

WELCOME TO St. Pius Parish!

St. Pius Parish, 1100 Woodside Rd., Redwood City, CA 94061, Fax 369-3641 – www.pius.org -- parish@pius.org

November 29, 2009
First Sunday
of
Advent



Our Mission

The mission of Saint Pius Parish is to develop and nurture a faith filled, prayerful, generous and caring community rooted in the testimony of the gospel and the tradition of our faith.

We hope that your **family** will join our parish family as we strive to love like Jesus and build God's kingdom here on **earth**.

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass: 8:00 am
Vigil Mass: Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday Masses: 8:00, 9:30,
11:30 am & 5:00 pm
Daily Mass: 8:00 am (M-Sat)

Parish Staff

Rev. Jim MacDonald, Pastor	361-1411	jim@pius.org
Rev. Honesto Gile, Jr., Parochial Vicar	361-1411	junior@pius.org
Rev. Kevin Kennedy, Chaplain, Sequoia & Kaiser Hospitals	361-1411	
Rev. Gerald D. Coleman, S.S., Our Special Associate	361-1411	
Rita Carroll, Principal, St. Pius School	368-8327	saintpiusschool@hotmail.com
Barbara E. Drake, Operations Manager	361-1411	barb@pius.org
Maria Cornell, Liturgy & Children's Faith Formation/ CCD	368-0429	maria@pius.org
Spanish-speaking CCD	368-0429	Reled@mountcarmel.org
Adele Sanchez, Senior Adult Coordinator	361-1411	
Laura Martin-Spencer, Adult Faith Formation, RCIA	361-1411	laura@pius.org
Elaine Rachko, Youth Minister	365-0140	elaine@pius.org

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm
(Contact a priest if you wish to receive the sacrament on another day.)

Baptism: Baptisms are normally held on the second and fourth Sundays at 1:00 pm. Arrangements should be made at least three months in advance. Parents must attend baptismal instruction before the baptism of their child. This preparation may be done before the birth of the child.

Marriage: Arrangements should be made by the prospective bride and groom at least six months in advance. The parish marriage preparation program is required of all couples.

Communion in the Home: Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring Communion to those who are unable to attend Mass. Please call the Parish Center.

Anointing of the Sick: This sacrament is for those who are elderly, seriously sick or scheduled for surgery. Please call the Parish Center. For those in the hospital, contact the chaplain's office at that hospital.

FAITH FORMATION AT ST. PIUS

Advent Reflection Week One

We are, perhaps, used to thinking of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

But this week's readings, and the readings of the next few weeks, remind us that the notion of preparation extends well beyond the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are reminded that we are, in fact, living in an 'in-between time'. From this week's first reading we are reminded that the expectation of a Messiah was a very long-standing hope for Israel. The coming of the Messiah would usher in a new prosperity and a divine reign of God. The earliest Christians began to see that the ancient prophecies could all be applied to Jesus and they began to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah – the fulfillment of prophecy. However, Jesus also promised that he would come again, and the expectation of the first followers of Jesus was that his return would be in their lifetime. In our second reading from the letter to the Thessalonians, we can see the growing realization that perhaps Jesus' return will not occur within the current generation. This realization had a dramatic effect on the life and faith of the community. Imagine living with the belief that the end of time was going to occur not just in your lifetime but literally any day now. Slowly, they realized that Jesus' words were not that specific and the time of return had not been identified. What Jesus had called for was a state of readiness, a state of preparedness. This didn't mean he was coming immediately; what it meant was that there was need to get the house in order because he would be coming at some time. Advent is a time to remember that we still haven't really got the house in order.

Waiting, waiting, waiting ...

I'm not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting prepared and getting ready are ok, too. But when it comes down to being all dressed up and ready to go, I'm just hopeless at waiting. If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we've somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. But it's not just about anticipating Christmas. That's part of it, sure. However, Advent is about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.

ST. PIUS CHURCH WEBSITE

Please check out our website at www.pius.org

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

We will have the Anointing of the Sick at the 5 pm Mass on Saturday, December 5th, and all the Masses on Sunday, December 6th.

Who may receive the Anointing of the Sick?

Anyone who is suffering from a serious illness, preparing for surgery, or in a weakened condition even though no serious illness is present, may receive the sacrament. Please take this opportunity to bring your loved ones who are in need of this sacrament and may not be able to attend Mass on a regular basis. The faithful may receive the sacrament more than once if they recover from an illness and then become ill again. To receive the sacrament at another time, call the Parish Center at 361-1411.

