

2024 - 2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

St. Pius X  
Catholic Church



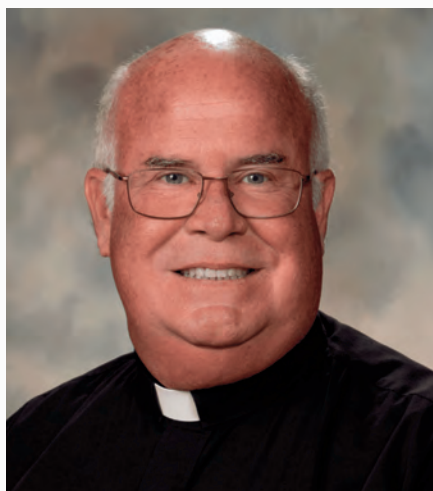




Challenge (for girls) and Conquest (for boys) are Catholic youth programs offered at St. Pius X to help children grow in their faith, build character, and learn to serve others. Beginning in the Fall of 2025, they will replace Young Saints as the primary formation program for students in grades K - 5<sup>th</sup>,



# A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BRADY



This summer marks the completion of my seventh year serving you as pastor of St. Pius X Church, and despite the recent challenges we've faced, particularly the health challenges of our clergy, my assignment here continues to be a wonderful blessing. As a community, we've had a good year on all levels, and I want to thank you for your support of me and all of our clergy.

St. Pius continues to be a dynamic and vibrant parish. With the completion of the Ministry Building last year, we now have the facilities necessary to support our ministries. St. Pius continues to grow in attendance, new registrations, ministerial activity, and participation in the sacraments. This growth is only possible because of your high level of commitment to parish life prompted by God's Grace.

We continue to be financially stable, and continue to pay ahead on the debt associated with the church building. As of June 30, 2025, we have prepaid \$1.2 million of the principle, and the

total principle amount is now less than \$10 million (the peak was \$11.8 million). Assuming we continue this trajectory, the church building will be paid off in approximately 13.5 years. Seven years ago, the projection was more than 30 years. This success is because of your generosity, and I want to thank you for that. However, most importantly we continue to thrive spiritually. Mass attendance has increased, as have the number of

Confessions, and service within and outside our community has increased. These things indicate the many generous hearts among us, and the willingness to share our time, talent and treasure.

For this coming year, however, the big news is the start of construction of the new school building and library for our elementary school! For those of you who were here 10 years ago, you might remember the survey to identify the needs of the parish, and that survey led to the construction of the new church. At the same time, many of you also identified the need for a new school building. Now, some 25 years after SPES officially opened, we are ready to complete the campus master plan with the launch of the capital campaign to fund the new buildings, "Fulfilling the Legacy."

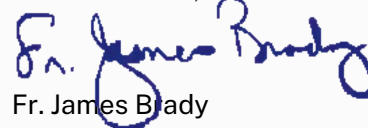
The master plan adopted when SPES was built called for the removal of the original mission church building, office and rectory, which were built in the

1960's, and to replace them with proper educational facilities. The new buildings are sorely needed as the old buildings have gradually become inadequate to meet the educational needs of our children and will not meet school accreditation standards in the near future. The new building will also ensure that modern safety codes are met. Needless to say, I am very excited about this project!

Admittedly, the task is tall, as the project cost is \$15 million dollars. However, thanks to the good stewardship of Mrs. DesOrmeaux, our current principal, and for the 20 years prior to her, Ms. Lemaire, SPES has no current debt, is financially sound, and has a positive cash flow. When asked, please prayerfully consider your response to help "fulfill the legacy" for St. Pius Elementary School.

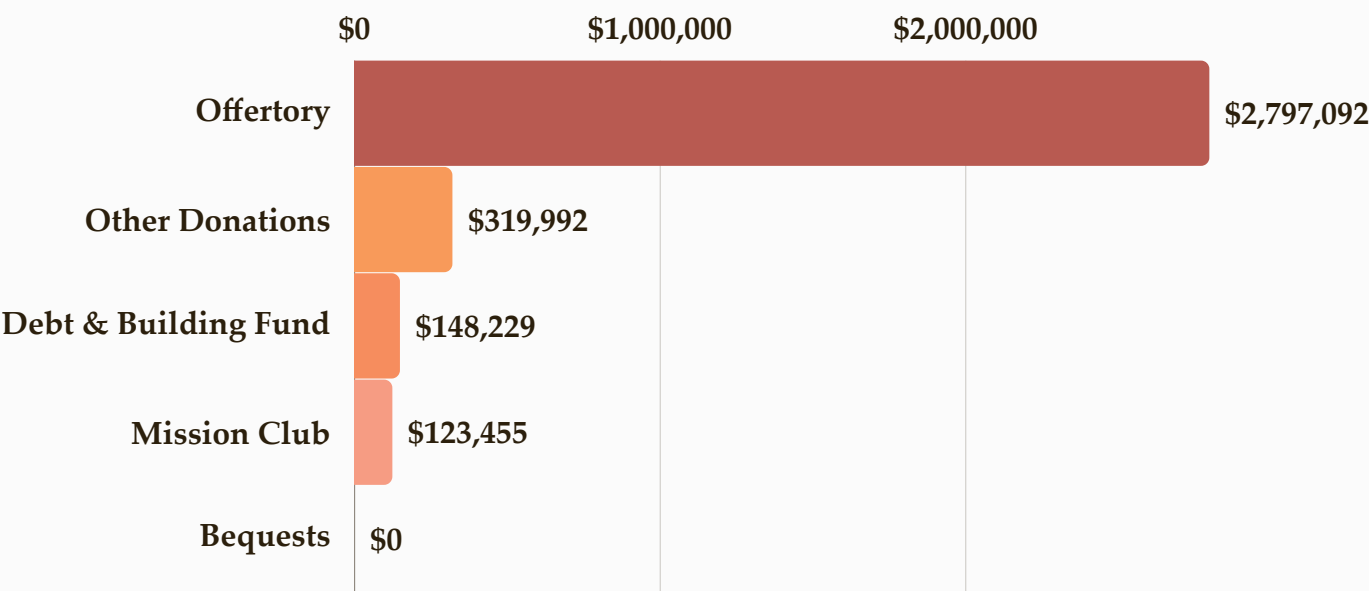
I invite you to review this year's annual report, which provides information on the project as well as other information regarding our parish community. Thank you again for making my job as your pastor a joy, and for continuing to teach me through your faith. Your support of our community is very much appreciated. May God continue to give success to the work of our hands, and may He bless us with continued growth to love as Jesus does!

