



**ST. PIUS X
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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Office (270) 395-4727 (NEW #)
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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.

**Observances for the Week of
December 14-20**

Monday- Memorial of St. John of the Cross
Sunday-Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Weekly Mass Readings
December 14-20**

Monday Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Friday Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Saturday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Sunday 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Visit Us Online for Daily News

**ST. PIUS X:
WWW.STPIUSX.US**

**ST. ANTHONY:
WWW.STANTHONYGRANDRIVERS.ORG**

**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 & 6:00 pm
Thursday-8:00 am
Friday-8:00 am

*Eucharist Adoration-First Friday of each month-
8:00 am*

† **Online Mass**

Sunday -10:00 am
Wednesday - 6:00 pm

**We are still Live Streaming Facebook
for anyone at home**

Find us on Facebook at:
*St. Pius X & St. Anthony of Padua Catholic
Churches*

Parish Office Hours

Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm

**St. Anthony of Padua
Mass Schedule**

† **Weekend Mass**
1st Saturday of each month-8:00 am
Sunday- 8:00 am

† **Daily Mass**
Wednesday-9:00 am
Friday-9:00 am

*Eucharist Adoration-First Friday of each
month-9:00 am*

Pastoral Team

Fr. Brian Johnson, Pastor
Paula Schmidt, CRE/Office Manager
Jamie Zaim, Bookkeeper/Bulletin/Website
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FROM THE PASTOR

A Message From Fr. Brian Johnson

December 13, 2020

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



Third Sunday of Advent

Dear St. Pius & St. Anthony Churches,

Who is who? The gospel of John, is the one unique bird among the four gospels (Really--John's symbol is the eagle). It is a deep (or a-lofty) and rewarding study in itself. I love how John the evangelist talks about John the Baptist. We might easily get confused at times, asking, "Is John talking about himself or about the other John?" Not to get more confused but when I was a kid, I had a friend named 'John-John'. We might think that about today's gospel! John and John! Who is who? You can bet I favor such repetitions being a 'Johnson' myself! And I hear just that question posed to the Baptist himself today's reading, as he is being asked "Who are you?" (John 1:19) John might have said, 'If we had time, Oh, don't I have a long drama to share with you about my naming!' Remember Zechariah's 'muting' and Elizabeth's surprise 'naming' of John by the miraculous direction of the Angel! (Luke 1:59-64)

Yet, on a related scriptural note, it is easy in the Bible to be mixed up about who is being talked about, as there are so many repetitious names, such as multiples of James, Judas, Simon, Mary and guess what, John too! Well, in John's gospel, interestingly, the Baptist John is never called "the Baptist", like in all the other gospels (example--Matthew 3:1 saying "John the Baptist"). It's like the gospel writer John made a decision, "There will only be one John in this gospel" --like only one sheriff in this town. So the humble evangelist doesn't name himself at all, except as maybe the *'witness'* writing these things ("This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true" John 21:24). The evangelist remains unnamed to give the whole stage to John the baptizer. Some have suggested that the evangelist was a disciple of the Baptizer before Jesus came along (John 1:37). So in this fourth gospel, John the son of Zechariah who performed baptisms is only called 'John' but his importance is reinforced by being identified 'John' some 22 times (John 1:6, 15, 19, 23, 26, 28, 29, 32, 35, 40; 3:23, 24, 25, 26, 27; 4:1; 5:33, 35, 36; 10:40, 41, 41)."

So maybe you want to ask, how does this gospel ever get the title 'according to John'? Well, this 4th gospel does have another interesting character named the 'beloved disciple' (Jn 13:23-26, 18:15-16, 19:25-27; 20:1-10; 21:1-14, 20-24). And this 'beloved' character always finds himself paired up with Peter in the John passages of 13:23-24; 18:15-16; 20:2-9; 21:1-8, 15-23. But we also, find such a partnering of Peter and 'John' in other parts of New Testament like Luke 5:8-10; 22:8; Acts 1:13; 3-4; 8:14-25; and Gal. 2:9. So it's likely that this 4th gospel writer is taking measures to humbly not be named himself and get confused with the more important John who baptizes. Also, keep in mind the Baptist's role as forerunner/messenger of the Messiah! But if these examples of 'quoting the bible on itself' is too convoluted, we can take comfort in the historical record of the earliest successors of the apostles--the first bishops such as Sts Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus, & Tertullian (all three living in mid-late 100's), who attest to 'John' as the title for the 4th gospel (*also the 1st church historian Eusebius also records this in the 300's*). So what does all this mean? It is reasonable to accept that a 'John' is writer of this 4th gospel. But does it matter? Well, the gospel writer who doesn't want us to name him, is more interested in the message of salvation and testifying to the 'Light' which is Jesus.

