

**A NOTE FROM FR. JIM**

As we approach the end of 2006 many people are completing their tax planning and making final decisions on 2006 charitable giving. Please remember St. Pius Parish in your plans as any contributions to St. Pius Church are generally tax deductible. In addition, if you are in the fortunate position of having stock or real estate that has increased in value, contributing a portion of these directly to St. Pius Church may have significant tax advantages. Contributions to St. Pius Church are needed for the general operating fund. Contributions can also be earmarked toward paying off Fitzsimon Center or to our Capital Fund for impending projects such as repairing our beautiful windows, our Church heating system, or our parking lot. Please don't hesitate to call me or visit the Parish Center if you would like to discuss or get more information on these ideas. Your prayerful consideration and generosity to our St. Pius family is greatly appreciated.

**ADVENT GIVING TREES**

As you prepare for your own family holidays, you're invited to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Please notice the Advent Giving Trees in the church vestibule and by the side doors with the colored tags. We hope you will choose a tag and bring your unwrapped gift or gift certificate with you to Mass on the **Third Sunday of Advent, December 16th & 17th**, and place it on the altar. We **CANNOT** accept gifts after the 17th because it will be too late to distribute them. **PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT!** We do need donations of wrapping paper, ribbon & bows which can be placed on the altar. St. Francis Center, the Catholic Worker House, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society will all benefit from your generosity. Thank you!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

Tony Sanchez	Candy Cain	Bill McGrath
Dave Tinsley	Martha Madura	Nader Dahu
Madison Kitz	Scott Buchanan	Scott G. Buchanan
Brent Dorensburg	Jocelyn Maroun	Deacon Steve
Mary Jane Antonucci		

**ALL NAMES WILL REMAIN ON THIS LIST FOR ONE MONTH. PLEASE CALL AFTER THAT TIME IF YOU WOULD LIKE A NAME TO REMAIN ON THE LIST, 361-1411. IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE A CALL THE NAME WILL BE REMOVED.**

**007*****SPY: St. Pius Junior High Youth Ministry***  
**"Seven Is Never Enough" Mt 18:21-22**

Open to all 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students. More info and permission slips at [www.pius.org](http://www.pius.org). For more information, contact Kevin at 365-0140 or [Kevin@pius.org](mailto:Kevin@pius.org)

**Mon., Dec. 11, 7-8:30pm Junior High Leadership Meeting****Tues., Dec 12, 3-4:30pm Rock House Service Project**  
– Gift wrapping and Cookie Baking – Bring an unwrapped toy and wrapping paper and/or ribbon.**Fri., Dec 22, 8am-5pm Shopping Day in San Francisco**  
(Please Note Date Change) *Chaperones needed.***ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PRIEST ?**

Single, Catholic men, 21 years of age or older, are invited to a **Discernment Retreat, Friday, Jan. 26, through Sunday, Jan. 28, at St. Patrick's Seminary.** Questions? Talk to your parish priest.

**NEW ADDRESS**

Msgr. Peter Armstrong has a new address. His new address is 515 Northgate Drive, #301, San Rafael, CA 94903, and his telephone number is (415) 479-1303.

**SAVE THE DATES - WOMEN'S RETREAT**

The Women's Retreat is **March 9, 10, & 11.** Register early & enter a drawing to win a massage. Call Kristine Ball at 306-9766 for more information.

**WOMEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY**

You are invited to a festive evening, **Wednesday, December 13th, 6:30 pm, in Fitzsimon Center.** The evening will feature hors d'oeuvres, a three-course dinner with wine, entertainment and a spectacular raffle. The cost is \$30 for members & \$35 for non-members. Please send the payment to the Parish Center **by December 9th.** Choose between pork, salmon, or vegetarian for dinner. **Please remember to bring an unwrapped toy.**

**FESTIVAL - SILENT AUCTION**

We are looking for volunteers. Is solicitation your forte? Do you have any ideas you would like to share? Join the committee as we can use the help. Contact Kika Kilmartin at 367-6698 or [kmck092488@comcast.net](mailto:kmck092488@comcast.net)

### **CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT - 5 PM**

This will be held at the **5:00 pm Mass only**. If your child would like to participate, please fill out the form below and return it to Karen Elmore at the Parish Center, **by Monday, Dec. 18th. PLEASE SEND IN THE FORM - DO NOT CALL THE PARISH CENTER.**

**No child will be allowed to participate after Dec. 18th.** The following parts are available: Angels & shepherds must be Kindergarten age through 3rd grade. Innkeepers, Gabriel, Star and Three Kings must be 4th through 8th grade. The three innkeepers, Gabriel, Star and Three Kings are on a first-come basis. There is a rehearsal on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, IN THE CHURCH from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.** Angels will need a white or pastel sheet with a hole cut for the head & a gold garland for the tie and one for the halo. **NO WINGS PLEASE!** Shepherds need a dark colored bathrobe or tunic with a towel or material tied around the head. **NO STAFFS PLEASE!** Questions? Call Karen at 207-7682.