Yours in Christ,

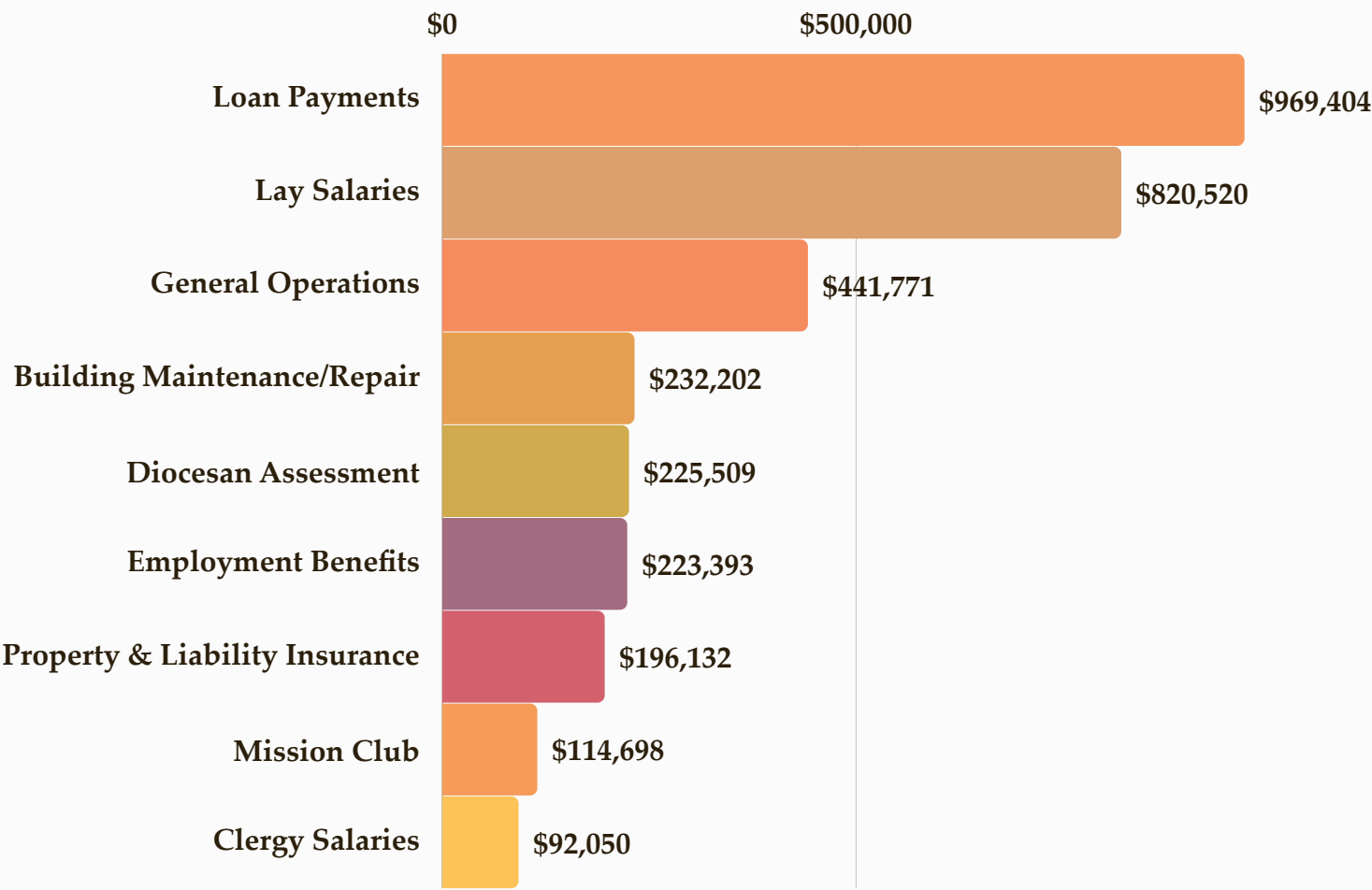
  
Fr. James Brady

# FINANCIAL REPORT: 2024-2025

TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$3,388,768



TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$3,315,679



RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS: \$73,089



# FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY

Name	Statistics	
ACTS	63	Retreatants
Administrative Office	12	Volunteers
Adoration (Perpetual) Chapel	280	Adorers Serving
Adult Confirmation	11	Candidates
Altar Servers	59	Altar Servers
Bible Studies	68	Participants
Blue Army of OLOF	10	Members
Catholics in Recovery	12*	Participants
Come Lord Jesus!	79	Members
Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus	12	Members
Divine Mercy Ministry for the Dying	1,032	Souls Prayed For
Divine Mercy Sunday Veneration	3,000	Prayer Cards Distributed
Eucharistic Ministry, Homebound	37	Homes Visited Weekly
Eucharistic Ministry, Homebound	50	Ministers
Eucharistic Ministry, Masses	138	Ministers
Eucharistic Ministry, Nursing Homes	22	Ministers
Eucharistic Ministry, Nursing Homes	267	People Served Weekly
Facebook Data & Fans	6,245	Facebook Followers
Facebook Data & Fans	77%	Female
Facebook Data & Fans	23%	Male
Facebook Data & Fans	2.7%	Age 18 yrs. - 24 yrs.
Facebook Data & Fans	34.8%	Age 25 yrs. - 44 yrs.
Facebook Data & Fans	37%	Age 45 yrs. - 64 yrs.
Facebook Data & Fans	25.5%	Age 65+ yrs.
Hospitality Ministry	175	New Families
Hospitality Ministry	3,959	Registered Families
Hospitality Ministry	11,981	Individuals
Knights of Columbus	230	Members
Lectors	66	Lectors
Magnify Women's Ministry	80*	Participants ( <i>maximum</i> )
	608	Facebook Page Followers
Marriage Preparation (in-home)	23	Volunteer Couples
Mass Attendance ( <i>Weekends</i> )	3,076*	Congregants
Media - Live Stream	33-420*	Views ( <i>depending on platform</i> )

\*an average number was reported from recurring sessions, multiple events or dates.

Name	Statistics	
Mission Club	73	Food Baskets Distributed
	620	Christmas Gifts
Mission Club Food Pantry	60*	Bags of Meat ( <i>per month</i> )
	132*	Bags of Non-perishable Food Items ( <i>per month</i> )
Music Ministry	60	Members
OCIA	15	Candidates
Parish Prayer Line	224	Prayer Requests
Patriotic Rosary Group	6	Members
Pius Senior Organization	60*	Attendees
Prayer Quilt Fellowship	135	Blankets Distributed
Rosary Making	3,831	Rosaries Distributed Annually
Sacraments - Baptism	116	Baptisms
Sacraments - 1st Communion	95	Candidates
Sacraments - Confirmation	277	Confirmation Candidates
Sacraments - Funerals	29	Funerals
Sacraments - Weddings	28	Weddings
Safe Environment	28	New Certifications
Safe Environment	92	Re-Certifications
SPES	703	Students Enrolled
SPES Alumni	1,331	Alumni
St. Elizabeth Seton Prayer Group	10*	Members
St. Joseph 's Altar	80	Participants
St. Joseph 's Altar	15	Volunteers
Staff/Personnel	14	Full-time Staff Members
Staff/Personnel	17	Part-time Staff Members
