

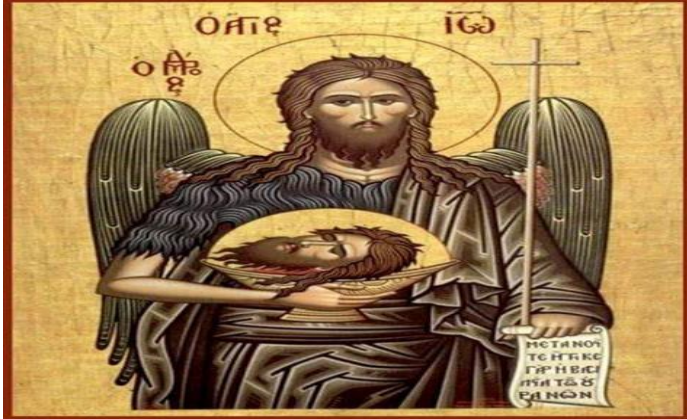


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**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
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3rd Sunday Advent Year A Matthew 11:2-11



"When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Excerpt from 'John the Baptist'

By Philip C Kolin

Out of the wilderness came this prophet of fire and repentance, his voice a flame igniting souls out of darkness to witness the Messiah. Wherever he went bonfires reddened the night air. He wore a tunic of camel hair, and a rope cincture binding unruly flesh from appetite; he lived on locusts and burr-nested cones. When he entered the Jordan it flowed east, away from the sin-cruled west. Each wave was engraved with grace as he plunged sinners heavy with the world's woes under only to lift them up toward the light.

But not the Pharisees.

Stones would rise sooner. When he announced Christ passing by, the birds of the air carried each honeyed syllable to every open heart and sin-ridden soul.

Eucharistic Renewal Meditation

"The decisive question of liturgical formation is this: As Romano Guardini says, "The first practical task of liturgy renewal is that carried along by this inner transformation of our time, we must learn anew how to relate religiously to each other as fully human beings." This is what the Liturgy makes fruitful. For this we must be formed. Guardini does not hesitate to declare that without liturgical formation "then ritual and textual reforms won't help much." I do not intend to treat here in an exhaustive way the very rich theme of liturgical formation. I only want to offer some starting points for reflection. I think two aspects can be distinguished: formation for the Liturgy and formation by the Liturgy. The first depends upon the second which is essential" (Pope Francis *Desiderio* #34)

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-First Friday of each month-8:00

Visit our Website www.stpiusx.us

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday December 4

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday Rv 11:19-12:6, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday Is 45:6-25/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30
Friday Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36
Saturday Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

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 Mass Schedule

† Weekend Mass

Sunday- 8:00 am

† Daily Mass

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

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

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Parish Office Hours Tuesday -- Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm



Pastor's Study Desk Notes



Dear St Pius And St Anthony Churches,

3rd Sunday Advent Year A Matt 11:2-11

“Have your people call my people.” That is what is going on in our gospel today! We hear about John the Baptist sending some of his disciples to Jesus with the question, “Are you the one? The Awaited Messiah?” John is sending his people, to Jesus, with the certain confidence that the minute they encounter Christ personally, then they will know for themselves, that, yes, Jesus is the ONE (the true one to follow). Some people get troubled by the insinuation from these lines that maybe John is unsure or has questions, about Jesus being the Savior. But surely John knows, right? John is a kinsman of Jesus (Lk 1:36), and he is aware of Jesus’ wonders (Lk 1:42-44), and John even baptized Jesus (Matt 3:14-17) complete with the announcement voice of the Father claiming Jesus as His Own Son. So why is John acting unsure about Jesus’ identity here? For the sake of his own disciples who may be having a hard time letting go of their time together. It is commendable of John’s disciples, how faithful they were to him. Back in Matthew 4:12, we heard that Herod jailed John the Baptist in the attempt to silence him. Of course, this doesn’t deter John, and he apparently had a dynamic ministry of preaching conversion to others, even from jail. From today’s reading while John is still jailed (Matt 11:2), obviously his disciples were still clinging to him and keeping an audience with him from jail. And we will hear of their devotion to him even after John’s martyrdom, as his disciples will come and carry his body away respectfully for proper burial (Matt 14:12). So they were strong followers of him. This is all the more reason for John to take the extra steps necessary to send his disciples’ over to Jesus personally, for an introduction and Q&A period with him, where they can witness for themselves the divine presence within Jesus. Then John knows they will discover and know firsthand by their conversation and observation of Jesus’ works, that Jesus is the expected Messiah. So this whole exchange is about John’s followers coming over fully to Jesus, and accepting Jesus as the ONE John had been preparing them to receive when He came!

