

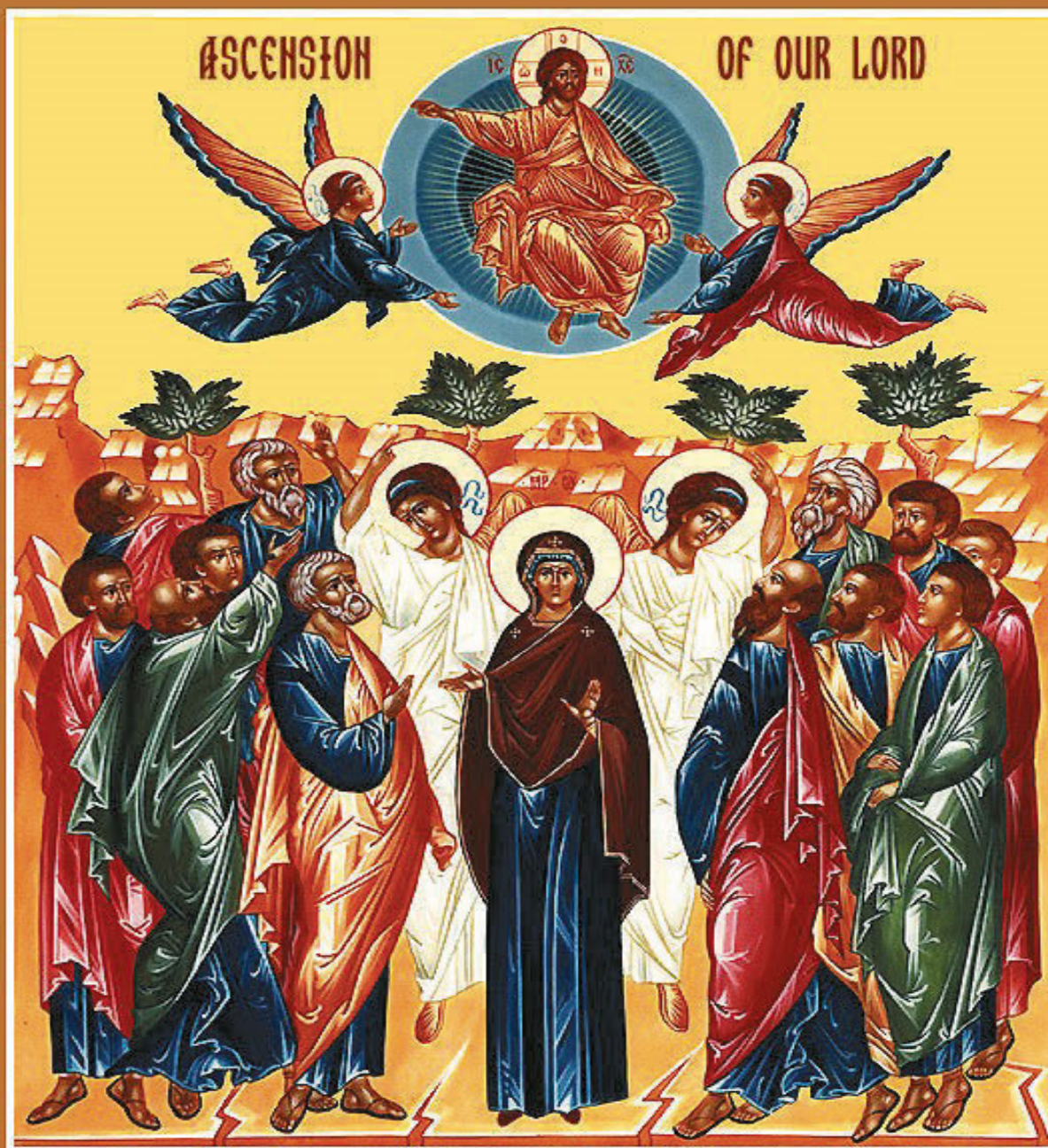
# St. Pius X Parish

717 18th Street West | Billings, MT 59102  
ph 406.656.2522 | fax 406.656.2584  
[www.stpiusxblgs.org](http://www.stpiusxblgs.org)

# Bulletin

May 21, 2023

Ascension of the Lord





## St. Pius X, a Community of Generosity, a Family Rooted in Faith

Welcome! Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you will find warmth and hospitality here. St. Pius X is a vibrant parish with many ways to be engaged. If you would like more information on registration, activities, or ministries that are offered for people of all ages, please contact the parish office at 406.656.2522. You may also visit our website at [stpiusxblgs.org](http://stpiusxblgs.org), find us on Facebook at 'St. Pius X,' or on Instagram @stpiusx\_blgs.

