St. Pius X Parish, R.C.

"To Restore All Things in Christ"

February 14th, 2021

Schedule of Masses for Ash Wednesday

February 17th

Ashes will be distributed at each Mass

8:45 am – Fr. Chux
12:15 pm – Fr. Valentine
5:00 pm – Fr. Valentine
7:30 pm – Fr. Valentine

Eucharistic Ministers will be available in the Church between Masses to distribute ashes

Daily Masses during Lent

Thursday, Feb 18th – Wednesday, March 31st

Daily Mass at 8:45 am *(Monday – Saturday)*
Fridays *only* additional Mass at 12:15pm

Mission Statement

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples and Strive to "Restore all Things in Christ."

Welcome to our Parish

No matter what your present or past status in the Catholic Church;
No matter what your current family or marital situation;
No matter what your personal history, age, background, race, or color;
You are invited, welcomed, accepted and loved
at St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church.

Mass Schedule

Monday - Saturday: 8:45 am
12:15 pm *(Friday, only)*

Saturday: 3:45 pm - 5:15 pm

Sunday: 7:00 am - 8:30 am - 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

St. Pius X Parish | 1 St. Pius X Court, Plainview, NY 11803
p: 516-938-3956 | f: 516-433-6138 | www.stpiusxrc.com

Scripture Reflection

(by Fr. Chux)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Turn to the Lord in time of trouble and He will fill you with the joy of salvation.

The man afflicted with leprosy as the Gospel of St. Mark narrates for us in this week's reading turned to the Lord at the worst time of his life, and with the intervention of Jesus, he was filled with joy. St. Mark tells us that the leper was so happy that even though, Jesus asked him to tell no one anything, "the man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly."

Many years ago, the people of Ishiagu, in Ebonyi State, Nigeria were supposed to be a beneficiary of a hospital establishment in their community. The opportunity vanished due to some cultural restrictions that became a political window to deprive them of this unique privilege. In 2005, I decided to intervene in the health crisis of Ishiagu community, in conjunction with Sr. Dolores Castellano and late Dr. Marcel Ajah by organizing annual medical mission trips to this village. The intervention developed into the project of building a hospital for the people of Ishiagu. Little did I know, it was a divine intervention to restore to the community what they had lost in the past.

The people of St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church and other meaning individuals in Long Island and the USA has re-ignited the light of health care for the people of Ishiagu. In the effort to re-ignite the light of good health care for the people of Ishiagu, you were not as St. Paul says in the second reading of this Sunday seeking your own benefit "but that of the many, that they may be saved." God has led you to acknowledge some "outsiders" in your own lives who are now using and enjoying your compassion and your readiness to reach out.

Just as the leper reached out to Jesus and 'kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.' In the same fashion we did reach out to you and out of pity, you said "I do will it." Today, the hospital has been established – INFANT JESUS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, ISHIAGU. The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception has accepted to run the daily operations and medical services of the hospital for the community. In the past three years, we have been collecting medical supplies and sending to the hospital in preparation for the services to the people. A water project launched by St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church community was a successful venture so much so that the nearby communities depend on that water supply during the dry season. This is a healing mission. This is a joy because you have saved a people.

The fact is that just like those excluded and marginalized, those ostracized and hidden, we also await our own touch. We need not be afraid or be threatened by illness or old age because the truth of these conditions echoes our shared inability to stand un-marginalized and un-ostracized before the world. We are all frail, weak and feeble. We are handicapped by sinfulness – 'the leprosy of the soul.' Therefore, our true prayer of freedom is "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

Happy Valentine's Day and continue to spread the Joy of Salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord as we prepare to begin the season of Lent!

We See God in the Ordinary

The Unfailing Goodness of God

I have always wondered why Jesus told the cleansed leper not to publicize how he had been healed by the Son of God. It's not that I can't understand why Jesus would want to keep the matter quiet — after all, he knew that as soon as people heard, he would be mobbed with requests for healings, and his movements restricted.

What gets me is the fact that Jesus simply must have realized the leper would not listen to him. Why give someone a command you know they will ignore? It's a complicated question, and when I reflect on it, I can't help but connect it to another equally complicated question: why does God, all-good and all-knowing, allow bad things to happen?

Yes, God is all-good and all-knowing. So when He gives us free will, He knows what we will do with it. However, He is also all-powerful. He can and will bring good from any situation, any tragedy, or even any instance where someone ignores Him.

Was it a sin for this leper to do other than what Jesus had said? That's a heavy question for a Sunday morning! But it's plain to see that, even though this man ignored Jesus' command, God still used his actions. How many were brought to Christ because of the news spread by this leper!

