website for more information! To involve your child, email Christina Ramsey at [ramseyfamily2007@gmail.com](mailto:ramseyfamily2007@gmail.com). It is a wonderful opportunity to make the Mass more meaningful for them – and you!

### Do You Need a Ride to Mass?

If you or someone you know needs a ride to be able to attend Mass, short or long term, please let me know and I will try to find someone who can provide it. I want everyone to be able to join our community, as we worship God and support each other.

### Reconciliation

Receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent is an important part of preparing to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. In addition to our ordinary time (Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:30 pm), there will be a Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm, with three priests available to hear individual confessions.

There is also an all-day opportunity on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at various parishes around the Archdiocese, including St. Margaret Mary parish (I am one of the priests who will be there between 10:00 am and noon). A list of other local parishes offering confession that day is to the right.

You are also always welcome to make an appointment with me. Make sure you receive this sacrament and its graces during this penitential season.

### Online Reflections

Each day of the week I post a short reflection on the readings of the day on our website, and Facebook and YouTube pages (on Sundays it is the homily from the Mass). My hope is that they will be a help to you for spending a few minutes of quiet time with the Lord each day. I invite you to try them out, if you haven't already!

Let us accompany each other in prayer as we use this Lenten season to grow as disciples who bring Christ's love to others.

ARCHDIOCESE  
of MILWAUKEE

*Pray, Reconcile & Rejoice*

**12 HOURS of**  
*Reconciliation*

On **Wednesday, March 20, 2024**, area priests will be available for the sacrament of Reconciliation at 11 parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

[Click here for more information.](#)

### Parishes close to Pius that are participating:

#### St. Dominic Parish

18255 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield  
8:00 am - 8:00 pm

#### Basilica of St. Josaphat

601 W. Lincoln Avenue, Milwaukee  
8:00 am - 8:00 pm

#### St. Margaret Mary Parish

3970 N. 92<sup>nd</sup> Street, Milwaukee  
8:00 am - 8:00 pm

#### St. Matthias Parish

9306 W. Beloit Road, Milwaukee  
8:00 am - 8:00 pm

## Operations & Finance

Dean Weyer

Director of Operations & Finance

### Finances

Now seven (of twelve) months into our fiscal year our net operating surplus is on pace to the budget for the year. Stewardship giving still lags about \$5,000 behind our budget, but is offset by other favorable income and expense categories.

Now I have some good news and bad news....

**GOOD NEWS:** With the aid of an accounting firm, we've filed an application for an Employee Retention Tax Credit, another "Covid benefit" from the government. We are expecting to realize approximately \$32,000 later this year.

**BAD NEWS #1:** We've discovered a bit of a problem in the school boys bathroom: underground plumbing from some of the urinals is leaking. We're vetting vendor options. It's not a project for your average plumber. A substantial \$15,000-\$25,000 repair that we'll need to address in the next month or two.

**BAD NEWS #2:** Our school roof has sprung a couple new leaks that we hope to be able to address with some patching this spring. If not, that \$250K-\$350K replacement may need to be moved up!

### Pius Continues to Support Catholic School Education!

We are in the middle of registration periods for Catholic elementary schools for the 2024/25 school year. Do you have or want to place your child in a Catholic elementary school? Please be aware that we have funds 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 any school's "non-parishioner tuition penalty"! Additional assistance is also available for even the base tuition costs.

Also, we would like to know of our Pius families that are attending a Catholic high school. There may be some assistance available for you as well.

Contact me at (414) 453-3875 x 16 or [dweyer@stpiusparish.org](mailto:dweyer@stpiusparish.org) for more information!

## Catholic Identity

Holly Cartier

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you (James 4:8). He is a God who can be found. A God who can be known. A God who wants to be close to us. That's why He is called "Immanuel", which means "God with us".

There is no doubt that there are times in our lives when we feel the need for the presence of God more intensely. These can be times of sorrow, desperation, and also of great joy. Our Lenten journey is filled with opportunities to draw closer to God. The three tenets we are asked to apply to our daily lives during Lent: Prayer, Fasting, and Alms-giving, are opportunities to see Jesus in the faces around us and to draw closer to our God.

