

ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 28th, 2015

It begins with the sign of the cross.

Recently renovated, St. Pius X Catholic Church boasts a welcoming atmosphere with touches of modernity and an abundance of light. The inside of the church is both warm, traditional, and at the same time in touch with the times.

The enveloping arrangement of pews appears to be embracing the altar. Directly behind the altar is the crucifix, a reminder to all of the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ.

It is the second Sunday of Lent, the holy period leading up to Easter Sunday. During this week the transfiguration of Jesus to his disciples is remembered and internalized. The priest and deacon pray for all to also be transfigured during this time to lead lives of Christ.

The sign of the cross is bestowed upon all present. In turn all of the congregates cross themselves, embedding the symbol of the crucifixion upon their bodies and minds.

A prayer for God's forgiveness is given. This plea for the infinite Mercy of God is in tune with the Islamic view of God as being Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.

A reading from the Book of Genesis tells the story of Prophet Abraham's complete obedience to God's Will. It retells the account of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in order to please God. This example of sheer love for God above all things and all people ring true for all three Abrahamic traditions including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

The choir and piano aid in music of praise as a Psalm is read.

There is quite a sense of contribution to the Catholic Mass from the parishioners. Each week different people can partake in the service by reading from the Testaments. When leaving the area around the altar, people bow towards the tabernacle, a sign of reverence towards the sacredness held within.

A reading from Paul to the Romans is given stating, "If God is for us, who will be against us?" This brilliant question can be taken to heart by all who worship a higher power and yearn to draw focus away from earthly matters.

Whenever the deacon is present for the Mass, he will read from the Gospel instead of the priest. Thus the deacon reads from the Gospel of Mark about how Jesus

appears to his disciples after his crucifixion.

Throughout the mass the faithful stand, sit or kneel. As with the five daily prayers for Muslims, the entire body is involved in the worship. The congregation then shares signs of peace with one another.

The focal point of the mass then occurs with the miracle of the bread and wine actually becoming the body and blood of Jesus Christ, a belief held dear to the Catholic tradition. There is an atmosphere of sheer awe and reverence as worshippers kneel as the priest consecrates the bread and wine.

The priest, deacon, and Eucharistic Ministers distribute the bread and wine to the community. There are such signs of sheer devotion as church members fall to their knees while receiving the bread on their tongues and then share in the cup holding the blood of Christ.

St. Pius is a church proud of its rich Catholic tradition while being extremely friendly and welcoming to those of other faiths. It is an asset to the community.

It ends with the sign of the cross.