



IMPORTANT DATES

February

- 23 Confirmation 7:00 p.m.
 27 Bereavement Meeting
 Parish Center 7:00 p.m.

March

- 1 Ash Wednesday
 5 Hospitality Sunday
 11 Deaf Community Retreat
 12 Deaf Community Potluck
 25 School Auction
 27 Bereavement Meeting
 Parish Center 7:00 p.m.

April

- 2 Hospitality Sunday
 2 Lenten Penance Service
 2:00 pm
 9 Deaf Community Potluck
 10:30 a.m. Parish Center
 RCIA Retreat 2:00 p.m.
 13 Holy Thursday Dinner after
 6:00 pm Mass
 24 Bereavement Meeting
 Parish Center 7:00 p.m.

May

- 6 Engaged Couples Conference
 9:00 am in PC
 7 Hospitality Sunday
 7 First Communion 1:30 pm
 20-21 Men's CRHP Retreat
 22 Bereavement Meeting
 Parish Center 7:00 p.m.

June

- 4 Hospitality Sunday
 19-23 Vacation Bible School
 26 Bereavement Meeting
 Parish Center 7:00 p.m.

"Fifty is Nifty?"

Fr. Jim Sanford, O.S.F.S.

By the time that you read this article I'll have turned the half-century mark. I realize that for some of you I'm still young, but my gray hair can't lie. (I'm not a "Just for Men" kind of guy!) I'm hoping to enjoy my fifties with my silver hair. I'm also happy to be crossing the threshold into finer maturity while living with you as your pastor.

I'll never forget turning forty. I had just celebrated Mass at the convent at Notre Dame Academy and I was sitting in my car on Monroe Street waiting for the traffic light to turn green. I glanced into my rear view mirror, and behold, there was a very beautiful blond in the car behind me. She was eating french-fries. I felt lust in my heart – for the **fries!** Then it hit me. I was truly four decades old!

I'm hoping turning fifty won't be as traumatic. I recently though had another auto-age experience. I was driving south on the Anthony Wayne Trail and being stopped by every red light. At the first intersection I gazed into the rear-view mirror and behold: another gorgeous

blond. She didn't appear to be eating any fries. Once traffic started moving again she suddenly passed me on the right and waved a finger at me. (And it wasn't a nice one.) Then a second and third car did the same thing. I finally looked at my speedometer. I was "speeding" at ten miles below the speed limit in the left lane. Then it hit me: I'm one of those old, slow drivers - I'm fifty! What will I be like at sixty? I can accept that I might become slower and chubbier, but like most of you at that age, I hope to become a lot wiser!

I have found that with age I've become more contemplative. Maybe that was why I was driving my car so slowly. I just have to make sure I don't contemplate anymore while I'm behind the wheel. St. Francis de Sales tells us: "Contemplation is nothing more than taking delight in the goodness of God. This delight will be our happiness in heaven." This input from my patron gives me comfort that I'm moving in the right direction spiritually. I'm no longer looking back with lust in my heart (well, at least not as often as I used to.) I'm enjoying life, but maybe at a slower pace.



THE PROCLAIMER
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I am aware of the fact that there are a lot of you out there who are older than I and a lot more active than I in how you live your lives. That is fine. This is how God made you. God just didn't make me that way! Contemplation has also helped me cope with my disability. And if at times my prayer life doesn't go that well, I've always got my pooch, Frankie, who with every lick and wag of the tail reminds me of God's good presence

St. Pius X Parish is already a very active and spiritually vibrant community. I hope that it remains this way. But, I'm also hoping that I can encourage some of you to explore contemplative spirituality. You don't have to join a monastery to do so. All a person needs to do is take some time out of every day centering oneself and focusing on the loving presence of God. Contemplation isn't for everyone, but then neither is any other type of prayer. I'm planning on adding two contemplative retreats to next year's retreat schedule. These will hopefully be a fine complement to our already successful overnight adult retreat program.

I have come to celebrate the fact that aging is a wonderful experience. We are allowed to grow, mature and eventually return to God better people; having left behind a holier world. **Fifty is nifty!**

News from the Director of Religious Education

Ann Etue



Confirmation

Our junior high students celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, February 23, with Bishop Leonard Blair. Seventy-eight Seventh and Eighth graders completed their Sacraments of Initiation that evening. They enjoyed a retreat with hundreds of other junior high students in our Diocese in November. They had two meetings with Fr. Jim and were interviewed by a staff person. They were well prepared to celebrate Confirmation and declare their desire to be part of our Catholic Christian tradition, a role that was accepted for them at their Baptisms.