As someone trying to live out a stewardship way of life, what is God requesting of you right now?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
© Liturgical Publications

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 15
8:45 am Angela & James Kelly

Tuesday, February 16
8:45 am Lucy Hughes, Luke Johnson

Wednesday, February 17
(Ash Wednesday)
8:45 am St. Pius X Parishioners, Linda Munden *(Birthday -Living)*
12:15 pm Marie & Richard Marcantonio *(Living)*, Michael DiCarlo
5:00 pm St. Pius X Parishioners
7:30 pm Victims of Covid-19

Thursday, February 18
8:45 am Josephine Grzechowiak *(Birthday Remembrance)*

Friday, February 19
8:45 am Fr. Joseph Minturn *(2nd Anniversary Remembrance)*
12:15 pm Mary & Howard Fritz, Lucy Hughes, John Durante

Saturday, February 20
8:45 am Mary & John Capuciati, Mary & Frank Phelan

(First Sunday of Lent)
3:45 pm Michael DuBritz, Patricia Boncoraglio, Jim Triola & Family *(Living)*
5:15 pm John Durante, Angela & John Manzi *(Living)*

Sunday, February 21
(First Sunday of Lent)
7:00 am St. Pius X Parishioners
8:30 am Jean Cooperman, Anthony DiNapoli
10:30 am Leo Toth *(2nd Anniversary Remembrance)*, Marie Felicia Hall, Antionette Fisher
12:00 pm Gilbert Alfred Carnevale, Jane Pollicino

Intentions of the Holy Father Pope Francis Universal - Violence Against Women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

We Pray for ...

The Deceased & their Families

Lucy Hughes, Joseph Durante, Pietro Mancini, Luke Johnson, Anita Rehrl, Anthony DeNapoli, Ingeborg DiTieri, Ann Fisher, Virginia Washa

The Sick

Grace DiCarlo, Debra Jean Fisher, Mike & Maureen Kenney, Donna Tortora, Francine Anetrella, Charlie Wagenhauser, Gianna Ragusa, Lisa Hulsen, Stacey Bell, Pertinderjit Hora, Rachel Staiano, Joseph P. Pisanti, Marie & Joe Giambalvo, Alan Rodrigues, Rufina Storelli, Thomas Reilly, Marion Celenza, Miriam O'Connell, Mary Ellen Fagan, Linda Ludwig, Anna Rafter, Joseph Witowski, Nina Antonio, George Rebello, Bridget & Charles McGuinnes, Ben Ciuffo, Adeline Mifsud, Antionette Tarantino, Connie Testa, Theresa DiCarlo, , Richard Dannenhoffer, Joe DiRaimo, Naomi Fonseca, Anne & George Bantleon, Eugene Purnell, Dorothy Endrizzi, Audrey & Ed Coyne, Dcn. John, Sheila & David Burkhart, Mary Ellen Phelan, Marylou & Judy Kohler, Violeta Garcia, Marilyn Reilly, Dorothy Walsh, Evelyn Ludwig, Marina Piccolo, Carol Herlihy, Veronica Gentile, Phil Saglimbene, Rosa Zulo, Anna Sinisgalli, Arlene Benigno, Grace Marino, Rosalie Zurlo, Bill & Elaine Murray, Vincent DeRosa, Lettie Graham, Gloria Plaisance, Margaret LiCausi, Janet Morrissey, Adelaide Motta, Julia Serpe, Joanne Pirraglia, Nancy Pesiri, Mary Canty, Phyllis DeGregoris, Robert Perham, Anne Dailey, Rose Bell, Angela Artale, Lena Jankowski, Angela Borruso, James D. Quinn, Adam Volpe, Rose Rutigliano, Phil Roeske, Rosemary Burke, Donna Lawson Ceparano, Dorothy McKeever, Ann Abitabilo, Barbara Zmoos, Peter Mancini, Eugenie Schirm, Susan Pabst Behrens, Maryann Rietschlin, Alistair Magee, Patti Sullivan, Marie & Richard Marcantonio, Tom Flynn, John Brusdeilins, Terese Blakeney, Rosa Crispino, Carolyn Holland, Russell Worth, Gloria Romuno, Bob Corrigan, Gabrielle Wolf, Pat Walsh, Robert & Muriel Reahl, Debbie Lahey, Mary Posch, Richard Harrigan, Fr. Bob McGuire, Fr. John Whelan, Cathy Gerrity, Grace Carbone

Names of the sick will remain on the Prayer List for 1 month. Please notify the Parish Office if prayers are still requested after 1 month or if the person is deceased.

Safety of our Parish Members in the Armed Forces

Michelle Meyers, Rafael Borrero , Kathleen Donovan *(Army)*
Brandon Sassone, John Brennan *(Navy)*

God Bless the USA!

Special Devotions

Novena to the Immaculate Conception: Every Monday following the 8:45am Mass

Rosary: Monday - Saturday following the 8:45am Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Friday following the 8:45am Mass until 10:15am in the church and the last Tuesday of each month from 9:15am to 7:00pm

Care of the Sick: Please notify the Parish Office if there is any parishioner who is ill at home so that we may administer the proper spiritual care.

