



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



Third 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."

'A Bruised Reed Shall He not Break'

By Christina Georgina Rossetti

I will accept thy will to do and be,
Thy hatred and intolerance of sin,
Thy will at least to love, that burns within
And thirsteth after Me:
So will I render fruitful, blessing still,
The germs and small beginnings in thy heart,
Because thy will cleaves to the better part.—
Alas, I cannot will.

Dost not thou will, poor soul? Yet I receive
The inner unseen longings of the soul,
I guide them turning towards Me; I control
And charm hearts till they grieve:
If thou desire, it yet shall come to pass,
Though thou but wish indeed to choose My love;
For I have power in earth and heaven above.—
I cannot wish, alas!

What, neither choose nor wish to choose? and yet
I still must strive to win thee and constrain:
For thee I hung upon the cross in pain,
How then can I forget?
If thou as yet dost neither love, nor hate,
Nor choose, nor wish,—resign thyself, be still
Till I infuse love, hatred, longing, will.—
I do not deprecate.

**IN THE WORD
WITH BISHOP MEDLEY**

2nd Sundays of month 1:30 St Pius Parish Hall Join group to study the Bishop's message monthly.

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

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday December 14, 2025

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

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

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

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

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

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,

3rd Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

“Nothing but praise for you....” Yes, that is the title of an old Dallas Holm album (1970’s *Gospel Singer*, who had the inspiring hit *‘Joy Comes in the Morning’*). But in today’s gospel Jesus reflects a similar ‘nothing but praise’ sentiment toward John the Baptist saying, “of those born of women, no one is greater” (Mt 3:11). Jesus will go on to identify John as a contemporary version of the great ‘Elijah’ (Mt 3:14). Yet even aside from Jesus’ recognition of him, it is clear that John the Baptist had quite ‘the following’. A sign of him being a very popular prophet, is reflected in the fact that John even had ***“disciples”***, too! We hear about them today in this reading of Matt 11:2, and they are referred to additionally in Matt 9:14 when John’s disciples ask Jesus about fasting. Over in Luke 11:1, Jesus will not seem to measure up to John, when Jesus’ own disciples ask him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.” Some of the disciples of Jesus were once John’s followers - we know by name, one of them, Andrew (John 1:35, 37 & 40). And later in Matthew 14:12 we will hear about John’s disciples lovingly preparing and burying John’s body after his execution. Recalling that John’s job was to point out Messiah when he at last He came (Luke 1:76), John does perform that duty singling Jesus out as the Saving One to follow (Matt 3:11, John 1:29, 36). However, if some of John’s disciples had an inordinate attachment to him, they may have needed extra urging to move on over and become disciples of Jesus. So, a problem arises of how to properly transfer John’s disciples over to Jesus’ discipleship. John had some ‘hangers-on’ who hadn’t moved on to following Jesus yet. That could explain here, why John ***seems not*** to know if Jesus is the one or not (Matt 11:3 asking ‘should we look for another?’) But we know that John knows that Jesus is the One! So, John sends these still-faithful disciples of his, on a mission to ask Jesus more details about His ministry. John knows that once he makes such a personal introduction of them to Jesus, they will encounter Christ for themselves and realize that yes, Jesus is the One! John only needs to set up the meeting and Jesus will touch their hearts, convincing them that He is the promised savior who was to come. Just being personally in the presence of Jesus, then they will know what to do! And that is what happens! Personally encountering Jesus makes the difference!

Yet, while Jesus does give the highest praise to John as a prophetic vessel of God’s grace, I like how Jesus goes on to add an important check against any possible ‘spiritual pride’ that may arise in such a recipient of divine praise (in this case for John, but it goes for any servant of God, too)! Jesus adds that as great as John is for his successful ministry on earth, John is still only another child of God alongside everyone else in the kingdom! John had unparalleled charismatic gifts of prophecy, but John is only an instrument like every other servant of God. Jesus adds about John that as good a prophet as he is, “yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he” (Matt 11:11). This is a common reminder of Jesus to everyone, that we must all acknowledge God as the source of any/all good that we may perform. John may do great things, but it is God working in John that is accomplishing the good (not John, but God to be glorified!) What do people say but that, “Jesus is the carpenter, and his disciple is only the tool in his hand!” John knows this and will readily admit his humble servant status. In Matthew 3:11, John will say, “I am not worthy to carry his sandals”, before going on to say his own baptism is as common as water, compared to Jesus’ baptism by the Holy Spirit and Fire. John, as a meek servant, deflects all praise to God as the source of any good in him. Related to Jesus, John will even say, “He must increase, and I must decrease” (Jn 3:30). Always the properly humble instrument of God, John the Baptist models perfectly the disposition that Jesus will later praise in Luke 17:10, “We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.” Peter also models this meek humility. One time when Cornelius, after receiving a miracle from Peter, Cornelius bows in worship of Peter. And Peter quickly refuses such praise, scolding him, saying, “Stand up, I am only a human being” (Acts 10:26) But we also find this lowly attitude in the Blessed Mother, as she offers a great example of this humble, servant of God disposition too, when praying, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word”-Luke 1:38) May we always be as humble and helpful to God!

