



St. Pius X Parish

G-3139 Hogarth Avenue, Flint, MI 48532
Parish/School Website: spxparish.com

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

We, the community of St. Pius X in Flint rejoice in our communion with our bishop and brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing. Together, we worship, we teach, we serve.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Anthony J. Strouse
Deacon: Dave Jansen
School Principal: R.J. Kaplan
Religious Education Director: Cindee McColley
Minister of Music: Maria Sutara

PARISH PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office	235-8574
School Office	235-8572
Religious Education	235-8574
Minister of Music	235-8574
Powers Catholic	
High School	591-4741
E-Mail	spxparish@gmail.com
Prayer Warrior Ministry	(810) 487-0871

SUNDAY MASSES

4:30 p.m. (Sat.); 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY AND HOLYDAY MASSES

Consult weekly bulletin.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents must be registered members of the parish and must attend a workshop in preparation for Baptism. Call the rectory office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (RECONCILIATION)

Saturdays 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., Tuesdays 5:30-6:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Contact the parish priest at least 9 months in advance. One of the couple must be a registered member of the parish.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Saturdays following the 4:30 p.m. Mass or call the rectory.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Call the rectory if you are aware of anyone who is homebound.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Monday, 9:00 a.m., in writing!

Hearing difficulties?

Please ask an usher for a Personal PA receiver.

First Sunday of Advent



Be watchful and mindful of your ways. Pray without ceasing, and prepare your hearts. Only the Father knows the time. Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope. He brings hope to everyone. He comes. He comes.



Guess what time it is? Please sign up for the Children's Pageant at our Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Mass. The sign up sheet is in the narthex. We need 10 children to present a good play that will be done before the 4:00 p.m. Mass. We are also looking for established musicians willing to share their talent before this Mass. Please sign up to volunteer. Call Cindee at (810) 235-8574. Let's celebrate the birth of our Lord together!

The Weekly Calendar

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(†Mass Intention)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, Return Giving Tree Ornament
Student Council bake sale after Masses
Christmas wreath pick up 9:00 am—1:00 pm

9:00 † Richard Swanson by Janet Graham
 9:00 Adult Choir (church)
 11:00 † The parish
 6:00 Confirmation prep (youth room)
 7:00 Youth Group (St. Robert's youth room)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:15 † Joan Lemere by Janet Graham
 1:00 Altar Society meeting & potluck (parish center)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:15 † Mary Ann Wells by Paul Wells
 8:45 Tuesday Toasters (parish center)
 12:30 Bible Study (parish center)
5:00-5:30 Confessions
 6:00 33 Days to Morning Glory (teacher's lounge)
 7:00 K of C meeting (parish center)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:15 † Craig Rich by MaryBeth Leet
 6:00 CCD (parish center/convent)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:45 Divine Mercy Chaplet/School (church)
 6:45 Adult Choir practice (church)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy day of obligation

SCHOOL MASS/Parish office closed

8:15 † The Parish
 6:00 † Arturo Tiong by Laraine Tiong & family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, All Giving Tree gifts back

Witness to Hope participation weekend
 10:00 Worship Committee (teacher's lounge)
 3:00 Confessions
 4:30 † Tom Page by the family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

All Giving Tree gifts back/Witness to Hope participation weekend

9:00 † Michael Wojciechowski by John and Marlene Wojciechowski
 9:00 Adult Choir (church)
 11:00 † The parish
 7:00 Youth Group (St. Robert's youth room)

Fr. Anthony is looking for a housekeeper. If anyone is interested, please call the church office (810) 235-8574.



Altar Servers for December 9 & 10

4:30 L Decker, T Weeks, G Weeks
 9:00 D Mulligan, D Stacy, volunteer
 11:00 L Danic, V Mathew, N Kaplan



Lectors for December 9 & 10

4:30 C Cramer 9:00 E Fitzgerald
 11:00 R J Kaplan

OUR WEEKLY COLLECTION

Week of:	11/19/2017	11/26/2017	Year-to-Date
Budgeted income	\$ 9,700.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 261,500.00
Actual income	\$ 9,217.94	\$ 12,095.00	\$ 231,092.35
Surplus (deficit)	\$ (482.06)	\$ 2,595.00	\$ (30,407.65)

Don Antonio's Dispatch...