## OCIA Inquiry Session Today!

There will be an OCIA Inquiry Session Sunday, May 21 for interested individuals between the two Sunday Masses—9:45 to 10:45am—in the church Fellowship Hall.

Are you, or someone you know, interested in becoming Catholic or completing sacraments? Through the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), formerly the RCIA, we offer preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist. Come today and find out more!

## A 'Stellar' Vacation Bible School!

Blast off to outer space this summer! Join us for Stellar VBS, June 12-16! Volunteers needed to be elementary and preschool crew leaders. No preparation is needed! We also need a Spotlight VBS leader and an All-Star Games leader. Participants and volunteers can sign up through the VBS website: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/stpiusx23>. Thank you to all who took a donation slip in the Gathering Area. A few more items are needed and will be at a table this weekend as well. Any questions? Contact Jessie Rohrer at [jr@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:jr@stpiusxblgs.org) or 406.281.8502. God bless you for serving our youngest disciples!



Above: St. Pius X parishioners receive recognition for supporting the mission of St. Vincent dePaul through monthly donations and the weekly sack lunch ministry. This support is made possible through your donation to the weekly collection at Mass and the donations of time, talent and treasure by our parishioners! The Christian Service Commission of our parish is deeply grateful for the support of dynamic disciples!

## Funeral Lunch Ministry Seeks Volunteers

Summer is coming and the Funeral Lunch Ministry is looking for additional volunteers! This is an excellent ministry for those who:

- don't want to commit to a large-scale project
- prefer to be "behind the scenes"
- travel or spend extended periods away from Billings.

Simply put, you just volunteer to bring a food dish for a funeral if you are available when the request is made. This ministry thrives with many helpers to ensure that the needs of the funeral lunches will be met.

The disciples of St. Pius X provide this hospitality ministry so that our grieving brothers and sisters in Christ can GATHER in our community to encounter Jesus and feel the LOVE of our community for them. If you have questions, call Shannon in the parish office at 406.656.2522.

Volunteers are contacted through Flocknote communications (usually through email, but texts if you prefer) on a rotating basis when funeral lunches are requested by the family according to the expected luncheon size. To allow fairness and respect to all food volunteers, a food rotation has been set up. This spreads out the requests to different individuals, while allowing flexibility depending on needs. When you receive the Flocknote, just choose what you want to bring and hit the "Sign me up" button when you're done. Reminders are sent when the sign-up closes.

If you haven't volunteered yet, use the QR code to sign up directly to be a food volunteer.



## More Great St. Pius X News!

### St. Pius X Council 9976 Knights of Columbus Receives Praise

From St. Vincent dePaul: St. Vincent dePaul extends our deepest gratitude to the St. Pius X Council 9976 Knights of Columbus for graciously providing and preparing a delicious barbeque lunch at our Volunteer Appreciation celebration!

Whether it's the bounty of 200 sacked meals delivered each month, collecting warm coats for winter, or treating our friends to the fun of summer with barbeques, their tireless dedication demonstrates unwavering support and compassion toward those experiencing poverty and homelessness.

We truly would not be able to do what we do without our community partners, including St. Pius X Council 9976 Knights of Columbus, whose notable contributions to our friends in need remain invaluable. Thank you!

### St. Michael's and St. Anthony's Circle Members

You are invited to attend a no host dinner at CJ's Garage, 2455 Central, on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:00pm. Please call Gale Kreitzberg at 406.656.9926, by Monday May 22, if you plan to attend. Please bring your circle booklet, if you have one and plan to join us for a nice evening.

