

ST. PIUS X

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MASSSES

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.

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

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

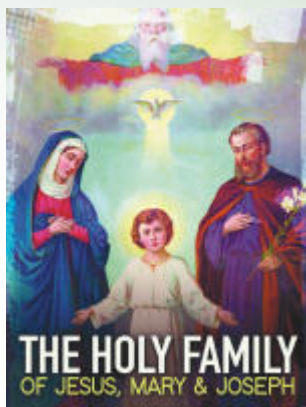
SACRAMENTS

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



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)



Sunday, December 26

7:30 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:00 AM Dec. Joan Barron
10:30 AM Dec. Joan Barron
12:00 NN Dec. Salvatore J. & Mary A Scirpo

Monday, December 27

9:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of the Nite Family

Tuesday, December 28

7:00 AM Capuchin Benefactors
9:00 AM Our Country

Wednesday, December 29

7:00 AM Dec. Frank & Florence Magnano
9:00 AM Special Intention Tyler Midkiff

Thursday, December 30

7:00 AM Dec. Charles & Eleanor Kalinowski, Jr.
9:00 AM Dec. Lanette Petrie

Friday, December 31

9:00 AM Dec. Josephine Reck

Saturday, January 1

9:00 AM Fr. Terrence O'Toole, OFM Cap.
5:00 PM

Sunday, January 2

7:30 AM Dec. Ron Blank
9:00 AM Dec. Dolores Augeri
10:30 AM Dec. James Allen
12:00 NN Dec. Kathy Nenninger



On **Monday, December 27** and **Friday, December 31**, there will be one Mass celebrated on those days at 9 AM. The Friary Office will be closed both those days.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in loving memory of **Gildo Levesque** requested by his family.



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 25—December 19

Due to the Christmas Holiday, this weekend's bulletin had to be sent to press before the calculation of the weekly offertory for December 18/19. Next weekend's bulletin will contain the updated collection total.

"Tithing—Putting God First" - Stewardship

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 JOHN 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

Stewardship of Time and Talent

Spending Time with God in Prayer

What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?

Talents in Service to God and Others

Smile—it's contagious!

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or
1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
Sat.: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

We often think of the 4 weeks of Advent as part of the Christmas Season- and there is some sense in it. The anticipation and preparation is a powerful thing. Christmas itself is not a day. It is an Octave- 8 days of celebrating the same mystery, then the season continues until the Baptism of the Lord or Epiphany. That God was incarnated as a real and true human. That the creator of all things came as a little child- dependent and small, needing help to grow. That is worth chewing over to understand the full implications.

The Sunday that falls in the Octave of Christmas is the Solemnity of the Holy Family. To be human is to need a family. Among the gifts we gave to Jesus a family is a particularly beautiful gift. It is both beautiful and necessary- we can't live without them. But family life is complicated.

The readings trace tensions in good families. The reading from Samuel is a different sort of blended family- it is polygamous and the wife with children harasses Hannah who has none. It winds up to impel Hannah to pray. The answered prayer is a child who will be dedicated to God- Samuel. God moves families to holiness but not without troubles.

The Gospel is the mystery of the finding or losing or maybe even arguing in the Temple. Mary and Jesus- not a sin between the two of them- they bump heads. After searching and returning to Jerusalem Mary expresses her anxiety, worry, frustration. She asks a mom question: "Son, why have you done this to us. Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." Moms ask that question not because there is a good answer but to communicate their discomfort or disappointment

Jesus flips the conversation; he asks a similar question that is really a statement of an unarguable point: "Why were you looking for me? Do you not know that I must be in my father's house?" The best of people- the best of families have moments that they don't understand each other. Each of us represents a mystery- we barely know ourselves fully to say nothing of other people.

Sometimes we think we should understand and be understood better- misunderstandings can sow doubt. Parents raise little people from their first days but there are always mysteries: Why does one child sleep through the night and the other wake and squawk. Why do perfectly sweet children start getting pouty in their teenage years. Where do the weird culture fascinations with certain video games, certain singers come from? They don't come from you.

And parents are a mystery to their children. It's not just the humor and music but why are they so cool about some things and get so much more quickly upset about other things. Why do they inspire so much confidence and yet show insecurity, impatience, imperfection in other things.

God gives parents to children to protect and care for physical needs but also social needs. Parents do this in a process that keeps moving- the children have to grow. Children force parents to become more spiritually mature- to make sacrifices and have the reverence to reflect on their lives in family prayerfully.

Jesus and Mary walk back from the Temple each meditating on the events. Mary carrying it in her heart considering: "What sort of child has God given me who teaches the teachers" Jesus returns to Nazareth and grows in wisdom, age, and favor. He will grow for another 17 years before he teaches in the Temple.

Merry Christmas to your mystery filled families.



Dear St. Pius.