In the Gospel stories, we see Jesus continually withdrawing from his friends and the crowds to spend time in prayer, looking for a closer relationship with His Father. In the Lenten travels of our souls, let us all find and draw nearer to God who wants to be part of our lives.

*This is our faith, this is our Catholic Identity.*

Holly appreciates your comments at [hcarts.hc@gmail.com](mailto:hcarts.hc@gmail.com).

### Save the Date for the Next Skate Night!

**Date:** Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 6:15 - 8:30 pm

**Location:** St. Pius X Gym

Visit [www.stpiusparish.org/skate-night.html](http://www.stpiusparish.org/skate-night.html) for more information.

## St. Pius X Holy Week & Easter Sunday Schedule

### Holy Thursday - March 28th

Mass - 7:00 pm

### Good Friday - March 29th

Service - 7:00 pm

### Holy Saturday - March 30th

Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00 pm

### Easter Sunday - March 31st

Mass - 8:00 & 10:30 am



*The parish office will be closed on Good Friday.*

## Faith Formation

*Rob Hoffmann*

*Director of Adult Formation*

March is upon us, with a full month of Lenten opportunities to nurture our faith and spirituality. We are continuing our focus on living a contemplative life with a diverse array of offerings:

We began Lent with the availability of the Little Black Books, offering us a beautiful daily meditation.

On Sunday mornings, we are showing short video lectures from local and national Catholic leaders, followed by reflection and discussion, all based on the Archdiocese's *Emmaus 90*. Each week we explore a different aspect of our Catholic faith.

Monday mornings we gather in the chapel after the 8:00 am Mass and pray the sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary, listening to Gospel readings related to each mystery.

Wednesdays we are reading and reflecting on the book "Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton." This book offers us a scripture reading, a passage from Thomas Merton, and a passage from another spiritual writer, challenging us to reflect and dialog on the themes.

As we journey closer to Palm Sunday, the Triduum, and Easter we will have three special events:

On Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, we will pray the Stations of the Cross with "We Adore You, O Christ: Salvatorian Reflections on the Way of the Cross." This new reflection on the stations is celebratory, visual, reflective, and nourishing.

Then, on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, we welcome back Bro. Silas Henderson, SDS, who will give a Lenten Evening Reflection, followed by the singing of Compline (evening prayer) by Aperi Animam, a Milwaukee early music vocal ensemble. Join us and invite your family and friends!

Finally, we can cleanse our souls on Tuesday March, 19<sup>th</sup>, at our Reconciliation Service. A Reconciliation Service is more than just going to Confession. We gather as a community with prayer, song, and the Sacred Word, followed by the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation from one of three priests.

More information on these Lenten offerings can be found on the next page!





# A LENTEN EVENING

*Reflection*




St. Pius X Parish Community

**MARCH | 17<sup>th</sup> | 2024**

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Guest speaker  
**BRO. SILAS HENDERSON, SDS**

Performance by  
**APERI ANIMAM**

### Weekly Lenten Scripture & Spiritual Writing Series on:

*Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton*

**Dates:** Wednesdays during Lent  
**Times & Locations:** 8:30 - 9:30 am in the Francis Jordan Room or 6:30 - 7:30 pm on Zoom

“Who am I?” “Who is God?” “Why am I here?”  
 “What am I to do with my life?”

You are invited to join us for reflection and conversation every Wednesday during Lent. Each week we will discuss a different topic.


No registration is required for the in-person sessions, but if you plan to attend on Zoom, please RSVP using the link or QR code below.

### Additional Lenten Offerings:

**Scriptural Sorrowful Rosary**  
**Dates:** Mondays during Lent  
**Time:** 8:30 am  
**Location:** Chapel

**Stations of the Cross**  
**Date:** Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Church

**Reconciliation Service**  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Location:** Church



**Dates:** Sundays during Lent  
**Time:** 9:15 - 10:15 am  
**Location:** Francis Jordan Room

Explore our faith each week as we watch videos from local and national Catholic leaders, followed by reflection and discussion. No registration needed.

