



**ST. PIUS X PARISH
MINISTRIES
BOOKLET**

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Pius,



This Parish Ministry Booklet is a directory of the many vibrant ministries that provide support and fellowship to our parish as well as compassionate service to our community. It is through the personal participation of our generous parishioners that these ministries exist. We thank everyone who has answered the call to stewardship by living out your commitment to receive God's gifts gratefully and share them abundantly with our parish.

The strength of our parish life and our ability to serve the needs of our membership and community, depends on all of us.

The example of many individuals using their gifts to serve others, not only accounts

for the deep tradition of generosity of St. Pius X Parish but illustrates stewardship alive in our parish. Stewardship is a life long journey. It is a way of life that has no time limits with each individual on a unique and spiritually rewarding path.

Please accept our invitation to continue your involvement or to become involved for the first time. Our tradition of generosity depends on each and every one of us meeting our responsibilities to one another.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, St. Paul says, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully....God loves a cheerful giver."

With Blessings,
The Stewardship Committee

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CONSULTIVE MINISTRIES

Pastoral Council

The purpose of the pastoral council is to offer the pastor the wisdom of the parish community. To do this, it discerns, through prayer and study, how the parish can best collaborate with our bishop to carry out the mission of the Church. Long range planning is an essential part of the work of this consultative body. The tasks of the council are:

- To grow in the awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit as it operates in the Church;
- To develop a structure that allows for the discovery of pastoral needs and particular gifts which the parish community can address;
- To articulate a vision of the parish's activity in the future as it carries out the mission of the Church;
- To develop plans to carry out its mission;
- To focus and coordinate the energies of the staff and parish organizations by expressing broad goals for implementation;

Finance Council

The purpose of the finance council is to advise the pastor as he undertakes the parish's financial administration. The Council advises the pastor on the preparation of the annual budget of parish income and expenditures. It reviews with him the financial status of the parish and prepares the year end report on parish income and expenditure.

Members are selected for their expertise in financial matters and are appointed by the pastor.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for stewardship awareness and the annual stewardship process in the parish. Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all his blessings by acknowledging and receiving His gifts

to us graciously, cultivating them responsibly, sharing them lovingly and returning them to God abundantly.



In realizing that all that we are and all that we have are gifts from God, we experience a change of mind and heart. God calls each of us individually to be disciples and to love and serve God and one another. God created our world and then entrusted it to us. The challenge for us is to understand our role not as owners but as caretakers, managers or stewards. Living a life of stewardship engenders a spirituality that deepens our relationship with God by intentional, planned, proportionate and sacrificial giving of our time, talent, and treasure.

Invitation: to individuals and families thankful for God's blessings and desiring more information on living a life of stewardship.

LITURGY AND PRAYER MINISTRIES

Altar Society

The purpose of this ministry is to prepare the parish spaces for liturgical celebrations, especially the Mass. Participants in this ministry prepare and decorate these spaces throughout the liturgical year. In addition, they ready the various vestments and altar linens used in the parish liturgies keeping these clean, pressed and making necessary repairs.

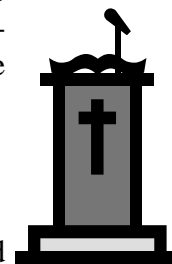
Special Ministers of the Eucharistic

They assist the ordained ministers in the distribution of the Eucharist at parish liturgical celebrations. These ministers also bring this sacrament to parishioners confined to hospital, nursing home, or their homes. Before being commissioned by the pastor, Eucharistic ministers should have completed training approved by our bishop for this ministry. Typically, these ministers assist a few times each month at parish liturgies.



Lectors

The Lector proclaims God's Word at parish liturgies. This ministry offers the opportunity to grow in your own appreciation of the importance of God's Word and its role in your life, as well as to joyfully proclaim that word for others. This ministry is vital to the celebration of Liturgy and implies that the Lector will prepare well for the readings at Mass. Training sessions are held at various times.