SO, my main point in all of this, is a line from today's Gospel: John 1:6-7 "A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him." This applies to *both* 1) the baptizer and 2) the evangelist-writer. They both testify to Christ, each in his own way: John Baptist by actions and practice, and John Evangelist by words and prayer. They are both humble servants. They both reflect good discipleship by simply glorifying the Son of God, not themselves. As John 3:30 says about the example of all good disciples, "He-Christ must increase, and I must decrease!" So, while we humans get mixed up at times, feeling in the dark about who is who, or what is what, the good news is that God knows exactly who we are and what we need. God is clear, radiant light in this dark, dark world of ours. We keep our eyes on His light, praying and working for its increase! That is Advent. We long for and wait patiently for this true light to appear! And His name is 'Jesus'! Peace, Fr. Brian

Another Saint in Time of Plague:

St. John of God (born 3-8-1495 died 3-8-1550)

We need our hospital workers! In honor of all nurses, doctors, aides on the floor and lab technicians, we pray for you, and thank you! One patron saint of hospital workers is St. John of God, so I wanted to introduce him as a great saint for us in this pandemic time. St. John (João Duarte Cidade) in Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal, to poor but very devout Christian parents (André Cidade and Teresa Duarte). Mystery surrounds what led to it, but at nine years old he disappeared from his family farm and ended up homeless on the streets in a town near Toledo, Spain. There was speculation that he was kidnapped or wandered away from home, caught up among some traveling merchants in a caravan. He was eventually taken in by a local farmer to shepherd the farmer's flock. St. John was a responsible and diligent worker, impressing the farmer so much that he offered one of his daughters in marriage to John. St. John felt a call to serve as an infantry soldier and so he joined an army of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. He was part of an engagement with some French forces, and his troop was victorious. Afterward, St. John was put in charge of guarding some sized spoils and somehow the inventory was ransacked. John was held responsible and jailed with a possible sentence of death. A senior officer familiar with John's piety intervened to spare his life. He left the service and returned to shepherding work for local landowners. His religious fervor increased over the next years and moved him to travel to Africa to seek the release of Christian slaves being held by the Moors. He sought to work in place of slaves, or to outright ransom them from their captors. Later, he moved back to Gibraltar Spain and began a book and pamphlet business distributing catechism and devotional materials about Catholic saints and teaching to villages and towns, at little to no cost for them.

Around 1537, St. John of God was said to have heard a beloved priest named St. John of Avila preach. He was overwhelmed with feelings of unworthiness and began practicing extreme penances. Part of his intense religious experiences in this stage of his life was a vision of the Infant Jesus who gave him the name John of God (the name that remained his title the rest of his life). He gave away all of his possessions to the poor, while he himself lived in the streets offering public displays of penitential mortification and flagellation. Many people suspected he was insane, because of his self-imposed holy deprivations. A friend persuaded the priest John of Avila to intervene and speak with John of God. Fr. John of Avila convinced St. John of God to offer a more positive and constructive witness to religious life by working among the suffering sick. John of God took a pilgrimage to a local shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Blessed Mother appeared in a vision to him revealing that he needed to begin a ministry of health care to the sick. He returned to Granada, and rented a house he used as a hospital to bring in the sick off the street to care for them. He asked for help from area doctors and priests to donate their time. He grew a band of helpers, and his house became a 'hospice center'. His group became known as the Order of Hospitalers. He gave the strong leadership example of sacrificial and selfless work tending to the needs of anyone suffering from any disease (even local plagues). Because he would often lose his shirt by giving it to the naked poor, a nearby Bishop of Tuy ordered that his religious group of hospitalers must adopt a uniform habit that became their permanent religious garment. His compassionate care led him to often mediate fights and disputes. Two of his most ardent followers in the earliest days of the Order of Brother Hospitalers were two publicly sworn enemies. St. John of God had reconciled them by his prayer and mediations, and won them over to convert to his medical cause! One of them later named 'Peter the Sinner', was commended by John of God to succeed him leading the Hospitalers after John's death. Many miracles and heroic labors are attributed to John of God. The greatest is the report of him saving all of the patients of the Grand Hospital in Granada during a devastating fire. Before the burning building collapsed, John led all the patients out, carrying the crippled himself, going back into the flames and out again many times unscathed.

St. John of God, tended to widows, orphans, the poor, homeless and unemployed who were always left out of the health care system. Near his end, it was reported that he developed pneumonia, after a heroic attempt jumping into a lake to save a drowning boy. His injury worsened, and health declined until he died shortly afterward on March 8, 1550 in Granada. Pope Leo XIII declared him the patron saint of hospital workers, nurses, doctors and attendants. St. John of God, pray for and protect our medical care friends.