NO ADORATION
until further notice

We Give & We Remember

Financially Speaking

February 7	$ 3,153.00
Online	1,930.00
Total	$ 5,083.00

Note: **Second collection on February 20/21 is a special Diocesan collection for the Church in Need.**
Thank you for your generosity!

Clare Crossley
CMA Coordinator

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2021

Goal: $44,091.00

100% of all the money raised is restricted to serve the objectives, programs, and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Touching each of our 133 parishes and more than 600,000 people each year, together we are creating pathways to faith for so many in our community.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Monthly Food Drive Upcoming Dates

February 27/28 ~ March 27/28

In our community there are many families who rely on our generosity!

Put donations in separate bags:
Canned & Boxed Goods / Toiletries
Make sure food items have not expired - No produce

Remember a loved one with a special gift

The remembrance can be for an anniversary, a birthday, in thanksgiving or to remember our deceased loved ones. Stop by the Parish Office to arrange to have the Bread and Wine, Flowers, Altar Candles and/or Sanctuary Lamp donated for someone you love. All donations are for one week (Saturday—Friday).

Altar Flowers … $65 Bread & Wine .. $35
Altar Candles … $35 Sanctuary Lamp …$30
Masses …. $20 *(per Mass)*

HELP - I NEED A MASS CARD

If you need a Mass Card or commemorative gift ... please contact the Parish Office at (516)938-3956 ... We accept credit cards or you can mail a check ... We are here to assist you ... We will mail the Mass card for you ...

Altar Flowers & Bread & Wine

for the week of February 13 - 19

In loving memory of

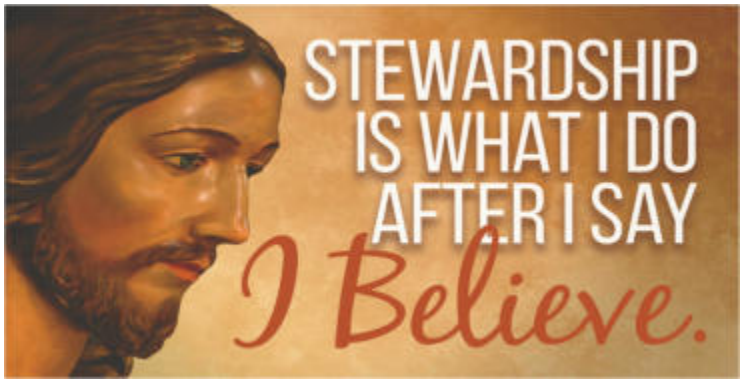
Laura Zucker

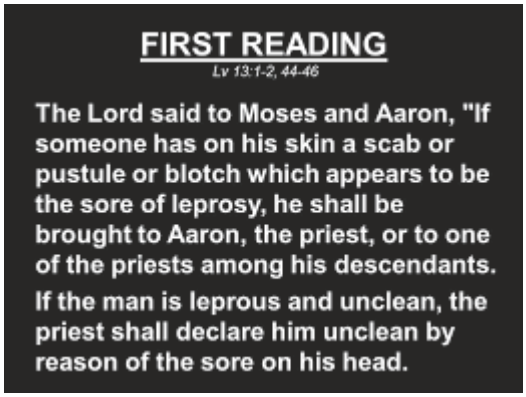
Donated by Gregori & Lynch Families

Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

for the week of February 13 - 19

For all Health workers





FIRST READING: LV 13:1-2, 44-46

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
"If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch
which appears to be the sore of leprosy,
he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest,
or to one of the priests among his descendants.
If the man is leprous and unclean,
the priest shall declare him unclean
by reason of the sore on his head.
"The one who bears the sore of leprosy
shall keep his garments rent and his head bare,
and shall muffle his beard;
he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!'
As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself
unclean,
since he is in fact unclean.
He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 32:1-2, 5, 11

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away,
whose sin is covered.
Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt,
in whose spirit there is no guile.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
my guilt I covered not.
I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD,"
and you took away the guilt of my sin.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just;
exult, all you upright of heart.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

SECOND READING: 1 COR 10:31—11:1

Brothers and sisters,
Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do everything for the glory of God.
Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or
the church of God,
just as I try to please everyone in every way,
not seeking my own benefit but that of the many,
that they may be saved.
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

GOSPEL for
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
MK 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said,

"If you wish, you can make me clean."
Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand,
touched him, and said to him,

"I do will it. Be made clean."
The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.

Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.
He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything,
but go, show yourself to the priest
and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed;
that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter.

He spread the report abroad
so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.

He remained outside in deserted places,
and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

The Church, as a voice of the Gospel, proclaims the sacredness of all human life. Everyone created by God is fashioned in God's image and has Divine DNA at the center of their soul. God never leaves what God creates but always remains intimately bound to what he has given form. Everyone has a place and because they have received the gift of Divine Blessing, nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, unclean or marginalized. Even the most broken of souls has a place. We, the Body of Christ, have the privilege and responsibility to give voice to the voiceless. The cries of the little one in his or her mother's womb are just as sacred as the cries of one who is homeless and hungry. The migrant deserves our attention as much as the forgotten elderly and even the prisoner, with a heart hardened by anger and resentment, deserves respect and dignity.

