

ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH

3663 66TH ST. • DES MOINES, IA 50322

DECEMBER 25, 2019 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



A Christmas **WELCOME**

We warmly welcome all who have come today to celebrate this glorious feast.

We welcome the stranger, the traveler, the guest!

We welcome our students home from college!

We welcome parishioners who have moved away but join us today as old friends!

We welcome all who have not been active of late in their Catholic faith;
and hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas to come back again and again!

We welcome our faithful parishioners, who seek to grow as disciples of Christ every day;
may the Lord continue to bless you!

May our gathering this day touch our hearts and deepen our 'family' bonds.

We are, after all, one People of God – gladdened by the good news of the Savior's birth and
renewed by the "tidings of great joy".

"This day, in David's city, a savior has been born to us – the Messiah and Lord!"

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL!

ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. MAKE DISCIPLES. RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.STPIUSHOME.ORG LIKE US ON FACEBOOK & FOLLOW US ON TWITTER FOR THE LATEST!





Christmas 2019 “Seeking and Finding Christ”

Let me wish you and all your loved ones a very Happy & Blessed Christmas! You are very welcome here today to celebrate the Birthday of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. If you are a visitor to our Parish for the first time, I hope you have enjoyed this wonderful celebration. If you have been away from the practice of your faith for a period of time ‘Welcome Home for Christmas!’ It is truly wonderful to have you here with us; you are part of this Christian Family!

This Christmas season we are invited to “Seek and Find Jesus Christ”. God’s greatest desire remains for us to be fully free and fully alive in Him. Our God became one of us to show us the way into His heart and to save us. This is what we celebrate today.

In an age when Christianity and religion appear to be seen as insignificant, backwards, or even dangerous, I would like to take this opportunity of inviting those who have been away from the practice of the Roman Catholic Faith, for whatever reason, to seriously think about coming home! We live in an age of apathy, indifference, secularism, materialism, and a culture that often promotes individualism, but still many people are unsatisfied; often looking for a real meaning in their lives. Our St. Pius X Parish community seeks to assist others in that journey for faith and meaning in their lives.

In particular, we welcome you to join us in “*Discovering Christ*”. It is a seven-week experience where anyone and everyone, from the baptized in the pews to the unbaptized, is invited to hear the Good News and personally encounter Jesus Christ. Discovering Christ helps people enter into or renew a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experience the love of God the Father, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as God’s children. The program begins on Thursday, January 16, 2020. You can contact the parish office (276-2059) for more details.

Please know that the St. Pius X Parish community strives to be that welcoming place where you can know, experience, and celebrate the transforming and healing love of Jesus Christ. Our doors and hearts are always open and Jesus is always here for you.

Blessed Christmas,

Rev. David P. Fleming
Pastor

THE STAFF AT ST. PIUS X WANT
TO WISH YOU A...

Merry Christmas!
MAY THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS
FILL YOUR HEARTS WITH JOY!

Christ Miller *Paul L...* *Shirley H...*
Fr. Dave Fleming *Brooklyn Miller*
Christian Stillings *SNOOPY* *Chris Br...*
Mary Sue Lone *Vicki...* *Sam Montang*
Donna... *Trick...*

Angels in Advent and Christmas Time

What's the first prayer you remember learning as a child? Mine is the Guardian Angel prayer. I clearly remember my mom and dad praying that prayer with me and how proud I felt when I finally memorized it and could pray it by myself! How many of you memorized this as a child? Isn't it comforting to know there is someone always on our side, lighting the way, helping guard us from the many harmful things that come our way, prompting us to do the right thing and guiding us through the unknown territory of life. Like the Holy Spirit, we think of angels as advocates and guides for us while here on earth.

When I think of angels, one of the first images I have is Clarence from the movie "It's a Wonderful Life". Maybe it's because that movie is a family favorite and we watch it annually as a tradition of the season. Or maybe it's because I like the idea that someone as common as Clarence can make such a profound difference in the life of someone whose life has taken such a disheartening turn. Angels bring direction, hope and ultimately the joy that God's love imparts through others to us in our everyday lives.

Belief in angels is rooted in Jewish tradition, which regarded angels as manifestations of God's presence. Angel is a Greek translation of a Hebrew word *angelos*, meaning messenger".

But in our Catholic tradition, their history is rooted in Sacred

Scripture. They are common throughout Scripture as messengers announcing the birth of many people, including Jesus. They protect and guide people in danger and surround God in continuous praise and glory. It's clear that they never abandon us, being our constant companions; offering protection and comfort. No wonder we love them, referring to them in story and song! In Scripture only three are named. The names given to them point away from themselves and back to God. They are called collectively Archangels; individually Michael – meaning "One who is like God", Gabriel – meaning "God is strong" and Raphael – meaning "God heals".

If we sincerely want to do the right thing, angels can help us. So we should cultivate a devotion to the guardian angels. They're powerful spiritual beings who want us to succeed at being good. They want us to ultimately be with God in Heaven.

During the Advent and Christmas seasons, angels take a starring role in the Scripture stories. They foretell, announce, reassure, guide and calm everyone concerned. The Advent and Christmas angels start their messages by saying "Do not be afraid" as was the case with Mary – "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you... For nothing is impossible with God." May they give us this same beautiful promise of God's presence in our lives, if we only say "yes" to the task or challenge to which God is calling us.

FINDING YOURSELF IN THE NATIVITY

You might want to sit in front of a Nativity set and pray. After all, you are part of it.

