

St. Pius X Parish

2305 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON M6S 1P1

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office@saintpiusx.ca www.saintpiusx.ca



Pastoral Staff

Fr. Massillamani Zacharias

(Fr. Mani), **Pastor**

Michelle Somers, **Parish Secretary**

Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 9 am and 11 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday - Friday 8:30 am

Rosary and Divine Mercy Prayer

9 am following Mass at 8:30 am

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Devotions to our Mother of Perpetual Help

9 am following Mass at 8:30 am Thursday

Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every first Friday of the month at 9 am following 8:30 am Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 4 pm to 4:30 pm or by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism

Register online at www.saintpiusx.ca/baptism, or call or email the office for more information

Sacrament of Marriage

1 year advance notice is required

Call or email the office for an appointment

Parish Ministries/Committees/Organizations

- Altar Servers
- Lectors
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Ushers/Greeters
- Musicians
- Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation
- Collection Counters
- Finance Council
- Building Committee
- Volunteer Screening Committee
- Catholic Women's League

Catholic School

St. Pius X Catholic School

71 Jane Street Tel: 416-393-5237

Holy Communion for SHUT-INS and SICK

If you know of anyone who is sick and would like to have communion brought to them or would like the Sacrament of the Sick, or simply would like to be included in the Prayers of the Faithful, contact us

New Parishioners: Welcome!

We invite you to join our Parish family by registering with the parish office at www.saintpiusx.ca or by contacting the Office

To Join



To Donate



To Volunteer



PLEASE REMEMBER ST. PIUS X PARISH IN YOUR WILL



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 7

5 pm + Jack Jagers

Sunday, December 8

9 am + Tony & Stephanie Fredo
11 am Parishioners

Tuesday, December 10

8:30 am Marie Fiskus

Wednesday, December 11

8:30 am Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 12

8:30 am + Delfina Sousa

Friday, December 13

8:30 am Parishioners

2nd Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Baruch 5.1-9
Psalm: Ps 26.1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 6
Second Reading: Philippians 1.3-6, 8-11
Gospel: Luke 3.1-6

Sponsoring the Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp signifies the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It burns for the greater glory of God. Parishioners are invited to become monthly sponsors of the Sanctuary Lamp. Please contact the parish office if you wish to donate. Doing so opens the opportunity for friends and families to pray at the Tabernacle knowing the Lamp burns for their intentions.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in December for the intentions of:

Marilyn Tremblay



GOSPEL REFLECTION

...and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

These, the words of the prophet Isaiah, were spoken about the mission of Saint John the Baptist. John was to "Prepare the way of the Lord" and to "make straight his paths." In prophesying this, Isaiah goes on to give this very descriptive image of John's ministry. It would be one that levels mountains and valleys, straightens every winding road, and smooths out the rough terrain. In other words, John came to remove every obstacle to God, making it easy to encounter the Messiah.

We also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

Beyond the vision of Baruch in the First Reading, what John sees is not just the return of the dispersed Israelites, but the "way of the Lord". At the head of the new humanity, restoring it to freedom, will be the figure of Jesus. Those whom he gathers and leads will be "returned ones," not now in the physical sense of returnees from exile, but in the biblical sense of "return" which denotes conversion of heart. Once again, this Advent, John summons us to a change of heart.

Today, there are countless obstacles to grace that so many of us encounter. Some have been drawn into the satisfactions of earthly riches and material comforts and find little need for God. Others have very little that this world can offer but are consumed with a desire for money and the passing comforts it promises. But some are like a dry and deserted desert, just waiting to soak up the gentle rain of God's grace. These are those who have sought to detach themselves from the false promises of this world so as to be prepared for the abundance of grace when it comes. These holy souls have heeded the call to repentance and have humbly acknowledged their need for the Savior.

Believers are not handed a perfect blueprint for salvation. In the ever-changing circumstances of human life and knowledge, we are summoned to a life of constant discernment: to ask what leads us to God, what leads us away; what gives us joy, what leaves us in sadness. Advent is a time of sharpening our sensitivity to the summons and calls of the Spirit. (Excerpts from: Loyola Press; My Catholic Life; Brendan Byrne,SJ)

PARISH NEWS

Offertory Boxes of Envelopes

Your 2025 box of envelopes will be available in the church foyer again this weekend. If you do not have an existing box number, please speak to Fr. Mani or email the Parish office. You will need to register as a parishioner on our website (note the QR Code "To Join" on the front of the bulletin) so that your donations become eligible for a tax receipt. However, we continue to encourage parishioners to sign up for online donations instead of envelopes. This leads to cost and time savings for the Parish.

Christmas & New Year's Day Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve:

5 pm – Special Mass for Parents with Children

8 pm – Mass for Everyone

Christmas Day: 9 am & 11 am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God & New Year's Day: 9 am & 11 am

Please Note: There will be no Mass on December 26 and January 2. The office will close at noon on December 24 and December 31 and will be closed on December 26 and January 2.

Red Poinsettia Memorial Garden

We invite all parishioners to bring a red poinsettia in memory of their loved ones to be placed in our poinsettia memorial garden at the altar. We ask that you drop off your plants in the parish office between Tuesday, December 17 to Friday, December 20 from 9 am to 1 pm, and Saturday, December 21 until 5 pm. Labels will be available on which to write the name(s) of your loved ones. We will place them in front of the altar for our Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Christmas Church Decorations

Do you enjoy the creativity and festivities of Christmas decorating? All are welcome to help make our church beautiful in early December! Just call the parish office with your availability.

Christmas Trees & Advent Wreath

As part of the celebration of the Advent and Christmas season, our parish installs two evergreen trees near the altar. These trees have deep Christian significance. For a fascinating history of the symbolism of Christmas trees, see: [https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/christmas-](https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/christmas-tree-legends-traditions-history-1763)

[tree-legends-traditions-history-1763](https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/christmas-tree-legends-traditions-history-1763). We also place an Advent wreath beside the altar. Any assistance with donations for the purchase of these trees or the wreath would be greatly appreciated.

Rosary Apostolate in the School

Two volunteers are leading a Rosary Apostolate at St. Pius X Catholic School. This apostolate engages children in elementary grades and is very rewarding. If you are willing to dedicate two hours a month as a Rosary Visitor to pray with a school Prayer Group, call Ann Rooney (416-769-9749). For more information, visit <https://www.rosaryapostolate.com/school.html>.



Christmas Bazaar Update

The Catholic Women's League Annual Christmas Bazaar was a great success this year thanks to the help and support of our St. Pius X parishioners and the following donors:

Baby Point Hardware

Book City

Bukhara Grill

Capucci Salon & Spa

Cecil Ward & Sons Men's Shop

Cheese Boutique

Cookery Shop

Coffee Boutique

Durbar Indian Restaurant

Gatto Stone Oven Pizza

Lemon & Lavender

Mad Mexican

Meaty Eats

No Frills

Petti Fine Foods

Queen Margherita

Pizzeria

Second Cup

Serenity Nail Salon

Skin & Beauty Fresh

Spa

Sorrento

Hairstylists

Starbucks

Please visit these local businesses that kindly donated to our Bazaar. The CWL Bazaar not only raises funds to be distributed to various charitable organizations, but also brings the St. Pius X Parish community together. Thank you for all your support.

Second Collection

The last collection of the year for the parish Building Fund will be this weekend, December 7-8.

"Journey Through Advent"

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) is presenting an online weekly video series. This year, the reflections will be led by Archbishop Leo and will offer meaningful reflections on the Gospel readings during each of the four Sundays of Advent. Visit <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/>.

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