



## Feb. E-News

**One Rose One Life Jan. 28-29** "One Rose One Life", is an annual campaign coordinated by our Knights of Columbus Council and the Nebraska State Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Foundation. Prayer cards and envelopes will be available after each mass. Envelopes may be dropped in the collection basket any weekend before the end of February. Online donations are available. Thank you and God Bless, Greg Barry, Grand Knight, 402-522-6623.

**Theology Matters: God's Divine Touch: The Mind, The Brain, and the Healing Transformation of Relationship – Monday, January 30, 7:00 PM** in the Parish Center. We are a Church of the incarnation; God took on human flesh and used touch to heal us. The sacraments celebrate our physicality (you can't baptize or anoint via Zoom!), so it is right to recognize the human need for touch to thrive. Jesuit neuroscientist and theologian Fr. Chris Krall, S.J., addresses how human touch in an age of isolation and "social distance" offers healing and connection. Hosted by Spectrum ministry team. Spread the word and bring a friend!

**Soda Bread is here!** The St. Pius and St. Leo Knights of Columbus are again offering Soda Bread. It will run from now until March 12, with one week off for school distribution. Please be sure to stop in the narthex after Mass to get your Soda Bread and help support our school. The funds from this go to St. Pius X/St. Leo School Tuition Assistance. Your donations are appreciated. All of your favorite flavors will be available.

**Catholic Schools Week, January 29-February 4** Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year celebrates themes of Parish, Community, Students, Nation, Vocations Faculty, Staff, Volunteers and Families. Check out the St. Pius X/St. Leo school website for a schedule of events.  
<https://spsl.net/>

**Congratulations Rita Bianchi.** St. Pius X / St. Leo School, along with the National Catholic Educational Association, understands that one of the greatest measures of Catholic education is found in the aspirations and resolve of our graduates. The **Distinguished Graduate Award** is presented to an alumna or alumnus who, through his or her outstanding achievements and contributions, brings honor to St. Pius X / St. Leo School. This year, we are excited to honor **Rita Bianchi (1966)** as the SPSL 2023 Distinguished Graduate. Rita has been a lifelong member of St. Pius X Parish. Rita has been involved in a number of St. Pius X ministries. She leads the bereavement ministry, helps with funeral lunches, can be seen regularly helping with dusting disciples, takes Communion to shut-ins, helps with the Catholic Social Teaching Committee, and is involved in the Women's Organization. Rita certainly brings honor to St. Pius X / St. Leo School! Rita will be honored at our Catholic Schools Week Mass on **Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 8:30 am at St. Pius X**. A reception will follow in the Fr. O'Brien Parish Center. To attend the reception, please email [michaela.smith@spsl.net](mailto:michaela.smith@spsl.net).

**The Wizard of Oz Friday or Saturday, February 3 or 4th at 7:00pm, St. Pius X/ St. Leo gym.** Please help us celebrate Catholic Schools Week as St. Pius X/ St. Leo's Drama Club presents *The Wizard of Oz*. Seventh and eighth grade students have been working hard on this classic musical about Dorothy longing for a place where there isn't any trouble, only to discover that there truly is no place like home. The musical will run approximately one hour and is free and open to the public. Donations are accepted.

**St. Pius X/St. Leo Young Heart, Saturday, February 4, 9:00 AM St. Robert Bellarmine's (11802 Pacific Street), Mainelli Center** Presentation on *Standing Bear* by St. Robert's parishioner, Larry Dwyer. Coffee and donuts will be served. This is sponsored by St. Robert's senior group. There is no RSVP and no cost. Standing Bear was a legendary Indian Chief who fought for the freedom of the Ponca Tribe. Through his leadership in 1879, an Omaha federal court declared the Native American to be a "person" and Native American rights were reformed. For the past decade, Larry has given

countless presentations to various organizations on the historical significance of Standing Bear. He has recently published a book, [Standing Bear's Quest for Freedom](#). All are welcome!

**Pastoral Council Meet and Greet, Feb. 4-5 after Masses, Narthex.** Please stop and say hello and share thoughts, comments, suggestions. Also remember that there are forms in the kiosk and [online](#) where you can offer suggestions.

**Kindergarten Round up, Saturday, Feb. 4** Looking for a pre-kindergarten or kindergarten program for your young child? St. Pius X / St. Leo School will be holding their Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Roundups on Saturday, February 5. Kindergarten will begin at 9:00 am and Pre-K will start at 10:30 with both programs held in the cafeteria. We invite all families who have children who will be 3, 4, or 5 years old in the fall to join us. Families will meet our outstanding teachers and visit our classrooms. We ask that only parents attend Roundups this year. We also encourage all parishioners to spread the good word about SPSL and invite families with school age children to visit our school. More information about the Roundups can be found on the school website at [www.spsl.net](http://www.spsl.net).