Junior Lectors

The young people in grades 6,7 and 8 after being trained are invited to be Lectors at our 9:00 Family Mass.

Music

Our music ministry offers opportunities to enhance parish liturgical celebrations for anyone able to sing or play a musical instrument. The Cantors lead the congregation in song encouraging and enriching participation. Choir members practice weekly (on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM) and sing on Sunday at the 10:30 AM liturgy as well as special liturgies throughout the year. At the 9:00 AM liturgy, features more contemporary music with percussion, guitars, woodwinds, and brass and a children's choir. Instrumentalists old and young are sought so that all weekend liturgies can be uplifted with music.



Ushers/Greeters/Collectors

These ministers of hospitality greet parish members and visitors as they arrive at our liturgies. They find available seating when it seems scarce, open a windows when the air inside gets stuffy or shut a windows when the outside air is too cold, generally tending to the comfort of those celebrating with us. At the offertory of the mass, they also collect our gifts.

Altar Servers

Opportunities are plentiful to assist our ordained ministers at the celebration of the Eucharist. Youth are needed for weekend liturgies; adults are needed for weekday and funeral liturgies. Children of the parish that have received their First Communion and have completed third grade are encouraged to volunteer for this longstanding ministry. Volunteers will receive instruction and then will be partnered initially with experienced altar servers.



Centering Prayer

There are many ways to pray. One can join in parish liturgical celebrations, recite formal prayers, speak to God in one's own words, or one can follow the Psalmist who advised, "Be still, and know that I am God" and "Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him". Contemplative prayer, sitting in silence to simply be with God, is a prayer practice that has a rich tradition in the Church dating back to the Desert Fathers. The mission of the Centering Prayer Group is to introduce people to this practice. The group meets year-round at 7:15 pm in the Parish Library on Thursday evenings.

FORMATION MINISTRIES

Religious Education

Passing on the faith with to children is a vital aspect of parish activity. Catechists, those who are called to share their faith, are adults who commit to this ministry with our children. We have classes for children in Grades K through High School. Our kindergarten program helps prepare children for Grades 1 and 2 when they prepare to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Grade 3, 4 and 5, are held after school and Grade 6,7, and 8 are held in the early evening. Confirmation, a two year program is begun in Grade 8 and usually celebrated in Grade 9. These classes are held on Sunday evenings. There is always a need for Catechists and other support help to provide a successful program for over 500 children. Passing on the faith is answering the call of Jesus, the Mission of the Church.



St. Pius X School

Saint Pius X School, a Catholic Elementary and Middle School, embraces the gospel message, “to restore all things in Christ.” It endeavors to educate the whole child through religious and academic instruction and in social skills. Teachers, parents and the Eucharistic community unite to become the threads used to weave the fabric of a total Catholic education for our students, creating a positive and lasting impact on each child to enrich our church and society.



Parents are invited to explore the option of Catholic primary education for their children. Teachers are invited to apply for faculty positions; the teaching ministry can offer many rewards. Others can offer their particular gifts to the school’s mission through various volunteer programs.

Rite of Initiation for Adults

The **R.C.I.A.** is a two-fold process by which a parish grows and renews itself. First, it is a process for:

- those who have never been baptized.
- those who have been baptized as a Catholic but have had no formal religious education in the faith.
- those who have been baptized in a non-Catholic faith and now wish to learn about the Catholic Church.

Through regular sharing sessions these individuals are given the opportunity to explore Catholic doctrine, tradition and the Scriptures with the possibility of becoming full participating members of the Catholic Church. Secondly, the presence of adults seeking full(er) communion with the Church is a way for a parish to renew itself in its long-held faith and practice.

