

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." — Lk 1:41-42

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

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

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:30 am—St. Pius and 10:30 am—St. Mary

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 9 am—St. Pius

Wednesday: 9am—St. Mary's

Thursday: 9 am—St. Anthony

Friday: 9 AM - St Pius (Not a Christmas Mass)

Christmas Eve : 5PM St. Mary's

Saturday: Christmas Day : St. Pius 8:30 AM St. Anthony's 10:30 AM

Holy Family : St. Anthony 4 PM



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—
Cheri Mann
378-4431 - ext 2

Religious Formation/Church Services and RCIA

Kathy Birtzer
715-378-4431 - ext 3

Office E-mail: stpiusx@centurytel.net
Bulletin E-Mail : jodi.stpius@gmail.com
Fr. Kinney: pomp1o2000@yahoo.com

New Parishioners

Call the office (378-4431 ext. 2) to register full or part-time.

Support Local Business

Mass Intentions Week of
12/19/21–12/25/21
† Patricia Cosgrove
St. Mary's Parishioners

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Building Fund,

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Advent Confession:
Fr. Francis Adoboli and
Fr. Kinney will be available
for confession at St. Pius,
December 19, 1:30 PM .

Saturday—3:30 pm—St. Anthony
or by appointment by calling
Fr. Kinney, 715-378-4431 ext 4

Visit our website:
[https://
www.stspiusmaryanthony.co](https://www.stspiusmaryanthony.co)

Dec. 19, 2021: Fourth Sunday of Advent
by Mary M. McGlone

This is the day for the little ones, the marginated, the ones most people don't notice. Start with the fact that Micah is classified among the "minor" prophets, less illustrious than his contemporaries, Isaiah, Amos and Hosea. Adding to that indignity, scholars agree that the selection we hear today was probably written by someone else. So much for greatness!

Nevertheless, Micah, a man from the insignificant countryside, was perfectly situated to understand God's preference for working through the very people who never attain places of prominence. Thus, Micah tells Israel that just as their greatest king emerged from obscurity, God's future plans will come about through people equally unnoted or even disdained.

If our reading from Micah suggests that we look to the peripheries of importance to find God's work, the selection from Hebrews refocuses this message as a critique of superficial or externalized religious practice. Interpreting the divine motive for the Incarnation, Hebrews' author quotes Christ praying: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me."

While that might sound like a simple explanation of Christ's coming, the subtext undermines sacrificial practice as a way to please God. This is hardly a new message. Sayings from the prophets Isaiah and Hosea and Psalms 40 and 51 figure among multiple scriptural statements of the same idea.

According to Hebrews, Christ became flesh, not to offer sacrifice, but to carry out the will of God on Earth. That transfers the most important of religious activities out of the temple and into the streets where all people are invited to consecrate their own body and activity to fulfill God's will. Again, it's the little people in the center.

Today's Gospel presents the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, the two women pregnant with the future God was preparing. Representing the era when Christianity emerged from its Jewish roots, the young woman goes in joyful haste to meet the elder who receives her with equal joy.

Continuing the pattern of God's action through those considered small, the revelation of God's future plans comes to life through women. Zechariah, the one man involved, was a minor official among the 18,000 priests in Palestine at the time these events happened. Then, as Mary and Elizabeth met, he could only observe in deferential silence.

With all the wonder, the stories and hymns surrounding the Nativity, it is easy to overlook Elizabeth's hymn of praise in today's Gospel. Mirroring her ancestor Sarah who did the work of hospitality and then laughed at hearing God's improbable promise to her and Abraham, Elizabeth welcomes Mary and her unborn child with a delight that could only be expressed in song: "Blessed are you!" Then, celebrating the grace they shared, she sang, "Blessed are you who believed!"

In all humility, as the elder ceding to the new, Elizabeth declared that the miraculous child of her womb was secondary to the one Mary bore. As the mother of the forerunner, Elizabeth became the first to proclaim faith in Jesus, calling him "my Lord" even before he was born. With this, Luke depicted his interpretation of the emergence of the Christian era from God's historical relationship with Israel.

Elizabeth, like her mothers in the Hebrew tradition, rejoiced in God's goodness without any hint of rivalry with Mary. Mary, even more than those who went before her, risked her reputation and therefore her life by accepting the angel's invitation before she was with a husband. In so doing, she did what her Son would do and ask of his disciples: She gave up her life for the sake of God's plan. Once she accepted God's invitation, she had nothing left to lose; she was as free as Jesus would promise others they could be.

These readings invite us to prepare for Christmas as the feast of God who becomes small and dependent on the little ones of history. They remind us that being marginalized by people of influence represents no impediment for people willing to allow God's plan to come to fruition through them.

