

St. Pius X
Roman Catholic Church

Parish Newsletter

Volume 2023—Spring 2023

April 2023

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Dear Parishioners,

The resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian faith. It is the greatest of the miracles, for it proves that Jesus is God. St. Paul writes: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your faith is in vain". "Jesus is Lord, he is risen" was the central theme of the 'preaching' of the Apostles. The apostles who were sad, gloomy, and disappointed were strengthened after his resurrection.

Brothers and sisters, we are Easter Christians, and our song is Alleluia. We all are called to share this eternal truth and faith with our fellow human beings. Easter reminds us of our Call and Mission:

- ◆ Every day is an Easter day if we run to the altar of the Lord to see the impossible made possible.
- ◆ Every day is an Easter day if we forgive those who have betrayed and wounded us.
- ◆ Every day is an Easter day if we constantly rise above our worldly attitudes and attachments.
- ◆ Every day is an Easter day if we meet the Lord in our fellow travelers on our daily journey.
- ◆ Every day is an Easter day if we pray with right discernment.
- ◆ As St. Paul says, Every day is an Easter day if we think of what is above, not what is on earth.

I also especially thank all of you for your great support, love, prayers, and encouragement that you unconditionally pour on me. It is a real joy and privilege being a pastor at St. Pius X. It is a home away from home.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter that is filled with plenty of love and happiness.

In the Risen Christ,
Fr. Shiju Thuruthiyil, OSH

Vision Statement

*"To increase the disciples of Jesus Christ
within our parish and community"*



The renovation is progressing nicely.



Marble Last Supper for Altar



Marble Gospels for Ambo

Thank you all for your support to the St. Pius X Sanctuary Renovation project.
Praise God for His blessings.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Contributions received as of 3/31/2023 | 537,070 |
| Pledge money outstanding | 77,370 |
| Stained Glass total pledges | 46,275 |
| Stained Glass money received | 23,697 |
| Stained Glass money outstanding | 22,578 |
| Church contribution if needed | <u>100,000</u> |
| Total | 760,716 |
| Renovation budget | 807,572 |
| % of money pledged or raised | 82 % |
| % with church contribution | 95% |

- ◇ The contract with the General Contractor has been executed
- ◇ The Last Supper & The marble Gospels expected to arrive at St. Pius this week
- ◇ The marble surrounding the tabernacle and also will be placed under the Altar has been ordered and is on transit from Italy
- ◇ The Altar, Ambo, Candelabra have been designed and in the works to be built
- ◇ The presider chair, deacon chair, and altar server chairs have been chosen
- ◇ The stained-glass in under construction
- ◇ The tile for the floor has been ordered

Stations of the Cross Upgrade

As part of the Renovation project, Father Shiju wants to redistribute the Stations of the Cross in the Main Church. Additionally, there is a desire to enhance the stations..

As a result, Ben Quen and Kevin Conroy collaborated their wood working talents and tools to construct frames that will be added to the stations. The frame will have a Purple Felt backing and the existing stations will be mounted inside. The stations will be distributed along the east, north and west walls of the Nave. A smaller version of the frame will be added to the stations that are in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.



Mass Times

Saturday Vigil

5:00 pm

Sunday

9:00 am

Daily (Mon-Fri)

8:30 am

(Check bulletin for exceptions)

Other Times

Reconciliation

Saturday

3:00 pm—4:00 pm

or by appointment

(541) 884-4242

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

1st Friday of the Month

9:05 am—5:00 pm

Office Hours

Monday—Friday

9:00 am—4:00 pm



Promises of Jesus—Divine Mercy

St. Faustina Kowalska was graced by a special communion with God. According to her Diary, Jesus told her to be diligent in writing down every sentence He told her concerning God's mercy, because this was meant for a great number of souls who will benefit from it. In this Diary, Jesus promised an extraordinary grace for Divine Mercy Sunday. He told her, **"I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy."** This is an extraordinary promise! Fr. Michael Gaitley says it's his favorite part of Divine Mercy Sunday, calling it "the clean slate grace." All sins and punishment are removed by the grace of Divine Mercy Sunday. To receive the grace you simply need to go to Confession before the feast, be in the state of grace (no mortal sin) when you receive Holy Communion, with the intention of obtaining the promised grace.