### Bringing Home the Word Handouts

Prior to the pandemic, St. Pius X offered a two-sided handout each week called *Bringing Home the Word*. These sheets enhance reflection on the Sunday readings at Mass and include additional interesting information to help us GROW in relationship to Jesus. Today you will find a copy added to your bulletin. In future weeks, please pick up this weekly handout from the upright paper holders found on either side of the entry doors in the Gathering Area.

### Help Us Keep Toddlers Safe at Church

Hearing aid batteries are very dangerous and can be lethal for children who swallow them. Our custodian often finds used hearing aid batteries in pews, in restrooms, and on window ledges. The best way to dispose of them is to throw them in the garbage. Why? Because we want to keep toddlers safe at St. Pius!

### Remaining Saints Softball Games

Please come and cheer for the Saints at Stewart Park! Saints are a team of St. Pius X parishioners who enjoy softball.

- May 22 6:30pm Field 4
- May 29 off/make ups
- June 5 6:30pm and 7:45pm Field 3
- June 12 9:00am Field 2
- June 26 6:30pm Field 3



### Donate New Greeting Cards

Thank you for your generous donations of greeting cards! We will be collecting the cards until the end of May. As you know, our goal is to generate and multiply the number of holy moments in our parish community. Matthew Kelly, the author of *Holy Moments—a Handbook for the Rest of Your Life*—states, “Every Holy Moment increases the goodness and the goodwill in the world. A Holy Moment is a grace-filled, prayer-directed action.”

With this understanding we've set out to collaborate with God and create more holy moments in our community by inviting you, our parishioners, to drop off new greeting cards here in our parish's Gathering Area. The Montana State Women's prison will accept our donated cards for use by their inmates. Your participation will ensure that the seeds of happiness are being spread, planted, and growing.

Please consider the following types of greeting cards: Thank you cards, blank cards, get-well cards, birthday cards, mother's day cards, friendship cards, religious-themed cards (avoid Christmas ones; they already have plenty). Please avoid donating cards that have any sort of added attachments on them, including glitter. Once all the donated cards are gathered, we will deliver them to the Montana State Women's Prison in Billings.

The inmates, throughout the year, will write and address these cards to their loved ones. May you receive continued blessings for making a difference in someone's life.

### Ascension of the Lord

**Question:** Couldn't Jesus have done more good if he stayed on earth, rather than ascended into heaven?



**Answer:** This is an interesting question! During his earthly life, Jesus gave sight to the blind, healed paralytics, drove out demons, and fed thousands with only a few loaves of bread. Imagine what he could have done if he'd never ascended into heaven! Imagine what our world could be! It's an interesting thought to consider, especially as the world faces challenges that only seem to deepen and expand. Yet at the Last Supper, Jesus says, “It is better for you if I go.” Why? His response must have seemed strange to the Apostles at the time. In his place, Jesus says, he will send the Paraclete, the Comforter, the Advocate. He promises to send the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' departure allows the Apostles to become the leaders he has formed them to be. Jesus is no longer situated in only one geographical location, and his Church will never be a political kingdom. Soon after the Ascension, we celebrate Pentecost — the descent of the Holy Spirit and the radical empowerment of the followers of Jesus. We share in that empowerment and in that mission. Jesus is present in the sacraments, and he is present in us. Through our faith, hope, and love, we are called to be the good he does here on earth!

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## In and Around Our Parish Community

### LaVie's Baby Bottle Campaign Continues

*Change for Hope* will run from May 14 through June 18. This is one of their largest fundraising events. Proceeds keep LaVie's doors open as they strive to empower individuals to embrace hope by providing loving, compassionate care for early pregnancies. Funds raised during *Change For Hope* are used to fund the programs offered by LaVie which assist women facing unplanned pregnancies with education, services, and information promoting life-affirming options, along with medical services. Please visit <https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrsync/event/?e=25099> to donate to LaVie and help support this life-saving organization in Billings. If you'd prefer to donate physically, we have LaVie's *Change For Hope* display in the Gathering Area of church. Please use one of the giving envelopes or QR Code provided on the display. If you're interested in learning more about the services LaVie offers, please visit [laviebillings.com](http://laviebillings.com).

