

A PLACE **WE ARE** TO CALL HOME
ST. PIUS X

2021 Advent Message

**"The People who walked in darkness have seen
a great light; upon those who live in
a land of gloom a light has shone."**

Isaiah 9:1



Dear Parishioners,

Even as an infant, Jesus, the Incarnate Word, was drawing people to himself. Shepherds and Wise Men from the East come to mind.

In his ministry, Jesus had an intense connection to the marginalized. Tax collectors and sinners, the sick and lost were part of his mission to invite people into a closer relationship with his Father who sent him.

It seems that everyone Jesus encountered had an opportunity to experience the Father's love.

I would like to invite you to encounter Jesus in this hopeful season of Advent as we welcome more and more people back into our worshipping community.

We're praying for our health care workers to give us solid information to help us make wise decisions. The fact that many of you trust what we are doing here at St. Pius X to keep you safe and healthy is a testament to what we can do together. We have lived in a dark 18 months. My hope is that we will make the team effort to do what it takes... together...to make good, conscious decisions to move toward the light.

I pray that your Advent preparation time will allow you to fully welcome the Word Made Flesh this Christmas.

Fa. Joe Wang

Celebrate Christmas at St. Pius X

Advent Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Mass Times

Friday, December 24, 2021

5:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass Times

Saturday, December 25, 2021 *

8 a.m. & 10 a.m. **

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, January 1, 2022

10 a.m.

(not a holy day of obligation)

*5:30 p.m mass will not be offered on December 25th

**ASL Interpretation

Contemplate Hope

For many of us, it may feel like we have been stumbling through the darkness as a global pandemic has required so many changes that have seemingly turned life upside down. For a time, many of us have had to maintain physical distance from the people and places we deeply care about in an effort to keep ourselves and others as safe and healthy as possible. In addition, experiences of grief and loss have been all too common for so many families right here at home and throughout the world.

We know that the flickering flame of God's love and grace has sustained us throughout the difficult days; it has never been extinguished. We long for the time, hopeful that it is coming soon, when we can fully come back together as a whole community, and together reignite the burning fire of God's grace in our parish community and beyond. As we contemplate this hope, we reflect on the following:

What parts of myself are in need love, light and grace this Advent season? What steps can I take to allow God's light to grow in me as I prepare for the birth of Christ this year?

What graces have I personally experienced this past year? How am I being called to share the light of these graces with others? With my faith community at St. Pius X?

What do I need to sustain me during difficult times? What can I offer to sustain the fire of God's love and light at St. Pius X?

How do I use my gifts and talents to draw people to the light of Christ? To love and care for my neighbor as myself? What gifts and talents can I share with St. Pius X in order to help create a "parish that is so on fire that we draw people to You?"

WE PRAY FOR THE GRACE

As we emerge from isolation and distancing, we enter a season of hope and anticipation. The prophets remind us, in this Advent season, to take off our robes of mourning and look for signs of hope.

We pray for the courage to accept our new challenges, for they will instill connections with others. We pray to be empowered in our difficulties, for God will lead us through them to healing. We pray to know the Grace of God that is already gifting us, for this is our common identity. Psalm 33 encourages us to pray to the Lord, for our "hope is in his unfailing love."

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unfailing love."*



WE INVITE YOU:

ADVENT
RECONCILIATION,
CHRISTMAS MASSES,
PRAYER
OPPORTUNITIES,
FAITH SHARING
GROUPS



A PARISH SO ON FIRE

During the cold dark of Advent, fire represents transformation and renewal. The Eucharist draws us to the light of Christ and transforms us into light for others. A pandemic may tamp down fire, but the fire of Christ's love can never be dampened. We tend that fire in and through our faith community. When we attend Mass we are transformed by the fire of love, so that we can, in the words of Ignatius Loyola, "go forth and set the world (and our parish) on fire." Together, Our gathering at Mass transforms us into a "parish on fire". We hope that you join us at our communal celebrations this Advent and Christmas and throughout the year.

WE INVITE YOU: WELCOME BACK CELEBRATION MASS AND DINNER, PARISH CONVERSATIONS, WELCOMING REFUGEE FAMILIES AND OTHER COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

WE DRAW PEOPLE TO YOU

Jewish teacher Hillel wrote, "If I am not for myself, who is for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I?" When we are only for ourselves, what does that make us and how do we find our way to God? There is interconnectedness of the individual and community. Being in relationship with one another is how we can draw others to Christ.

WE INVITE YOU: PASTA FRIDAYS, BIBLE STUDIES, PARISH FESTIVAL, AND ALL THE OTHER MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH WHERE WE CAN EXPERIENCE GOD, WORKING IN AND THROUGH US