

- *ST. PIUS X* (SOLON SPRINGS)
- *ST. ANTHONY* (GORDON)
- *ST. MARY* (MINONG)

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. — Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Parish Staff

Pastor

Reverend James J Kinney
 P.O. Box 303
 Solon Springs, WI 54873
 Phone: Office 378-4431- ext 4

Office Hours: (usual hours)

Tues - Fri 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Closed Monday & Weekends

Office Staff

Bookkeeper/Secretary
 378-4431 - ext 2

Religious Formation/Church Services

715-378-4431 - ext 3

RCIA

715-378-4431 - ext 3

Office E-mail: stpiusx@centurytel.net

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Fr. Kinney: pomp1o2000@yahoo.com



New Parishioners

Call the office (378-4431) to register full or part-time.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Due to the Covid-19 virus the Sacrament of Reconciliation (only through a screen- 6 feet away) by appointment and parishioners must call Fr. Kinney directly to arrange for a time that is convenient.

Mass Schedule

In-person masses have been cancelled effective 11/22/20. Live-streamed masses are held Tue-Fri at 9:30 am, Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 10:30 am. These masses can be viewed on Facebook or the tri-parish website. See links at the bottom of this page.

Visitation of the Sick

We are most eager to help anyone who cannot celebrate Mass with us because of illness, handicap or age. If you wish to receive the sacrament please call the rectory. Please notify us of any hospitalizations so that we may be of assistance.

The second collection this weekend is for the Building Fund

Mass Intentions Week of 12/29/20 - 01/03/21

Arlene Johnson—Charles R. Brown Family
 Tim Sweeney—Charles & Colleen Ries

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In Christ's Mass, it is always Christmas
Terrance Klein
December 23, 2020 , America Magazine

With the creation of Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim, Charles Dickens left an indelible mark on Christmas, indeed on the English language itself. We call people “scrooges.” “A Christmas Carol” has become a classic, but the great Victorian novelist wrote many other tales especially for the Christmas season—four other novels and 21 short stories. Why so many? Having worked as a child in a shoe-blackening shop, Dickens always feared poverty. He felt he needed the income these stories generated each year.

But the holiday meant more than money to Charles Dickens. Christmas was the Gospel as he understood it. The novelist was neither churchgoing nor much concerned with doctrine, but he was deeply moved by the message of Jesus. Everything Dickens wrote and his many acts of charity proclaimed his belief that we love God by loving the poor and the outcast. Bob Cratchit expresses his creator's view when he tells his uncle Scrooge that he has always thought of Christmas time as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creature bound on other journeys.

Dickens' first proper novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, is not about Christmas, though it includes a wonderful Christmas party, rife with roaring fire, candlelight, dancing and mistletoe. The scene opens with a lovely paragraph about how our longing links one Christmas to another.

Many of the hearts that throbbed so gaily then have ceased to beat; many of the looks that shone so brightly then, have ceased to glow; the hands we have grasped have grown cold; the eyes we sought have hid their luster in the grave; and yet the old house, the room, the merry voices and smiling faces, the jest, the laugh, the most minute and trivial circumstances connected with those happy meetings, crowd upon our mind at each recurrence of the season, as if the last assemblage had been but yesterday! Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveler, thousands of miles away, back to his own fireside and his quiet home!

Dickens chose charity over chapel, Christmas over Easter. Did he realize that the melancholy adults experience at Christmas hints at our longing for immortality, of the need for Easter to redeem Christmas?

We cannot recapture “the delusions of our childish days.” The old man cannot find “the pleasures of his youth.” Nor need we, because in Christ's Mass, every Christmas we have ever known—“the hearts that throbbed so gaily” and “the looks that shone so brightly”—has been summoned into the savior, gathered into the resurrection meal he gave us.

Each year we return to Christmas, just as we return to all the other feasts of the Christian year. We do not, however, say that the Lord returns because Christ never leaves Christmas, just as he never leaves Good Friday or Easter. In his resurrection and glorification, Christ lifted our time into his own eternity.

When we come to Eucharist at Christmas, we believe that time warps in upon itself. Christ is born today, is baptized today, dies today, rises today. We move through time; Christ does not. We return each year, but Christ and those who belong to him remain forever in Christmas. At this altar, grandparents, parents, friends and lovers are still warmed in the candle glow of Christ. They forever feast. We are the ones still sentenced to wander back into the cold, dark night of time.

Christmas without Christ's Mass is condemned to melancholy, but at Eucharist, the saints of all ages are summoned to Bethlehem. Here, there is no true past or proper future. There is only Christmas.

For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord (Lk 2:11).

	Solon	Gordon	Minong
Envelopes			
Loose Change			
Fuel	Due to early bulletin submission dates the collections will be reported next week		
Building Fund			
Christmas Flowers			
Haiti			
Holy Days			
Charity			
Total			
CSA Goals	\$10,531	\$6,789	\$13,639
CSA Results			
% of Goal			
Electronic Donations (Monthly)	565.00	235.00	308.17

Mass Schedule—Live Streamed
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StPius.StMary.StAnthony>
 Tuesday—Friday: 9:30 am
 Saturday: 5:00 pm
 Sunday: 10:30 am
Website: <https://www.stspiusmaryanthony.com/parishioners-page>



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Even the slightest flicker of a light helps to properly orient us when we find ourselves in total darkness. Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. We lose our focus and struggle to find our bearings and achieve balance. On life's journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. We do not see the full picture, either because we are distracted, disinterested, or even apprehensive. Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God's revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see?

Pray For our friends and neighbors who are ill or homebound. If you know someone who should be put on or removed from this list, please call the office.

Dawn DenHartog	Joseph Treb
LaVerne Treb	John Poole
Virginia Bartelt	

Readings for the week of January 3, 2021

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:34-44
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

**Joseph Upko Hospitals & Research Institute
 and
 Joseph Ekuwem Pastoral Foundation**

Read about this tri-parish charity project in Nigeria on the website at:
<https://www.stspiusmaryanthony.com/nigeria>

Kids Corner

Hey Kids!

It's Jan. 3rd and we are celebrating Epiphany today although Epiphany is Jan. 6th. Epiphany means "manifestation" which is a big word for "show" or "make known" (or show and tell!) It's when the Three Wise Men came to see Baby Jesus and bring him gifts. Melchior brought gold for Jesus' royalty since Jesus is Christ the King. Balthazar brought incense for divinity since Jesus is the Son of God. Casper brought Jesus myrrh which is a bitter herb and symbolizes Jesus' suffering and death. If you were going to see Baby Jesus, what gift would take? A teddy bear, a tiny football, a musical toy? The best gift you can bring is your promise to try to be good, be happy, and always do the best you can—not just at Christmas, but all year 'round. Wouldn't Jesus just love those gifts? Just think of all the great gifts Jesus has given us all year 'round!

The people who say mass in English celebrate Epiphany on the Sunday after New Year's Day while other Catholics celebrate Epiphany on Jan 6th and call it "Little Christmas." They give their gifts that day and really party it up. Maybe your family could celebrate Epiphany with a "Little Christmas" party. Be sure to invite Jesus!



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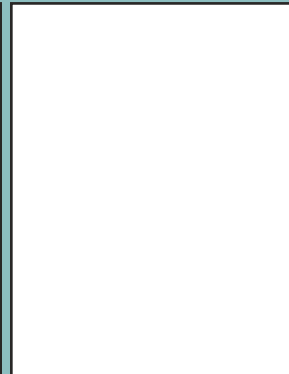
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