That Man Is You	35*	Members
Ushers	125	Ushers
Vacation Bible Camp	150	Campers
Vacation Bible Camp	38	Volunteers
Women's Guild	82	Members
Women's Guild	12*	Volunteers Per Event
Youth - Challenge Jr.	100	Registered Participants
Youth - Conquest Jr.	23	Registered Participants
Youth - Edge	143	Registered Participants
Youth - Life Teen	59	Registered Participants
Youth - Young Saints	97	Registered Participants

Thank you for your prayers, service and gifts!

# ROSARY & PRAYER RECITAL

*before Mass*



*Patricia Colbert-Cormier not only dedicated her time to St. Pius X, but was also an award-winning teacher and civil rights activist.*

Each morning before St. Pius X's 6 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. Daily Masses and Saturdays before the 5 p.m. Mass, Mass goers gather to recite the Rosary and other prayers specific to the liturgical seasons. Over the last seven years, St. Pius X has seen an increase in those attending Daily Mass requiring an additional Mass to be added at 12:05 p.m. and Masses every Saturday morning. Currently, an average of 300 parishioners and guests attend Mass each day during the week and an average of 2,800 during the weekend.

Currently leading the Saturday afternoon prayer recital is parishioner, Ms. Patricia Colbert-Cornier. Ms. Patricia Colbert-Cormier, a parishioner since 1970, went to school at Holy Family (formerly St. Paul Elementary), Immaculate Heart of Mary and Holy Rosary Institute before receiving her B.S., M.S. and Ed.S. from University of Southwestern Louisiana (now known as ULL). She is the mother of four children, Dr. Dolores Cormier-Zenon, National Board Certified teacher and mentor; Mr. John C. Cormier, entrepreneur and investment banker; Dr. Jason L. Cormier, neurosurgeon; and Jeremiah J. Cormier, deceased. Her children received many of their sacraments at the parish, most memorably being her youngest, Jeremiah J. Cormier. Jerry received all of his Sacraments of Initiation here at St. Pius X, then heartbreakingly his funeral rites were conducted here in 1996.

Despite such a major loss, Colbert-Cormier's great faith allowed her to continue her service as a high school teacher where she was recognized in 1996 as an honoree of the American Teacher Awards sponsored by the Walt Disney Co. and McDonald's Corporation, as well as an award winner of the Tandy Technology Scholars program that recognizes teachers and students who have achieved excellence in the areas of science, computer science and mathematics. In 2003, she was the winner of the Lafayette Education Foundation's Teacher Award. A few of her other achievements include receiving an Albert Einstein Fellowship at NASA, serving as a finalist for the National Teachers Hall of Fame and several human and civil rights awards. Most recently, she received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award sponsored by the Diocese of Lafayette's Office of Black Catholic Ministries.