You may have a Nativity set beneath your Christmas tree or on a table in your house. There is almost certainly one on display somewhere in or around your local church. Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with being the first person to create a Nativity scene. He used live people and animals to bring the birth of Jesus "to life" in 1223. And that's the coolest part of St. Francis' Nativity scene: It was a living Nativity." That's not to say that statues, figurines, and pictures are not useful or effective. Works of art help us visualize and focus our minds in prayer. They're especially useful to those of us who have a difficult time concentrating. It's not that we worship the wood or paint, obviously; they're just tools to help us enter more deeply into prayer.

That Nativity scene is not something simply to be admired or to be stared at. It's not just something that we reflect on. That Nativity scene is something that we, as Christians, are supposed to enter into; it is something that we enter into as Catholics during every Mass.

Christ comes right into our midst in a unique way at the Mass. He enters this sinful world with the beautiful simplicity and humility of a baby. We all are characters in God's story, plan of salvation history and within the living Nativity scene at Mass.

The Holy Mass is not a "performance"; it is Jesus' coming right into the midst of our lives and calling us near to him. It is Jesus looking us right in the eyes. The Nativity and the Mass are about Christ's presence among us and our reaction to Him and His truth.

Who are you in the living Nativity scene at your church? Which character do you most resemble? I look at my Nativity set and realize that at one point or another, I've felt like just about every character I see there.

- **Sometimes I proclaim Christ's presences with passion and authority, as did the angel.**
- **Sometimes I bow before Christ, offering him my gifts, as did the "wise guys."**
- **Sometimes I seek Jesus and just sit, humbly gazing at His wonder, as did the shepherds. Sometimes I feel like the star that says nothing, but exists to point toward Christ.**
- **Sometimes I feel like the hay, getting trampled and stepped on by everyone around me.**
- **Sometimes I see Christ' truth as something in this world that I'd do anything to protect, just as Saint Joseph did.**
- **Sometimes I am so close to Christ that I can almost feel the joy of His birth or the pain of His death, as Mary did.**
- **Sometimes I am so awkward around Christ that I feel like the Ox. And then there are the times that I'm stubborn and stupid around Christ. That's when I feel like the donkey.**

How about you? The character you relate to can change from year to year, day to day and hour to hour, because life, like the Nativity scene and like the Mass, is meant to be experienced, not just observed. Who are you today in relation to Jesus? Who do you want to be? Who is He calling you to be? Because the fact is that, just like every person and animal in that set, He wants you close to Him. He always has and He always will.

~Closing prayer Life Teen Advent Companion 2013



Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. David Fleming
Part-time Associate: Fr. Ryan Andrew
Senior Associate: Fr. John Harmon
Permanent Deacon: Deacon Jim Houston
Permanent Deacon: Deacon Joel Schmidt
Permanent Deacon: Deacon Rob Stark
Retired Deacon: Deacon Dave Bartemes
Retired Deacon: Deacon Ed Pantaloni
St. Pius X School 276-1061
Principal, Mary Jo Kever
Asst. Principal, Alex Baranosky
Faith Formation
Pastoral Associate Director,
 Dr. Cheryl Fournier
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Grades 7-12, Samantha Montang
RCIA, Mary Sue Lone
Faith Formation Assoc., Dorothy Miller
Liturgy Coordinator, Sherri Hunt
Music Ministry Director, Christian Stillings
Adult Faith Formation, Dr. Cheryl Fournier
Pastoral Care, Vicki Ferin
Business Manager, Dean Roth
Bookkeeper/ Office Coordinator,
 Chris Breuss
Facility Manager, Norm Bormann
Administrative Assistant, Cindy Miller

FOLLOW ST. PIUS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

We provide weekly schedules, spiritual quotes, recognize our parishioners' accomplishments, post links to Sunday readings and reminders for events!



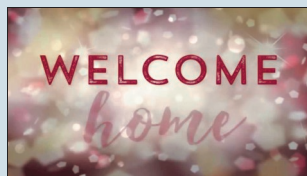
StPiusXChurch



St. Pius X
Catholic Church



@st.pius515



Welcome Visitors

We hope you have enjoyed celebrating with us. Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, you are invited to join our parish family... ***Please come again!***
 We have much to offer for all ages and stages of faith. If you are a visitor from out of town, we hope you enjoyed your visit with us and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home".

Parish Office Hours

Hours Monday-Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm
 Phone (515) 276-2059
 Fax (515) 276-8351
 Website www.stpiushome.org

Mass Schedule

Weekend Saturday 5 PM;
 Sunday 7, 9 & 11 am and 5 pm
 Monday: Communion Service 8 am
 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8 am
 Wednesday at 8:15 am
 Tuesday, Thursday during, Lent 6 pm

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:15 - 4:15 pm.
Baptism: First time parents are required to attend a class on the Sacrament of Baptism. Call Cindy Miller to register 276-2059.
Marriage: One person must be a registered member. Call the office 6 to 12 months prior to date.
Anointing of the Sick: Brings the healing love of Christ. Call the parish office.

Parish Meetings

School Board: First Thursday of every month at 6 pm.
Bulletin Deadline
 Submit in writing to the parish office or e-mail mlone@saintpiuschurch.org by Friday at 8 am.

Newcomers

Registration cards are located in the Gathering Space or stop in the parish office, or register on our website.
www.stpiushome.org