ST. PIUS X

310 WESTFIELD STREET, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

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MASSES

Sunday Vigil: 5:00 pm (Saturday)
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am & 12:00 Noon
Weekdays: 7:00 & 9:00 am
Saturday: 9:00 am Only
Vigil of Holy Days: 5:30 pm
Holy Days: Please see schedule inside bulletin.

FRIARY OFFICE

P: (860) 347-4441
F: (860) 347-3001

Office Hours:
Sun: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Mon-Fri: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Sat: 9:30 am - 6:30 pm

FAITH FORMATION CENTER

(860) 346-9100

STAFF

Rev. Martin Curtin, OFM Cap.
Pastor

Rev. Ernest Bedard, OFM Cap.
Parochial Vicar

Kathy Lampron
Administrative Assistant

Peggy Wichowski
Receptionist

David Rogalski
Supervisor of Maintenance

Kimberly Molski
CRE (Pre K - Grade 5)

Carol Butler
CRE (Grade 6 - Confirmation)

Andrew Berezowski
Michelle Donahue
Gail Saltus
Music Ministry

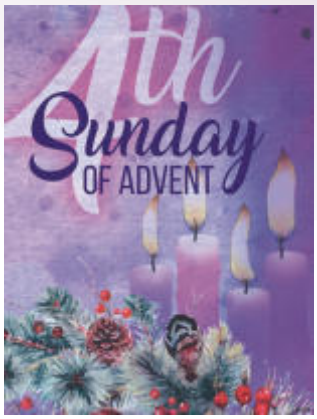
SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Twice a month at 1:30 pm for registered parishioners. Instruction for parents is required. Arrangements must be made in advance.

Marriages: Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance.

Care of the Sick: Please advise us of anyone from your family who is sick or hospitalized that we may keep them in prayer, visit them and bring the sacraments.

Reconciliation:
Saturdays at 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Thursdays before First Fridays at 4:00 - 4:30 pm
Other times by appointment



CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS
PROVINCE OF ST. MARY

WELCOME TO ST. PIUS X

WE ARE A TITHING PARISH

We extend a warm welcome to all who attend our church. We hope that you find our parish community a place where your life of faith will be nourished. We also hope that you will share your special gifts with the community. Your prayers, your presence, and your talents are most welcome. Please introduce yourself after Mass. May God bless all of you.

St. Pius Parish Mission Statement:
We, a community of faith, have come together to respond to God's invitation to become holy by living the Gospel. We strive to do this through our awareness of God's presence, our sense of responsibility to one another, and our response to needs within and beyond the parish of St. Pius X.
"Love one another, as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

Saturday, December 19
5:00 PM Dec. Irene Cosgrove

Sunday, December 20
7:30 AM Dec. J Antonio Aguenza
9:00 AM Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life from St. Pius Parish
10:30 AM Dec. Cheryl Morris
12:00 NN Dec. Jennie & Paul Tarbetsky

Monday, December 21
7:00 AM Special Intention Angela Scirpo
9:00 AM Dec. William Tipping

Tuesday, December 22
7:00 AM Capuchin Benefactors
9:00 AM Special Intention Linda E.

Wednesday, December 23
7:00 AM Book of Deceased
9:00 AM Dec. Maria Oliveira

Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve
4:00 PM Living & Deceased Parishioners
6:00 PM Living & Deceased Parishioners
8:00 PM Living & Deceased Parishioners
10:00 PM Living & Deceased Parishioners

Friday, December 25—Christmas Day
7:30 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners.
9:00 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
10:30 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners

Saturday, December 26
9:00 AM Special Intention Tyler Midkiff
5:00 PM Dec. Lisa Augeri

Sunday, December 27
7:30 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:00 AM Dec. Ana Pangelian Diaz
10:30 AM Dec. Bryan Arthur Knorr
12:00 NN Dec. Salvatore J. & Mary A Scirpo

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in loving memory of ***Ed & Dave Myjak.***

Advent Vespers—Sundays at 5 PM
Everyone is invited to join us!

Stewardship Is Our Way Of Life

Tithing (Stewardship) is an important way to consecrate ourselves to the Lord. Our gift is made holy because we give thanks and praise to God without strings or conditions.