*"Of all prayers the Rosary is the most beautiful and the richest in graces; of all it is the one which is most pleasing to Mary, the Virgin Most Holy. Therefore, love the Rosary and recite it every day with devotion."*

*- Pope Pius X*

Somehow, even while raising four children, earning advanced degrees, receiving professional awards, and being a trailblazer in human and civil rights, Colbert-Cormier still found time to give back to her faith community. In the early 1980's before St. Pius X employed professional organists, she was a volunteer organist for the parish and also served as a choir member. Additionally, she taught religion classes and served as a member and Treasurer of the Parish Pastoral Council, as well as a lector, Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister, assistant to the Sacristan, Sacristan and a member of several ministries.





## From the Words of Pope John Paul, II

“Your commitment to the altar is not only a duty, it is an honor, a genuine holy service...The altar server occupies a privileged place in the liturgical celebration. Those who serve at the altar assist Jesus Himself in the Eucharist.”

In a 2024 address to Altar Servers at the Vatican’s St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis acknowledged Altar Servers as being servants of Jesus’ love and wounded heart that heal our wounds, save us from death and give us eternal life.

St. Pius X’s Altar Servers are usually registered parishioners in 4th - 12th grades, who have been baptized in the Catholic Church, received their First Holy Communion, and feel called to serve God. These young men and women play a vital part in ensuring Mass goes smoothly. Altar Servers carry the cross or processional candles; hold the Bible for the priest;

carry the incense and censer; present the bread, wine, and water to the priest during the preparation of the gifts; assist him when he receives the gifts; wash the priest’s hands; and assist the deacons.

In addition to growing in respect and understanding of the Mass, serving as an Altar Server allows one to give back to their faith community by serving others. It’s also a wonderful community in which to belong. Altar Servers make friends and learn to lead by example as they shadow a more experienced Altar Server or mentor someone new.

### DID YOU KNOW?

73% of seminarians in the Class of 2025 were altar servers.

*(The Class of 2025: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood, CARA).*

Above all, our Altar Servers role in celebrating the eucharistic liturgy contributes to the knowledge we receive from the Word, our nourishment from the Eucharist, and the praise and glory we are able to give God each week. None of these would be possible without the help of some of God’s most faithful servants, the St. Pius X Altar Servers.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING AN ALTAR SERVER?



**William** (age 17)

“Altar serving alongside my brothers has been special. As their older brother, I always want to lead by example.

My favorite memory of serving was for Fr David Furka’s First Mass at Pius. A First Mass is like a priest’s wedding day and to be asked to serve was an honor and a day I will never forget.”



**Carter** (age 14)

“Altar serving has helped me grow closer to Jesus. Serving the Triduum is my favorite time of the year. It helps me reflect on the sacrifices Jesus made for me.”



**Gavin** (age 12)

“I really like serving the Triduum. It’s the holiest time of the year. Serving has made me feel closer to God and has helped me learn all the parts of the Mass.”



# MUSIC MINISTRY



Since the Old Covenant, music and singing have allowed us to celebrate the liturgy and exemplify our passion and love for Christ. This is most eloquently described in Ephesians 5:19, "Addressing one another [in] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts." The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) describes liturgical music as "a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art."

St. Pius X's Music Ministry has been an invaluable treasure since the 1960's before the parish was canonically formed. Some of the founding ministers include: Leo Cavell (male's choir), Ethel Savoy (girl's choir), Bob Lacour (funeral choir and choir for all ages), Dick Goula (adult choir), Annick Colbert (handbell & children's choir). Les Waguespack (youth choir), Karen Melancon (children's handbell choir). Other music ministers throughout parish history include: Therese Comeaux, Doris Bienvenue, Michael Goudeau, Paul Sahuc, and Karen Melancon. Some of the cantors that served were Margaret Montz, Hope Prejean, Linda Nodd, Karen Melancon and Amanda Gamble (youth).

St. Pius X's current music minister, Karen Begnaud Melancon, has a tenure that began shortly after the parish formed in 1968. As a life-long member of St. Pius X, her first performance was at one of the parish's sacramental rites when she was in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Too little to see above the podium, she had to stand on a crate just to reach the microphone. What followed would be nearly 50 years of faithful service in St. Pius X's Music Ministry, which more formally



*Photos: Top: St. Pius X's Adult Choir, which began in the 1960's, is now led by music minister, Karen Begnaud Melancon (bottom photo).*



**“HE WHO SINGS, PRAYS TWICE.”  
- ST. AUGUSTINE**

began when she served as a volunteer cantor in the 7th grade. She sang in the folk and adult choirs through her high school and college years. By 1988, Karen was offered the music minister position where she continues to direct the adult and children’s choir, and has led efforts to perform at funerals, nursing homes and concerts. Karen is married to Tim Melancon and is the mother of Colleen, Kyle, Kevin and Anna-Claire. Karen and Tim’s parents have been parishioners since St. Pius X’s earliest days. With the birth of their fifth grandchild in June 2025, Karen and Tim’s family continues their legacy of growing in faith and service to the parish for over four generations.

With the help of Geraldine Hubbell, parishioner and professional accompanist, St. Pius X purchased its first organ in 1972. During that time, the parish relied on several dedicated volunteers: Shirley Alexander, Betty Bares, Therese Comeaux, Pat Cormier, Patty Darbonne, Lorita Dauphin, Lynn Frederick, Geraldine Hubbell, Sylvia Pilcher, Ethel Savoy, and Gary Scallon. In 1982, St. Pius X employed its first professional organist, Steve Branch. Following Branch was Arleen Soileau who played at the 5 p.m. Mass, then Herndon Spillman, professor of organ at LSU, in 1985. Since 1990, St. Pius X’s organist has been Kevin Martin.