### Billings Catholic Young Adults Event

All Young Adults are invited to 'Pizza with the Priests' on Thursday, May 25 from 6:00-8:00pm at MacKenzie River Pizza Co. located at 405 Main Street in Billings. All are welcome! This is a no host event. To contribute to the priest's dinners, visit [www.billingscya.com](http://www.billingscya.com). Questions? Call or text Sabrina at 406.694.3180 or Valerie at 406.208.3642.

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## We Are an Offering

### Ministry Spotlight: Seminarian Support

As men are discerning the call to priesthood, our Diocese wants to provide support. This begins with a Vocations Director, who will pray with and answer questions to help them discern what is the call of God in their lives. If they feel called to continue the path towards priesthood, the Diocese will also provide support for graduate level seminarian education to include tuition, books, room, boarding, and even some travel expenses. Additionally, we also have a priest that is specifically assigned to Seminarian Formation who will support them through the process up to an including their ordination, when they will become transitional deacons and then priests of the Diocese. These are important pieces of support, so that as these men are working towards priesthood, they do not have to worry about the financial aspects of the process. As we hope to continue to grow our Seminarian program, we will continue to need support for this fund.



### St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Council 9976

Brother Knights, we are back in full swing with our Friday Night Bingo. Please join us on Friday night in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm for a night of fun and fellowship. Win up to \$100 on our blackout game at the end of the night. Anyone 18 years old or older can play. Bring along a friend and join in on the fun!

### Stewardship Report for May 14, 2023

Grand Total of Collection	\$20,827.00
Weekly Average Needed	\$21,346.00
Annual Parish Budget	\$1,100,000.00
Contributions needed to date	\$981,916.00
Contributions received to date	\$966,251.07
Budget Income Shortfall	(\$15,664.93)

**Thank you!**

## Area Events

### Saturday, May 27

- Can you help place U.S. flags on the graves of Veterans at 8:30am at Holy Cross Cemetery? Please call Angela Norris at 406.839.8387, and let her know if you, or your group, are willing to help. Thank you!

### Monday, May 29

- A Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated at St. Ann's Chapel at 10:30am in Holy Cross Cemetery. Bishop Jeffrey Fleming will be the celebrant with Fr. Leo McDowell concelebrating.

## Retrouvaille for Troubled Marriages

Go to [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com) and register for the August 4-6 weekend in Great Falls, Montana or call 1.800.470.2230 to find out more.

## St. Thomas Camp for Youth

The following is the 2023 schedule for St. Thomas Camp in Monarch, Montana. All youth in the diocese are welcome!

June 18-23: High School Week # 1  
 June 25-30: High School Week # 2  
 July 9-14: 5th and 6th grade boys  
 July 16-21: Middle School Week # 1  
 July 23-28: 5th and 6th grade girls  
 July 30-August 4: Middle School Week # 2

Visit the diocesan website at [diocesegfb.org](http://diocesegfb.org) for more information on summer camp.



## This Week's Meetings on the Campus of St. Pius X

### Sat., May 20 & Sun., May 21 at church

- Lenten Soup Recipe collection basket (final collection weekend), Gathering Area
- LaVie 'Change for Hope' fundraiser envelopes & QR code, Gathering Area
- Sunday: OCIA Inquiry, 9:45am, Fellowship Hall

### Monday, May 22

- NO daily Mass
- SEEL Discernment group, 11:00am, Parish Ctr. # 3

### Tuesday, May 23

- Funeral Mass for Ted Haverland, 11:00am. Luncheon following in the Fellowship Hall.
- WoW prayer group, 1:00pm, Parish Center # 3
- Finance Council, 4:30pm, Parish Center # 3
- Parish Choir, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
- Middle and High School Youth Ministry, 6:30pm, Youth Center

### Wednesday, May 24

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- Children of Joy and Gladness (charismatic prayer), 3:00pm, Day Chapel
- Emmaus Singers, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

### Thursday, May 25

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- K. of C. Fourth Degree, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

### Friday, May 26

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- SEEL Challenge group, 10:00am, Parish Ctr. # 4
- St. Michael's Circle, noon, Parish Center # 3
- K. of C. Adult Public Bingo, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