Ministry Opportunities

An important ministry like R.C.I.A. can only be successfully exercised with the help of many people. Besides the guidance of the pastoral staff and the prayers of the parish community, the following ministries need to be filled:

- Catechists – unlike a teacher in the Religious Education Program, the R.C.I.A. catechist is a leader or facilitator for adults. He/she is not expected to know everything about the Catholic faith, but rather, he/she should be able to share his/her understanding and love of their faith with others who are seeking full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.
- Sponsors – the role of a sponsor is to accompany the catechumen and/or candidate on his/her journey of faith toward full communion with the Church. Besides attending sessions with the candidate/catechumen, the sponsor is expected to provide encouragement and support to them.
- Hospitality – these ministers prepare and serve refreshments at the various gatherings for R.C.I.A. participants.

Marriage Preparation

The Diocese of Fall River, through the Family Ministry Office, conducts Marriage Preparation Programs throughout the calendar year. The Cape Cod Marriage Preparation Program is hosted by St. Pius X Church and meets regularly with engaged couples to share information on the Sacrament of Marriage. This program is very rewarding and joyous, as we are able, with humor and honesty, to discuss some of the lessons learned by our team couples. We are always seeking new couples to share in this important work. Please consider joining us.



Baptismal Preparation

In our pre-baptismal program, new parents are helped to understand the meaning and responsibilities of Baptism. To appreciate their role as the first teachers of their children, they are required to complete the program. God parents and other interested family members are encouraged to attend.



Parish Library

Located in the Religious Education Center. Library hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 A.M. – 12 Noon.



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Catholic Charities Appeal

For over 66 years the Catholic Charities funded agencies have ministered to tens of thousands of individuals and families all across the Diocese of Fall River. Without regard to race, creed, nationality, gender, or economic status, the vision of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fall River has been to reach out compassionately, striving to heal the pain of those looking to us for assistance.



This annual appeal is the only time the Diocese asks its parishioners to come together to fund the charitable works of its agencies that benefit anyone in need of assistance in the Fall River Diocese.

Dennis-Yarmouth Ecumenical Council for the Prevention of Homelessness (DYECH)

The Dennis Yarmouth Ecumenical Council for the Prevention of Homelessness (DYECH) is a group of area Christian parishes who are committed to preventing homelessness. DYECH conducts a number of fundraising activities such as the sale of food certificates at churches, auctions, golf tournaments, jazz concerts, and Christmas concerts. The money is then turned over to Housing Assistance Corporation to ensure that the monies are spent in assisting families to avoid becoming homeless. DYECH has been very successful and has raised a million dollars to date.



Meetings are on the last Tuesday of each month in the St. Pius X Parish Life Center at 7 P.M. We are always seeking new volunteers and new ideas to assist us.

Meals for NOAH Shelter

NOAH Center is a shelter in Hyannis for homeless individuals. Being the only shelter for individuals on the Cape, it provides not only a bed and two meals daily, but also access to housing and employment advocacy, medical, substance abuse and mental health services.



The Meals program has two teams that provide dinner on the first and third Sundays of every month. Members plan, shop, prepare, cook, and deliver the meals to the shelter.

Parish Nurse Ministry

The parish nurse ministry has a home visiting program and an in-home respite program. Trained volunteers are available for families who are in need of a few hours of change from care-giving every week.

Volunteers are needed for the many different services this ministry has to offer.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is always looking for people who can knit or crochet in order that shawls can be given out freely. This ministry fulfills the need for distributing personalized, blessed shawls for the sick within our local and extended community and also our church family.



Respect for Life

A prayer based group, meeting monthly, to address all issues of life, from conception to natural death.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Founded in 1833 under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul, today the Society includes almost 900,000 members in 130 countries of five continents. The Society's purpose is to provide direct aid to those in need, and to work in the spirit of justice and charity by person-to-person contact with the needy. They offer Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for those who would otherwise have no meal. Their funding comes from the collections taken up in Church on Holy Days of Obligation. The Society works within the parish boundaries, helping those who are in need of emergency help. The Society keeps the anonymity of its members and of those they help.