Contemporary music can be traced back to the mid 1970’s after a contemporary music concert directed by Les Waguespack led to the formation of a folk choir under the direction of Margaret Kresse and Steve Spedale. Members included Karen Begnaud Melancon, Hope Higginbotham, Steve Spedale, Carol Guidry, and Dave Landgrave. Guitarists during that time and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century included Phil Bordelon, Rusty Chastant, Tom Spedale, and Margo Uter. Under the leadership of Fr. Steve LeBlanc, Michael Hogan was hired to form the Life Teen Band.

Today, St. Pius X’s contemporary musical performances are led by Glenn DeLaune. For Glenn, using his God given talent to glorify our Lord is the most rewarding part of his job. Before leading this ministry at St. Pius X, he served as the choir director for St. Anne Catholic Church in Youngsville for over 25 years. James & Kristyn Opdenhoff also contribute to parishioner’s worship experiences as well.

*Photos: (Top) Kevin Martin has served as an organist since 1991.  
(Middle) Glenn DeLaune currently leads the Life Teen Band.  
(Bottom) Karen Melancon leads the Children’s Choir.*





St. Pius X receives the highest achievement award a parish can receive from ICSC in an international competition.



## St. Pius X Receives the Archbishop Thomas Murphy Parish Stewardship Award from International Catholic Stewardship Council



Fr. Jim Brady accepts the award, which was presented during their 62nd annual conference held September 2024 in New Orleans.

St. Pius X Catholic Church was the 2024 recipient of the Archbishop Thomas Murphy Parish Stewardship Award presented by the board of directors of the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC). ICSC is an affiliate of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that supports and promotes the teaching of Christian stewardship and responsible philanthropy in the

Catholic Church. The Archbishop Murphy Parish Stewardship Award, the highest achievement award a parish can receive, is presented annually to a parish which exemplifies a long-term commitment to a stewardship way of life. Award recipients exhibit an ongoing conversion to stewardship as evidenced by an engaged parishioner base, growth in spirituality and its witness and outreach to the larger community.

Thanks to the ingenuity and selfless dedication of the people of St. Pius X Church, the parish has come such a long way since it began as a mission church in a metal warehouse with a makeshift altar and folding chairs. Today, their gifts of time, talent and treasure continue to grow despite the pandemic, inflation and an economic slowdown. As a result, the parish's 3,959 families and 11,981 individuals continue to enjoy their new Church that seats 972 people. Capital expansion, such as the renovation of the old Church into a ministry building, also exhibits the great faith of the

people of St. Pius X. However, the congregation's prayers and service were also unparalleled in this international competition. The additional Masses that were added to the Daily Mass schedule in order to better serve its 2,800 Sunday congregants and 300 daily Mass goers (on average) are examples, along with an increase in Confession times and available Confessors. A perpetual adoration chapel and other opportunities to worship and serve have played a part in St. Pius X's stewardship accolades as well.

St. Pius X service groups, such as the Women's Guild and Knights of Columbus, have grown in membership and the services they provide. Retreats continue to thrive providing a renewed and strengthened spirit to retreatants who then give back by supporting and serving the parish community. Many formation groups bring people closer to Christ through prayer, study, and faith sharing.





In-Home Catholic

# MARRIAGE PREPARATION

In 2013, Jill and John Deats began mentoring an engaged couple from another parish. Inspired by this experience, the Deats proposed a similar program to Fr. Brady who enthusiastically supported it. Thus, St. Pius X's In-Home Marriage Preparation Ministry began in 2024 with 20 couples volunteering to mentor other couples. Since its inception, the ministry has offered a unique and impactful way to support engaged couples while also enriching the marriages of the couples who volunteer to mentor.

Offering a deeper dive into Catholic marriage than traditional formats, the program offers a personal approach to ministry that fosters a profound understanding of married life. Engaged couples who participate consistently express gratitude for the program, reporting a much deeper understanding of the Sacrament and the commitment they are making.

The program, designed by Jan and Lloyd Tate who have been married for over 50 years, offers six in-home sessions held every two to three weeks for approximately two hours. Mentor couples share their experiences and guide engaged couples in meaningful discussions about: The Sacrament of Marriage and the Marital Covenant; Communication; Finances; Conflict Resolution; and Moral Decision-Making.

The benefits of being a mentor couple include: Meaningfully contribute to your faith by strengthening the Sacrament of Marriage; Witness engaged couples gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for Catholic marriage; Experience personal growth and renewed appreciation for your own marriage through reflection and discussion; and Form rewarding relationships with the couples you mentor.



*One of the most rewarding aspects is the relationships formed with the engaged couples through deep sharing and conversation. It's truly inspiring to see their understanding of marriage deepen beyond their initial expectations. This ministry also revitalizes our own understanding and appreciation of the Sacrament of Marriage.*  
- Jill and John Deats



*Marriage prep was truly essential in setting our relationship up for success in marriage. The lessons covered and experiences shared by our mentor couple over the course of marriage prep were invaluable. I believe every couple who strives to have God at the center of their marriage would have the same wonderful experience myself and Lauren did over the course of Marriage prep.*  
- Michael and Lauren Hicks



*Jill & John Deats are one of the 23 couples mentoring engaged couples at St. Pius X. They currently mentor Michael and Lauren Hicks.*

# PRAYER & ART WORKSHOP



On Saturday, September 21, 2024, parishioners and guests gathered for a prayer and art workshop hosted by Magnify Women's Ministry. The ministry provided supplies, materials, and invited Missy Polozola to lead parishioners in creating works of art through guided prayer and worship. Complementing the event were worship musicians, James & Kristyn Opdenhoff.