### Sat., May 27 & Sun., May 28 at church

- LaVie 'Change for Hope' fundraiser envelopes & QR code, Gathering Area
- Sunday: Bag Building for SVdP sandwich ministry, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall



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## Scripture Reflection: Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20

Have you ever noticed how often we use "up" and "down" to judge things? Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is "high" art, while professional wrestling is "low." If I'm having a good day, I'm on "cloud nine." A bad day means I am "down in the dumps." A successful career is "moving up the ladder." Failure in work or personal life can be "falling from the heights." Life is filled with "ups and downs" — no one has the slightest problem understanding that means life has both "good and bad."

Now consider Jesus' ascension. He ascends not just to some level slightly higher of goodness, but "above all the heavens," to use the words of Saint Paul (Eph.4:10). That expression means to the source of all goodness. He has gone all the way down — to the farthest depths of human suffering, and death. And now he has taken our humanity all the way up into God. In doing so he has demonstrated what he says in the Gospel of John to the Father: **"Everything of yours is mine."** He now reigns over every possible aspect of creation in and through his human nature. That's what the ascension is all about.

So what? No matter what the lows and highs, ups and down we face this week, we are totally encompassed by the one who descended and ascended. So, we should happily and confidently entrust ourselves to him. He has shown us not only his power, but especially his love, in filling all our ups and down with his presence. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi



## Spread the Word!

The Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana is now accepting grant applications for

2023. Any Catholic organization or ministry in our diocese can apply to receive a grant of up to \$5,000. Visit [catholicfoundationmt.org/grants-program/](http://catholicfoundationmt.org/grants-program/) to learn more and apply. The application deadline is Saturday, June 3, 2023.

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## Mass Intentions & Readings

**Monday, May 22**, St. Rita of Cascia  
Acts 19:1-8, Psalm 68:2-7, John 16:29-33

**Tuesday, May 23**  
Acts 20:17-27, Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21, John 17:1-11  
**11:00am Funeral Mass:** † Ted Haverland

**Wednesday, May 24**  
Acts 20:28-38, Psalm 68:29-30, 33-36, John 17:11-19  
**8:30am Mass:** Int. of Jan Bridger

**Thursday, May 25**, St. Bede the Venerable, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, Ps. 16:1-2, 5, 7-11, John 17:20-26  
**8:30am Mass:** † Charles & June Sangwin

**Friday, May 26**, St. Philip Neri  
Acts 25:13-21, Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20, John 21:15-19  
**8:30am Mass:** † Janice Smith

**Saturday, May 27**, St. Augustine of Canterbury  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, Psalm 114:5-7, John 21:20-25  
**5:00pm Mass:** † Colleen Dernbach

**Sunday, May 28** **Pentecost**  
Acts 2:1-11, Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23  
**8:30am Mass:** Int. of St. Pius X Parishioners  
**11:00am Mass:** † Marie Hunter



## National Collection for CCC

Today is the national collection for the Catholic Communications Campaign (CCC). Your support helps the CCC engage and build Catholic communities in the United States and around the world using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half the money collected remains here in the diocese of Great Falls-Billings to support local efforts. To learn more, visit [usccb.org/ccc](http://usccb.org/ccc). Thanks for your support!



## Looking for a Way to be a Dynamic Disciple?

There are plenty of ways St. Pius X parishioners can help St. Vincent dePaul. The contact for Volunteer Programs is Janice Krueger (also a volunteer!). Please contact her at 406.831.5209 or [janice@svdpm.org](mailto:janice@svdpm.org).