DECEMBER 13, 2020 † THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Watch for our wonderful Advent Traditions:

1) Advent Wreath—Filled with symbolism, the wreath helps us keep time marked as we await the Coming Savior. The evergreens signify continuous life (our ever-living God). The green sprigs, like laurel wreaths, represent Christ's 'victory' over death and sin. The circle shape, having no beginning nor end, represents the eternity of God, who was, is and will be always. The four candles, represent the four weeks or generations of waiting from Adam until the birth of our Savior. The three purple represent the royalty of Christ, Lord of all History, and the rose candle signifies the flesh and suffering of our Eternal King for us!

2) Jesse Tree: Named after Jesse who was the Father of King David. One prophecy in the book of Isaiah, says, "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit" (Isa 11:1) A branch is a sign of new life and new beginnings on a tree. Jesus is this anticipated new branch on the family tree of Jesse/David. Originally Jesse trees were a pictorial demonstration of salvation history told in images like stained glass windows functioned before there was widespread literacy. Today, Jesse Trees are used as an Advent Calendar, introducing another special scripture personality once a day until Christmas. This family tree of Jesus has ornament symbols for His ancestors such as an apple for Adam, ladder for Jacob, staff for Moses, Star for David, a scallop shell for John the Baptist and a lily for Mary.

FFY News: On Wednesday, December 16th, we will have a FFY Virtual Christmas Party! We will play games (with prizes) and create a Christmas craft. Please watch for emails with more information.

Youth Ministry Group News: Thank you to all who helped set up the Nativity Scene in front of the church! On Sunday evening we will meet via Zoom for our weekly prayer gathering. An email will be sent with the Meeting ID.

#Dadvent2020: Dadvent is a virtual gathering of husbands and fathers from across the Diocese who will gather online through Zoom video conferencing each Sunday night of Advent to reflect on the Sunday readings and share in a time of fellowship together. Please visit our website for all the details and a registration link:

<https://owensborodiocese.org/dadvent-2020/>

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

December 14-20

Happy Birthday:

St. Pius X

December 14-Mark Devine

December 14-Sydney Shea

December 15-Lonie Vickers

December 16-Andy Ferm

December 16-Michael Hebner

December 16-Elizabeth Padgett

December 16-Austin Shea

December 17-Jennifer Roberts

December 19-Sherry Ferm

December 20-Rose Drury

St. Anthony of Padua

December 14-David Loxley

December 14-Diane Quayle

Happy Anniversary:

St. Pius X

No Anniversaries this week

St. Anthony of Padua

No Anniversaries this week



Christmas Eve:

St. Anthony 5:30 pm (Candles & Carols-5:00 pm)
St. Pius X 8:00 pm (Music & Three Trees Story- 7:30 pm)
St. Pius X 10:00 pm (Music & Three Trees Story- 9:30 pm)

Christmas Day:

St. Pius X 10:00 am (Prelude Music)
*Lightest attendance expected

We are operating faithfully under the health safety guidance, which includes mask face coverings, no contact-touch and distancing between families. We have added the 10:00 pm candlelight Eve Mass, and as a new time it may be the lightest attendance. Also, we encourage considering Christmas Day, (attendance always seems lighter on that Day). We do have the overflow area in parish hall arranged for when capacity is met, and we will be strictly following the health guidelines.

Remember in Prayer

St. Pius X: John Bardsley, Kaileigh Row, Rose Grossius, Bennett Meisenheimer, Neil Trammell, James Eden, Peter Bullock, Jim & Rose Drury, Wes Hayes, Mike Norvell, Maryann Huebschmann, Shirley Mangan, Kenny Matthews, Dora Miller, Miller Meisenheimer, Joann Najgebauer, Elizabeth Nelson, Johnny Poe, Joel Rivera, Sister Rosemary, Carol Ross, Marty Tyskling, Lonnie Vogler, Brenda Waitke, Gary Walters, Andrew Walton, Larry Wenzel, Anna Williams, Dawn Williams, Wilma Lejuene, Lori Butler, Isabella Hamilton, Dr. Danny Butler, Jeanette Hayes, Cameron Richmond, Brad Longworth, Matthew Black, Helen Bennett, Nannette Frizzell, Catherine Broks, Stacey Newby, Bette Zilligen, Dorothy Henry, Ric Vaughn, Susan Sloan, Donny Travis, Betty Derry, Scott Hamilton, Connie Burt and family, Abigail Huebschmann, Lucas Hebner, Juanita Perkins, Ericka Karpstein, Joanna Cooper, Carolyn Outland, Angel Thompson, Kaye Poyner, Jerry Huebschmann, Dorothy Henry, Bob & Lois Tashjian, Kim Bruce, Rita Cook, Hannah Padgett, Juliette Kaplanes, Jim Henthorn, Jack Bender, Penny Maupin, Don Kemp, Tom and Sharon Olejnicak, Tim Wilson, Beverly Dukes, Bill Norvell, Kacie Schmidt, Wallace Hunt, Phyllis White, Judy Krouse, Kerry Frazier, Rene Harrington, Joe Cirrito, Lisa Doyle, Forrest Michael Teeters, Mike Block, David Kroll, Cameron Brewer, Stefanie Wilkerson-Barragin, Hugo Santos, Sharon Gibbons, Lori Blades, Wayne Viniard, Braydn Barnett, Ann Burgess, and their families and caregivers