Besides this extraordinary grace, Jesus also offered us a vessel with which we are to keep coming for graces...that vessel is the Image of Divine Mercy with the signature, "Jesus, I trust in You." Jesus asked that the Divine Mercy Image be venerated throughout the world, with every soul having access to it. Jesus asked that the Image be solemnly venerated especially on Divine Mercy Sunday. **He promised that the soul that will venerate this Image will not perish. He also promised victory over its enemies here on earth, especially at the hour of death.**

Jesus told St. Faustina, "I am mercy itself....Tell souls not to place within their own hearts obstacles to My mercy, which so greatly wants to act within them. Both the sinner and the righteous person have need of My mercy. Conversion, as well as perseverance, is a grace of My mercy....Write: before I come as the just Judge, I first open wide the door of My mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice."

Jesus also made several comforting promises to those who pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. **Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from His infinite mercy.** With the Chaplet, Jesus desires to grant the soul everything it asks for, as long as it is compatible with God's will. **He also promised that by praying a Novena of chaplets, He will grant every possible grace to souls.**

The 3 o'clock hour is known as the Hour of Great Mercy (the hour Jesus died). In this hour, Jesus wants us to recall His sacrifice of love. Jesus said that in this hour you can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking. **He promised, "In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion."**

Jesus keeps His promises. You will not find a love as complete as His. In times of greater evil, God wants to give even greater graces; and in our time, the graces are huge, precisely because there is so much sin. Now is a time for extraordinary mercy!

Extraordinary Mercy

RENEWING EUCHARISTIC AMAZEMENT

“The bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world.” - John 6:51

Over the next three years, throughout the nation and the diocese, we will consciously seek to re-invigorate our belief in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist and in His Church.

Revival's in the Air—AN EXCITING JOURNEY AHEAD

Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>

On the last weekend of each month, we will have Benediction in every parish. After the closing prayer at Mass, the priest will expose the Blessed Sacrament on the altar for a brief time of adoration and then conclude with a solemn blessing of the people.

Benediction - After All Masses on the final Weekend of Each Month:

April 29/ 30

May 27/ 28

Moved to June 10/11 for Corpus Christi Benediction/
Processions

July 29/ 30

August 26/ 27

September 23/ 24

October 28/ 29

November 25/ 26



Adoration—In order to continue our unity and identity as a diocese, Bishop Cary and the Eucharistic Revival Committee have asked that we continue celebrating Holy Hours of Adoration, the **3rd Sunday of every other month**. Please prepare for adoration on the following dates, in every parish at 5 pm PT.

May 21

Jul 16

Sep 17

Nov 19

Please join us!

Holy Week



This year, Holy Week begins on Sunday, April 2, 2023.

Palm Sunday is celebrated the week before Easter. Catholics carry blessed palm branches into church with them - this is in remembrance of when Jesus entered Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-11). The story of Jesus' death and his Passion, are read as the Gospel.

Sunday Mass on Palm Sunday actually includes two readings from the Gospels. We hear about when Jesus entered Jerusalem at the start of Mass. And we read the Passion account during the Liturgy of the Word. A great way to start your Holy Week is by reflecting on Jesus' passion.

After attending Mass it's common to display your palm! Some place it behind a crucifix, some take several palm branches and weave them together to create a palm cross. Since palm branches are a sacramental item they should not be thrown away. You can return your branch to the church where it will be burned for ashes the following Ash Wednesday.

It's also common to deep clean your home on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. This tradition arises from the Jewish custom of preparing the home for Passover. Holy Week is also a great time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation - many churches have increased opportunities for Confession during this time.

Chrism Mass—March 30, 2023 at the Saint Francis de Sales Cathedral, Baker City

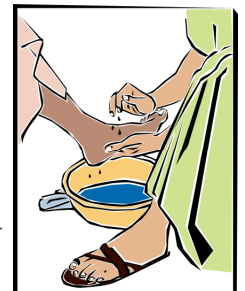


Many dioceses celebrate the Chrism Mass on the morning of Holy Thursday or possibly on another day during Holy Week. "Chrism" refers to one of the oils used during different Sacraments. During the Chrism Mass, the Oil of the Sick (used during the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick), the Oil of Catechumens (used during the Sacrament of Baptism), and the Chrism oil are consecrated by the Bishop. Large vessels of oils are carried to the altar for the blessings and consecration of Chrism, which is a mixture of oil and balsam. After Mass, the oils are distributed to representatives of each parish. The oils are taken back to the parishes and used for the Sacraments.

There is also a renewal of priestly promises during the Chrism Mass. Traditionally every priest within a diocese attends this Mass. The Bishop also requests that the laity of the diocese pray for him and the priests of the diocese.