What a success! This year the Middletown Community Thanksgiving Project provided over 879 Thanksgiving Baskets for Middletown families in need. Your donation of Stuffing helped make this possible!

Tuesday, November 23rd was a busy day of bustling activity at Fellowship Church, where residents came to pick up their Thanksgiving baskets. With the continued challenges of 2021 we hosted a "drive thru" pick up this year enabling residents to stay in their cars. They were assisted by dozens of volunteers from different local organizations who helped make this event possible. In addition, members of the Middletown Rotary Club delivered 100 baskets to people who were disabled or otherwise unable to pick them up. The atmosphere was festive and joyous—a reflection of the spirit of community that infused the project from the very start.

On behalf of the entire Middletown Community Thanksgiving Project team, we'd like to extend a heart-felt "thank you" for helping to make Thanksgiving brighter for so many of our neighbors. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely Lara SantaMaria, Project Coordinator

Eucharistic Adoration—Friday Evening

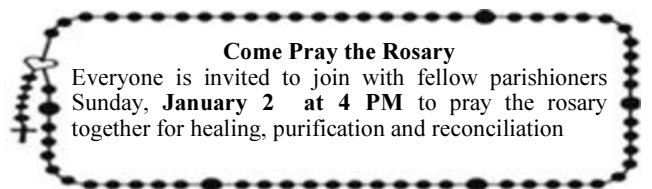
Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. —Matthew 11:28

Are you in need of spiritual comfort and refreshment? Come to Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction **Friday, January 7th** in the church from **7-8 PM** for some quiet prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.



Come Pray the Rosary

Everyone is invited to join with fellow parishioners Sunday, **January 2** at **4 PM** to pray the rosary together for healing, purification and reconciliation





VIRTUAL BINGO FOR ALL AGES

The Office of Faith Events invites people of all ages to participate in Virtual Bingo! Bingo will take place on Sunday, January 9th from 3:30 – 5pm. You will receive your cards online, mark them and even remark them for the next game or you can print them and play. Through video conferencing, we will call the numbers and play different BINGO games from regular bingo, double bingo, picture frame, and finally black out! It is always great fun with lots of gift certificates for prizes! We are only selling 200 cards, so act fast! The cost is \$6 per card for the whole Bingo event! To register for your Bingo card, go to: <https://bit.ly/2Laol7Y> or call Marianne at 860-848-2237 ex. 304.

Our Lady Queen of Hope Award

This coming Spring, during the 2022 Virtual Women's Conference, the Norwich Diocesan Women's Conference Committee will vote on and name the recipient of the second annual Our Lady Queen of Hope Award. This award honors a woman in the diocese for her vision and leadership in the Catholic Church. She displays strong faith, and is committed to living out Catholic values, displaying leadership, love and service, and has been a part of successful initiatives that benefit the Church and has helped to move parish communities forward. You can nominate a woman of the Norwich Diocese for this award by visiting www.norwichdiocese.org and downloading the nomination form or contacting Marianne at manicholas@norwichdiocese.net



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. *Cathy Mena, Mark Partin, Dominick Sassano, Helen Goldman, Jeanette Sassano, Donna Mitkoski, George Morton, Ellen, Jenny Boutin, James McAuliffe, Brady Bettinger, Kyle Kiechle, Joan Dyer, Glenn R. Inman.*



Please pray for the souls of our faithful departed and remember those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: *William Gorman, Margaret Catherine Daly, Warren Commerford, Warren D. Miller, William F. Kenefick, Harold E. Flannigan, Jean Roberts, Helen Caplitcka, Richard Henry Fillion, Catherine Walden, Eva Malone, Antoinette Moore, Leoncia Sylvain, Florence Wilmarth, Vincent Malone, Sr., Girard M. Rinfret, Kunigunde Biggs, Elizabeth Damiaata, Leonard Crouch, Sebastiana Annino, Charles Perkins, Josephine Atkinson, Robert Henry, James Ghezzi, Ruth Serra, Eugene Reynolds, Mary Kosciuk, Carol Carlini, Waltraud Tomasino, William Wilmer, Thomas Shea, Anthony D'Amico, Carolyn Elmeer.*

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

WATCH

FORGIVEN—SESSION 1: WHERE ARE YOU?

As we make resolutions for 2021, don't forget about your spiritual well-being! Through our Forgiven series, you can help guide friends and family to new spiritual beginnings!



FORMED Now!

FORMED NOW!

WHO IS SAINT STEPHEN?

This past week, we celebrated the life of St. Stephen, heroic leader of the early Church. Join Dr. Gray and Dr. Barber as they discuss the first Christian martyr.

LEARN

LISTEN

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: LOVE UNVEILED BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

The feast of the Holy Family reminds us to help our own families grow in holiness. With this in mind, join Scott Hahn as he shares his advice on how to bring sanctity into the home.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY DR. SCOTT HAHN



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