St. Anthony of Padua: Elena Carey, Donna & Jon Gresham, Bill Rodgers, Tom & Margie Sheppard, Bob & Lois Tashjian, Deanna Hayward, Mr. Driskill, Margaret Adams, Pat Gorbett, Ed Derringe, Charles Paulius, Helen Krivan, Imogene Ramey, Bob Lang and their families and caregivers.

Pray for Our Military

St. Pius X: 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, Ryan M. Fields, LeAnne Neal, and Kousuke Sasaki.

St. Pius X

**Mass Intentions
December 14-20**

Tuesday	6:00 pm	Albert Kauzlarich
Wednesday	8:00 am	Derwood Doyle
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Irene Rudnicki
Thursday	8:00 am	Raphel Cantaron
Friday	8:00 am	Holmen Family
Saturday	4:30 pm	Cynthia Becker
Sunday	10:00 am	Charles Fischer

WEEKLY DONATIONS

Parish Hall Donation (12/06/20)	206.00
Budget for 2020/2021 Fiscal Year (July 2020-June 2021)	\$ 165,000.00
Donation Need Each Week	\$ 3,173.08
Weekly Donation (12/06/20)	\$ 3,682.00
Online Giving (12/06/20)	\$ 960.00
Fiscal Year to Date	\$ 81,496.00

Online Giving: To sign up, visit our website at www.stpiusx.us and click on the link for "online giving" to set up your account. If you need assistance, please call the parish office.

Thank you to Mike Julian for all the new kid's coats! The coat closet at the Calvert-Sharpe Family Resource Center was almost empty. These coats will be put to good use. Thank you!!

St. Pius X Jesse Tree: The Jesse Tree is up and ornaments representing our Salvation History are being hung every weekend before Mass. Before Mass begins, we learn about the people from our family tree from the beginning of time through Jesus' birth. If you are unable to attend weekend Mass, join us via Facebook Live at 10:00am on Sunday to hear about our Salvation History through the Jesse Tree presentation.

2020 Angel Tree: Thank you for the generous response to our Angel Tree. We have bought clothes for 50 children. With the donations, we were able to give the Calvert-Sharpe Family Resource Center additional clothes to help even more children this year.

Parish Council

Pam Hurst	Chair Person
Jeff Outland	Building & Ground
Larry Krouse	Secretary
Robert Weekes	Finance
Dawn Whitt	Spiritual Life
Catherine Broks	FFY

Bereavement Committee

Fran Dacus (618)383-4646

Other Groups

Finance Council	Harold Dacus, Chair
Art & Decorations	Paula Schmidt
Knights of Columbus	Philip Scheidegger

St. Anthony of Padua

**Mass Intentions
December 14-20**

Wednesday	9:00 am	Sharon Trew
Friday	9:00 am	Kathleen Quayle
Sunday	8:00 am	Dick Gorbett

WEEKLY DONATIONS

Budget 2020/2021 Fiscal Year (July 2020-June 2021)	\$ 60,000.00
Donation Need Each Week	\$ 1,153.85
Weekly Donation (12/06/20)	\$ 1,155.00
Fiscal Year to Date	\$ 28,501.00

**Livingston County Helping Hands
Christmas Food Basket Collection:**

Food donations for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets are being collected. Non perishable items needed: corn, green beans, chicken broth, tomato sauce, cranberry sauce, tomatoes, chili beans, pinto beans, mixed vegetables, evaporated milk, sweet potatoes, spaghetti sauce, tuna, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Spaghetti noodles, great northern beans, sugar, flour, Kool Aid, pancake mix, macaroni and cheese, kids cereal, crackers, cake mix, frosting, tea. There is a collection container at the back of the church for your non-perishable items. Thank you for your generosity!

2020 Angel Tree: We will be collecting monetary donations for *Livingston County Family First* again this year for their *Christmas for Kids* program. Collection envelopes will be available on the Angel Tree. Thank you for your generosity!

Parish Council

Roy McFadden	Chair Person
Mike Drury	Vice Chair/Building & Ground
Debbie Owens	Secretary/Family Life
Shara Parish	Finance
	Building & Ground –Indoor
Nick Zaim	Social/Spiritual Concern
Sr. Michael Friedman	Spiritual/Faith Formation

Bereavement Committee

Pat Gorbett (270)362-3377

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 Jamie by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday. Email: stpiusx@stpiusx.us