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Bingo

Bingo is a great fundraiser that helps with parish expenses and charities. Bingo is managed by a close knit group of volunteers that conduct themselves in a manner that fosters a congenial atmosphere for the bingo playing environment. Goodwill and fellowship are essential for bingo to be successful. Bingo volunteers donate from two to six hours of their time weekly or bi-weekly.

Knights of Columbus, Council 10346

Our parish council of The Knights of Columbus sponsors social, spiritual and charitable activities for its members and their families and supports many of the programs of the parish. The Knights, which is an international organization of Catholic gentlemen, was founded by Father Michael J. McGivney in 1882 on the tenants of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism, are known for providing financial charitable support for children with special needs and disaster areas throughout the world and support of the church and its clergy. Members are offered an outstanding array of insurance for themselves and their family members. They meet monthly on the second Wednesday of the month and offer other programs throughout the year.



Men's Club

The St. Pius X Men's Club was formed to foster fellowship among the members, provide spiritual enrichment for the membership, to provide the opportunity to further develop a sense of community with the parishioners of the parish and to help provide for the pastoral needs of the parish.



The club meets at 2 PM on second Monday of the month. A short business meeting precedes an invited speaker. The subjects of the talks have been religion, medical, environmental, public safety, sport and funeral preparations. The meeting and talk lasts (continued)

Men's Club (Continued)



about one hour. Several meetings are coupled with events. The Club also co-sponsors with the K of C a Christmas party at a local restaurant. Because of interest we are planning more social events in the future. The club also sponsors a Red Cross blood drive in October. All men of Saint Pius X Parish are eligible and invited to join the Men's Club. The annual dues are \$10.

Women's Club

The St. Pius X Catholic Women's Club, founded in 1991, is an organization comprised of parish women joining together to grow spiritually, foster a sense of community, as well as support the best interests of St. Pius X Parish. Since its inception, the Women's Club has sponsored many spiritual and social projects and functions, and it is through these activities that the Club has become an active, integral part of the parish community.

The Women's Club welcomes newcomers. Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Parish Life Center, and a monthly newsletter providing information regarding general club business and upcoming events is distributed on a monthly basis. Yearly dues are \$10.00.

Women's Guild



The Women's Guild raises money for the parish, the parish school, and for charities. It is affiliated with the District V (Cape and Islands) and the Fall River Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Within the Guild, members may join the Craft Group that meets on Monday mornings. This group creates beautiful crafts for the Summer Fair. The Mission Friends meet on Wednesday mornings with the goal of supporting missions throughout the country and South America by supplying needed clothing and supplies.

This active group of over 100 women meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held in the Parish Life Center from October to June. At 12:15 PM, members gather for conversation and friendship. The general meeting begins at 12:45 PM, followed by a guest speaker or an interesting program that supports the interest of the members.

Scouting

Have you heard about scouting? Try our Cub Scouts chartered right here at St. Pius X Church. Good for the parents: Watch your son grow and learn things about the world around him while he develops strong core values and self confidence and has fun while doing it. Good for the boys: Have the opportunity to do things only scouts can like sleep on a battleship or stay overnight at the Museum of Science or at a zoo. You'll meet new friends and do all kinds of fun activities.



Welcoming Committee

Newly registered parishioners are welcomed into the parish by the Welcoming Committee. A dinner is held at the Parish Life Center for the new parishioners who have registered in the parish during that period. This dinner and reception provide these new families and individuals the opportunity to meet other newly registered families and the parish staff so they can learn about the various parish activities and ministries. This is a rewarding experience and has been enjoyed by guests and families.



Youth Ministry

High School age young people are engaged in a variety of activities in the parish, social, spiritual and service related, in an effort to become more deeply involved in the life of the parish as they are finding their place in the Body of Christ. Youth Ministry organizes several events throughout the year with the planning, through, with and by the young people. There are also other ways that teens can participate in parish life as; Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Catechists or Aides in Religious Education.

There are opportunities for adults to help plan and organize the youth programs. Collaboration with the young people is important to help them grow as parish leaders.

