



**ST. PIUS X  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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P.O. BOX 447  
Grand Rivers, KY 42045  
**Office (270) 395-4727 (NEW #)**  
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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Year B John 1:6-8, 19-28



"A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing."

### From 'Paradise Regained' Book II

By John Milton

..... Meanwhile the new-baptized, who yet remained  
At Jordan with the Baptist, and had seen  
Him whom they heard so late expressly called  
Jesus Messiah, Son of God, declared,  
And on that high authority had believed,  
And with him talked, and with him lodged—I mean  
Andrew and Simon, famous after known,  
With others, though in Holy Writ not named—  
Now missing him, their joy so lately found,  
So lately found and so abruptly gone,  
Began to doubt, and doubted many days,  
And, as the days increased, increased their doubt.....

### Advent Meditation

"God always walks into your soul with silent steps. God comes to you more than you ever go to Him. Never will His coming, be what you expect, and yet it will never disappoint. The more you respond to His gentle pressure, the greater will be your freedom." *Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen*

#### St. Pius X Mass Schedule

##### + Weekend Mass

Saturday- 4:30 pm

Sunday- 10:00 am

##### + Daily Mass

Tuesday - 6:00 pm

Wednesday-8:00 am

Thursday-8:00 am

Friday-8:00 am

Eucharist Adoration

Visit our Website [www.stpiusx.us](http://www.stpiusx.us)

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday December 17

Is 61:1-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6, 19-28

Monday Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

Friday 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

#### Steps of Lectio Divina

1. Read – Read through it.
2. Reflect – Slowly consider it.
3. Respond – What does it say?
4. Rest – Contemplate, Deep Prayer

#### St. Anthony of Padua Masses

##### + Weekend Mass

Sunday- 8:00 am

##### + Daily Masses

Wednesday-9:00 am

Friday-9:00 am

Eucharist Adoration-First Friday 9:00 am

First Saturday of Month Mass 8:00 am

Visit our website

[www.stanthonygrandrivers.org](http://www.stanthonygrandrivers.org)

**Weekly Online Mass Sunday -10:00 am** We still Live Stream on FB: Facebook at: St. Pius X & St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Churches

Fr. Brian Johnson, Pastor  
Paula Schmidt, CRE/Office Manager  
Bulletin/Website Submissions

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Parish Office Hours

Tuesday -- Thursday

9:00 am-2:00 pm



## Pastor's Study Desk Notes



Dear St Anthony & St Pius Families, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Year B

John 1:6-8, 19-28

**"Who are you?"** Word had spread about John the Baptist, so the religious authorities in Jerusalem sent some spies to go find out more about him. John 1:19 tells us, *"The Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, 'Who are you?'"* Maybe they had questions about John's teaching, or about his practice of baptism, or his lifestyle witness, or the fact that John had such an overwhelmingly popular response from people who were going out to him in droves. John 3:23 says that many "people came to be baptized". (*his great popularity is reflected in comments from Mathew 14: 5 & 21:26 "for they regarded him as a prophet."*) Also, we even hear in John 1:35, the fact that **John had disciples. One of John's disciples** turns out to be Andrew, who actually catches his brother Simon Peter, for Jesus (John 1:41-42). John realized what the spies from Jerusalem was up to in their attempts to co-opt or put to an end his ministry of repentance and reform preparing for the Messiah, when he harshly calls them out in front of the crowds. Matthew 3:7, tells us that "When John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, *"You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"* He knows that they are not sincere about conversion for Christ. They are only spying/collecting information for the Sadducee & Pharisee headquarters back in Jerusalem, so that the Temple authorities can gain control of John or discredit his ministry. The 'Jerusalem Authorities' are not serious about preparatory change, and anticipating the Messiah. (*Imagine that: Can those in power tolerate a faithful servant of God out there preaching the coming Kingdom? Never going to happen.*)