**ValLimar Jansen, Tuesday Feb. 7, 7:00 pm Church** **Six Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood** Bring your family to a performance to hear and watch Catholic speaker, artist and performer ValLimar Jansen share the inspiring stories of these six Black Catholics who ministered in the United States. Three of them were once enslaved, but all overcame racism and discrimination as they tried to live out their Catholic faith as authentic witnesses of the gospel. ValLimar always delivers a good time. All are welcome! Free will offering.

**Let Us Dream" Planning Morning, Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:45-11:30** Come be part of dreaming and planning the future of St. Pius X Church. During Lent 2021 Parish Conversations were held. The responses centered around the following themes: Spirituality and Faith Formation, Supporting Vibrant and Welcoming Liturgies, Care for Creation, Justice and Service, and several under Connecting Parishioners: Young Families, Adults - New and Reimagined Ideas, Empty Nesters-Retirees-Seniors, and Enhancing Communication to Build Connections. Lists of dreams and ideas from those Lenten meetings will be shared under each theme. On the Planning Day you can add your dreams and ideas, and meet with others who share similar ones. Shared dreams with support and energy can make them come true!! *This is an important opportunity to make St Pius X an even more welcoming and inclusive community reaching out to the needs and wants of our parishioners.* RSVP: Mary Nowaczyk, [mnowa80@hotmail.com](mailto:mnowa80@hotmail.com) or text 402 214 1538

**Pancake Breakfast, Feb. 12, 8:00 am-11:00 am** The Knights of Columbus and Mens Club will be serving pancakes, with sausage, ham, milk, juices and coffee from 8-11 AM on Sunday, October 9. There will be special pancake "toppers" for the "kids" too! Everyone is welcome and the price for this event is a free will offering. See you there!! While there, check out the Essential Pregnancy Service Quilt. Tickets will be available for purchase for a chance at winning the quilt.

**St. Pius X/St. Leo Young at Heart Dinner, February 18 6:30 PM** , St. Leo's Celebrate Mardi Gras! Please join us for an evening of Dinner and Entertainment! Enjoy a catered dinner and music by Billy Troy. Billy has achieved an extensive and exciting career in the entertainment industry. He has performed on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. His accomplishments as a Nashville singer and songwriter have garnered Grammy nominations. Whether it is music from the 50's, 60's, 70's and beyond, Billy does it all. His voice along with his passion for the stories behind the music leave an impact on his audiences. Tickets are \$20 per person. Please RSVP to Dina at St. Leo's at 402-397-0407 or [dina@stleos.net](mailto:dina@stleos.net) by February 13<sup>th</sup>. This event is open to all!

**Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22** Ash Wednesday Masses will be at 7:00 am and 5:30 pm

**Lenten Soup Sunday – Sunday, Feb. 26, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM** – Last year's Lenten Soup Sundays were a hit, so we are planning an encore performance! No RSVP is needed to eat, but to ensure that we have enough soup and servers, please use the [Sign Up Genius](#) to volunteer to bring a soup or help with set up, serving and cleanup. A free will offering will be accepted.

**Walking With Purpose Women's Bible Study** – Wednesday evenings in Lent in the Church Library – Ashley Connor will lead a women's Bible study using the Walking With Purpose program materials. To join this group or start your own group, contact [colleenc@stpiusxomaha.org](mailto:colleenc@stpiusxomaha.org). Check out the materials at [walkingwithpurpose.com](http://walkingwithpurpose.com).

**Lenten Small Groups – Faith Sharing, Bible Study, Fellowship** The Archdiocese is offering Live Lent Together again this year with a new topic – Mission – that will help our parish as we adapt to being part of a family of three parishes. Small

group leader training sessions are scheduled in January and early February. Find the program materials and list of leader training sessions at <https://archomaha.org/lent/>. Contact [colleenc@stpiusxomaha.org](mailto:colleenc@stpiusxomaha.org) if you want to start a group.

**Finance News** A sincere thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas collection and to those who made year end donations. As of 1/16/23, we had fallen some \$18,000 short of the targeted goal of \$100,000. We are hoping that additional Christmas contributions are yet to be reported, with more contributions to come! If you haven't made that Christmas contribution yet please consider helping your parish with this important collection. In December the parish received significant memorial contributions, honoring deceased parishioners and former parishioners. Thanks to the family members of the deceased who made this possible. What a fitting way to memorialize someone who called St. Pius X their "home." Naming your parish as the beneficiary or co-beneficiary of your retirement account or your life insurance is as easy as filling out a required form and filing that form. Lifetime charitable gifts from your retirement account are easily accomplished as well through a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Significant tax advantages are oftentimes available by making charitable dispositions – seek out professional advice and explore potential options.