## Ministry Schedule: May 27-28, 2023

### Saturday, 5:00pm Mass

**Greeter:** Mary Brown, Betty Warner

**Usher:** Jim Kaiser, Bruce McMorris, Dan Miller, **Need 1**

**Lector:** Tyler Wiltgen-1, Carol Schaff-2

**Sacristan:** **Need 1**

**Altar Minister:** Clare Dooley

**Eucharistic Minister:** Karen Hould, Tricia McMorris, Kathleen Olsen, Helene Ranweiler-Waage

**Cross:** **Need 1**, **Server:** Emma Rohrer

**Nursery:** **1 Trained Attendant Needed**

### Sunday, 8:30am Mass

**Greeter:** Joan Keefer, Donna Meyers

**Usher:** Steve Komar, Greg Luck, Dan Sloan, Doug Slotsve

**Lector:** John Koppelman-1, Kelsey Komar-2

**Sacristan:** Clarinda Kremer

**Altar Minister:** Kim Komar

**Eucharistic Minister:** Christy Rider, Mary Taylor, Lorraine Walter, **Need 1**

**Cross:** **Need 1**, **Server:** **Need 1**

**Nursery:** Teresa Wehr

### Sunday, 11:00am Mass

**Greeter:** Ann Frazer, Marge Larimer

**Usher:** Roland Barnes, Markus Hulquist, Joe Larimer, Michael Riedel

**Lector:** Tim Guenther-1, Patsy Guenther-2

**Sacristan:** David Mork

**Altar Minister:** Magdalen Wojtowicz

**Eucharistic Minister:** Craig & Sheila Barthel, Kathy Boileau, Lynn DeMeyer

**Cross:** Evelee Dominguez, **Server:** Theo Melugin

**Nursery:** Stephanie Mehling

## Gratitude from Family Service

"Happy Spring! We love this time of year, a time of rejuvenation and filled with hope!

Recently, an elderly female client with a disability came in and told the reception staff that her walker had been stolen. The very next day, a gentleman who came in for a food box brought in a walker, and asked if we knew of anyone who could use it...serendipity!

Seeing people reach out to help each other, in any way they can, is what makes our work so gratifying.

Thank you, St. Pius X parishioners! Your monthly support is an inspiration!" ~ Ryan Cremer, Executive Director at Family Service Inc.



## Parish Staff

Parish Center Hours: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday  
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**Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku**, Pastor, 406.281.8504, [frmartin@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:frmartin@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Deacon Tom Landry**, 406.860.7842, [acnerds@bresnan.net](mailto:acnerds@bresnan.net)  
**Shannon Behounek**, Administrative Assistant, [shannonb@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:shannonb@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Shelly Greenfield**, Bulletin, Christian Service, [sg@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:sg@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Karyn Haider**, Parish Administrator, [khaider@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:khaider@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Olivia Hanser**, Interim Youth Minister, [olivia@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:olivia@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Matt Low**, Director of Christian Initiation, [m\\_low@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:m_low@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Kathy McCleary**, Communications & Volunteers, [kmc@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:kmc@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Mike Persha**, Cemetery Manager, [mpersha@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:mpersha@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Jessie Rohrer**, Children's Ministry Coordinator, [jr@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:jr@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Mary Stordahl**, Liturgy Coordinator, [marys@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:marys@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Bill Walker**, Custodian, [walker@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:walker@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Stacy Wegner**, Children's Ministry Assistant, [children@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:children@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Joan Whelan**, Music Ministry, [joan@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:joan@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Council of Elders**, [elders@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:elders@stpiusxblgs.org)

**Bulletin notices are due by 4:30pm on Monday.**  
Please email submissions to [bulletin@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:bulletin@stpiusxblgs.org).

## Mass Schedules

### Weekend

Saturday at 5:00 PM  
Sunday at 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

### Weekdays

#### Tuesday—Friday

Mass at 8:30 AM—Sanctuary  
Rosary - 8:00 AM, before daily Mass

### LIVE-Stream

Sunday, 11:00 AM and Daily Masses  
at 8:30 AM on our website at  
[www.stpiusxblgs.org](http://www.stpiusxblgs.org). Click Live-  
Stream on the homepage.

### Sacraments

**Reconciliation:** Sat. 3:30-4:30 PM

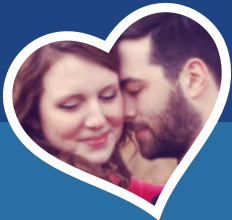
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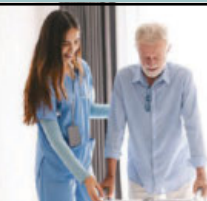
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