The Gospel of Life is often hard to swallow, and we would rather keep those we consider unclean, different or unfixable in a place by themselves. It is hard to see them with us, but they deserve to be. There is far too much violence in this world and the result of that violence is the assault on human life. Many are forced to leave the place they call home in search of safer ground, finding few if any along the way who will help them. How different today's Gospel story would be if Jesus gave in to what was politically correct at that time. The leper would have been turned away and a soul, already beaten down by disease and fear, would have experienced an even deeper wound. Jesus wouldn't have captured much attention from anyone, nor would he have mirrored the Father's compassion and love.

Where do we stand with all of this? Do we at least understand that God's vision is often in conflict with the vision put forth in our world and even the one we advance ourselves? There is no doubt that it is incredibly challenging to find a place for everyone at the table. This challenge is compounded when the systems of operation and structure that are so ingrained in us affirm power and privilege rather than inclusivity and justice. Everything really goes askew when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice and entitlement raise their ugly heads and we find ourselves with quite a mess. It's time to admit that things have been a mess for a very long time. The mess needs to be healed, not by erasing it but by allowing God to touch it and make it whole. We need to bring God back to the center of life where God belongs. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But, knowing that wholeness, healing, and dignity are worthy pursuits, we can more confidently labor to achieve God's vision.

©LPi

WHAT's HAPPENING in FAITH FORMATION

Lenten Prayer

As we enter the Lenten season, let us turn our focus to prayer. Why do we pray? Loyola Press describes prayer as a personal conversation with God. Our prayers can be private thoughts or spoken out loud. "All too often, we talk to God only when we need or want something. We can also turn to him when we have happy news or when we want to praise Him or thank Him. Most importantly, when we pray, we remember to listen to God too. Prayer indicates belief in our God who wants to communicate with his people and be involved in their lives. People who pray believe there is something greater than themselves, a transcendent Creator, beyond their understanding but as near as their own breath. Through prayer, we nurture our relationship with God. During Lent, we can explore many ways to pray. We can go to Mass on weekdays or read the Bible." We can pray the Rosary, participate in the Stations of the Cross, or attend Adoration. Make time in your schedule for the Holy Week services. To prepare for the Lenten season of prayer, below are a few prayers and Scripture readings. Write them out and place in a container in your family prayer center. Have members of your family add their favorite prayers or Scripture readings so you have one for every day of Lent. Each day, remove a strip and recite that prayer or Scripture reading with your family, meditate on that passage, talk about it as a family, or even put your thoughts in your Lenten journal.

- Pray the Hail Mary
- Pray the Our Father
- May God be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart.
- As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. *Joshua 24:15*
- Angels sent by God to guide me, be my light and walk beside me, be my guardian and protect me, in the paths of life direct me. Amen.
- God our Father, I offer you today all that I think, do and say. I offer it with what was done on earth by Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.
- Jesus, I believe in you. Jesus, I hope in you. Jesus, I love you.
- God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference. – *Reinhold Niebuhr*
- Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take his cross, and follow me." *Mark 8:34*
- May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

Adapted from Loyola Press, Christ our Life, Lent Retreat for Families

YOUTH GROUP ~ ALL ARE WELCOME

Steve Rhoads, Youth Minister & Ryan Farrell, President

The Youth Group invites the parish family to join them for ...

Family Rosary Night

Monday March 8th at 7:30pm in the church

The Rosary is led by the youth group along with talented Youth providing inspirational music

TEEN Mass

Sunday, February 14th at 5pm

A Word from the Pastor

Valentine's Day

So, WHO was St. Valentine???

St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, bee keepers, plague, travellers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and his feast day is celebrated on February 14th.

Valentine's Day occurs every February 14th. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and where did these traditions come from?

Saint Valentine is said to have ministered to the faithful amidst the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire. AND there are a number of St. Valentine's ... so ... WHO St. Valentine is depends on the legend you read.

The inconsistency in the identification of this saint is replicated in the various vitae that are ascribed to him. A common hagiography describes Saint Valentine as a priest of Rome or as the former Bishop of Terni, an important town of Umbria, in central Italy. While under house arrest of Judge Asterius, and discussing his faith with him, Valentinus (the Latin version of his name) was discussing the validity of Jesus. The judge put Valentinus to the test and brought to him the judge's adopted blind daughter. If Valentinus succeeded in restoring the girl's sight, Asterius would do whatever he asked. Valentinus, praying to God, laid his hands on her eyes and the child's vision was restored. Immediately humbled, the judge asked Valentinus what he should do. Valentinus replied that all of the idols around the judge's house should be broken, and that the judge should fast for three days and then undergo the Christian sacrament of baptism. The judge obeyed. As a result of his fasting and prayer, he freed all the Christian inmates under his authority. The judge, his family, and his forty-four member household of adult family members and servants were baptized.