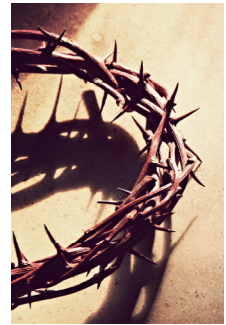
Holy Thursday is the first day of the Easter Triduum, the most sacred days of the Catholic faith. It begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, which commemorates the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus and his disciples on the Jewish holiday of Passover. It's not a Holy Day of Obligation, but many Catholics attend Mass. During this Mass, the priest washes the feet of some members of the parish in memory of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. It was during the Last Supper that Jesus taught his disciples that the Eucharist is truly His Body and Blood. Jesus' disciples were the first Catholic priests. So during the Last Supper, he taught them the importance of the Eucharist, and why priests celebrate Jesus' sacrifice during every Mass. Because of this, the Last Supper is also significant because it was the beginning of the priesthood.

St. Pius X will ask 12 volunteers to join Father Shiju for a dinner (Last Supper) and participate in The Washing of the Feet for Holy Thursday.



Holy Week

Good Friday commemorates the day Jesus died and saved us from our sins. His death and resurrection on Easter is the most important event, which is why it's called "good". On this day Catholics fast and remember the suffering of Jesus when he died on the cross. It's the only day of the year in which Catholic Mass is not celebrated. Instead, many Catholic Churches have a Stations of the Cross prayer service, as well as a Veneration of the Cross service. It's traditionally a day of solemn prayer. Holy Saturday is typically a day of preparation for Easter Sunday. Families can dye Easter Eggs, a symbol of new life, in preparation for the celebration of new life in the Resurrection.



A Prayer for Good Friday

Jesus,

No one knows change better than you. You died on the cross, and three days later you rose from the dead. Forty days later you ascended into heaven and left the world transformed for the rest of time. Help me to transform my soul, to die to sin and death and be reborn in your love and eternal life.

Amen.

Holy Saturday is typically a day of preparation for Easter Sunday. Families can dye Easter Eggs, a symbol of new life, in preparation for the celebration of new life in the Resurrection.

A Prayer for Holy Saturday

Jesus,

You are courage incarnate. As you hung on the cross for my sins and the sins of the world, you showed me that all things are possible. You knew that life did not end on the cross. It was only the beginning of a new and glorious eternal life.

Amen.

The **Easter Vigil** is the Mass celebrated on Holy Saturday and it begins the Easter celebrations of Jesus' resurrection. It begins with a bonfire outside of the church, and Mass attendees light candles that slowly illuminate the church. Many readings from the Old Testament that foretold Jesus' death and resurrection are read. It's also the day that new catechumens, those who are entering the Catholic Church, receive the Sacraments for the first time.

Easter Sunday is a continuation of the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. It's a Holy Day of Obligation because the Mass celebrates the most important teaching in the Catholic faith - that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead so that we could share eternal life with him in heaven.



A Prayer for Easter Sunday

Almighty Father,

I thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead and redeemed human-kind. Fill us with the fire of the Holy Spirit, that we may be faithful disciples and enthusiastic witnesses of our Catholic faith. Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed.

Amen.



Faith Formation

Easter Vigil, April 8, 2023—We have 3 catechumens currently preparing with Vic in the RCIA class on Tuesday evenings. One additional youth is preparing with Mary Lou to receive her sacraments also at the Easter Vigil on April 8th. On April 8th we will come together for a retreat to take the final steps in preparation to fully join at the Eucharistic table. Please pray for all the catechumens and candidate and their sponsors as they prepare to join the Church at the Easter Vigil. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall hosted by Altar Society.

St. Pius X Easter Egg hunt, April 9, 2023—The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10:25 AM, please join us in the large field next to the rectory after Mass.

First Communion, May 7, 2023—7 children will receive the Eucharist for the first time. Our second-year sacramental prep class is guided by Angela Bradbury and Charity Schmitt. Please pray for the children and catechists as they prepare to partake in the Lord's Supper. They have worked hard and continue to work hard as they prepare to receive the sacraments for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall hosted by Catholic Daughters.

Confirmation, May 14, 2023—Bishop Cary will confirm 14 youth. The youth and their parents have been working hard and have completed 3 classes. The fourth class is scheduled on April 2nd and the retreat is scheduled on May 12th and 13th with Bishop Cary as one of the speakers. Please pray for the confirmation team and the youth and they prepare to receive the seven gifts of The Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall hosted by Altar Society.

Year Barbeque and carnival, May 21, 2023—The Mens Club will host the Barbeque and the carnival will be outside, weather permitting. Please save the date and plan on stopping by for family fun. We would like to have a cake walk and a fishing pond, in addition to other activities. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tami 541-882-7593.