**Registration Link & QR Code:**  
[bit.ly/425Pz2B](https://bit.ly/425Pz2B)



Contact Rob Hoffmann in the parish office at (414) 453-3875 x 18 or [rhoffmann@stpiusparish.org](mailto:rhoffmann@stpiusparish.org) for more information on these programs.

## Justice & Peace

Joan Quinn

Moving through Lent, we hope you will journey with us as we continue to learn more about hunger and food insecurity. Each week, the bulletin will contain a bit of education that we call, "Food For Thought", followed by a simple prayer and action opportunity. We will consider the idea of food insecurity and its causes, what it looks like for children and seniors, and

what the effects of food insecurity can be. We will also look at food insecurity in our own community while we explore ways to make a difference. We encourage you to join us this Lent in whatever way you are able.

## Stewardship Commission

Sue Haertel, SDS

### From a Pond to a Well...

This short story is from Dr. James Nyangas, President of SWLD (Safe Water for Life & Dignity). He is pictured on the right in the group photo below.



*This fall when I was visiting Tanzania, we had the opportunity to visit some well dedications.*

*When we pulled up in our jeep, there was a woman kneeling down to scoop water from a puddle, the water was dirty.*



*I was so touched to know that the next time she needed water, she (circled in picture above) could get clean abundant water from the well we were dedicating.*

*I wish you all could have been there to witness this celebration!*

## Stewardship Commission, cont.

Holly Cartier

This year's Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal, themed "Your Gift Does God's Work," has begun! The Catholic Stewardship Appeal, the annual fundraising campaign of the ten-county Archdiocese of Milwaukee, supports Catholic life throughout southeastern Wisconsin. The Appeal provides Catholics opportunities to support a wide range of ministries and programs that benefit more than 500,000 people each year.

Scan the QR code to watch the 2024 Catholic Stewardship Appeal video and learn how your gift does God's work in the Archdiocese.

To donate, visit [www.catholicappeal.org](http://www.catholicappeal.org), text APPEAL2024 to (414) 348-8380 or mail your check to 3501 South Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235 (check payable to: Catholic Stewardship Appeal).

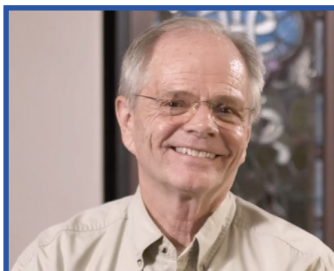
Those highlighted in the video, and a summary of their stories are also included below. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



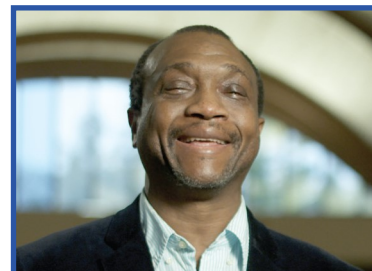
Paul's rent had become too high, and he had to move immediately. Catholic Charities helped him find a new place to live. "I was lost in a fog and the lifeline appeared," said Paul, who is disabled. Your gift to the Appeal does God's work to care for those in crisis across 10 counties.



Angela became a Brew City Catholic Missionary to invite young adults to live as disciples. "I get to walk with students as they learn how to walk with God," she said. Your gift to the Appeal does God's work to help young adults embrace their faith.



Deacon Tom leads a support group for families who have someone incarcerated. "It's a safe place. It's people that genuinely care," said one group member. Archdiocesan deacons provide meaningful service in our parishes and communities. Your gift to the Appeal does God's work by offering compassion.



Simon earned his master's degree in theology through the Archbishop's Scholars Program. His work at Milwaukee's Northwest Catholic Parishes is "fulfilling the call that Christ asked his disciples – to preach the Good News." Your gift to the Appeal does God's work to draw people closer to Him.



## Health Ministry

Pat Bruce

### Hot off the Press!

The Senior Resources' "2024 Health Care Guide for Older Adults" has arrived! It is available for free in the church vestibule in the Health Ministry section (look for a green book near where Fr. Paul sits).