Valentinus was later arrested again for continuing to evangelize and was sent to the prefect of Rome, to the emperor Claudius Gothicus (Claudius II) himself. Claudius took a liking to him until Valentinus tried to convince Claudius to embrace Christianity, whereupon Claudius refused and condemned Valentinus to death, commanding that Valentinus either renounce his faith or he would be beaten with clubs and beheaded. Valentinus refused and Claudius' command was executed outside the Flaminian Gate February 14, 269.

An embellishment to this account states that before his execution, Saint Valentine wrote a note to Asterius's daughter signed "from your Valentine", which is said to have "inspired today's romantic missives".

There are many other legends behind Saint Valentine. One is that in the 3rd century AD it is said that Valentine, who was a priest, defied the order of the emperor Claudius and secretly performed Christian weddings for couples, allowing the husbands involved to escape conscription into the pagan army. This legend claims that soldiers were sparse at this time so this was a big inconvenience to the emperor. The account mentions that in order "to remind these men of their vows and God's love, Saint Valentine is said to have cut hearts from parchment", giving them to these persecuted Christians, a possible origin of the widespread use of hearts on St. Valentine's Day.

Another legend is that Valentine refused to sacrifice to pagan gods. Being imprisoned for this, Valentine gave his testimony in prison and through his prayers healed the jailer's daughter who was suffering from blindness. On the day of his execution, he left her a note that was signed, "Your Valentine".

How did Valentine's Day begin?

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity but was outlawed—as it was deemed "un-Christian"—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14th St. Valentine's Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14th was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine's Day should be a day for romance. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record St. Valentine's Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem "Parliament of Foules," writing, ""For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate."

Inquiring Minds Want to Know ...

Why did my parents give me this name? The story goes that my parents asked my father's cousins to be my godparents. While they were delighted to receive such an honor, they would only do so if they could name me ... and they chose *Valentine*.

Valentine is a masculine given name derived from the Roman family name Valentinus, which was derived from the Latin word valens, which means "strong and healthy." As we can see from legend, Valentine was a man of faith, a man of love, a man who loved birds ... All of these apply to me.

Over time, I have come to take delight in my name. When introducing myself, you will often hear me say "Valentine - like the holiday". I think my godparents chose an appropriate name for the first-born son of Mary & Dominic Rebello.

REACH OUT - Feb. 14 isn't all candy, roses and cupid arrows: for some folks, the "Hallmark holiday" is one of loneliness ... The loss of a loved-one or a feeling of being unloved or alone or unwanted. This Valentine's Day reach out to someone you know who is feeling lonely.

Make Lent MATTER...

THE GIFT OF A SECOND CHANCE

"Make your hearts firm" Jas 5:8

During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: *"Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum": Make our hearts like yours* (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference.

It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each believer and every ecclesial community. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you.

Excerpt from Pope Francis' Message for Lent

Ashes

Ashes symbolize penance and contrition. They are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, as the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance. Ashes are a plea to God for mercy and compassion, pardon and forgiveness.

Ashes for the Home

Ashes are available to take home to the homebound. You can sign with ashes while reciting "Repent, and believe the Gospel: [Mark 1:15] Small plastic bags will be available for your convenience. The ashes will be on a table near the sanctuary through Palm Sunday.

Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings in Lent
7:00pm in the Church

February 19th - Mary, the Mother of Jesus
Led by *Rosarians & Columbiettes*

February 26th - Stations with Faith & Courage
Led by *our 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Level Students & Catechists*

March 5th - Cross for Today's Disciples
Led by *our 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Level Students & Catechists*

March 12th - By His Cross
Led by *St. Pius X Senior Club*

March 19th - By His Cross
Led by *Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors & CYO*

March 26th - St. Pope John Paul II
Led by *Knights of Columbus, Ushers & St. Vincent dePaul Society*

Fast & Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

A Lenten Letter from Bishop Barres

Lent 2021

Dear Friends:

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan...After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God."(Mark 1:12 – 14) Each year on the First Sunday of Lent, the Church presents for our reflection and prayer the experience of Jesus in the desert. Jesus's experience in the desert follows immediately upon His baptism by Saint John the Baptist and immediately precedes His public ministry and proclamation of the Kingdom of God, in word and in deed. Saint Mark points out to us that the Spirit, who had just descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove, drove Jesus into the desert.

The desert was a barren place, a place of lifelessness, the home of the devil and evil. The Spirit sends Jesus into the desert to prepare himself for the years of His public ministry, ultimately leading to His Death and Resurrection. Jesus spends time away from the world to prepare himself. But He also goes forth into the desert to begin His battle against evil, sin and death. Jesus goes into the very dwelling of evil to begin the confrontation. This battle will continue throughout the rest of Jesus's life. The ultimate victory will come on Good Friday through His ultimate act of love on the Cross.

