

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 13, 2009
Third 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people"

Reflection

Is it any wonder that there was a growing sense among the people that John might be the Christ? His teaching in the first part of this week's gospel might just as easily have come from the mouth of Jesus. It demonstrates for us just how much John was preparing the way for Jesus: even his teaching was in line with what Jesus would later say. In this instance, the people gathered around John (presumably having been baptized by him) are asking how they should live out their new-found conversion of heart. John's response to the three groups is about the need for generosity and justice. It is about not taking more than your share when someone else does not have sufficient. To the crowd of people, he instructs them to give away a second tunic to someone who doesn't have one at all and to share their food with those who are hungry. To the tax collectors, he cautioned them to collect no more than what they were supposed to. Tax collectors made their profit by overcharging taxpayers. Together with the fact that they worked for the Roman occupiers, this made tax collectors one of the most despised groups in society. John's caution to them is to be just in their dealings. He also cautions the soldiers against intimidation and extorting money from the people to supplement their pay. The themes of justice and hospitality that will echo throughout the gospel of Luke are clearly evident in this episode with John. When the people start to talk about him being the Christ, John is quick to point them to the one who is still to come; the one who will share with them more fully the love of God and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Have you Thought? A change of heart

The baptism that John preached and practiced was a baptism of repentance. What he called on people to do was to recognize the areas of their lives that were unbalancing their relationship with God. There was a strong recognition that unless they were in the right relationship with one another they could not be in the right relationship with God. In recognizing the need for change in their lives, John challenged them to also make a change of heart: to approach their lives differently. This is why they were questioning him about practical ways of living out their new commitment.

Questions for Adults & Teens:

How do you think the crowd, tax collectors and soldiers reacted to John's words to them?

Have you ever experienced a real 'change of heart'?

Apart from charitable giving, how can generosity be expressed?

In what aspect/s of your life do you need to adopt a more generous spirit?

What does it mean to you to be 'baptized in the Holy Spirit'?

Questions for Children:

In the gospel story, what did John the Baptist say to do with your coats and your food?

How can sharing things with others help us to prepare for Christmas?

What can you share with others this week?.

Communal Penance Service

Monday, December 14th, at 7:00 pm, in the church. An opportunity for the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas. Our parish priests, as well as visiting priests, will be available to hear individual confessions.

CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY- 4:15 PM

"ONE STARRY NIGHT" - Our children will present the story of the Nativity, accompanied by music and song from the children and youth choirs, in preparation for our celebration of the Eucharist at 5 pm. Plan to arrive early to fully participate in the Christmas Eve Liturgy!

You can take part in this Mass. All children and teens, Kindergarten—12th grade, are invited to take part. Email Pam@pius.org with child's name, grade, phone number, email, and names of parents, **by December 16th.** All participants will be contacted on December 18th with details. Plan to arrive at church on Christmas Eve at 3:30 pm. To contact Maria call 678-3545.

Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot

Once again, the Men's Club has 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.

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.

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mark your calendars for the Young Adult Christmas party!!! This party will be on December 20th, at 6pm, in the Parish Center. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the season, meet new friends and reconnect with old ones. This event is for those who are between the ages of 21 and 39. We look forward to an evening of fun!

MEN'S CLUB DINNER - DECEMBER 16TH

Please come on Wednesday, December 16th, to Homer Crouse Hall. The Happy Hour starts at 6:30 pm and dinner will be served at 7:30 pm. Come help us celebrate the success of the tree lot & the holiday season. All parish men are welcome!

NEW HOURS AT PARISH CENTER

As of July 1st the new office hours are:

Sunday	9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Monday-Tuesday	8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesday-Thursday	8:30 am to 8:00 pm
Friday	8:30 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday	3:00 pm to 6:30 pm

If you have a scheduled event & need a key on a day we close at 4 pm, you'll have to make arrangements to pick it up before that time at the Parish Center.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Religious face rising costs. Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious, age 70 and over, has more than doubled since 1989. Your donation provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. **This is the second collection today.**

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.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2009-2010 as of 12/06/09

Last Sunday's collection	\$ 13,569.00
Cumulative total for year	\$246,939.05
Budgeted	\$248,032.00
Under Budget	\$ (1,092.95)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY:

Michael Richter
Rudolfo Chavez

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Madison Kitz	Deacon Steve	Mary K. Parks
Dee Cereghino	Catherine Strus	Justin Levers
Sheri Bailey	Richard Hall	
Lisa Kitz	Ferdinand Engesser	
Bill Beaton	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 **Sunday, December 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 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

Next Large Group meeting is 12/20 at 3 pm in Homer Crouse Hall.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Mass is December 20th at 5pm.

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.

ST. CHARLES CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Charles Parish presents their Christmas Concert on **Friday, December 18th, at 7:30 pm**. This concert celebrates the rich heritage of Advent and Christmas music. Admission is free. St. Charles Church is located at 880 Tamarack Ave, San Carlos. Questions? Call 591-7349.

MASSES

Sat.	Dec. 12	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
Mon.	Dec. 14	8 am	Jean Berhan
Tues.	Dec. 15	8 am	Margaret Pearson Copeland
Wed.	Dec. 16	8 am	Warren Snyder
Thurs.	Dec. 17	8 am	Jean Berhan
Fri.	Dec. 18	8 am	Michael Dixon
Sat.	Dec. 19	8 am	Rip Jordan
		5 pm	Edward Paczkowski
Sun.	Dec. 20	8 am	Charles & Louise Fragulia
		9:30	People of St. Pius
		11:30	Mary Ellen Murphy
		5 pm	Ignacio Mendez

St. Pius Young People's Theater

The play for this year is “OKLAHOMA”.

We will begin practices on January 5th, from 7:00-8:30pm. Questions? Please contact Meaghan Brennan at x5brennans@yahoo.com or 299-9310.

SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We will have Mass on Friday, December 18th. There is no meeting on December 25th, Christmas Day. The Seniors wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. See you in January. Please call Adele, at 366-3646 if you would like to join our Senior Group. We meet every Friday at 10:00 am.

SLEEPING BAG APPEAL/ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We all want to be warm and dry on these frosty nights. Think of how the homeless feel when they are sleeping in their cars, on park benches, etc. etc. You can help by donating \$25 for a special sleeping bag for very cold weather. Last year we gave away 786 of these “camping grade” sleeping bags to our Homeless Help Centers. If you can help, you can do this online at www.svdp-sanmateoco.org, or mail a check to SVDP Sleeping Bag Appeal, 50 North B Street, San Mateo, CA 94401.

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