**Rides.** On occasion we have some of our older parishioners needing rides to a weekend Mass. If you are willing to give people rides (sometimes short term and sometimes long term) and are ok with us passing your name along please call or email the office. Also, if you are aware of any homebound parishioners, please contact us. Thank You Rita, 402-558-8446, [ritar@stpiusxomaha.org](mailto:ritar@stpiusxomaha.org)

**From Health Ministry February is Heart Awareness Month** The St. Pius X Health Ministry would like to remind you it's never too late to take steps to prevent a heart attack — even if you've already had one. Here are ways to prevent a heart attack.

- **Follow a healthy lifestyle.** Don't smoke. Maintain a healthy weight with a heart-healthy diet. Get regular exercise and manage stress.
- **Manage other health conditions.** Certain conditions, such as high blood pressure and diabetes, can increase the risk of heart attacks. Ask your health care provider how often you need checkups.
- **Take medications as directed.** Your health care provider may prescribe drugs to protect and improve your heart health.

Find out more about heart health by going to <https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/index.htm>

**It's Festival Time!!! June 4<sup>th</sup>** Yes you read right. It is never too early for us to start planning. Meet your 2023 Festival Chairs, Kristine Ericson, Karen Hosier, Trish Wangler and Erica Williamson. And meet your Game booth Coordinators. Kate Macias and Christine Henningsen, returning for another year. Thank you to these folks. Some of the areas where we know we can use help are the silent auction and the dime toss. As time gets closer we will also need captains for some of the game booths. If you have a seed of interest in knowing what any of these things entail you can email us at [festival@stpiusxomaha.org](mailto:festival@stpiusxomaha.org)

**Save the Date, St. Pius X/St. Leo School Golf Classic, Monday, May 22, 10:00 am** Plan on joining in at this annual event. This will be played at the Field Club of Omaha (Scramble format). Registration Opens at 10:00 am. Lunch is provided. 11:00 am Tee-Off. There will be a short program, prizes, and dinner reception following. A foursome is \$520 and Individual is \$130. A Panther card that allows for advantages on designated holes is \$50 per team. Watch for more information.

**Journey of Faith** There are really no updates at the moment. Many of the ministries here continually keep on their radar ways and opportunities of collaborating with our 'family' of parishes. Some have already reached out and started communication. But...what we really want to say is Thank You to all of our parishioners. For your support, contributions, and cooperation during this long journey of faith. Despite the changes already made here at St. Pius, we have not had any difficult problems to deal with. That is because of you. Your openness, flexibility and adaptability are so greatly appreciated. Fr. Gadache

### Staff Updates

**From Fr. Joe** It is just past mid-January and things are continuing to move forward. We have had a few Mondays off since Christmas and Martin Luther King, Jr day. Otherwise, the days are full from morning well into the evening. Physically I am in much better shape than I was at the beginning of November, but still have a plenty of work to do in

this area. Mentally I am making progress and have made a few breakthroughs in the past couple of weeks. I am looking forward to what the near future brings, as I hope to further explore some aspects that have caused me difficulties these last 40 plus years. As you can imagine, it is an interesting environment with interesting, wounded people. I have an excellent team helping me make progress day by day (and I'm grateful). We have superior nurses here which reminds so much of home. All in all, things are looking up and I'm looking forward to returning home when the time is right. A good friend that I have made here is returning to ministry tomorrow and I will miss him very much. At the same time, I'm extremely happy for him...this is the normal rhythm of how this works. On a sad note, one of the founding members of the songwriting retreat community that I attend every summer passed away this past weekend. Not only was he a great musician, he was a very talented artist...he will be greatly missed. I'm hoping to attend his memorial service on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. Thank you for keeping me in your prayers and know that I keep you in mine. Fr. Joe

**Please Welcome** Cindy Johnson, who will come on board full time Feb. 9 as Pastoral Associate. Cindy is well known and respected here at St. Pius X and is very familiar to many parishioners, and involved in many ministries. Those of us who know her, know that she is very committed to St. Pius X and at her core very vested in its mission. Welcome Cindy!! Her contact information is: [cindyj@stpiusxomaha.org](mailto:cindyj@stpiusxomaha.org), 402-558-8446. Rita Ramos who previously held that position will continue on at St. Pius X part time, continuing her work with communications, social media, website and other miscellaneous and special projects that arise.

**More Information** (*We are now on Instagram @stpiusxo—Follow us!*)

[Website](#)

[Full Calendar](#) (includes meetings, etc.)

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Flyers, CareNotes and other information can also be found in the kiosk in the narthex of the church.

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