Our yearly experience of Lent, our forty day "desert experience," can be viewed in the same way. We are inspired and sent by the Spirit to spend some time apart from the world of noise and recover the beauty of silence. But, we are also sent to do battle. Our experience of true silence should allow us the opportunity to both listen to the voice and promptings of God as well as to better know ourselves. This personal battle against sin and evil can be painful, because we come to realize that we are all in need of constant conversion. There are real changes each and every one of us need to make in our lives and our hearts this Lent. But like Jesus, we are not alone. The Lord was ministered to by angels during His forty days in the desert. We are constantly aided by our guardian angels, by the angels and saints in heaven, by the community of the baptized, and by the grace of the sacraments of the Church. Like Jesus, we need to emerge from the desert ready to take on the evils of the world and work to spread the Gospel.

It was only a few short weeks into Lent 2020 that the experience of Covid-19 made radical changes to our society, our Church, and our families. The experience of desert isolation was no longer a metaphor but a lived reality. The experience of having our parishes locked down for months was painful for all of us. Many of us still experience this isolation in many ways. But as Christians we always remain men and women of hope. We know that the Cross of Good Friday leads to the empty tomb of Easter Sunday.

Pope Francis has declared this year as a special Year of Saint Joseph. In Saint Joseph we find a man of profound hope and strength as well as prayerful silence. Scripture does not record one word spoken by Saint Joseph. But Scripture does tell us of his unwavering faith and trust, which go beyond words. Following Jesus, and like Saint Joseph, men and women in the first centuries of the Church began to leave the towns and villages and settle in the isolation of the desert. Like the Lord, they sought to rid themselves of the distractions of everyday life so they too could do battle with evil, and through their quiet example proclaim the Kingdom of God.

This continued throughout the history of the Church, even to our present moment. Saint Antony, Saint Benedict, Saint Bruno, and so many others show us the lived experience of the desert is not an escape from the reality of life but a privileged encounter with the Lord and a revelation of our true selves. While most of us are not called to the monastic or solitary life, the last twelve months have given each of us an experience of solitude. We are encouraged to remain "socially distant." In the midst of the real suffering and hardships this has caused, perhaps the hidden grace is that it has led us to be "temporary monastics."

Our typical Lenten "desert experience" of forty days has lasted a bit longer. But we will come out of it! And like the Lord, when we emerge our goal is to proclaim the Gospel of God according to our vocation and the graces given to us. In addition to our personal sins and the evils present in our own hearts, we live in a world that is right now suffering from real physical illness as well as real division and hurt of every kind. Jesus emerged from the desert bringing the healing presence of God to all he encountered. As the baptized, the Church, the continuing presence of Jesus in the world, we need to do the same. The same Holy Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert is driving us on.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+John O. Barres
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

We Connect

St. Pius X Seniors

Lou Fabiano, President

Greetings!

While we are not yet meeting, we have much to look forward to – your board is still planning.

As of now, "Nashville" is still on schedule, if you have other plans please call Carol or Len (516)314-7806.

Our club while on hold like all others, is still planning some exciting events for the near future!

We are alive and well and still positive in our plans to again be together for cored and pastries and some great entertainment.

We have much to look forward to, 'til then, be careful. Watch for info on where to get vaccine shots, such as Pharmacies, doctors & hospitals.

Your Vice President,
Janet Reilly

STAY WELL & GOD BLESS

For information on upcoming trips or events, please call Lenny or Carol Schroeder at (516)596-2348.

Membership: Questions about membership, please call Vic Orlando at (631)414-7899.

Sunshine: Please call Rose Bell at (516) 694-9086 or (516) 574-9834 with information regarding illnesses, etc.

St. Pius X Knights of Columbus

Tom Hoefling, Grand Knight

The Key Principals of our orders are: Charity, Unity, Fraternity & Patriotism. There is no better way to experience love and compassion than by helping those in need.

Feb 25: Social Meeting,, 7:30pm
Mar 4: Officers Meeting, 7:30pm
Mar 11: Rosary, 7pm, Church followed by General Meeting, 7:30pm
Mar 25: Social Meeting,, 7:30pm

For information, contact Tom at thoefling@optonline.net

CALLING ST. PIUS X CLASS OF 1971!

Hard to believe when we look *this good,* '71 grads, but 2021 marks 50 years since our graduation. Come celebrate the big 5-0 together on Saturday, October 2, back where It all began: at St. Pius. For details, contact Steve Musso: stevejmusso@gmail.com.

(Know a '71 grad? Please pass this on!)

St. Pius X Rosary Society

Barbara Brown, President

May 2021 be one of, LOVE, HAPPINESS AND GOOD HEALTH. We can become an intricate part of St. Pius X Parish by joining ONE of our Ministries. My invitation for this New Year is to personally invite ALL women of our Parish to join the ROSARY SOCIETY. The Rosary Society is a group of women of all ages, who gather on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 11am in the Church to recite the Rosary. When we resume our Meeting on March 13th, I hope and pray to see some NEW faces joining our group, which is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, Mary.