James & Kristyn Opdenhoff have a passionate connection to ministry and worship. James has over a decade of experience in ministry and worship through music in the Church. He currently serves as the Parish and School Liaison for St. Pius X, grades K-8th. Kristyn has been singing, cantoring, and leading worship since childhood, and presently serves as the K-8th Youth Minister & Confirmation Coordinator at St. Pius X. She also teaches music and musical theater at St. Pius Elementary School.

Missy Polozola is a certified spiritual director with training in painting who also has a Fine Arts degree from the

University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She also spent two years in formation with the Dominican Sisters in Nashville, Tennessee. Combining her love of art and Christ-centered relationships with spiritual direction, Missy opened Silent Seeds Studio ([www.silentseeds.net](http://www.silentseeds.net)) to help others deepen their relationship with God through prayer and art.

Missy is passionate about the pursuit of holiness as she lives first as a daughter of God. She is the wife to Deacon Kyle Polozola, and mother to their four daughters: Anna Elise (18), Carolina (17), Gianna (15), and Cecilia (13).



*Missy Polozola is a spiritual director & artist who also runs her own art studio, Silent Seeds, teaching classes combining prayer and art..*

The event, a sacred day of inspiration, prayer, art, and worship music, was enjoyed by all who attended.



*Last year, the Mission Club distributed 73 food baskets, 620 Christmas gifts, 60 bags of meat and 132 bags of non-perishable food items (average per month).*

## MISSION CLUB UPDATE

The Mission Club's Food Pantry and efforts to help the homeless allow St. Pius X to provide residents, within the geographical boundaries of the parish, with year-round access to food if they're hungry, drink if they're thirsty and even warm clothing accessories if they're cold.

These efforts also allow St. Pius X to relieve the stress and burden of families having to make a trade-off

between buying food or paying the bills, receiving medical care or paying for other necessities.

The Mission Club also collaborates with Food Net to supplement the food that generous parishioners are already providing, provide them food when needed, as well as deliver food to their homebound clients both in and outside of the parish's geographical area.



# A WITNESS OF PRAYER, CARRYING ONE'S CROSS & EVANGELIZATION

## AIMIA "MIMI" DOUCET



Aimia "Mimi" Doucet, born Catholic in Opelousas and raised in Lewisburg, LA, attended Our Mother of Peace Catholic School in Church Point. She credits her second-grade teacher, Sister Maureen, for providing her first experience where she really felt the Holy Spirit, and leading her to a lifelong devotion to Mary.

As a residential mortgage lender specializing in new construction she shares her faith with others by giving her clients a cross that is blessed and prayed over by her team. To extend the blessings to all who enter her clients' new homes, Mimi suggests that they bury the cross in the foundation near the home's entrance. In her personal life, after reading that the Lord built the earth on the seas and rivers (Psalm 24:1-2), her faith also led her to get certified in scuba diving. Mimi notes, "Scuba diving gives me peace like no other, and I really feel like heaven will be as beautiful as the depths of the ocean."

Like many of us, there was a period in Mimi's life when she didn't feel she was faithful to her church and wasn't giving her children the foundation of faith they needed. "They received their sacraments, but I was not faithful to daily prayer or Sunday Mass," she recalls. However, after her oldest son suffered with addiction, a failing marriage, and losing her grandmother and mother-in-law to cancer, she returned back to faithful prayer and rekindled her relationship with the Lord. Even during those times, I felt like I was only praying because I needed something. I still didn't understand what a true relationship with God really meant." After many years of struggling and living with guilt for not trusting in the Lord, a friend walked her through Jesus dying on the cross for her. "This is when I decided to really give my life to the Lord and attended a silent retreat at St. Abbey's in Covington. It was at that

retreat where I experienced the most powerful confession of my life and finally learned to forgive - not only others, but most importantly, myself." She continued her journey with attendance at an ACTS retreat, followed by a Cursillo retreat in 2021.

After moving to Lafayette in 2019, she attended many churches around the city seeking a faith community to call her own. "I joined St. Pius because St. Pius made me feel at home." Since becoming a parishioner, Mimi has enjoyed teaching preparation classes for First Communion, serving on the core team of Magnify Women's Ministry, and surrounding herself with women who have passion and love for the Lord. One of her most memorable experiences was adoring the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist at St. Pius X's perpetual adoration chapel. "I've always prayed to the Lord, but it wasn't until I began adoration that I started listening to Him. Listening is quite difficult for someone who is visionary and very goal-driven, yet the Lord has spoken to me many times there, which has taught me patience." Though many pastors have impacted her life and provided comfort in times of need, she'll never forget Fr. Brady's homily which spoke to her heart. During a noon Mass, Fr. Brady said, "We all have crooked lines in our life. God will straighten them. His will WILL be done."

To discern God's will for her, Mimi states, "I prayed many novenas asking God that if it was His will for me to have a relationship, to please send me a man with the same qualities of St. Joseph. And my prayers were answered." Kelly Mire and Mimi will marry in August 2025. "If there is one thing I've learned throughout my journey, it's that God loves me. When I accepted God's love, it allowed me to love fearlessly," Mimi concludes.



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# PARISH BRIEFS

## *KNIGHTS RESTORE THE SOUNDS OF HEAVEN*

Our parish patriarchs, Knights of Columbus Council #8901, continue to live up to their call to live with purpose and meaning and not just for themselves, but for all of us who belong to or visit the parish. Since 1976 an old plantation bell (donated by Murray "Tim" Boudreaux and installed by Ray Al Guidry), and a carillon (donated by Stella Roman of New Orleans), joyously rang throughout the day serving as another tangible symbol of our faith. However, in 2021, there may have been an uncomfortable silence to some after the parish had to remove the old bells to complete the parking lot project. That is, until this fiscal year, when the Knights donated the funds to purchase the equipment and installation. Restoring these sounds which are reflective of heaven also bring more cheer and life to our already vibrant campus.