This guide is a wealth of information for older adults, family members and professionals with comprehensive listings and information on: adult day services, care coordination, home care/non-medical, home health, home medical equipment, hospice care, hospitals and skilled nursing facilities in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha counties.

It also gives an overview of the Medicare Program, the Medicaid Program, Family Care and Family Care Partnership, the IRIS Program, professional care managers, what is an ADRC and much more.

For an online copy, visit <https://bit.ly/3uDYelp>.

### Stepping On Workshop

**Dates:** Tuesdays from April 9<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 am

**Location:** City Hall Upper Civic Center, 7725 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa

The *Stepping On* workshop, from the Wauwatosa Health Department, has been researched and proven to reduce falls by 31%! There is no cost, but space is limited! Call (414) 479-8936 with any questions and to reserve your spot. You do not need to be a Wauwatosa resident to attend.

*Stepping On* helps you avoid a fall so you can keep on doing what you love to do. You'll learn:

- How vision, hearing, medication and footwear can affect your risk
- How to identify & remove or avoid fall hazards in your home or outside
- Adaptable strength and balance exercises
- How to get back on your feet safely, if you do fall

### Moving in the Right Direction Seminar

**Date:** Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Location:** Boerner Botanical Gardens (9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners)

This is a free seminar from Bruce's Team (Senior Real Estate Specialists) for seniors and their families! RSVP to Erica Petri at (262) 305-2703.

By attending this event, you will:

- Learn about downsizing resources
- Explore countless Senior Living options
- Access their trusted list of contracts
- Learn the current real estate market

### Need an Easier Way to Read?

You may qualify for FREE library services through the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL) if your ability to read is affected by: a vision impairment, a physical impairment or a reading disability. WTBBL circulation is approximately 400,000 items per year and growing. The collection includes more than 80 magazines, 500 newspapers and more than 100,000 books for all ages, from bestsellers to classics to nonfiction titles in English, Spanish and other languages. Eligible individuals may also borrow amplifiers, headphones, pillow speakers and refreshable display braille eReaders.

For eligibility and more information contact WTBBL at (414) 286-3045 or [wtbbl@milwaukee.gov](mailto:wtbbl@milwaukee.gov), or visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/talkingbooks>.



## Health Ministry, cont.

*Vanessa Harris*

Outreach manager, Milwaukee County  
Eras Senior Network



### **Ring in the New Year with Purpose: Find Fulfilling Volunteer Opportunities at Eras!**

It's not too late to find a fun new year resolution! Volunteering with Eras Senior Network can make a huge impact in your community! Join us in connecting generations and enriching lives as we provide essential services and programs for clients navigating different eras in their lives. Dive into the spirit of volunteerism, spread positivity, and be part of a community where older adults thrive!

#### **How You Can Make a Difference:**

##### **Drive an Older Adult:**

Play a key role in helping maintain independence—provide transportation for healthcare visits and grocery shopping.

##### **Spring and Fall Yard Clean-Up:**

Team up with friends for a chill community project, enhancing living spaces for older adults in need.

##### **Friendly Phone Calls:**

Combat loneliness with casual chats and create positive connections with older adults in our community.

##### **Reading/Tutoring (Waukesha County Only):**

Share your knowledge and love for learning with local students, providing support as a tutor or joining our Readers Café Program.

##### **Pen Pal Program (Waukesha County Only):**

Connect older adult volunteers with elementary students through our Pen Pal Program, fostering easygoing intergenerational relationships.

##### **Flexible Volunteer Opportunities:**

Make your resolution a reality with flexible volunteer opportunities at Eras Senior Network. Whether you can spare a few hours or commit to occasional activities, your contribution matters. Join us in spreading good vibes and creating a place where older adults can thrive.

##### **How to Get Involved:**

Visit [Eras.org](https://www.eras.org) or call (414) 488-6931 for more information on registration, volunteer opportunities, and ways to support Eras Senior Network. Kickstart your year with heart—volunteer with us and be a source of positive energy in the lives of older adults.