Stewardship of Treasure

All are asked to prayerfully consider tithing and return 10% of our income to the Lord (5% to the parish, 5% to God's other charities) in gratitude. The spiritual practice of tithing disposes us to place God first in every area of our lives!

Week 24—December 13

	2020 - 21	2019 - 20
Actual Sunday Offering	$7,532.	$9,070.
Electronic Giving for the Week	$4,732.	$3,276.
	$.12,264	$12,346.

"Tithing—Putting God First" - Stewardship

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Stewardship of Time and Talent

Spending Time with God in Prayer:
Check our FORMED—The Catholic Faith . On Demand. Now available to all St. Pius Parishioners! Check the notice in this week's bulletin

Talents in Service to God and Others
We are looking for ushers and cleaners at the Christmas Masses. If you would like to volunteer your service—please call the Friary Office.

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/ Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Friday: 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. 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 Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Pastor's Desk December 20th

This week parishioners should have received a beautiful Christmas mailing with a nice card. It will also have the Christmas schedule of Masses. We added a Christmas Eve Mass because our capacity is smaller. There are also envelopes: a special Christmas collection and a special flower envelope.

I want to make a special case for the Christmas flowers. Flowers are signs of affection. Like our love it is not so much practical as beautiful. In our culture we think of flowers firstly as a sign of romantic love and a sign of religious devotion secondarily. Historically it is the reverse. People first brought flowers to altars then romantic lovers grabbed the gesture in the course of the late Middle Ages as a courtly derivation of religious love. Human religious devotion is an echo- or as the song goes: "Only a shadow of your love for me" God presents himself as a newborn child to us. The Traditional Christmas carol- is titled – "Lo how a rose e'er blooming." God's love for us in the incarnation is not pure practical- it is a tender child - a risky proposition, but it is beautiful that baby in a manger.

We decorate the Church for his birth, the active of celebration, and on through Epiphany as an echo of his tender devotion.

Fr**. Martin **Curtin

Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24 : 4, 6, 8. 10 PM

Friday, December 25: 7:30, 9, 10:30 AM

Reservations are Required and can be made by accessing the link below:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45afaf2babf8c07-christmas

Or you may call the Friary office at 860-347-4441

Please plan on arriving 10 minutes before Mass begins. Ushers will be available to check you in and seat you. Due to social distancing - families might not be able to sit all together.

Ushers Needed!

Would you like to help usher at Mass? We are looking for 5 ushers at each Mass to help check in people, seat people etc.

Training will be provided and we will let you know the date and time.

Cleaners

We need to sanitize the Church after each Mass and are looking for a couple of people who may be willing to stay after Mass for a few minutes—to help clean the Church.

Please call the Office if you can help out this Christmas Season.

FORMED® PICK OF THE WEEK

December 20, 2020

WATCH

CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY

Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.

Our Parish has a FORMED Subscription.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup

And select our parish

Exciting News!!!
St. Pius X Parish has purchased a gift for you! It will be available starting December 1st.

Introducing FORMED, the Catholic faith on demand. FORMED is an online streaming service available from any device connected to the internet. Discover thousands of books, audio talks, movies, documentaries, and studies...there is something for everyone to help them grow in their faith.

Our parish subscription will start on December 1st. As of that date, you can set up your own account through our parish subscription by taking these easy steps:

1. Go to FORMED.org/signup
2. Enter our zip code, 06457, and then click on St. Pius X Parish
3. Enter your name and email address
4. Start enjoying all FORMED has to offer

More information coming!