Now, John is fully aware of the popularity of baptism, and the wonderful response he receives from the people. BUT, John knows his humble little place as a messenger and 'prelude' to the Messiah's coming. John knows that he is only the 'opening act' of salvation. Jesus the Christ is the Main Showing. John doesn't want any confusion about his minor role, which is why we have his threefold denial of any claim to fame which is thrown at him in today's gospel. In today's gospel. Three times John humbly testifies, "I am not anything – you need to meet/know the Messiah". John 1:20-21, tells us that *"John admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, 'I am not the Messiah.' So, they asked him, 'What are you then? Are you Elijah?' And he said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No'.* The humility of John really shines when even at the point that John opens his mouth to go on record as to who he is, John only quotes the words of an ancient prophet, Isaiah 40:3, (not even using his own words). He plagiarizes (not original), using Isaiah's words, John describing his work as "the voice of one crying out 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'" And John's humility continues when he basically says, "I am as common as water!" (John 1:26). Finally, John (1:27) humbly bows out of the scene by saying, "the one who is coming after me, *his sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.*" What John means by this sandal strap comment is simply John's additional humility. Because, even more than just saying, 'I can't fill his shoes', John goes on to say 'I am so lowly, I would dirty him up even trying to untie his shoes.' Yet, before his actual death at the hands of King Herod's men, John does definitively bow out of public life right before his arrest when in John 3:30, John announces, **"I must decrease while He (Jesus) must increase."**

What was John Baptist's ministry and purpose? What did he do for them & us waiting for Jesus?

- 1) Stir up our conscience to turn back to God – Repent – Admit sin/guilt and make amends
- 2) Turn people to study the words of the ancient prophets' teaching (conversion)
- 3) Always points us to Jesus (and away from one's own self)
- 4) Be dutiful about one's work with contentment (no flair, no attention but to simple duty)

As a final note, that question thrown at John the Baptist of, "Who are you?" must have been a common one in gospel times. We will hear it also addressed to Jesus several times. Another place in particular found in John's gospel happens while Jesus is teaching about the Heavenly Father. In John 8:25 we hear that, "The Jewish Pharisees, said to Jesus, **"Who are you?"** Another similar question is pushed to Jesus, after He cleanse the Temple, the chief priests and elders asked him, "Who gave you this authority to do these things?" (Mark 11:28 – *like 'who do you think you are?'*). Pilate at Jesus' trial asked Him similarly, "Where are you from?" (John 19:9). Yet, I think that question asked of Jesus and of John Baptist, could just as well be asked of us to motivate us to repent. **Who are we, really?** Are we disciples of Jesus or not? Do we identify with Christ (accept him) or claim to be our own God (denying Jesus)? Considering what we think of ourselves, could we get past our own self-conceptions and ambitions to recognize Jesus when he comes? Something to pray about. Peace, Fr Brian

**St Pius X Parish Council** Meeting Thurs Jan 18 @ 5:30 pm

Gary Traylor	(3)	Chair Person
Nora Canon	(4)	Secretary & Finance
Paula Humphreys	(3)	Spiritual Life
Stacey Newby	(3)	FFY & Religious Ed
Debbie Anspach	(3)	Social Program/Outreach
Michael Bowling	(3)	Building & Ground

**Christmas Lunch Bunch This Thursday Dec 21 11:30**

Come enjoy a Christmas Lunch Bunch celebration Thursday December 21, 11:30 am at St Pius. Bring along your favorite holiday finger food. We'll play some Christmas Bingo!

# DECEMBER 17, 2023 + 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY ADVENT YEAR B

## St Pius X Mass Intentions December 18 – December 24

Tuesday	6:00 pm	Sally Anne Klohr
Wednesday	8:00 am	Bob Zilligen
Thursday	8:00 am	Larry Whitt
Friday	8:00 am	Gloria Eisner
Saturday	4:30 pm	John Bardsley
Sunday	10:00 am	James Hobbs

## WEEKLY DONATIONS

Parish Hall Donation (12/10/23)	\$ 623.00
Budget for 2022/2023 Fiscal Year (July 2023-June 2024)	\$ 195,000.00
Donation Need Each Week	\$ 3,750.00
Weekly Donation (12/10/23)	\$ 5,876.70
Online Giving (12/10/23)	\$ 1,383.00
Total Week's Gift Offering 12/10	\$ 7,259.70
Fiscal Year to Date	\$ 109,589.05

## Advent/Christmas Events

### Dec 17 Knights Columbus Breakfast w/Santa

After Mass Enjoy Pancake/Sausage with the Knights.  
Santa will be with us to give the children some gifts!

