

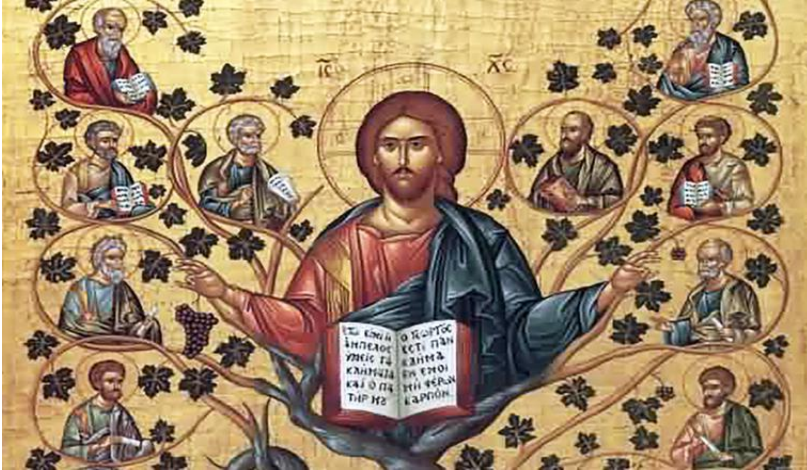


**ST. PIUS X  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
777 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
P. O. Box 495  
Calvert City, KY 42029  
(270) 395-4727  
Fax (270) 395-5747  
www.stpiusx.us

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
1518 J.H. O'Bryan Ave  
P.O. BOX 447  
Grand Rivers, KY 42045  
**Office (270) 395-4727 (NEW #)**  
www.stanthonygrandrivers.org



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter Year B John 15:1-8



"Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**'The Tree for the Cross'**

*By Colin Moffett*

I stood in the forest growing so strong  
From all of my companions I was numbered among  
They picked me out as the rough barked tree  
To crucify the Saviour of men on the hard wood of me  
I felt each blow as they cut me down  
Then pared of the branches of my leaf topped crown  
And used one of them, the limbs of my loss  
To nail it to my trunk and form me as a cross  
They brought Jesus out with His thorn crowned head.....  
He could not carry me but I carried His frame  
For He was fixed to my trunk and they pinned on me His name  
As they nailed His hands and feet I felt that I could  
Feel His pain, for each nail through Him also pierced into my wood  
Secured to my timber, they lifted us both high  
And they stood back to mock and watch Jesus die.....  
.....My sap mixed with His blood and sweat He was perspiring  
And knew by His breathing His life was expiring.....  
.....For I did not want to be the one  
To carry on me God's dear Son  
But it was ordained that Jesus should die on a tree  
And His blood that was spilled was spilled on me  
The wood of my body is long since gone  
A risen Saviour still lives on  
When by coming to Jesus sinners can recover their loss  
I am glad I played my part by being the tree for the cross

**Spiritual Thought for the Week**

"The faith of Christians is the resurrection of Christ. Everyone believes that Jesus died, even unbelievers accept that, but not everyone believes that he was resurrected and you are not a Christian if you don't believe this. This is the true article by which the Church stands or falls." (Augustine, Enarr. in Psalms, 120,6.)

**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 April 28,2024*

*Acts 9:26-31/Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8  
Monday Acts 14:5-18/Jn 14:21-26  
Tuesday Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a  
Wednesday Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8  
Thursday Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11  
Friday 1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14  
Saturday Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21*

**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*

*Brian.Johnson@pastoral.org  
crecalvertcity@gmail.com  
stpiusx@stpiusx.us*

*Office: (270) 395-4727/Cell: (270) 668-7675  
(270) 395-4727  
(270) 395-472*

**Parish Office Hours**

*Tuesday -- Thursday*

*9:00 am-2:00 pm*



## Pastor's Study Desk Notes



Dear St Anthony & St Pius Families,

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter Year B

John 15:1-8

Three weeks ago, I had Crepe Myrtle bushes pushing out new leaves from the stem! Yes, that is early! But my overwhelming concern was that there was still a couple of bushes that I had never gotten around to doing their 'over-winter' trimming back! After they leaf on out fully, at least I will know for sure what branches died over the winter! Today's gospel rubs it in: I am behind on spring gardening! Yet, the more important point is that I 'sync' my time with God's timing anyway. Jesus says that clearly in the gospel, "Apart from me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). So, the seasons of growth and dormancy are determined by God. Whether I bear fruit or not, is up to my staying connected and in touch with Him-He is the Vine, I am the branch! We recently read a resurrection appearance in the gospel that made the same point. As Peter goes back with the others to fishing (without Christ), in John 21:5, Jesus appears unrecognized on the shore. He gently reprimands them by asking, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" We know the answer. Try to do anything without God. No fish caught. Then Jesus directs them try fishing the other side, and they catch so many they can't pull the net into the boat (Jn 21:6). With Jesus' direction we catch results or bear fruit, but without Him, nothing. As Jesus develops this organic image of vine & branches for us, he identifies Himself as the source of our pruning. To bear the greatest fruit (greatest catch) we must keep attuned to His voice-direction. Jesus says, "You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you" (Jn 15:3). By holding/keeping His word of teaching/instruction, we receive an initial pruning/shaping. Yet, we can still be further pruned to bear even more fruit by His continued speaking further in our hearts. John 15:2 says the vine-dresser continues to prune "so that it bears even more fruit." The pruning never stops – ask anybody good at growing rose bushes how often they go back to pruning?