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## *MISSIONARIES LIVE OUT THE EVANGELICAL MISSION OF ST. PIUS X CHURCH*



“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15) is the primary purpose of supporting parishioners on their mission trips. The main goals of mission trip participants are to share the Good News with people who may not know Him, provide a witness emulating Christ’s love and compassion, and share their personal testimonies of all that God has done in their lives. Whether engaging in Christian service like rebuilding or repairing homes, Corporal Works of Mercy like bringing food to the homebound, or Spiritual Works of Mercy like bringing hope and peace to those suffering, missionaries live out Jesus’ Great Commission spreading the message of the Gospel throughout the world.

Over the years, more than 150 parishioners have participated in missions on behalf of St. Pius X. One such family is Phillip and Lacy Brupbacher, and their eight children. Nearly ten years ago, Phillip, began to reflect on the fact that there are roughly 3 billion human beings in the world who do not know Jesus Christ, have yet to encounter His loving grace or hear the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ. After discerning whether he and his family were being called to serve Him in this way, God called them to Costa Rica. Leaving the comfort of their home and safety of America, they then embarked on their mission which has led to many trials and blessings that have shaped their family into who they are today.

This past fiscal year, the generosity of St. Pius X’s parishioners helped to provide nearly \$40K to operate three mission centers in Nepal, and purchase land to build a small Catholic Church and mission center in a mountain village in the foothills of the Himalayans. Other efforts include preaching the Gospel to those who have never heard it, sharing the love of Jesus Christ to the lost and brokenhearted, training and discipling Catholic believers, and serving the poor by offering them meaningful employment opportunities.





# ST. PIUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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*Bringing the presence of Christ to others*

# FULFILL | THE LEGACY



## *Dear Parishioners,*

It is with deep gratitude and great hope that I write to invite you to join us in a meaningful chapter of our school's journey—a chance to further build on the legacy of faith, learning, and community that defines St. Pius.

Over the next few pages, you will find an overview of our Fulfilling the Legacy campaign, along with exciting updates in four key areas where our school makes a lasting impact: Faith, Academics, Athletics, and Community. Since our founding in 1997, nearly 2,000 students and their families have been touched by the mission and ministry of our school. We've grown steadily—debt-free—thanks to the extraordinary generosity of donors like you and the prudent stewardship of our resources.

It is now time to complete the final phase of our campus. The Mission Church building, originally built over 65 years ago and currently housing PreK and Kindergarten, has served us well—but time has taken its toll. In its place we plan to build a modern, purpose-built facility that will support our youngest learners first and foremost, but also impact our whole student body, and reflect the excellence we strive for every day.

To complete the final piece of the original plan for the school, we have launched the Fulfilling the Legacy capital campaign to raise \$5 million by January 2026. With your prayerful support, we will provide students—both present and future—with a learning environment that is safe, inspiring, and worthy of the legacy we've inherited. Please take a few moments to discover the exciting vision for the new school building, the remarkable work happening within our school today to help form tomorrow's leaders, and how your support can leave a legacy of faith and formation for decades to come.

Thank you for being a vital part of our mission. Together, and with God's grace, we will continue to grow in faith, knowledge, and service—for the glory of God.

With peace and gratitude,

*Ms. Kelli Dillman*

Principal

1995

Our Lady of Life  
Preschool opens  
to 19 three year  
olds.



1999



Construction  
begins on the  
main building,  
dining hall and  
gym.

2000

Doors open  
to St. Pius  
Elementary  
School



2022

Construction  
on multi-use  
playground  
and pavilion is  
completed.



2023

Auditorium  
renovation  
project is  
completed.



2025

**FULFILLING  
LEGACY**  
Capital campaign  
begins.





Innovative Learning Center

It began with a small preschool and a large vision. Over 25 years ago, the St. Pius X community came together under the theme “A New School, A New Millennium” and built the exceptional school we proudly call St. Pius Elementary. Our visionaries laid the foundation, and now it is time to fulfill their legacy as we embark on the construction of the last phase. The new **Innovative Learning Center** is a 28,000-square-foot learning space that will serve as a hub for knowledge, faith, and collaboration for students.

The building will include three PreK3, four PreK4, and three Kindergarten classrooms equipped with private restrooms and sinks, ample storage, and dedicated space where children can enjoy quiet time for prayer. The new playgrounds have been designed to promote an environment that encourages hands-on learning and exploration. The playground will also include learning and reflection gardens.

The state-of-the art STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math) Lab will allow our older students to apply theoretical concepts to practical projects, connecting theory and application.



PreK and K classrooms

“Think of the goodness there is in building a school. Think of the people who built the schools you attended. Think of the rightness in being a positive part in teaching the Faith to many boys and girls in the years and decades ahead.

— Msgr. Mouton



STREAM Lab



Library

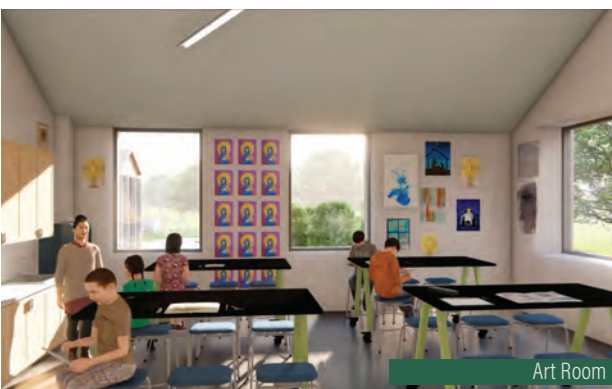
Our new library will merge modern technology with traditional resources. Younger students can explore books and interactive material, while older students can integrate technology into research and projects. The larger space will serve as a beautiful venue for hosting school events.