Interested in joining us, contact, Barbara Brown, 516-359-9060.

Columbiettes

Anna Ensmenger, President

Next general meeting: February 22, 7:30 pm

For information, contact Anna at stpiusxcolumb@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

All parish offices will be closed

Monday, February 15th

in observance
of President's Day

Week at a Glance

Worship for Sunday February 13/14
(Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Saturday, February 13
3:45 pm – Fr. Chux
5:15 pm – Fr. Valentine

Sunday, February 14
7:00 am – Fr. Chux
8:30 am – Fr. Chux
10:30 am – Fr. Valentine
12:00 pm – Fr. Valentine
5:00 pm – Fr. Valentine **TEEN MASS**

Worship for Sunday February 20/21
(First Sunday of Lent)
Gn 9:8-15, 1 Pt 3:18-22 —11:1/Mk 1:12-15

Saturday, February 20
3:45 pm – Fr. Valentine
5:15 pm – Fr. Valentine

Sunday, February 21
7:00 am – Fr. Valentine
8:30 am – Fr. Chux
10:30 am – Fr. Chux
12:00 pm – Fr. Valentine

Worship for Ash Wednesday, February 17th

Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

8:45 am – Fr. Chux
12:15 pm – Fr. Valentine
5:00 pm – Fr. Valentine
7:30 pm – Fr. Valentine

Note: Ashes will be distributed at each Mass & available during the day

Ashes will be distributed by Eucharistic Ministers in a COVID-19 safe, contactless process using cotton balls or Q-Tips.

The Church in Need ~ Special Diocesan Collection
February 20/21

On February 20/21 a collection will be taken for "*The Church in Need.*" The monies collected at this time will be shared among three areas of the world where there is particular need for help:

Church in Central and Eastern Europe - the Collection provides support for basic pastoral programs and makes scholarships available for students studying to serve their local church. These students become vital participants in the renewal of the Church in the region.

The Church in Latin America faces many difficult challenges. Natural disasters in many areas caused lasting damage to the Church, while a significant loss of parishioners to migration and to other faiths, the inability to support itself financially, and a lack of priests and religious to help effectively minister to the large number of Catholics continue to trouble the region.

The Church in Africa – the funds will go to assisting African countries where poverty, sickness and political strife prevent people from living in dignity.

Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Info

St. Pius X Parish
270 Washington Ave., Plainview NY 11803
1 St. Pius X Court, Plainview NY 11803
(mailing address)
Telephone (Parish Office): 516-938-3956 | Fax: 516-433-6138
Telephone (Faith Formation): 516-822-8348
E-mail: FrVal.STPX@gmail.com
Website: www.stpiusxrc.com

Office Hours
Monday through Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday and Sunday 9:00am - 1:00pm
Emergency: 516-661-5117

Bulletin Submissions
E-mail submissions to admstpx@gmail.com by 5pm the Saturday one week prior to the bulletin date, and it will be reviewed for inclusion as space allows. Please note the deadline is earlier for all holidays.

Sacraments
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:00-3:45pm or by appointment.

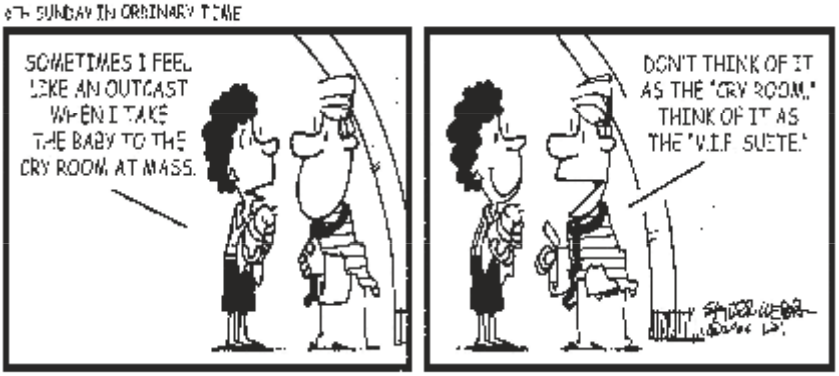
Baptism: The baptismal preparation program is offered throughout the year. Baptisms are celebrated on the second and third Sundays of each month. Please contact the Parish Office at 516-938-3956 to schedule a baptism date before making other plans. Allow at least one month preparation time.

Marriage: Engaged couples must contact the Parish Office at (516)938-3956 at least six months prior to the wedding date you desire and before making any other arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick: Every second and fourth Wednesday of each month after the 8:45am Mass

Other Sacraments: Please contact the Parish Office at 516-938-3956.