Also, Mark your calendars for *January 13<sup>th</sup> Potluck* after  
Sat 4:30 pm mass. *'Bring your Favorite Homemade Soup'!*

**Acts 2:42 Group:** Session #5 is **Sunday January 7, at St Anthony at 1:30 pm** & hosted by leaders Rich Derry & Judy Forsythe. Come & Study



## CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Dec 24 St Anthony 5:30 pm Mass (Carols 5:00 pm)  
Sunday Dec 24 St Pius 8:00 pm Mass (Carols 7:30 pm)

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday Dec 25 St Pius 9:00 am



## Birthdays & Anniversaries: Dec 17 – Dec 23

### Happy Birthday! St. Pius X

December 17 Jennifer Roberts  
December 19 Sherry Ferm  
December 20 Rose Drury  
December 22 Dawn Whitt  
December 22 Bryan Willett

### Happy Anniversary! St. Pius X

December 23 Marty & Kim Lampert  
December 23 Robert & Julie Weekes

## St Pius X Mass Assignments: Saturday, Dec 23, 2023

Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ushers / Greeters	Money Counters
Ed Georgen	Paula Schmidt	Suzette Whittington Kurt Schmidt Charlotte Riedfort	Volunteer (Usher) Volunteer (Usher) Volunteer (Greeter) Volunteer (Greeter)	

## Mass Assignments: Sunday, Dec 24, 2023

Kason Peterson Brayden Willett	Mike Bowling	Caleb King Jimmy Harbison Patty Langford	Philip Scheidegger Usher Volunteer Usher Volunteer	Jan Waniel Jean Waniel
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## FFY Schedule of Classes and Events

Wednesday	Dec. 13	6:00 - 7:30	Christmas Party	Parish Hall
Wednesday	Dec. 20 & 27	Break	Christmas Break Enjoy the Break	
Wednesday	Jan. 3	6:00 - 7:30	Meal and Class	Parish Hall
Sunday	Jan. 7	11:00 - 1:30	Confirmation Class/Retreat with Sponsors & Parents	Parish Hall

## Remember in Prayer

**St. Pius X:** Amanda Scheidegger, Olga Edwards, Diane Fischer Russell Tomlinson, Joanne Schmidt Mark Gamble, Paula Willett, Kent & Kim Henry, Linda Womer, Leah Vincek, Rick Wilson, James Poat, Richard Warmowski, Wade Barnes, Ashley Hayden, Donna Barrix, David Crass, Beth Strutzel, Jason Long, Helen Nicholson, Larry Kline, Bonita Walker, Joe Hedges, Jerry Wade, Katie Wood, Joanna Grimes, Amanda Bailey, Kaileigh Row, Dolly Bardsley, Pam Laibl, David Kroll, Henry Feezor, Lisa Hammond, Bennett Meisenheimer, Jim & Rose Drury, Wes Hayes, Mike Norvell, Maryann Huebschmann, Shirley Mangan, Kenny Matthews, Dora Miller, Miller Meisenheimer, Michelle Freeman, Joann Najgebauer, Johnny Poe, Joel Rivera, Carol Ross, Lonnie Vogler, Brenda Waitke, Gary Walters, Andrew Walton, Dawn Williams, Wilma Lejuene, Lori Butler, Isabella Hamilton, Dr. Danny Butler, Cameron Richmond, Brad Longworth, Helen Bennett, Catherine Brooks, Stacy Newby, Bette Zilligen, Ric Vaughn, Donny Travis, Betty Derry, Scott Hamilton, Connie Burt, Abigail Huebschmann, Lucas Hebner, Ericka Karpstein, Joanna Cooper, Angel Thompson, Kaye Poyner, Bob Tashjian, Rita Cook, Jack Bender, Don Kemp, Sharon Olejnicak, Tim Wilson, Beverly Dukes, Judy Krouse, Kerry Frazier, Rene Harrington, Forrest Michael Teeters, Cameron Brewer, Hugo Santos, Sharon Gibbons, Braydn Barnett, Elizabeth Witowski, Pam Dietz.

## Pray for Our Military

**St. Pius X:** Cameron Thomason, Julianne Utley, Daniel Burgess, James Griffith, Cory Erickson, Justin Fatum, James A. Kinsey, Sarah Martindale, Devin McFadden, Benjamin Patton, Kousuke Sasaki, Noah Willett, Amanda Wojahn and Luke Jablonski.



### St. Anthony Page Announcements

**Quilters group** at St Pius Every Tuesday: Contact Georgia Bradshaw for details. Quilters gather and work on their community quilt together. Come and join in their labor of love for their church family

**Needed Donations:** Sew on Velcro (any size) needed for a Diaper Project for Children in an orphanage in the Philippines. Contact Georgia Hunsley (St Anthony Church) at 402-920-0108 for more info. Baskets by church doors to collect the velcro.