Thank you for your support—The youth group hosted their 14th annual spaghetti dinner and silent auction on February 4th, 2023. It was a busy night for all. We have 6 youth interested in attending Steubenville July 12-16, 2023. Plans are starting to fall into and the youth will be able to attend this summer.



World Youth Day is in Lisbon Portugal August 1-6, 2023. St. Pius X has 5 pilgrims who have signed up to travel to Lisbon. Mark and Matthew Elfbrandt, Diego Diaz, Aaron Croxford, and Claire Lowry will fly from Boise Idaho on July 29, 2023 to participate in World Youth Day and make a one-day pilgrimage to visit Our Lady of Fatima. They will return to Boise on August 8, 2023. The youth have completed several fundraisers, with the help of the youth group, to raise funds for their travel costs. As they get closer to leaving this summer, please pray for safe travels not only for our pilgrims but also for all the pilgrims who will travel.



Protestant – Catholic Dialogue

A dialogue between Matt Rohrbach, a Southern Baptist pastor from Evergreen Baptist Church and Vic Scaravilli, an adult religious education teacher at St. Pius, took place in the Parish Hall in February. This was the result of several one-on-one discussions between the two over the previous months. Over a hundred people attended from our parish, his church, and the community.

The topic addressed was, "Where and how does a Christian find final and ultimate truth concerning the Christian faith?" The goal for each presenter was to give his understanding of where and how a person can get authentic and accurate Christian truths. This question is a major one because it ultimately determines how one learns, understands, and practices the Christian faith.

Pastor Rohrbach presented the Protestant position of the Bible being the sole or only source of authority and each person has the absolute right to interpret it to determine Christian truth. Vic explained the Catholic view which is that each person relies on the authoritative Church Jesus established, the Magisterium, to provide truth that is contained in the Bible and Tradition.

There are times when we are asked to share our faith and explain Catholic beliefs. As Catholics who have been baptized and confirmed, we have the obligation to explain our faith. Learning our faith in classes and attending events like this better equips us for this task.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2335, St. Pius Klamath Falls Oregon



Honoring Our Deceased Priests

Paula Marcoux, Kathy Pence and Deb Scaravilli recently cleaned up and decorated the memorials of the deceased priests interred in Mt Calvary Cemetery. These priests have no family here and have been forgotten. Thanks to Deb, they will not be forgotten anymore as our Court will continue to take care of them. As our new ministry. *Requiem in Pacem.*



On February 4 & 5, Catholic Daughters held our Bake Sale. Saturday the Youth Group had their spaghetti dinner fundraiser and we benefitted from the extra foot traffic!

We raised \$1380! It was a great success, and we thank all those members who brought food to the sale. And we especially thank the parish for their support.



On February 13th a Memorial Mass was celebrated for John Thuruthiyil, the Father of Father Shiju. Seven brother Priests from the Diocese of Baker and Southern Deanery concelebrated the Mass with Father Shiju. At the conclusion of Mass, the Priests from India prayed the Office of the Dead in their native language Malayalam. While we didn't understand what was prayed it was truly a moving experience.



Left to right: Fr. Joseph P Thomas, Fr. Philip Thomas, Fr. Anish Philip, Fr. Shiju Thuruthiyil, Very Rev. Saji Kumbungal, Fr. Ildefonce Mapara, Fr. Francis Obijekwu, Fr. Shaji Thomas.

Following the Mass, everyone gathered in the Parish for a reception. Pictured to the left, Very Reverend Saji Kumbungal Thomas—Vicar General offered a few words.



Why do I have to confess my sins to a priest?



Of all the objections to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the one most often voiced, particularly by Protestants, and sometime by Catholics is: "I don't need to go to confession to a priest! The priest is just another human being! All that I need to do is to confess my sins directly to God, and that is enough!" This objection is flawed on a number of counts.

Jesus Commissioned Forgiveness through his Apostles. Jesus asked believers to approach God for forgiveness through the apostles who were commissioned to act as his agents. Jesus told Peter, "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Mt 16:19).

After the resurrection, Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20:22,23). Priests alone carry out this apostolic role (Canon 965; CCC, Nos. 1461 & 1462).

It is Consistent with our Jewish Heritage. When it came to atonement for sins in the Jewish tradition, God instructed Moses to have the people bring a holocaust to the Temple, usually an unblemished bullock or lamb. The sinner laid hands on the head of the animal, symbolically transferring one's sins to the animal, and then to slaughter it, to have the animal die in place of the sinner. The sinner then handed the animal to the priest who offered it on the altar (Lev 1:1-5). The priest served as a go-between for the sinner to mediate God's pardon and peace.