Peace, Fr Brian

Pius X Parish Council Meeting Wednesday Jan 28 @ 5:00 pm

Chair Person, Secretary & Finance, Spiritual Life, FFY & Religious Ed
Social Program/Outreach, Building & Ground Comtees

Barb Melillo, Stacey Newby, Philip Scheidegger, Amanda
Gentry, Allison Devine, Michael Bowling, Karen Williams

First Reconciliation/First Communion Schedule

Congratulations to our First Sacrament Students who made their First Penace last week: **Tyler Anderson & Eastin Devine**
We look forward to celebrating their First Communion next Spring!

DECEMBER 14, 2025 + THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

**St Pius X Mass Intentions
Dec 15 – Dec 21**

Tuesday	6:00 pm	Larry Macomber
Wednesday	8:00 am	Lucila Rendon
Thursday	8:00 am	Norman Wheatley
Friday	8:00 am	Tena Brooks
Saturday	4:30 pm	Sally Anne Klohr
Sunday	10:00am	Larry Darst

WEEKLY DONATIONS

Parish Hall Donation (12/07/25)	\$ 702.00
Budget for 2025/2026 Fiscal Year	\$ 205,000.00
Donation Need Each Week	\$ 3,942.00
Weekly Donation (12/07/25)	\$ 4,501.50
Online Giving (12/07/25)	\$ 1,682.00
Total Week's Gift Offering 12/07	\$ 6,183.50
Fiscal Year to Date	\$ 114,789.91

Many Thanks to Paula & Dot Schmidt, Ashley & Kinley Peterson, Pam Hurst, Nancy Glover, Amy Crass, & Amanda Scheidegger who shopped & wrapped all of the Advent Angel Gifts for Calvert/Sharpe School Resource Center. Gifts for 43 kids were provided!

Prayers & Sympathy: Please pray for the eternal rest of Victor Melillo who passed away last week. Please pray for Barbara and her family as they grieve his passing. May God may bring them strength/comfort

Raffle Christmas Message Print Fundraiser: We want to thank Gavin, Eastin & Madeline Devine for donating their handi-craft framed Christmas print for a raffle. All proceeds donated to MCS Student Resource Center to provide Christmas gifts for kids

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE

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

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday Dec 25 St Pius 9:00 am
Christmas Choir Help Needed: Contact Danny Padgett



Happy Birthday! Dec 14 – Dec 20 St. Pius

Dec 14 Mark Devine	Dec 16 Austin Shea
Dec 14 Sydney Shea	Dec 17 Jennifer Roberts
Dec 16 Elizabeth Padgett	Dec 17 Pat Chandler
Dec 16 Andy Ferm	Dec 19 Sherry Ferm
Dec 20 Rose Drury	

Happy Anniversary! St. Pius
No anniversaries this week

St Pius X Mass Assignments: Saturday, Dec 20, 2025

Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ushers / Greeters	Money Counters
Camryn Risley Kendall Risley	Liz Medley	Kurt Schmidt Amy Crass Jeff Riedfort	George Humphreys (Greeter) Paula Humphreys (Greeter)	

Mass Assignments: Sunday, Dec 21, 2025

Harrison Shupe Gavin Devine	Philip Scheiber	Kelli King Jimmy Harbison Diane Witowski	Margaret Howard Gary Traylor Usher Volunteer	Andy Ferm Sherry Ferm
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FFY
Calendar
&
Activities
Schedule

DATE	SUNDAY GOSPEL READING	Classes or Events
Dec 17, 2025	4 th Sunday of Advent - A	Christmas Break – No classes
Dec 24, 2025	Feast of Christmas – A	Christmas Break – No classes
Dec 31, 2025	Feast of the Holy Family - A	Christmas Break – Happy New Year