Vacation Bible School

We have begun to plan for Vacation Bible School, which will be held June 19-23 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center and on the parish grounds. As of this writing, the exact program has not yet been chosen. Mark your calendars if you are interested in having your children participate or if you would like to help with a fun-filled week. For more information, please call Anne Etue at 419-535-7672 x223.

25 Years of Parish Retreats

Mary Ann Niedzielski

St. Pius may not be the biggest, richest, or best-known parish in the diocese, but it is certainly notable for providing a wide variety of retreats and missions to its members. These opportunities for spiritual renewal have been as brief as four or five hours, or as long as several days. All have had specific themes, and all have provided many different spiritual experiences to the participants.

One of the very first retreats was held in May of 1981. It started on a Friday evening, continued all day Saturday, and concluded on Sunday after a Eucharistic celebration. For the very first time in St. Pius history, the retreat format included witness talks by parishioners and small group discussion. The retreat was held at St. Ursula Academy because St. Pius had not yet renovated a Parish Center or built the Family Life Center. Retreatants did not stay overnight at St. Ursula, but spent Friday and Saturday night at home.

Publicity for the retreat gives an insight into the high ideals that shaped its planning. "The weekend is designed to promote a conversion or change of heart. As a result of a few intense hours together, we hope that those present would experience the joy of being Catholic, recover or develop their pride in being part of the Church, and grasp the wider, practical dimensions of what

membership means. We think the weekend will be tough work...but it will also be joyful because of the realization of the depths of God's goodness in every one of us as a community of believers."

In the next several years, more weekend retreats were offered. In addition, Evenings of Renewal, which consisted of a potluck supper, witness talks, small group discussion, and prayer, were provided on a regular basis for former retreatants. Although the initial purpose of the renewal evenings was to offer continued support to past retreatants, all parishioners were invited and encouraged to attend the bi-monthly meetings.

RENEW, a three-year diocesan program, became the focus of spiritual renewal in the early 80's. Approximately 300 parishioners took part. Small groups met in private homes to reflect on scriptural themes. At the conclusion of each RENEW semester, all participants gathered together at Large Group activities, which typically featured a meal, a speaker, and communal prayer.

During RENEW and after it ended, one-day retreats were offered to the parish. These retreats were held at The Franciscan Life Center on the Lourdes College campus. Themes such as "Prayer in the Market Place", "Together in Faith", "The Road to Emmaus", and "One Bread, One Body" shaped these days of reflection, celebration, and prayer. The beautiful grounds of the college provided an ideal setting for

quiet walks and peaceful recollection.

From 1989 to the present, St. Pius has offered retreats in several different formats. The most popular format has been the four-evening mission, which begins on a Sunday and ends on a Wednesday. "Isaiah 43", presented by Fr. John Graden and Dianne Nyitray, was the first of this type. A mission entitled "Together We Can", a lively Lenten retreat by Fr. Paul Mueller of our diocese, followed it the next year. This mission involved all age groups and included a Tuesday evening family night in which school children took part as well as the Youth Group.

The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales were the presenters of the Lenten retreats in the mid to late nineties. Fr. Joe Power, OSFS, and Fr. Tom Moore, OSFS, inspired retreatants with their reflections on "Finding God Wherever You Are". Fr. Tom Helfrich, OSFS, and Fr. Roland Calvert, OSFS, presented retreats the following two years, speaking on "The Lord Is Always With You" and "Making Time for God in a Busy World". The four-evening retreat format has continued until the present time, Sister Mary Kay Tardiff being the last presenter.

In the fall of 2000, a new weekend retreat experience, Christ Renews His Parish, was offered to parishioners. The annual Lenten retreat continued, but CHRP was presented at other times during the year on an ongoing basis, with weekends for men followed by weekends for women. The

CHRP retreats combine a wide variety of presentations and prayer, including reflections, dramatization, devotional prayer, and witness talks. One of the most important and valuable aspects of the CHRP movement is its focus on renewal of the entire parish through service to the community and hospitality to all.

The St. Pius family has always been the beneficiary of its many retreats and missions. Whenever a retreat strengthens faith, builds up the entire community, and encourages outreach to everyone in the parish family and surrounding neighborhoods, then we know it is of the Spirit. Thanks to all who have been involved over the years in offering retreats as a gift to the parish, and thanks, too, to all who have attended them.