I think this 'perpetual pruning' detail offers us a lot of spiritual fruit to help us accept and understand how God is always at work in us. Sometimes questions rise in our hearts about why, even if we are doing everything right, that still, bad things happen to us. Even if progressing in sanctity and grace, we just end up facing even more difficult struggles and sufferings. Well, I hear this parable of Jesus about the vine-branches as a partial explanation of what is going on. We are being pruned further so that we bear even more fruit. Suffering for the sake of greater glory/good to come. If we ask a branch if it enjoys being pruned, I suspect it will say no. But the pruning opens the way for more fruit-life to advance (*think of flowers in late summer, if you do not pluck the dead heads off the plant will die and go to seed-to keep producing fresh blooms, you have to pluck off dead ones.*) So. Maybe we can view our next spiritual challenge/cross as 'pruning'. Yet knowing that God created and planted us, we can be assured that God wants us to thrive and grow strong, and even bloom beautifully. But according to His growing season!

Related to Jesus' teaching here in Jon 15 about the vine and branches, I love his other parable of the gentle gardener in Luke 13:6-9, when Jesus emphasizes the patience of the good grower, to even work with a barren fig tree for another year, gently cultivating it, trying to nudge it back into bearing fruit again. The grower even asks the owner for another whole year to nurse the weak plant back to health! That is Jesus, ever patient and ever tender with His care for us. I love recalling too, that Mary Magdalene mistook and misperceived the resurrected Jesus to be the 'gardener' around the tomb in John 20:15. Something about Jesus' appearance there led Mary to see Him as a gardener (maybe His comfort and ease among fresh, living things!) Yet, I also find Jesus' credentials for cultivating life among everything He touches, from all of his life's actions around the hills, lakes, fields and even deserts in Palestine, to His abundantly green teaching material/parables about seeds, wheat, sowing and fertile soils! With Jesus, comes our growth and fruit! Apart from Him, comes nothing but barrenness! So, we want to keep with Him (familiarize ourselves always with His Life and Words), and be glad & grateful that we are in His Hands- that we are in His garden and tended to by His care! Peace, Fr Brian

**Congratulations to our High School Graduates! May 19 Graduate Mass**

*Scott Langford, Anthony Pellegrin, Anna Robertson, Kaylee Shupe, Anthony Schiaretta.*

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

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

**Early Church Fathers Study & Discussion**

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

**APRIL 28, 2024 † 5TH SUNDAY EASTER YEAR B**



**Acts 2:42** next Meeting May 5, St Anthony@ 1:30

St Pius X Mass Intentions April 29 – May 5		
Tuesday	6:00 pm	<i>Bob Zilligen</i>
Wednesday	8:00 am	<i>James Hobbs</i>
Thursday	8:00 am	<i>Martha Rose O'Donoghue</i>
Friday	8:00 am	<i>Mary Virginia Krebs</i>
Saturday	4:30 pm	<i>Joey Elder</i>
Sunday	10:00 am	<i>Jeanne Johnson</i>
WEEKLY DONATIONS		
Parish Hall Donation (4/21/24)	\$	132.00
Budget for 2022/2023 Fiscal Year (July 2023-June 2024)	\$	195,000.00
Donation Need Each Week	\$	3,750.00
Weekly Donation (4/21/24)	\$	2,414.65
Online Giving (4/21/24)	\$	1,171.00
Total Week's Gift Offering 4/21	\$	3,585.65
Fiscal Year to Date	\$	188,636.48

**Prayer & Condolences:** Please pray for eternal rest of **Jewell Dean Watts** (*Jimmy Hogancamp's mother*), **Jeanne Johnson** (*Tom Forsythe's aunt*) & **Brad Bradley** (*Charlotte Riedfort's brother*). Please pray for God's comfort to be with their families.