This gospel reading is certainly a transition point, leading to an ‘Exit Stage Left’ kind of moment. John is about to leave the earthly stage, ending his ministry and allowing the light fully to shine on Jesus (He is the LIGHT). John’s actions here remind me of the Prophet Simeon who when he looks upon the face of Jesus, Simeon knows his ministry of waiting is over! Jesus is the ONE. I think John echoes here what Simeon said, “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation which you prepared in sight of all the peoples....” (Luke 2:29-31). Just a few chapters later than today’s gospel reading, we will hear of John’s death and burial (Matt 14:3-12). So, like Simeon, John is ready and he is taking care of some final details, like ensuring that all of his disciples transfer properly over to Jesus’ company, before he leaves the scene. And like a good movie that has to run the final credits before it ends, Jesus takes the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the greatness of John the Baptist. Jesus honors John by saying he John is a divinely sent messenger (Matt 11:10- that fulfills Exodus 23:20; Malachi 3:1). Jesus adds that John is ‘more than a prophet’ (11:9) and is the man ‘greatest among all born of women’ (11:11). It is fitting that Jesus holds off on such praise of John until his death, so that people would not be further confused to mis-take John to be the Messiah. Though John was consistently clear that he was not the ONE, like when he said **“I must decrease and He increase”** (John 3:30) and that **‘one mightier than I, is coming after me’** (Matt 3:11), inevitably some people may have felt so persuaded by John that they clung to him. So John’s parting act is to fully transfer and make clear to his students that they need to take up Jesus’ discipleship now. John was saying, ‘Let me go – Jesus is the One to follow’. John is the humble leader who knows when his time is fulfilled. When his mission work is complete, he can gracefully bow out! Peace, Fr Brian

Faith Formation Calendar for Youth FFY 2022-2023

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Wednesday | Dec 14 | 6:00-7:30 | Prayer & Christmas Party | Parish Hall, Church |
| Wednesday | Dec 21 & 28 | No FFY | Christmas Break | Christmas Break |



Lunch Bunch: December 15 at 11:30 am in St Pius Parish Hall
Come enjoy as we share in a lighter tasting of Christmas Cookies, Desserts, or light sweets. Just bring a potluck dish of some dessert or sweet. We will be having a Sneaky Santa fun gift exchange-Bring along a fun gift \$10 or less!

Advent Small Faith Group Meetings

Tuesdays 6:30 pm Early Church Fathers (St Pius Hall)
Wednesday 10:00 am Lectio Divina (St Anthony)
Thursdays 10:00 am Centering Prayer (St Pius Library)

Congratulations to our Newly Baptized in the Parish!

****Luis Adrian Perez**, son of Jesus M. Perez & Johana Gonzalez Perez, was baptized on November 26, 2022 &
****Matteo Scott Henson**, son of Corey Henson and Angela Rivera Henson, was baptized on November 19, 2022. We congratulate them and their parents. May God bless these newborn children of His, and keep them strong in faith!

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve St Anthony 5:30 pm (Carols 5:00 pm)
St Pius X 8:00 pm (Carols 7:30 pm)
Christmas Day St Pius X 10:00 am

Birthdays & Anniversaries: Dec 11 – Dec 17

Happy Birthday! St. Pius X

December 11 Charlie Doughty
December 11 Kathy Smith
December 11 Karen Williams
December 12 Colton Hobbs
December 13 Justin Fatum
December 14 Mark Devine
December 14 Sydney Shea
December 15 Lonie Vickers
December 16 Elizabeth Padgett
December 16 Andy Ferm
December 16 Austin Shea
December 17 Jennifer Roberts

Happy Birthday! St. Anthony of Padua

December 14 David Loxley
December 14 Diane Quayle
December 17 Jeff Ritorto

Happy Anniversary! No anniversaries this week

St Pius X Mass Assignments: Saturday, December 17, 2022

| Servers | Lectors | Eucharistic Ministers | Ushers / Greeters | Money Counters |
|---|--------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Volunteer | Dawn Whitt | Suzette Whittington Jeff Riedfort Charlotte Riedfort | Volunteer (Usher) Volunteer (Usher) Volunteer (Greeter) Volunteer (Greeter) | |
| Mass Assignments: Sunday, December 18, 2022 | | | | |
| Franky Schiaretti Anthony Schiaretti | Mike Bowling | Patty Langford Teresa Newman Marcus Newman | Volunteer (Usher) Volunteer (Usher) Volunteer (Greeter) | Andy Ferm Sherry Ferm |

Congratulations to our First Reconciliation Class!