**Gaspar River Christmas Camp** is for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and high school aged youth (8<sup>th</sup> graders come meet and get to know future Camp LIFE campers) and runs from 4:00 pm Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> til 11:00 am Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. Come end one year all kinds of camp fun and begin the new year with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist! Cost is \$125.

### All-Day Adoration on 1<sup>st</sup> Friday January 5<sup>th</sup>

St Anthony will begin all day Eucharistic Adoration. Plan to come some time through the day to pray in presence of the Blessed Sacrament. A schedule is being put together for people to sign up for particular hours. Please call Judy Forsythe - 612-245-3636

**First Friday Sacred Heart Devotion:** After Friday 9:00 am mass, we hold a Holy Hour of Adoration, with confession available, followed by Benediction.

**First Saturdays Honor the Blessed Mother:** Be sure to come to First Saturday Mass on January 5 @ 8:00am. Every first Saturday we offer mass and pray the rosary



### St Anthony Birthdays Dec 17 – Dec 23

December 17 Jeff Ritorto

December 24 Pat Gorbett

### Anniversaries:

December 24 Tommy & Margie Sheppard

### Lectio Divina Weekly Sessions

Every Wednesday @ St. Anthony of Padua, we gather for weekly "Lectio Divina" sessions. Come and open God's Word in your heart & mind. We have workbooks available



### St. Anthony of Padua

#### Mass Intentions December 18 – December 24

Wednesday	9:00 am	PJ & Martha Rose O'Donoghue
Friday	9:00 am	Richard Craig Klohr
Sunday	8:00 am	Margaret Genevieve Drury

#### WEEKLY DONATIONS

Budget 2022/2023 Fiscal Year (July 2023-June 2024)	\$ 73,500.00
Donation Need Each Week	\$ 1,413.46
Weekly Donation 12/10/2023)	\$ 1,224.00
Fiscal Year to Date	\$ 47,215.65
Retired Religious Special Coll	\$ 110.00

*Thank you so much for your faithful generosity!*

### Livingston County Helping Hands



Food Items Especially Needed: **Saltine Crackers**, **Hamburger Helper**, sugar, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, salmon, canned fruits, canned vegetables. Other items needed: paper towels, toilet paper, laundry & dish detergent, shampoo (adult & baby), bath soap, diapers,

### St Anthony Mass Assignments – December 24, 2023

<b>Lector</b>	Mike Drury
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Shara Parish Cindy O'Brien
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	Kevin Diamond David Loxley
<b>Server</b>	Dan O'Brien
<b>Money Counters</b>	Shara Parish Kevin Diamond

### CONSIDER ATTENDING DAILY MASS SPECIAL FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

**St Anthony Prayer List:** Jeff Ritorto, Cathy Ritorto, Betty Gonzalez, Elena Carey, Donna & Jon Gresham, Bob Decker, Bill Rodgers, Tom & Margie Sheppard, Bob Tashjian, Mr. Driskill, Margaret Adams, Pat Gorbett, Ed Derringe, Imogene Ramey.

#### Pray for our Military

Joel Dumbacher, Matt Elder, Kathleen Erickson, Scott Erickson, Cory Erickson, James A. Kinsey, Jay Lockhart, Sarah Martindale, Devin McFadden, LeAnne Neal, and Kousuke Sasaki.

#### Parish Council

Mike Drury	Chair Person
Debbie Owens	Secretary/Family Life
Shara Parish	Finance
Kelly Noonan	Building & Ground
David Loxley	Social Concerns/Events
Steve Wilkes	Spirituality/Faith Formation

**Next Meeting** Wed January 17 @ 6:00 pm

### The Holy Sacraments: Preparation for and Reception of the Sacraments

- + **MARRIAGE:** Preparation is needed prior to the wedding. Contact the office or Fr. Brian 6 months prior to date.
- + **BAPTISM:** Preparation is needed prior to the Sacrament. Contact the office or Fr. Brian 3 months prior to birth.
- + **HOSPITAL:** Please notify the office or Fr. Brian if you or someone whom you know is in the hospital.
- + **ANOIDING OF THE SICK:** Is offered to anyone ill, infirmed, or prior to surgery. Contact Fr. Brian at (270) 668-7675 (Emergency)
- + **CONFESSION:** Saturday at 3:30 St Pius; or please ask Fr Brian before any mass, or to set an appt, please call him at 270-395-4727
- + **St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month during office hours (9 am-2 pm). Call the office at (270) 395-4727
- + **Bulletin information:** Must be submitted to the office by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Email: [stpiusx@stpiusx.us](mailto:stpiusx@stpiusx.us)