Happy Advent! This is the beginning of our new liturgical year, and it's jam-packed!! This week we not only welcome Bishop Boyea at the 9:00 a.m. Mass for the first Sunday of Advent, we also have two other major celebrations.

Our first celebration is St. Nicholas. While more popular in the Eastern churches, St. Nicholas is also quite popular in the West. In fact, in Dutch-speaking countries, he was called *Sinterklaas*, and it is when families would give gifts to each other, in commemoration of St. Nicholas who gave secret gifts. In fact, St. Nicholas was from Turkey, and was put in prison during the persecution of Diocletian. He was also present at the Council of Nicea, which deposed the priest Arius, who taught that Jesus was not consubstantial with the Father. According to Catholic legend, St. Nicholas was so mad at this heresy from Arius, that he hit Arius in the face. In modern times St. Nicholas is associated with Santa Claus (an anglicization of *Sinterklaas*), but as a Church we celebrate a holy bishop who was persecuted for his faith in Jesus, and helping to preserve our belief that Jesus is truly God.

Our second celebration is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a **Holyday of Obligation**. We will have Mass at 8:15 a.m. (with the school children, without incense), and at 6:00 p.m. (with incense). The 6:00 p.m. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Carl Mengeling, Bishop Emeritus of Lansing, who will also bless the new icons in our sanctuary. I want to thank our choir for agreeing to sing that evening for such a great event.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates when **Mary** (not Jesus) was conceived by Sts. Joachim and Anna without the stain of sin. Exactly nine months from now (8 September), we will celebrate Mary's nativity (birthday). Make sure to honor your Blessed Mother and go to Mass. Bishop Mengeling always has good homilies, too, so it's an added incentive.

I will also say that our church is not decorated for Christmas for a reason. Too often we can rush immediately from Thanksgiving to Christmas, and not truly prepare for Christmas. We'll hold off on decorating for Christmas until it's much closer to Christmas time, in order to help our eyes, minds, and hearts feel a hunger for Christ to come as we celebrate His Nativity in the flesh. But, if you're interested in helping to decorate our church for Christmas, please call the office for more details.

Another way to support the Witness to Hope campaign is to put it in your estate plans. While we don't want anyone to die any time soon, it is a great way to continue to do great work that the Foundation will do to support Catholic Education, Catholic Charities, and our priests and seminarians. If you're interested in including Witness to Hope in your estate planning, please contact Fr. Anthony at the parish office.

Decorating in the Church for this Christmas season will be on Thursday, December 21 at 8:30 am. Anyone is welcome to help. Donna's donuts will be available to all of our helpers. Please call the church office (810) 235-8574. Together let's make our church beautiful for Christmas!



ALTAR CARE-Team 2

Linda Helmka, Kathy Hartner



Tuesday afternoon Bible Study meets 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm in the parish center—

December 5-Ephesians, December 12-Philippians
January 9 & 23- Colossians and 1 Thessalonians
February 6 & 20-2 Thessalonians and 1&2 Timothy

**Wednesday evening Bible Study meets 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the Choir room. Please enter through the community room/gym doors between the parish center and the church. There is great****parking there as well.**

December 13-Philippians
January 10 & 24-Colossians and 1 Thessalonians
February 7 & 21-2 Thessalonians and 1&2 Timothy

Religious Education Department

“Keep your children connected to their faith” December Theme is Advent and Salvation History. Remember we offer our Wednesday evening program from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm and CCD religion online class for busy families.



The Divine Mercy Apostolate is a Eucharist Apostolate active at SPX. Our next cenacle meeting is Monday, December 4th from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the parish center. We will be in week 13 of the manual.