Monthly Breakfast- “The Best Brunch in Town”

The breakfast started in 1998. On the first Sunday of the month, some 35 individuals work the 3 masses, some starting at 6am and staying through final clean up. Breakfast is served after the 7:00, 9:00 and 10:30 masses on the First Sunday of the month. The group serves up to 250 people in the off-season and over 400 people between July 4th and Labor Day.



Summer Picnic

We are a parish family and like any other family we gather for fun and fellowship. Our Summer picnic is held on the front lawn of the Parish hall, with music and lots of food and games. It is a chance for everyone to relax and enjoy each others company. Volunteer are needed to shop, cook and clean up.



Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS)

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) is open to women of all ages who want to increase their relationship with God by sharing with other women. Each week for eight weeks a group of ten to twelve women and three facilitators meet for approximately one and one half to two hours. Also, included in the meeting are share prayer, discussion, and, of course, socializing. Some of the topics that are discussed include self-esteem and self-acceptance, stress, worries, anxieties, everyday spirituality, feelings and personal growth. At the end of the eight weeks, each group decides where to go from there. Some of the women might stay together for further growth through spiritual reading. While others may decide to stay with the MOMS Program to offer it to others.



Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee is composed of three groups.

- **Funeral Liturgy Planning-** Those who assist the family in making the arrangements for the funeral mass. This group meets with the family and helps them to select appropriate readings, music, and other details for the funeral mass.
- **Funeral Hospitality-**Those who provide hospitality for the family at a collation following the mass. This group acts as hosts at the collation following a funeral. This fulfilling ministry requires a few hours of time on the day of the funeral.
- **Bereavement Support Group-** Those who provide support at our monthly meeting to anyone who is grieving the loss of a family member or friend. This group meets the first Monday of the month in the Parish Life Center from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM and is followed by refreshments. It is open to everyone who would like to attend and experience sharing and support from others who share their grief.

We welcome new volunteers.

Christmas Giving

Christmas is a joyous time, a very special time as we Christians celebrate the birth of Christ and give thanks to God for all we have been given. For too many people that joy is dampened by poverty and hard work at low wages. For many families it is difficult to make ends meet and all the commercialism that surrounds the Christmas season makes it even worse. Also the fact that Christmas is part of the winter season and many children need a warm coat and boots further stretch the family funds.



Here at St. Pius we have put together a program to help families with children. It is called "Christmas Giving." Quite simply, a parent calls and gives the names, ages, sizes and needs of each child and we fill out cards that are chosen by parishioners who then purchase the gifts for the children. We want to make sure each child has a coat, but every child should have toys for Christmas.

Kitchen Angels

Kitchen Angels are a group of men and women who volunteer to prepare and serve dinner for many parish activities.

They prepare dinner for the elderly at the annual Christmas Party, work with the Welcoming Committee when they plan their yearly social, prepare lunch for the Annual Homebound Mass and prepare dinner for the 8th Grade Graduating Class of St. Pius School at their awards night.



Tuesday Morning Coffee Hour

After the 9:00 am Mass each Tuesday morning a group of parishioners gather for coffee and fellowship in the Religious Education Center. Coffee and doughnuts are served and everyone is invited.



COMMUNICATION MINISTRIES

Parish Newsletter

The St. Pius X Parish News is a quarterly newsletter published by the parish. It contains articles and pictures from our many parish organizations and ministries. The letter is mailed to our registered parishioners. This mailing is prepared by a dedicated team of parish volunteers. The staff is always looking for writers, poets, and photographers.

Parish Website

The parish website, www.stpiusx.com is your one stop information center for everything St. Pius. You can log on to look at this week's bulletin, check the Mass schedule, view pictures, or view the parish calendar for when your group is meeting. If you would like more information on the website or to have your group posted, please email stpiusxoffice@comcast.net.



Bulletin

The bulletin is our weekly source of information for the parish. It lists weekly events happening within the parish and the community.

Submissions to the bulletin are due Mondays at 9 a.m.



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