ACTIVE WAITING

As this new liturgical year unfolds, today's readings are most appropriate, for they root us in what it means to live authentically as Christians. The Gospel, with its frightening predictions of the end times, invites the hearer to "be vigilant at all times" (Luke 21:36). This kind of vigilance is not at all passive for the Christian. Instead, it is a kind of active waiting. And what should we be doing while we are waiting for the coming of the Lord? The second reading gives us the answer: "abound in love for one another and for all" (1 Thessalonians 3:12). Today is all about promises made and fulfilled. May this Advent season root us all firmly in a stance of active waiting for the Lord, who brings justice and peace.

Question for Children: What helps you to grow in your faith? Who helps you?

Question for Youth: Advent is the Church season when we prepare for Christ's birth at Christmas. What is one thing you can do to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas?

Question for Adults: Paul exhorts us to "make greater progress" in our spiritual lives. What one step could you take to make greater progress in your own

Archbishop George Niederauer has requested the following *temporary* liturgical modifications during flu season:

- The distribution of Holy Communion from the Cup is suspended.
- Out of consideration, all are encouraged to receive Holy Communion in the hand.
- The Sign of Peace should be offered with a smile or nod, without shaking hands, and the words, "Peace be with you."
- The faithful are asked to refrain from holding hands during the Lord's Prayer. The "*orans*" posture – hands open with palms facing upward is an alternative.
- Eucharistic Ministers will cleanse their hands with an alcohol-based, anti-bacterial gel *before and after* administering the Sacrament.
- Holy water fonts will be cleaned thoroughly and refreshed on a weekly basis.

These changes are temporary preventative measures that are necessary to follow until the risks of flu season are past. We appreciate your cooperation.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - 5TH SUNDAY

There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION, November 28th and 29th.** Recently, we provided assistance to a mother with two children, whose husband had abandoned her. She has worked for 13 years, making minimum wage, and we helped her with rent and food from Second Harvest Food Bank. This is typical of the many families we visit. Many are single mothers, some have husbands who have lost their jobs, many are on disability with a decline in income. Many are always in need. Your generosity has always helped us to continue with our work, and we are extremely grateful. We ask for your prayers for those who are having difficulties at this time. St. Pius St. Vincent de Paul

WOMEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held in Fitzsimon Center, **Wednesday, December 9th,** and will feature a delicious sit-down dinner, prepared by Arguello Catering. Please RSVP to Norene Rusteen by e-mail nfrusteen@comcast.net, or call the Women's Club Hotline at 650-364-5204.

WOMEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

There are some openings for vendors. If you are interested, call Lisa at 644-5905. This Holiday Boutique will be held on **Sunday, December 6th, 10 am – 6 pm.** Shop early for the holidays and join us for a fun-filled event! No charge to attend – and we'll provide delicious food, entertainment, and gifts for your entire shopping list.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2009-2010 as of 11/15/09

Last Sunday's collection	\$ 9,261.00
Cumulative total for year	\$209,888.04
Budgeted	\$215,680.00
Under Budget	\$ (5,791.96)

SERRA HIGH SCHOOL - OPEN HOUSE

Junipero Serra High School will have this Open House for prospective school students, parents and friends, **Thursday, December 3rd, at 7 pm.** The entrance exam will be **Saturday, January 9th, 2010, 8:30 am - 11:50 am.** The address is 451 West 20th Avenue, San Mateo, and the phone is 345-8207.

AGE OF AQUINAS - CHRISTIAN SINGLES 40 +

Come on **Wednesday, December 2nd, at 7:30 pm,** for a **Transitions Support Group Meeting.** If you or someone you know has suffered the break up of a marriage or significant relationship, this group may be helpful. There is no charge. The place is St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center, 3290 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. If it's nice we may meet in the garden in back of the building. Call (408) 739-2881 for more information.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Michael Richter	Deacon Steve	Justin Levers
Dee Cereghino	Steve Moore	Joslyn Cronin
Susie Villagomez	Bill Beaton	Judy Marks
Craig Toth	Donna Cervelli	Mary K. Parks
Dorothy Rachko	Martha Sullivan	Sheri Bailey
Marilyn von Emster	Eric Michaelson	

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

“GETTING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS”

For those who have lost a loved one, the holidays can be difficult! The St. Pius Grief Ministry is offering a workshop **December 7th and 14th** in the **Parish Center at 7:00 pm**. Presenters are Rich and Rita Morton. *For more information contact grief ministry: 650) 361-0655 or e mail grief_help@hotmail.com*

St. Pius Young People's Theater Try-outs

The play for this year is **“OKLAHOMA”**.