Liturgy Update

Pat Urbaniak

Instead of the typical weekly Stations of the Cross, a variety of presentations will be offered during Lent. The *Wings of a Dove* group will be having stations one week; the school children will offer these prayers another week. Ted Schwartz, a musician, will be doing a “concert” type of stations after a gathering in the narthex for wine and cheese. Benediction will be one of the weekly services and another type to be decided on later. In our St. Pius X tradition, Fr. Cryan at Gesu Church will offer Tenebrae services during Holy Week. Also, there is no Lenten Mission scheduled this year.

However, after Easter we will see the return of Frank Kelly, the “healer” we had last year. He will be at the 5:30 Mass on April 25 and will give his talk and healing service after the Mass. If you missed his presentation last year, please try to attend this awesome event!

Easter Schedule

Lenten Penance Service
Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 pm

Holy Thursday
April 13
Liturgy 6:00 pm
Dinner by ticket 7:00pm

Good Friday
April 14
Stations of the Cross 12 noon
Liturgy 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday
April 15
Vigil 8:30pm

Easter Sunday
April 16
Masses at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am

Roving Reporter



The following question was asked of participants at a recent meeting of the Adult Education (Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation) group: **What is your favorite way to pray?**

Gwen Raupfer: I like to see God’s creation and thank him for its beauty and awesomeness.

Paul Nungester: I have tried to make an effort to pray daily. Since attending a parish retreat two years ago, I was inspired to say a morning offering and the act of contrition at night. I also enjoy praying with the community at Mass.

Helena Louviaux: My daily prayer is quiet centering prayer. It requires reading a passage from the bible (usually the daily liturgy readings) and journaling about what strikes me as important to me.

Deacon Tim Etue: I like to pray in the form of a dialog with God on whatever topic I need his guidance.

Kathy Kress: The time tested formal prayers of the church often touch me deeply. It’s not a question of rote memorization but of appreciating the distillation process of generations, which has resulted in a profound simplicity that bears repeated contemplation.

Pawel Kalczynski: There are many ways in which we pray daily as a family but my favorite is the night prayer from the liturgy of the hours, which I recite daily with my wife.

Mary Nungester: In the quiet I like to pray in my mind and talk with God. I also like to pray together as a group and sing praise to God at Mass. I also love devotions and novenas.

Budgeting For a Parish

Paul Nungester



Most of us use budgets to plan our personal finances. For individuals or families, these budgets can be very informal, with only minor use of pen and paper to track income and expenses in general. Others take a more formal route of writing down goals, plotting cash flow, tracking net worth and forecasting. Often this entails using computer software. Most businesses, organizations and large entities engage in this type of formal budgeting, including our Diocese and every parish.

Historically, budgeting at the parish level has been more of an art than a science. Up until a few years ago the Diocese did not require a balanced budget from each parish. Therefore, parishes would manage their budgets by figuring what cash shortfall there may be after collections and expenses and 'plugging' a number in for bequests to 'balance' to zero. Yet, that all changed two years ago when the diocese required truly balanced budgets from all parishes.

This required a change in thinking for the financial planners of St. Pius X and probably all parishes. Now, it was necessary to look at the operation of a parish and consider what income it took to

match expenses before bequests.

Bequests are a wonderful expression of an individual's love and dedication to a parish. Also they demonstrate God's commandment to give to the needy (most churches are in need). Further, bequests are a constant and help a parish to minister God's love. St. Pius X has always had some income from bequests. However, there are two negative aspects of bequests. First, someone has to die. . . not something anyone wishes to happen. Secondly, bequests are very difficult to plan and control as they are complete unknowns at the start of a year, and they often come with restrictions limiting their use.

The Finance Committee had to decide to balance the budget the last two years with no stipulation for bequests. This is a major paradigm shift. To make the transition less painful in 2004-05 a small percentage (less than 10%) of the income was earmarked as bequests. In 2005-06, no monies were planned. Offertory is budgeted at \$539,305 and church expenses are scheduled at \$471,466 leaving an Operating Gain of \$67,839. Included in the church expenses is a Net Cost to the Parish for the school of \$142,110. Other Non-Operating Net Losses are budgeted at (\$35,300) with a small Total Net Parish Gain of \$32,539.