**Congratulations to our Confirmation Class**  
Apr 27 Bishop Medley Confirmed our youth  
**Max Canon, Pax Canon, Dorothy Schmidt, Addison Peterson, Kason Peterson**

**Birthdays & Anniversaries: Apr 28– May 4**

**Happy Birthday! St. Pius X**

- April 30 Megan Duzmal
- May 3 Kevin Hodges
- May 5 Cole Blazina
- May 5 Nancy Forsythe

**Happy Anniversary! St. Pius X**

- May 5 Jan & Jean Waniel
- May 5 Wesley & Victoria Duzmal

**Mother's Day Dinner May 11th after 4:30 mass**

Plan to come enjoy dinner & Fellowship, celebrating mothers!  
Tickets are \$20/couple - \$10/single and \$5/children.  
Please see Debbie Anspach to help prepare or help serve it.

**Coffee & Doughnuts after Mass at St Pius**

After the 10 am Mass **May 12**

**St Pius X Mass Assignments: Saturday, May 4, 2024**

Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ushers / Greeters	Money Counters
	Paula Schmidt	Kurt Schmidt Jeff Riedfort Charlotte Riedfort	Volunteer (Usher) Volunteer (Usher) Volunteer (Greeter) Volunteer (Greeter)	

**Mass Assignments: Sunday, May 5, 2024**

Dominic Schiaretta Franky Schiaretta	RJ-Ric-Witowski	Pam Hurst Jimmy Harbison Kelli King	Philip Scheidegger Usher Volunteer Usher Volunteer	Andy Ferm Sherry Ferm
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**FFY Schedule of Classes and Events**

Wednesday	May 1	6:00 – 7:30	Grace Person Presentation & Year End Party Celebration	Parish Hall
Sunday	May 5	11:00 – 12:00	Confirmation Review	Parish Hall/Church
Sunday	May 19	10:00 Mass	Honor High School Graduates	Church

**SUMMER BREAK – Summer Bible Craft Nights TBA**

**Remember in Prayer**

**St. Pius X:** Theresa Owens, Sara Repovich, Kaye Hinkebein, Amanda Scheidegger, Olga Edwards, Diane Fischer Russell Tomlinson, Joanne Schmidt Paula Willett, Kent & Kim Henry, Linda Womer, Leah Vincek, Rick Wilson, 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 Broks, 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**

**Coffee/ Doughnuts 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Every Month**

**Quilters group** at St Anthony Every Tuesday  
Contact Georgia Bradshaw for details. Quilters gather and work on their community quilt together.

**Needed Donations: SEW ON Velcro** (any size) for Diaper Project for Orphaned Children in the Philippines. **Only SEW-ON Velcro** can be used – Please NO adhesive velcro. Contact Georgia Hunsley (St Anthony Church) at 402-920-0108 for more info. Baskets by church doors to collect the velcro.

**Wedding at Cana Coning Again Friday May 24**

A wonderful evening of mass, dinner & dancing. A sign up form for couples is on the kitchen serving window. Please sign-up. Or RSVP Judy Forsythe 612-245-3636 We need volunteer single persons to help by serving dinner. Please come be part, celebrating marriage as church

**Accepting Parish Council Nominations**—Forms on Tables

**All-Day Adoration on 1<sup>st</sup> Friday May 3**

St Anthony Parish has an all day Eucharistic Adoration every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday from 9:00am – 9:00pm All are welcome to spend time in prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Confession available at 9:30am. Prayer Partners are requested for each hour during Adoration. Please register your time on the schedule or call Judy Forsythe - 612-245-3636

**First Saturdays Honor the Blessed Mother:**

First Saturday Mass on May 4 @ 8:00am. Every first Saturday we offer mass and pray the rosary



**St Anthony Birthdays Apr 28 – May 4**

May 3 Stephen Wilkes

**St Anthony Anniversaries:**

No anniversaries this week

**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  
April 29 – May 5**

Wednesday	9:00 am	Dr Sidney Edds
Friday	9:00 am	John & Sue Mudd
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	8:00 am	Taylor Johansen
Sunday	8:00 am	Dan & Cindy O'Brien Family

**WEEKLY DONATIONS**

Budget 2022/2023 Fiscal Year (July 2023-June 2024)	\$ 73,500.00
Donation Need Each Week	\$ 1,413.46
Weekly Donation 4/21/2024	\$ 1,756.00
Fiscal Year to Date	\$ 79,863.13

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



**FOOD PANTRY**

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, wipes, feminine hygiene products. Collection container is in back of the church for your donated items.

**St Anthony Mass Assignments – May 5, 2024**

<b>Lector</b>	Shara Parish
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Jeff Ritorto Mike Drury
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	David Loxley Kelly Nonoan
<b>Server</b>	Juan Gonzalez
<b>Money Counters</b>	Shara Parish Kevin Diamond

**CONSIDER ATTENDING DAILY MASS**

**St Anthony Prayer List:** Theresa Owens, Joyce Wilkinson, 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

***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:** 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)