My child \_\_\_\_\_ would like to participate in the Christmas Eve Mass Pageant at 5:00 pm, December 24th. He/She would like to be a

(angel, shepherd, innkeeper, Gabriel Star, King)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### **GRIEF MINISTRY**

This two-day workshop for *Grief Ministry* training will be held in the Parish Center on **Friday, January 5th and Saturday, January 6th.** Training will be conducted by Barbara Elordi. If you have any questions or may have an interest please, call Pam Nehrenz at 363-2673.

### **Men's Club Cracked Crab Feed**

**January 13, 2007** - Doors open 6:30 pm  
Price \$35.00 - Raffle Prizes  
Call Mark Engelhart for tickets 365-4029

### **Annual Men's Retreat for St. Pius**

The annual Men's Retreat will be held at Vallombrosa Retreat Center, at 5:30pm on Friday, **Feb. 2, until mid-day on Sunday, February 4th.** Watch the bulletin for more information.

### **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

2006-2007 Fiscal Year as of 12/4/06

Budgeted	\$243,529.52
Actually received	\$237,933.25
Shortfall	(\$5,596.27)

### **Mission Trip 2007**

Each year, the youth of St. Pius & Mt. Carmel travel to Tijuana, Mexico to build houses for several families. **Next year's trip will take place June 9-16, 2007.** The trip is open to youth who will be in 10th, 11th or 12th grades in September 2007 and adults (over 25) who are willing to chaperone. **An information meeting for youth (and parents of interested youth) & adults who are interested in being chaperones will take place at St. Pius on Tuesday, January 16, 2007 @ 7pm.** For more information, contact Kevin Staszko at 650-365-0140 or Kevin@pius.org.

### **High School Youth Ministry**

Open to all 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders. More info and permission slips at [www.pius.org](http://www.pius.org). For more information, contact Kevin at 365-0140 or Kevin@pius.org

**Sun., Dec 10, 6-8pm Advent Party.** Carpool after 5pm mass. (contact Kevin @ 365-0140 or Kevin@pius.org for more information)

**Fri., Dec 22, 8am-5pm Shopping Day - San Francisco**

**Confirmation -- Dec 2006 & Jan 2007**

**Sun, Dec. 10, 3:30 - 6pm -- Candidates & Sponsors**

**Sun, Jan. 7, 3:30 - 6pm - Candidates**

**Sun, Jan. 21, 3:30 - 6pm -- Candidates**

### **DO SOMETHING!**

*Isn't it time to get off the couch and out of the pew and put your faith into action?*

**More info: 365-0140 or kevin@pius.org**

### **Redwood City Day Laborers**

We have an opportunity to minister to the day laborers in Redwood City by bringing them coffee and pastries between 7am and 8:30am on Saturdays or weekday mornings. Commit to a morning a month.

### **English Tutors**

Teenagers and/or adults are needed to tutor students in English. Commitment is one hour per week 4-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Children speak and understand English, but need help in writing, grammar, reading and speaking.

### **ST. PIUS SENIORS**

We will meet on Friday, December 15th. There is **no** meeting on Friday, Dec. 22nd or Friday, Dec. 30th. The Seniors wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

### **BETHLEHEM WOOD CRAFTS - DEC. 9 & 10**

You can purchase olive wood crafts outside the church after all the Masses **this weekend** and help those in the Holy Land by your purchase. Thank you.

## **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

All parish families, ministries, & groups are invited to reflect on the Sunday readings during the week. Here are this week's questions:

Children: **John the Baptist told people about Jesus. How do I tell people about Jesus?**

Adults/Youth: **How can we prepare the way of the Lord?**

### **PUT ON JOY**

Today, Baruch speaks of the splendor that lies ahead for the city of Jerusalem and for all of us, regardless of where home is for us. Throw off strife, he tells us, and put on joy. Like a favorite old sweatshirt, joy fits, and how warm it keeps us, even when the winds blow cold.

Paul knows of this joy as he pens his letter to the Philippians, praying that they may grow in their ability to discern what is righteous and good. And Luke speaks to us of John, who was foretold by Isaiah and who sings a similar song—"Prepare the way of the Lord," for salvation is at hand.

A man ahead of his time, Baruch spent his days joyfully awaiting a distant glory. On this Second Sunday of Advent, Paul and John know that this glory is upon us.

### **TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God (Baruch 5:1-9).

**Psalm** — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

**Second Reading** — I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

**Gospel** — The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth (Luke 3:1-6).

### **SCHEDULED MASSES**

Sat.	Dec. 9	5 pm	The Flores Family (INT)
Sun.	Dec. 10	8 am	Anthony & Dorothy Zraggen
		9:30	People of St. Pius
		11:30	Aldina Corradetti (INT)
		5 pm	Viola Gomes
Mon.	Dec. 11	8 am	Helen Cady
Tues.	Dec. 12	8 am	Marie Goyhenetche
Wed.	Dec. 13	8 am	Helen McCracken
Thurs.	Dec. 14	8 am	Dorothy Zraggen
Fri.	Dec. 15	8 am	Lou Geenen
Sat.	Dec. 16	8 am	Lou Geenen