There has been some positive and painful fallout from this change in financial philosophy. On the negative side, salaries

and wages were frozen for one year. Also, work hours were lessened for some staff. Father Sanford detailed many of these financial 'belt tightening' events in a letter to the congregation last fall.

Yet, on a more positive note, St. Pius X is blessed with a dedicated and talented staff that runs the ministries, operations and school with enthusiasm. Parishioners have responded very well to the stewardship appeal and increased donations accordingly. Our parish numbers are up and we are blessed with new parishioners. The school enrollment increased dramatically this year and, as a result, the cost to the parish was down significantly. Also, since bequests are not a part of the budget, when one is received (and thank God they always are) they can be earmarked and hopefully accumulated for long-term capital projects, which are always a challenge.

Consequently, the parish remains a vibrant, loving, spiritually and fiscally sound community. The challenge for the future is to grow and be able to afford to keep the facilities operating, provide a respectable wage to the staff and teachers and Minister God's love throughout the community.

This is my final installment in this series. I encourage all to get involved in parish life. Maybe finance and accounting isn't your thing but there are many needs in the community.

Reaching Out

Mary Ann Niedzielski

"...We reach out in a special way to those who hunger and thirst for human dignity: the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed people in our community and in our world." (St. Pius X Mission Statement)

The sign of a healthy, spirit-filled, Christian community is its energetic and dedicated outreach to those in need. St. Pius X has a long history of providing goods and services to the less fortunate.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

has been reaching out to the community for over 40 years. The Society's charitable acts include weekly visits to nursing homes and hospitals; food, utilities, and rent assistance; donations of furniture and appliances to the needy; ushering in church; and attendance at wakes and funerals. SVDP, St. Pius X Chapter, has 18 members and is headed by **Sue Roskuski**, 471-0569.

St. Louis Helping Hands has been assisting with a noon meal at St. Louis Parish for over 15 years. At present, 19 St. Pius parishioners take part in this ministry. Once or twice a month, St. Pius volunteers prepare and serve a meal to approximately 270 people in the church basement of St. Louis. **Rita Yates**, 475-8424, heads this outreach effort.

Feed Your Neighbor is a monthly food collection of staples for the hungry of the city under the sponsorship of the Toledo Council of Churches.

This program has helped many thousands of Toledoans. **Mary Agnes Hierholzer**, 474-8309, directs this effort in our parish.

Club 55+ regularly donates money to various charitable organizations. To date, over \$2,500 has been given to local, national, and international charities and relief efforts. **Mary Ann Niedzielski**, 472-0514, facilitates this group.

Blood Bank of St. Pius X Parish has been in operation for over 20 years. Twice a year, usually summer (June) and winter (December), the Red Cross sets up a blood donation station on parish property. On average, about 30 pints of blood are collected. **Chris Aukerman**, 885-8456, directs this effort on the parish level.

Social Justice Committee

works to bring about change to better the Toledo community through political action. At present, St. Pius volunteers are working on recommendations to solve problems resulting from substandard housing and unstable neighborhoods. **Don Curtis**, 536-4576, spearheads this effort.

Ministry to Holly Glen

involves members of St. Pius Resurrection Choir, who prepare the room, provide the music, and assist as lectors and Eucharistic ministers at the monthly Mass at Holly Glen Nursing Home. **Gert Streicher**, 535-5846, heads this ministry.

Each of these groups would be pleased to welcome new volunteers. If interested, please call the contact persons listed

St. Pius X School – See the Difference!

Deb O'Shea

Continuing the Catholic Schools Week theme of **Character – Compassion - Values**, St. Pius X School will be holding our Open House on March 5, 2006 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 p.m. when we will begin accepting registrations for kindergartners and new students for 2006-2007 school year. We invite all school families and parishioners to come and visit the school. There will be doughnuts and coffee after all the Sunday masses in the Family Life Center and the School Advisory Council will be conducting tours. We also will be hosting our annual Scholastic Book Fair on this day.

Save This Date!

Join us Saturday, March 25, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. for our annual school benefit Auction - St. Pius in Wonderland. Work is well underway for a night of fun and surprises. By popular demand Nick and Jimmy's will again be preparing dinner. This "adult only" evening will include dinner, raffles, a silent auction, and topped by our spirited Live Auction. If you are interested in donating items or cash for this Auction, please contact the school office. We are generating support from area businesses, but would also like to make sure we include everyone from this parish.