Catholic Sacraments are Mediated. The sacraments celebrate the most profound moments of our lives: birth (Baptism), the transition to adulthood (Confirmation), lifetime commitment (Marriage and Holy Orders), and the end of life (Anointing). Two other sacraments strengthen us for the journey through life: Eucharist, spiritual sustenance, and Penance, the forgiveness of sins. We need to be fed at least weekly, and because we sin so often, we need to be forgiven regularly. The sacraments are not self-administered. Rather, the priest is the mediator, the linkage or conduit between God and the people, a rich channel of God's grace.

A Personal Encounter with Christ. The priest is not just "another human being," but one who acts *in persona Christi*, in the person of Christ. With faith we believe that when the penitent speaks to the priest, the penitent speaks to Christ, and when the priest speaks, the priest speaks on behalf of Christ. When the priest says, "I absolve you," it is Christ who absolves (Mk 2:10).

A Community Representative. Our sins offend not only God, but the community as well. It is not only impractical, but often also ill-advised because of scandal or grave consequences, to admit our sins to others. When we admit our sins to a priest, the priest also serves *in persona ecclesiae*, "in the person of the Church" or "in the person of the community." Therefore, when we receive absolution, not only are we forgiven by God, we are also forgiven by those that we have offended.

The Personal Touch. When we confess our sins to a priest, we are able to receive individualized counsel, advice that fits our unique circumstances, and we can be given a penance that is "medicinal," specifically tailored to help us in the spiritual healing process (Canon 981).

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Thank you to the Funeral Reception Volunteers. St. Pius X is eternally grateful for your service.

When a loved one dies and the family makes funeral arrangements, they are invited to have a reception at St. Pius X. This is a time for fellowship and is an important part of the grieving process. The funeral team completely sets up and serves the luncheon allowing the family to share a meal while visiting with guests and remembering their loved one.

The Parish Hall accommodates approximately 120 guests, and the team uses the Youth Room when in need of overflow. The parish hall is also set up with a sound system, a large screen, or a Smartboard for photo slideshows and music.

The Funeral Team works very hard to make this a nice gathering for families. The team consists of 77 volunteers. Some volunteers work at the reception in the kitchen, serving or clean up. Others bring a salad, a dessert, rolls, or eggs.

If you would like to sign up to be part of this team, please call the office at (541) 884-4242.



St. Pius X Renovation Benefit

Authentic Greek Dinner

Saturday – April 29, 2023

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm



Cost:

Adult - \$20.00

Children under 12 - \$10.00



Please mark your calendar for this fun-family activity!

St. Pius X Catholic Daughters Fundraiser

Family Bunco Party

Everyone is invited to play

(Grade Schoolers to Great-Grandparents!)

Cost: \$10 individual or \$30 immediate family

Saturday April 22, 2023

1:00 – 3:30 pm @ St. Pius Parish Hall



Fun + Food + Friends

Win \$\$\$\$ and help raise money for charitable projects!

Tickets for sale after Mass and from the parish office.

Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery

Still has Flagpoles available for you to sponsor and have a dedicated plaque mounted at the base.



On Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day Mt. Calvary proudly displays 50 U.S. flags throughout the cemetery. We are replacing the existing flag poles and flags and installing a permanent concrete base.

Your donation of \$350 will go towards a new flagpole and flag. Also, at the base of each flagpole will be a 4x5 bronze plaque containing your dedication text which is affixed to the concrete base.

Contact Ben Quen, Cemetery Preside if you would like to sponsor a flagpole. bquen01@gmail.com.

Nonprofit Corporation – Mt. Calvary is a 501c3 (Nonprofit) corporation. There are several ways to support Mt. Calvary, first and foremost is to select us as your final resting place and reserve a Plot or Niche. Contact Ipo Ross, Cemetery Manager for more information (541-331-1416). You can donate to the Ash Wednesday collection or the Memorial Day Mass at the Cemetery. Lastly, unsolicited donations are always welcome. Go to this link if you wish to donate:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/mtca8110173>

Proud To Be Catholic



St. Pius X Catholic Church Mission Statement

“St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church, within the Diocese of Baker, is a community of Catholic Christians who are united by God, formed by the gospels, strengthened by the sacraments and the liturgy as well as the teachings of the Catholic Church.

We are committed to evangelization and education. We encourage a greater commitment to love and follow Christ, by living out the Catholic faith and to promote peace and justice in our parish, our community, and our world.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we pledge ourselves to pursue this mission through participation in the liturgical, sacramental, educational, and social ministries of the Church.”