Remember our Sick in Your Prayers

St. Pius X: Matt Scheiber Christine Thornton, Thomas Lorenz, Florine Daigle, Tena Brooks, Angie Farris, Kathy Sanderson, Greg Williams, Judy Ayers, Pat Hobbs, Keisha Bradley Iris Joelle Maynard, Sara Repovich, Kaye Hinkebein, Amanda Scheidegger, Olga Edwards, Diane Fischer Paula Willett, Kent & Kim Henry, Leah Vincek, Rick Wilson, Ashley Hayden, Donna Barrix, David Crass, Helen Nicholson, Bonita Walker, Joe Hedges, Jerry Wade, Katie Wood, Joanna Grimes, Amanda Bailey, Pam Laibl, David Kroll, Henry Feezor, Lisa Hammond, Bennett Meisenheimer, Mike Norvell, 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, Betty Derry, Scott Hamilton, Connie Burt, Ericka Karpstein, Joanna Cooper, Angel Thompson, Kaye Poyner, Bob Tashjian, Rita Cook, Jack Bender, Don Kemp, Sharon Olejnicak, Tim Wilson, Beverly Dukes, Kerry Frazier, Rene Harrington, Forrest Teeters, Cameron Brewer, Hugo Santos, Sharon Gibbons, Braydn Barnett, Elizabeth Witowski, Pam Dietz. Anthony Pellegrin.

Pray for Our Military

Cameron Thomason, James Griffith, Cory Erickson, Justin Fatum, James A. Kinsey, Sarah Martindale, Benjamin Patton, Kousuke Sasaki, Noah Willett..



PRAY FOR UKRAINE

St. Anthony Page Announcements

Coffee/ Doughnuts 1st Sunday Every Month

Christmas Choir Practice: All who are interested please join us. Practice will be every Saturday at 9:00 am until Christmas. More info, talk to Pam/Ashley

Angel Tree Giving: Please pick an envelope off the tree and contribute to our St Anthony Angel Gifts to *Livingston County Families First* gift program of toys and clothes for needy families and children in the county. Please drop into collection.

Congratulations to Quilt Winner: Mary Weitlauf
The Raffle raised \$575.00. Thanks to all of the quilting hands that prepared Dolly's quilt for sale

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University:
We're interested in hosting a financial-help seminar. At least 10 people needed to host classes. Please ask Kipling Spencer or Fr Brian info.

All-Day Adoration on Friday January 2

St Anthony Church has an all day Eucharistic Adoration every 1st 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.

First Saturdays Honor the Blessed Mother:

First Saturday Mass on January 3 @ 8:00am. Every first Saturday we offer mass and pray the rosary



St Anthony Birthdays Dec 14– Dec 20

Dec 14 David Loxley

Dec 14 Diane Quayle

St Anthony Anniversaries:

No anniversaries this week

St Anthony Wednesday Bible Study

Come join us every Wednesday at 10:00-11:00 for study of the gospel reading from the Sunday ahead. We'll be reading the text and conducting a form of Lectio Divina & discussing the fruit of our reflection upon God's Word



St. Anthony of Padua

Mass Intentions

Dec 15 – Dec 21

Wednesday	9:00 am	Debbie Green
Friday	9:00 am	Ginny Iddins
Sunday	8:00 am	Deanna Hayward

WEEKLY DONATIONS

Budget 2024/2025 Fiscal Year (July 2025-June 2026)	\$ 89,000.00
Donation Need Each Week	\$ 1,711.54
Weekly Donation 11/30/2025	\$ 2,604.00
Fiscal Year to Date	\$ 58,018.05



Food Items Especially Needed: Saltine Crackers, peanut butter, Hamburger Helper, sugar, cereal, 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 church

St Anthony Mass Assignments – December 20, 2025

Lector	Mike Drury
Eucharistic Ministers	Steve Wilkes Judy Forsythe
Ushers/Greeters	Vern Hunsley Georgia Hunsley
Server	Juan Gonzalez
Money Counters	Shara Parish Kevin Diamond

CONSIDER ATTENDING DAILY MASS OR WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

St Anthony Prayer List: Holly O'Brien, Theresa Owens, Thomas Lorenz, Kathy Johansen, Jeff Ritorto, Cathy Ritorto, Betty Gonzalez, Elena Carey, Linda Drury, Bob Decker, Bill Rodgers, Margie Sheppard, Bob Tashjian, Mr. Driskill, Pat Gorbett, Imogene Ramey.

Pray for our Military

Kevin Rapp, 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

Kevin Diamond	Chair Person
Judy Forsythe	Spiritual Life/ Secretary
Shara Parish	Finance
Kelly Noonan	Building & Ground
David Loxley	Social Concerns/Events
Steve Wilkes	Faith Formation

Next Meeting Jan 21 Wed @ 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