Please mark your calendar! Auditions for Grades 3-7 will be **December 8th from 7:00-8:00 pm in Homer Crouse**. Grades 3-7 **only have to do a 1-2 minute monologue**.

Auditions for grades 8-12 will be December 10th, 7:00-8:30 pm, in the Gym. Please come prepared to sing a song and do a 1-2 minute monologue. If you do not want to try out for a lead part, you still need to attend so that I know you want to be in the play.

All grades have practice on December 11th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in Homer Crouse and you'll receive your parts. We will begin practices on January 5th, from 7:00-8:30pm. Questions?

Please contact Meaghan Brennan at x5brennans@yahoo.com or 299-9310.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW

As you can see, our Pope John XXIII stained glass window is being removed for repair. The window had deteriorated to the point of being dangerous so it needed to be taken care of immediately. After Thanksgiving the full window will be removed for a few months and will be reinstalled in February. We ask for your understanding and patience during this time.

Mark your calendars...

before your holiday schedule gets full!!!

On **Wednesday, December 2nd**, from **7:00 to 8:30 pm** we will have a special night of music, speakers and fellowship to help prepare us for the advent season.

This **Advent Night of Reflection** will give our entire parish, adults, children, and teens an opportunity to prepare spiritually for the joy of Christmas. More details to come soon.

MASSES

Sat.	Nov. 28	5 pm	Albin Cwalina
Sun.	Nov. 29	8 am	Francis LaCasse
		9:30	Lisa Miles
		11:30	Donald Theis
		5 pm	People of St. Pius
Mon.	Nov.30	8 am	Anne Morris
Tues.	Dec.1	8 am	Joseph Marino
Wed.	Dec.2	8 am	Fatai Mahafutau
Thurs.	Dec.3	8 am	Joshua Michael Elliott
Fri.	Dec.4	8 am	Bud Thorpe & Jennifer Copeland
Sat.	Dec.5	8 am	Peter Lydon
		5 pm	Cortopassi Family
Sun.	Dec. 6	8 am	Claire Sans
		9:30	Barbara Frediani
		11:30	People of St. Pius
		5 pm	Ben O'Riordan

E-Contributions

This is just a reminder that contributions to St. Pius Church can be done online for those who might be interested. Log on to **e-Paluch.com** to register for this service. Currently, we only accept debits to your bank account. We are unable to accept credit cards. If you have questions please call Barbara at 361-1411.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISHIONER WHO HAS PASSED AWAY:
Martha Sels

PARISH DIRECTORY

We are in need of a printing company to help with the parish directory. If you are interested, please call Kit Fragulia at 366-6371.

RETROUVAILLE - LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGE

This program helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It will give you the opportunity to re-discover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped many couples experiencing marital difficulties including disillusionment and deep misery. Call 415- 893-1005 or visit the web site at **www.HelpOurMarriage.com**.

MEN'S CLUB **mensclub@pius.org**

President: Tom Cortopassi
Vice-President: Brad Naylor
2nd Vice President: Tony Perazzo
Treasurer: Peter Dunlavey
Secretary: Dave Swan

WOMEN'S CLUB

President: Dee Cereghino
womensclub_members@pius.org
First VP: Lisa Maskarich
Second VP: Julia Fex
Third VP: Chris Swan
Rec. Secretary: Barbara Cage
Treasurer: Norene Rusteen

PTG BOARD

President: Kelli Crowley
VP: Christine Healy
Secretary: Amy Reynolds
Treasurer: Bridget West

ST. PIUS SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Adele Sanchez, Coordinator
Meets each Friday in the Senior Room at 10:00 am

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mike Descalso, Chair	Sharon Geenen
Karen Chang, Co-Chair	Tom Lunzer
Kit Fragulia	Bill McSweeney
Joe Krauss	Arcie Eppler
Katie Stafford	Jan Sullivan
Anthony Price	Al Zappelli

GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTERS

grief_help@hotmail.com

Katie Stasun	Rich Morton
Linda Beroldo	Rita Morton
Angela Brassinga	Pam Nehrenz
Patty Dana	Dorothy Rottinghaus
Mary Dickinson	Linda Hird
Elizabeth Rowan-Mitchell	Mel Sigona
Mary Houweling	Katie Stafford
Suzanne Lasseigne, RSCJ	

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Tuesday	8:30 AM - 4 PM
Wednesday-Thursday	8:30 AM - 8 PM
Friday	8:30 AM - 3 PM
Saturday	3 PM - 6:30 PM
Sunday	9 AM - 2 PM