The First Week of Advent: 33 Days to Morning Glory began Tuesday. Please keep this group in prayer as they begin a journey in search of Jesus through the Mary of Love. Consecration Day is on Friday, December 29th following the 8:15 am Mass.

GROW & GO

Pray for the Catholics Come Home campaign happening in our diocese from **December 6, 2017 to January 7, 2018!** "Like" Catholics Come Home on Facebook www.facebook.com/catholicscomehome.org (CCH's Facebook page includes daily inspiration and updates)



St. Pius X Altar Society meeting and potluck luncheon is Monday, December 4 at 1:00 pm in the parish center. Please bring a dish to pass and table service. In the place of a gift exchange, please bring an unwrapped personal item or two to donate to Catholic Charities. All ladies of the parish are invited.

Please return all Giving Tree gifts wrapped with the Giving Tree Tag securely attached to the wrapped gift, no later than December 10th. Catholic Charities will be picking up all of the wrapped gifts. Thank you to all for your kindness.



Join us in Lighting of the Advent Wreath-- If you or your family would like to join us in lighting of the candles on our Advent Wreath during the Advent Season, please call the parish office (810) 235-8574 to sign up for a Mass. Help us to prepare for Jesus when he comes again.



St. Pius X/St. Robert's Youth Group: Join us this Sunday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm in the Youth Room at St. Robert's parish, Flushing for a faith-filled, fun evening.

**ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC SCHOOL
FAITH MOVING FORWARD**

Website: www.spxparish.com

Grace & Gifted

We have a student population that is full of grace. Notice I did not say perfect. But I do believe that our students are full of grace and being a Catholic school lends itself well to teaching children what it means to show grace. Years ago I was struggling, as a new principal, with a parent that was challenging my patience (no way, really?). Father Robert told me that, "even if I am 100% right and they are all wrong, if I don't let grace in I can't let God in." Grace is something that we can teach our students every day, and yes even us parents can learn a thing or two about it. But parents also expect, demand for that matter, high academics at St. Pius X- and rightfully so. This year I am proud to announce that seven of our 8th grade students have been recommended into Northwestern University's Academic Talent Search (NUMATS). These students have studied hard for their academic achievements and have a chance to take their high school ACT test this school year. All of our students here are full of grace and gifts. So often we share the success of our students gifts on the field, the court, and in after school clubs. It is awesome to see such a large group of kids with high academics take their first step into a larger world. These students have shown excellent Academics. I am excited to announce: Lucas Danic, Marianne Dion, Marielle Hatfield, Emma Jones, Simon Kaplan, Allie Sexton, and Dillon Stacy. Congratulations kids!

Keep the Faith (1 Timothy 6:12)
R.J. Kaplan
Principal

SPX Catholic School Barnes & Noble Book Fair is being held Saturday, December 2 until 8:00 pm at Genesee Valley Barnes & Noble. If you are unable to stop in for holiday shopping and gift giving, it's not too late to help. Order items at: bn.com/bookfairs to support us online from 12/2/2017 to 12/8/2017 and enter Bookfair ID 12252201 at checkout. Thank you for your support!



All Children are invited to have Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 16th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in the SPX community room. Cost is \$10 per family. The **Secret Santa Workshop** will be open too! You can visit the Secret Santa Workshop beginning on Thursday, December 14 and Friday, December 15 in the Youth Room during the school day. Come and enjoy some fun while doing Christmas shopping!!

HOLIDAY SCRIP NOTES: Plan ahead for your Christmas shopping. Families who purchase or order SCRIP now through Friday, December 22 will receive 100% profit (rather than the usual 60%) toward their tuition. We have several gift cards on hand and many more can be ordered...gift cards also make great stocking stuffers! Stop at the office to see what is available. Orders are placed on Monday mornings (orders must be in by 8:15 am) and are available for pick-up on Thursday afternoons. The last order date before Christmas break is Monday, December 11. (There may be another order on Monday, December 18, but delivery before the school break is not guaranteed.)



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