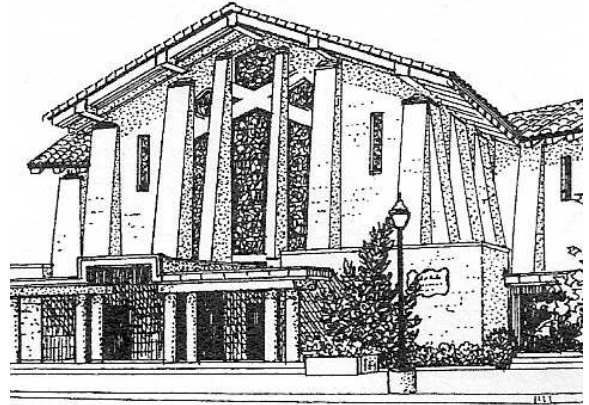


WELCOME TO St. Pius Parish!

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

December 6, 2009 Second 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

Reflection

The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' (Often translated as 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.) The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasizes that John was preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favor.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognize our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts – to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognize God's love if we 'Prepare a way'.

Historical Context - At this time

This particular gospel goes to great lengths to place the events of Jesus' life in a particular historical context. It is the gospel of Luke that identifies the birth of Jesus as taking place in the reign of Caesar Augustus and the governorship of Quirinius. Again, in today's passage, the writer is keen to establish the historical time and place. It is made clear that the ministry of Jesus occurred in a particular time and place. But the gospel makes clear that the message Jesus proclaimed reaches beyond its original context across time and place to our lives today.

Have you Thought? - Baptism

We may think that Baptism is an invention of the Christian community but today's gospel makes it clear that baptism was used within the Jewish community and was put to a particular purpose by John the Baptist. Baptism was part of the Jewish tradition well before the time of Jesus. Ritual cleansing by full immersion was an important element of worship and converts to Judaism were required to walk through a deep bath known as a mikveh. John's use of baptism as a washing away of sin was a different interpretation of the well established practice.

Questions for Adults & Teens:

In what ways can holding on to our faults and failings get in the way of allowing God into our lives? Why is it so hard to forgive ourselves when we are assured God's forgiveness is there for the asking? What image captures for you the idea of 'preparing a way'? How has reflection on this week's gospel enhanced your understanding of Advent?

Questions for Children:

John the Baptist told people to prepare for the coming of Jesus. What sort of things might he have said? How can you help your family and friends prepare for the coming of Jesus this week?.

Parish Penance Service

Monday, December 14th, 7:00 pm, in Church

Take this opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent in preparation for Christmas. Our parish priests, as well as priests from neighboring parishes, will be present. Come and pray with our parish community.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

We will have the Anointing of the Sick at all the Masses this weekend.

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.

Giving Tree Project 2009

We are collecting gifts for St. Francis Center, Catholic Worker, St. Vincent de Paul, and Catholic Charities Adult Day Care. The organizations have requested that we collect gifts for teens, gift cards to stores in Redwood City, including grocery store gift cards for food for families. Please bring your gifts to church or the Parish Center **by December 13th**. Thank you for your continued generosity to our Redwood City community.

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.

THANK YOU

Our heartfelt thanks to all who expressed concern for our recent medical crisis. With our collective prayers, Voola is, hopefully, on the road to recovery.
Jim and Voola Jameson family

ST. PIUS CHURCH WEBSITE

Please check out our website at **www.pius.org**

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The following are the Masses for **Tuesday, December 8th**: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 12:10, and 6:30 pm. **This is holy day of obligation.**

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. This **second collection is December 12th and December 13th**. Thank you for your generosity.

WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Alexander James Martin-Alor
Chloe Chu
Cassidy Duggan

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2009-2010 as of 11/22/09
Sunday's collection \$ 14,366.01
Cumulative total for year \$224,254.05
Budgeted \$226,464.00
Under Budget \$ (2,209.95)

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2009-2010 as of 11/29/09
Last Sunday's collection \$ 9,116.00
Cumulative total for year \$233,370.05
Budgeted \$237,248.00
Under Budget \$ (3,877.95)

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Madison Kitz	Deacon Steve	Judy Marks
Dee Cereghino	Catherine Strus	Mary K. Parks
Sheri Bailey	Richard Hall	
Lisa Kitz	Donna Cervelli	
Bill Beaton	Ferdinand Engesser	
Marilyn von Emster		

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.

BETHLEHEM CATHOLIC MISSION

Members from Bethlehem Catholic Mission will be visiting St. Pius Church **next weekend, December 12th and 13th**. They will be selling handmade olivewood crafts, rosaries, holy water, and crosses in the vestibule of the church. Helping them is helping our brothers and sisters in the HOLY LAND.

"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*

Confirmation

Small Groups meet this week, 12/8, 12/9 & 12/10. Meeting time is 7-8:30 pm. Next Large Group meeting is 12/20 at 3 pm in Homer Crouse Hall.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Mass is December 20th at 5pm. Thanks to all who supported our **Bead for Life** party. It was almost a sell-out.

Don't Miss these St. Pius Women's Club

Upcoming Events

This Sunday, December 6, 10 am - 6:00 pm, is the Annual Holiday Gift Boutique. Shop early for the holidays and join us for a fun-filled event! No charge to attend. Come and enjoy delicious food, entertainment and gifts for your entire shopping list.

Wednesday, December 9 - Celebrate the Season!

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held in Fitzsimon Hall and will feature a delicious sit-down dinner prepared by Arguello Catering. Reservation and payment due by Sunday, December 6th. Call Norene Rusteen to RSVP - nfrusteen@comcast.net or call the Women's Club Hotline at 364-5204.

CAN YOU HELP A FAMILY IN NEED?

Would you like to adopt a family for Christmas? Help St. Vincent de Paul help the many families in need this Christmas. Some ideas are presents for the children and help with rent or utilities for mom and dad. Call the Parish Center, Monday to Friday, before 3 pm, 361-1411.

MASSES

Sat.	Dec. 5	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
Mon.	Dec. 7	8 am	Tom Branson
Tues.	Dec. 8	8 am	Andy Dei Rossi
		9:30	Ernie Falk
		12:10	Ed Givens (INT)
		6:30	Raymond Gibbons
Wed.	Dec. 9	8 am	Margaret Martella
Thurs.	Dec. 10	8 am	Don Goold
Fri.	Dec. 11	8 am	Helen Cady
Sat.	Dec. 12	8 am	Mary Landers
		5 pm	Ben O'Riordan
Sun.	Dec. 13	8 am	People of St. Pius
		9:30	Ambrose Miles
		11:30	Lucy Breslin
		5 pm	Helen McCracken

SCHOOL TOURS:

Please visit St. Pius School for a tour and learn about our community and the excellent education we offer. The tour will begin in the foyer of Fitzsimon Center at **8:30 am, Thursday, December 10, 2009**.

St. Pius School, mindful of its mission to be a witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students of any race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at this school. St. Pius School does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin, age, gender or disability in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school administered programs.

SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP

On December 11th we'll have Mass and a lunch with the 4th grade students. We thank the 7th grade class for their wonderful lunch and entertainment on November 20th. Please call Adele at 366-3646 if you would like to join the group.

Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot is now open. Once again we have received a beautiful shipment of Noble Fir and Douglas Fir trees from Oregon & Washington. We also stock garland, wreaths, and mistletoe, to help in completing your decorations. On Saturday & Sunday our hours are 9 am - 9 pm, while during the week we are open 3 pm - 9 pm. Come pick out the perfect tree and we will either tie it to your car or deliver to your home.

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