Prayer Shawls & Lap Robes Available

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has many Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes available to parishioners, family and friends. These items have been washed, blessed and stored in closed plastic containers in the Friary for more than a year. I would be happy to prepare a Shawl or Lap Robe for you to pick up from the Friary Office during regular business hours. Please consider giving a Shawl or a Lap Robe to a grateful recipient as a gift this Christmas. Please contact Ginny Delaney at (860) 788-6599 and we can make arrangements. I would ask for your name, contact number, the name of the recipient, their choice of a Shawl or Lap Robe and their favorite colors. I will try to honor their requests as best as I can. Thank you for helping the Prayer Shawl Ministry to distribute the work of our hands.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for the members of our parish who are suffering serious or chronic illness. Please take some time this week to remember them. If you or a member of your family would like the faith community of St. Pius to join you in prayers for special needs, contact the parish office at 860-347-4441. They will be remembered during the Masses that week and then listed in the bulletin for three months. To remain on the list after three months, a follow up call to the friary is necessary. *Bob Frederick, Brady D. Bettinger, Tito DiBenedetto, Brant Masse, Art Tierney, John Cole, George Morton, Ellen, Jenny Boutin, M. Arsenault, Fr. Don Bosco, Henrietta Reust, Lily Vartanian, Jackie Hinczynski, Rosemary Russo, Sheila Guerin, Linda Dobb, Pat Green, Joan Dyer, Glenn R. Inman.*

Please pray for the souls of our faithful departed and remember those whose anniversary of death occurs this week*: Charles Gaffney, Lucietta Garofalo, John Gunther, Rosemarie Skoglund, Kathlyn Grady, Bernard Jarzebek, Lucille Sciacca, Lawrence Sowa, Michael Simmons, Sr., Richard Nelson, Angelina Kane, Delphis Bibeault, Jeanne Ide, Julia Alfonso, Vincent Novotny, Donna Rugens, Sophie Mary Novak, Helen Dowd, Anna Wild, Lillian M. Hoar, Elvira Abramczyk, James Wrang, Rose Pragliola, Kathlyn Hayes, Marie-Loretta Allen, William Gorman, Margaret Catherine Daly.*

Virtual BINGO

Thursday, December 31, 2020 3:30-5:00 PM
GREAT PRIZES AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY Cards are $6 each and will be emailed. Bingo played through internet! To register go to https://bit.ly/skohQtJ or call Marianne at 860-848-2237 ext. 304. Open to all!

Diocese of Norwich, Office of the Bishop. 201 Broadway, Norwich, Connecticut 06360
Christmas Message 2020
"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone." (Isaiah 9:1)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

These words of the prophet Isaiah, taken from the first reading proclaimed at the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, seem particularly poignant for us this year. As we celebrate Christmas and draw near to the end of this calendar year, I think that many of us feel that this has indeed been a year dominated by darkness and gloom. This year has certainly been a difficult one: from the ongoing pandemic that has changed our lives in so many ways and sadly has taken the lives of family members and friends throughout the world, to the devastation wrought by numerous wildfires, hurricanes and natural disasters, continued racial division, as well as what has been one of the most bitterly contentious election cycles in the history of our nation. Chaos and darkness are all around us. It has become increasingly clear, therefore, that our world needs the light of the Lord Jesus now more than ever.

In commemorating His birth at Christmas, it is important we remember that we celebrate something far more profound than simply the Lord's "birthday." What we celebrate is the ultimate triumph of light over darkness. As Saint John writes, referring to the Lord, in the prologue to his account of the Gospel, "…the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) While the world was yet still in darkness, a great light broke forth on the first Christmas night: the unchanging truth of God's abundant love for His people - a love so pure that it took flesh in the person of Jesus, born in the manger at Bethlehem; a love so deep that it enabled the Lord to endure the agony of His passion and death on the cross; a love so powerful that it would destroy even sin and death itself in the glory of His resurrection, affording each of us the opportunity to share in the eternal joy of Heaven.

While our gatherings and Christmas celebrations will indeed be different this year, it is vitally important that we remember this central truth: nothing and no one can change the fact that God has sent His Divine Son into the world and that He suffered, died and rose again for our redemption. The same risen Lord Jesus likewise continues to be present through His body, the Church, as the true light which can dispel the darkness and gloom present in our own lives as well as in the world around us. As individual members of His Church, the Lord is now calling each of us, in the midst of our present challenges and difficulties, to allow His light to shine brightly through the witness of our lives, that, as His instruments, we may bring much needed love, hope, and peace to our families, communities and world, here and now.

And so, in this season of light and hope, let us give thanks to God for the tremendous gift He has given to the world in the person of Jesus and spend some time in prayer, asking how He is calling us to reflect and radiate the light of His love to others.

May you, your families and loved ones have a truly merry Christmas and a New Year filled God's blessings!

Sincerely yours in Christ, *Michael R. Cote*, Bishop of Norwich

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