We had a wonderful First Penance with our First Reconciliation class last Sunday. They experienced their forgiving Shepherd Jesus in this special sacrament of new beginnings, on their way to receiving First Communion next spring after Easter! Congratulations to **Jacob Gentry, Joseph Gentry, Aiden Blazina, Kasen Grief & Ryan Pearson**

Remember in Prayer

St. Pius X: Derwood Doyle, Joe Hedges, Jerry Wade, Katie Wood, Joanna Grimes, Amanda Bailey, Kathryn Bailey Kaileigh Row, Dolly Bardsley, Pam Laibl, Chevelle Allen, David Kroll, Mary Jane Inman, Todd Inman, Henry Feezor, Jerry & Sissy Wommack, John Campbell, Lisa Hammond, Rose Grossius, 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, Matthew Black, Helen Bennett, Catherine Brooks, Michelle Freeman, Stacey Newby, Bette Zilligen, Ric Vaughn, Susan Sloan, Donny Travis, Betty Derry, Scott Hamilton, Connie Burt and family, Abigail Huebschmann, Lucas Hebner, Ericka Karpstein, Joanna Cooper, Angel Thompson, Kaye Poyner, Bob & Lois Tashjian, Rita Cook, Juliette Kaplanes, Jack Bender, Penny Maupin, Don Kemp, Sharon Olejnicak, Tim Wilson, Beverly Dukes, Wallace Hunt, Phyllis White, Judy Krouse, Kerry Frazier, Rene Harrington, Lisa Doyle, Forrest Michael Teeters, Cameron Brewer, Stefanie Wilkerson-Barragan, Hugo Santos, Sharon Gibbons, Braydn Barnett, Elizabeth Witowski, Pam Dietz and their families

St. Anthony of Padua: David Reed, Juan Gonzalez, Elena Carey, Donna & Jon Gresham, Bob Decker, Bill Rodgers, Tom & Margie Sheppard, Bob & Lois Tashjian, Mr. Driskill, Margaret Adams, Pat Gorbett, Ed Derringe, Imogene Ramey, Bob Lang and their families and caregivers.

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 of Padua: Joel Dumbacher, Matt Elder, Kathleen Erickson, Scott Erickson, Cory Erickson, Jason Huber, James A. Kinsey, Jay Lockhart, Sarah Martindale, Devin McFadden, Rvan M. Fields, LeAnne Neal, and Kousuke Sasaki.

St. Pius X

| Mass Intentions December 12 – December 18 | | |
|--|----------|----------------------|
| Tuesday | 6:00 pm | Minnie Nimmo |
| Wednesday | 8:00 am | Virgilio Rendon |
| Thursday | 8:00 am | Bernie & Pat Fendler |
| Friday | 8:00 am | Charles Fischer |
| Saturday | 4:30 pm | Betty Derry |
| Sunday | 10:00 am | Dee Dee Whittaker |

WEEKLY DONATIONS

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Parish Hall Donation (12/4/22) | \$ 1,364.00 |
| Budget for 2022/2023 Fiscal Year (July 2022-June 2023) | \$ 190,000.00 |
| Donation Need Each Week | \$ 3,653.58 |
| Weekly Donation (12/4/22) | \$ 2,338.00 |
| Online Giving (12/4/22) | \$ 1,582.00 |
| Total Week's Gift Offering 12/4 | \$ 3,920.00 |
| Fiscal Year to Date | \$ 88,360.96 |



Early Church Fathers:

Every Tuesday Night from 6:30-7:30pm Come study these foundational documents written by the students of apostles. *After Scripture, these are our earliest sources of Faith!* Very Interesting History & Acts!

December Events around Church

Dec 14 Wed FFY Christmas Party
 Dec 18 Knights Breakfast w/ Santa & Gifts!
Advent Angel Tree: Our parish is buying clothes for the children and families in our community. We are working with Calvert-Sharp Family Resource Center to give gifts to 58 children in our community. Your generosity & prayers are appreciated!!

Parish Council

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

(Yrs left in term)

Next Meeting January 17 @ 4:30 pm

Bereavement Committee

Fran Dacus

St. Anthony of Padua

| Mass Intentions December 12 – December 18 | | |
|--|---------|-----------------|
| Wednesday | 9:00 am | Frances Storm |
| Friday | 9:00 am | Genevieve Drury |
| Sunday | 8:00 am | Rosie Kerr |

WEEKLY DONATIONS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Budget 2022/2023 Fiscal Year (July 2022-June 2023) | \$ 73,500.00 |
| Donation Need Each Week | \$ 1,413.46 |
| Weekly Donation 12/4/2022) | \$ 1,416.00 |
| Fiscal Year to Date | \$ 35,761.00 |

Thank you so much for your faithful generosity! The Parishes and the Church's Mission depends on you!



Livingston Co. Christmas Help Program

St Anthony is supporting again this year the gift program of Families First-Livingston Co.School Resource to provide Christmas gifts/ goods for families & children in need. Please pick up an envelope from the Angel Tree to make a gift.

St Anthony Mass Assignments – December 18, 2022

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lector | Darin Adrian |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Mike Drury Pat Gorbett |
| Ushers/Greeters | Kevin Diamond Kelly Noonan |
| Server | Juan Gonzalez |
| Money Counters | Shara Parish Kevin Diamond |

Centering Prayer Group:Thursdays at 10:00 am

Interested in *Centering Prayer*? Thursdays at 10:00 am in St Pius Library, we will have an Advent series of teachings and practice, on *Centering Prayer*. We will have a short 20 min video & 10 min discussion before each experience of prayer (15 min). Discussion follows

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 February 15 @ 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.
- + **ANointing 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:** 2nd & 4th 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