In a very direct way, these readings call the church to recognize how God has acted and continues to work through women in spite of, or even because of the way they are excluded from official positions of power and prestige. Luke paints a vivid picture of women giving life to the good news in the presence of a silenced priesthood.

Today's liturgy offers the little ones of history the promise that God truly works through them and a challenge to risk allowing that to happen while the privileged are challenged to remain silent enough to perceive where God is working in spite of them. Blessed are we when we discern how the Lord's promises are being fulfilled!

[St. Joseph Sr. Mary M. McGlone serves on the congregational leadership team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.]



12/05/21	Solon	Gordon	Minong
Envelopes	\$509	\$175	\$1373
Loose Change	\$23	40	\$5
Fuel	\$110	\$1100	\$23
Building Fund	\$60	\$25	\$56
Haiti			\$20
Christmas Flowers	\$30	\$10	\$20
Total	\$732	\$1350	\$1497
Electronic Dona- tions ((November)	\$755	\$320	\$1404.14
CSA Goals (2021/22)	\$10,655	\$6,460	\$14,026
CSA Results (as of: 11/02/21	\$4530	\$5965	\$6795
% of Goal	43%	92%	48%

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

Dawn DemHartog Joseph Treb
 Laverne Treb John Poole
 Virginia Bartelt Cami Marie DenHartog

Little Flowers Girls Club

For girls of any age wishing to learn more about the Catholic Faith through virtues, Saints, and liturgical celebrations

Crafts - Games - Songs - Snacks - Fellowship
 January 5th - Meeting from 5-7
 in the Old Village Hall
 January 19th - Epiphany Party
 from 5-7 in the Old Village Hall
 Contact Megan Trautman at:
 816-273-9739 or mbtrautman14@gmail.com

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/
 Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
 Monday Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
 [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
 Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14
 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
 Friday: **Morning:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3,
 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/
 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
 Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/
 Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
 Saturday **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/
 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- ◆ St. Pius Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Jr. High program will meet this Sunday, December 19 after the 8:30 Mass.
- ◆ Sunday, December 19, St. Pius is looking for volunteers to stay after Mass and help to decorate the church for Christmas. Rumor has it that there may be delicious treats and fellowship afterwards!
- ◆ St. Mary's is looking for nominations or volunteers for two Parish Counsel members. Please contact the parish office for nominations or to volunteer for these positions.
- ◆ If you are interested in being a Reader/Lector please contact Fr. Kinney at the parish office: 715-378-4431
- ◆ There will be a 9 AM mass Friday, December 24 at St. Pius. This mass is an Advent mass and does not fulfill the Christmas Mass obligation.

Schedule for Christmas Masses :

December 24 5 PM St. Mary's
December 25 8:30 AM St. Pius
10:30 AM St. Anthony

Schedule for the Feast of the Holy Family

December 25, Saturday
4:00 PM St. Anthony's
December 26, Sunday,
8:30 St. Pius
10:30 St. Mary'

December 31: NO MASS - The Solemnity of Mary is **NOT** a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

Schedule for the Solemnity of the Epiphany

January 1 (Saturday): 4PM St. Anthony's -
January 2: 8:30 AM St. Pius
 10:30 AM St. Mary's

PLEASE NOTE : The Solemnity of Mary is **NOT** a holy day of obligation this year. Therefore, there will not be a Mass for this Solemnity.

- ◆ After the Christmas holidays, please save your used Christmas cards for CCWM to make homemade Christmas cards for Middle River/Aspen nursing home in 2022. There will be a box at the back of each of the churches for you to drop in your used Christmas cards. Or you may give them to Emily Stegmann or Megan Trautman at St. Pius, Janet Johnson at St. Anthony, and Josie Johnson at St. Mary's. CCWM appreciated your assistance by providing us with your used Christmas cards."
- ◆ Milly Thiesson and Sharon Monahan will be ending their positions as co-presidents of the CCWM on January 1. We send our gratitude and appreciation to these ladies for their service, love and care they dedicated to this position!
 Emily Stegman and Megan Trautman will be the new co-presidents of the CCWM beginning on January 1. We thank these ladies for their "yes"!

For more information on events and activities, Little Flowers or Catechesis of the Good Shepherd check out our website at:
Stspiusmaryanthony.com

RECONCILIATION

St. Pius Church will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sunday, December 19 at 1:30 Pm. Fr. Kinney and Fr. Francis Adoboli (Pastor at St. John's in Webster) will be available for confessions.

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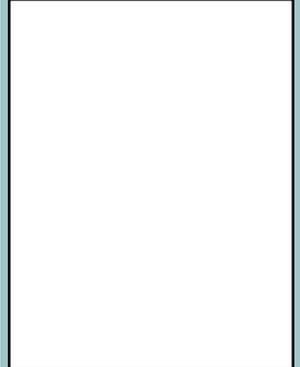
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