News from the Pews

The Top Hat Award of the St. Vincent de Paul Central Council has been awarded to **John Novotny** and the late **Leonard Langenderfer** after they were nominated by the St. Pius X chapter.



John has been a member for over 45 years and has served as a mentor for new members. He truly sees Christ's face in the poor and the sick. Leonard believed strongly that home visits are a very important duty of the members. He always enjoyed his visits to hospitals and nursing homes. He was the historian and record keeper of the St. Pius group, and gave 30 years of service to our parish and to other people.

Nicole (Livecchi) McBrier, the only girl in the Livecchi family following six older brothers, received her doctorate degree last August from Ohio State University. She is now employed at Penn State University both teaching and doing research. She attended St. Pius X, School and Notre Dame Academy; then received her

BA at UT, and her MA at Indiana State. Nikki is also a Certified Athletic Trainer.

Two St. Pius X 8th graders, **C.J. Gall** and **Morgan Schneider**, have been nominated to participate this coming summer in the *People to People Student Ambassador Program*. This program was developed in 1956 by Dwight Eisenhower to help foster better understanding of other cultures by Americans. Their 20 days in Great Britain will be mainly spent in London where they will live with host families for two or three days. They will be learning history, geography, and government of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales as they visit Parliament and other famous landmarks in all countries.

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NEIGHBORS

Kris and Ray Alvarez
Of Alameda

Jennifer and Edward Bee
Of Parakeet

Carol and John Campbell
Of Isha Laye Way

Charlotte Darwish-Kayed
Of Monroe St.

Randi Hoyt
Of Elmhurst

Mary and Gordon Hunt
Of Rushland Ave.

Debra and Paul Johnson
Of Roberts Lane

Susan and Gregory Johnson
Of Bonniebrook Rd.

Margaret and Leo Kolinski
Of N. Reynolds Rd.

Robert Menke
Of Wyman

Kellie and Samuel Posey
Of Eastway

Debra and Thomas Radwanski
Of Pemberton

Joan Rutherford
Of Douglas Rd.

Andrea Schmelzer
Of Carskaddon Ave.

Effi and David Theiss
Of Middlesex Dr.

Kathleen Thompson
Of Leybourn

Patricia Thompson
Of Leybourn

Julie and Shawn Vess
Of Scarsborough
Amy Weis
Of New England Lane

Jennifer and Stanley Wilburn
Of Gibraltar Heights

Nancy and John Zawisza
Of Ariel Ave.

Marilyn and John Zielinski
Of Eastbrook

MARRIAGES

David Bodner to Beth Ann Dennis 9/17/05

Daniel Grossman to Cortney Kelly 10/1/05

Matthew Shull to Alicia Parke 11/26/05

BAPTISMS

Susan Iannone
Daughter of M/M James Iannone

Lauren Lowe
Daughter of M/M Nick Lowe

Skyler Davis
Daughter of M/M Brian Davis

Robert Daiber
Son of M/M Robert Daiber

Malcolm Bello
Son of M Margo Stewart

Kennedie Kihumbu
Daughter of M/M Benoit Kihumbu

Delaney Toth
Daughter of M/M Jason Toth

Olivia Skelding
Daughter of M/M James Skelding

Alyssa Dolinar
Daughter of M/M Jason Dolinar

Braden Vineyard
Son of M/M Matthew Vineyard

Jessica Diette
Daughter of M/M Patrick Diette

Jacob Diette
Son of M/M Patrick Diette

Alexander Wilburn
Son of M/M Stanley Wilburn

Grace Durfey
Daughter of M/M Dave Durfey

Natalie Chryst
Daughter of M/M Neil Chryst
Jacqueline Gwinn
Daughter of M/M Eric Gwinn

Jude Hunt
Son of M/M Gordon Hunt

DECEASED

Pasquale Cicora
8/27/05

Ralph Lehman
9/8/05

Edgar Rozek
9/19/05

Eugene Zawisza
12/1/04

Barbara Wolfe
12/28/04

Lucille Heyman
10/17/05

Katherine Parks
10/22/05

Rita Duffin
10/31/05

Rev. Daniel Earley, OSFS
9/8/05

Ronald Rejent
11/11/05

Patricia Hasenauer
11/24/05

Kathryn Dugan
12/9/05

John McManus
12/10/05

Vince Collins
12/17/05

Helen Jackson
12/24/05

James Edgeworth
1/3/06

Leonard Langenderfer
01/21/06