RCIA: Are you interested in learning more about Catholicism? Do you have friends or acquaintances who are questioning what Catholicism is all about? Do you have Catholic family members or friends who have fallen away from the Faith? Invite them to investigate the truth about Catholicism by joining the RCIA group here at St. Pius X. Call the Parish Office at 516-938-3956.



We Belong

Stay Connected

Keep us Updated!
Have you moved? Married? Changed your email address? Help us keep our parish database up-to-date by sending us such changes via e-mail to: spxrecty@optonline.net or call the Parish Office at 516-938-3956. Remember to include your name, address, phone, cell, email and other relevant information.

We Need You!
We invite you to review our ministries and get involved! If you wish to volunteer for any ministry, please contact Fr. Valentine at FrVal.STPX@gmail.com or 516-938-3956 for more information.

Ministry for the Sick and Homebound
Please inform us about parishioners or loved ones who are hospitalized, homebound or in a nursing home by e-mailing the pastor at FrVal.STPX@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 516-938-3956.

Visit our Website!
Check the parish website to stay current with parish activities and events www.stpiusxrc.com

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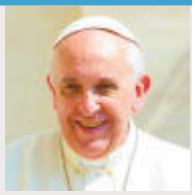

In the spirit of human fraternity, I invite everyone not to forget the most vulnerable populations, and to give particular attention to neglected tropical diseases that affect the poorest people. Let us promote the necessary treatments so that no one will be left behind.

Welcome Newcomers

Welcome!
We are glad you are here. We encourage you to explore the offerings of our parish. We think you will find much here to encourage your engagement in our common spiritual journey.

Register as a Parishioner
If you regularly worship at St. Pius X Parish, we ask that you register with us. Simply e-mail Fr. Valentine at FrVal.STPX@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 516-938-3956.

Information for Families with Young Children
Welcome! Many families with children tend to worship at the monthly Family Mass at 10:30am as well as the 5:15pm Mass on Saturdays which offers contemporary music.

Here are some suggestions to parents to help their children learn to pray the Mass, and create a reverent, prayerful atmosphere at Mass for all ages.

- If you have time, visit the church and walk your child around the worship space and acquaint them with the art, statues and architecture of our beautiful Catholic tradition. Show them the baptismal font and talk about their baptism. Point out the beauty of our stained glass. Stop by the Parish Office - if the pastor is available, he will gladly accompany you on your visit.
- For Mass, arrive early to use the restroom, get a drink, and settle in.
- Children are curious. Sit toward the front. Children will be able to see what the priest is doing and with your help will pay more attention.
- Help your children pray and embrace the Mass. The Mass offers a teaching moment with your children to develop a sense of reverence and respect for the Mass and the sacred.
- Model full participation for your child by actively participating in the Mass responses and singing the hymns.

Parish Staff

Clergy
Fr. Valentine Rebello, Pastor
FrVal.STPX@gmail.com
Fr. Chux Okochi, Weekend Assistant
Deacon John Burkart, Deacon

Staff
FORMATION and COMMUNITY
Gail Gomula, Coordinator of Faith Formation
piuscat@optonline.net
Anne Bantleon, Stewardship & Service Ministries
Maryann Rietschlin, Adult Faith Formation
Marion Celenza, Parish Special Events & Historian
Steve Rhoads, Youth Ministry
Brendan Von Runnen, Youth Ministry
Ryan Farrell, Youth Ministry
Louise Buchanan, RCIA
Carol Ann DalCeredo, Bereavement

LITURGY and MUSIC
Sal Spano, Liturgy
Teresa Arrigo, Director of Music
Maureen Lomenzo & Robin Yakacki,
Contemporary Ensemble

ADMINISTRATION
Rosann Kelly, Parish Administrator
admstpx@gmail.com
José Pin-Amen, Manager of Facilities
Linda Munden, Secretary, Parish Office
spxrecty@optonline.net
Virginia Wildemann, Receptionist, Parish Office *(Friday)*
Jillian Mullen, Receptionist, Parish Office *(Saturday)*
Isabel Notaro, Receptionist, Parish Office *(Sunday)*

SACRISTAN
Brandon Humbert, Isabel Notaro, Vivien Reyes, Michaela Sedita

PARISH TRUSTEES
Mercedes Colwin, Charles Pendola

PARISH COUNCIL
Anne Bantleon *(ex officio)*, Clare Crossley, Ryan Farrell, Brandon Humbert *(chairperson)*, Carly Kuzma, Lisa Layton, Catherine Polz, Steve Rhoads *(ex officio)*, Phil Saglimbene, Sal Spano *(ex officio)*, Claudia Stewart

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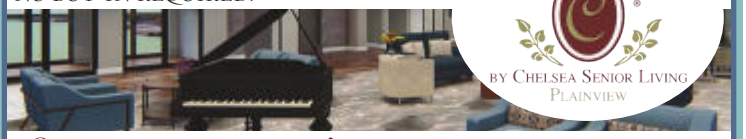

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