In addition to the STREAM Lab, our electives wing will include a new art room that will allow students to create with traditional mediums such as drawing and painting, as well as new mediums such as pottery and ceramics with our new art kiln. Our expanded Green Room will serve as a space where students can create engaging broadcast and digital content for SPNN (St. Pius News Network) and other school communications.

The new building will also feature designated speech, academic support, occupational therapy, and physical therapy areas, as well as collaborative spaces located at the ends of hallways that will offer small-group creative opportunities. Collectively, this new expansion will serve as a space for faith, knowledge, and growth for students for years to come.



Playground and Learning Garden



Art Room



# FAITH | SERVICE



The mission of St. Pius comes to life through daily faith formation activities that nurture the spiritual growth of our students, faculty, and staff. Beginning in PreK, students are introduced to the love of God through Bible stories, prayers of our faith and Catholic liturgical seasons and traditions. As our religious education progresses through elementary and middle school, students are encouraged to become active participants in the Catholic faith. Weekly mass and monthly adoration allow our students to deepen their relationship with God. As students grow, they are offered opportunities to be witnesses of their faith, not just being learners in the classroom, but by embracing the mission of being disciples of Christ.



## Alumni Spotlight

### Fr. Andrew Killeen

Pastor, St. Joseph Church

Without the education and formation I received at St. Pius during the crucial formative years of my life, I would not be where I am today. More importantly, I would not be who I am today. Without SPES, my vocation to the priesthood would not have been nurtured, and I would not be able to pass along the very teachings and faith-filled life that was handed down to me by so many staff, teachers, and priests who worked there. For that, I will always be grateful.



CLASS OF 2008

## 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- 8th grade Quest retreat
- School-wide living rosary
- Blessing of the pets
- School-wide service projects
- Virtues of the month
- Grade-level retreats
- Individual service projects
- Weekly on-campus mass
- Monthly adoration
- Stations of the cross
- Grade-level pilgrimages
- Student-led retreats
- Weekly confession for middle-school students



# ACADEMICS | EXTRA CURRICULAR



Education at St. Pius is uniquely designed to support academic excellence, spiritual growth, and personal development. We have carefully developed our curriculum to provide students with a solid, challenging education rooted in standards-based instruction that meets the individual needs of young learners. Our high standards and expectations challenge our students to reach their full potential, and we intentionally integrate Catholic identity into every subject to ensure that students are immersed in faith-based learning across all content areas. Students learn to use technology not just for consumption, but as a tool for research, collaboration, creativity, and problem solving. The electives we offer allow students to explore individual interests, build confidence, and develop a wide range of skills beyond the core curriculum. Our multi-faceted approach to learning empowers students to take ownership of their learning and thrive in middle school, high school, and beyond.

## Alumni Spotlight

### Kyle Zappi, MD

UC San Diego Neurosurgery Team  
Chemical Engineer

St. Pius definitely laid a strong foundation for me. I really valued the robust math and basic science education, which gave me a solid STEM background. But what truly stands out is how the school also fostered creativity and imagination through its literature, arts, and music programs. This combination was incredibly important; it taught us to take the skills from our basic science education and use our imagination to come up with innovative solutions to problems we'd face in our careers.



CLASS OF 2011

## ELECTIVES

- Art
- Band
- Spanish
- Technology
- Theatre
- Musical Theatre
- Call to Lead
- Faith Book Club
- Library
- Journalism
- St. Pius News Network
- PE (running)
- PE (individual sports)
- PE (team sports)



# ATHLETICS | SPORTSMANSHIP



The foundation of our Cougar athletic program is rooted in the belief that success not only comes from the final score, but more importantly, from the growth of the individual student athlete. The goal of our program is to build Christ-centered athletes who embrace discipline, sportsmanship, perseverance, and humility. Middle school is the perfect time to develop the whole athlete who understands the importance of foundational skills, team spirit, and love of the game. Our fifth through eighth grade athletes know that the fields and courts at St. Pius are excellent places to bring the presence of Christ to others while fostering positive experiences in teamwork, leadership, and self esteem.



## Alumni Spotlight

**Bailey Hemphill**  
Occupational Therapist  
Professional Softball Player

St. Pius gave me all of the tools to succeed in high school and beyond. It provided challenging academic coursework and set the foundation of my faith life. I was also able to learn and develop my core values that I cherish today. I'm grateful for all of the years I spent at St. Pius because it set me on the right path to achieve great things and be where I am today in life. My favorite memory of St. Pius is meeting some of my life long friends. I'm grateful to still have several friends in my life that I was in classes with in PreK-4 and beyond.



CLASS OF 2012

## 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1st place 7th/8th grade football
- 2nd place 5th/6th grade football
- 1st place boys varsity soccer
- 2nd place boys JV soccer
- 1st place cheer SCA home routine
- Grand Champion cheer SCA Game Day routine
- 1st place 7th grade volleyball
- 2nd place 6th grade boys basketball
- 2nd place 6th grade girls basketball
- 2nd place 8th grade boys basketball
- 1st place 5th/6th girls track
- 1st place 5th/6th grade boys track
- 2nd place golf



# COMMUNITY | FAMILY



Building community with a sense of pride is a priority at St. Pius. When our stakeholders feel a sense of ownership, the ways in which our school can thrive are limitless. We strive to provide parents with opportunities to meet and connect through parent groups, social events, and volunteer opportunities. Family engagement activities such as Movies on the Turf, Donuts with Dad, Family Bingo, Muffins with Mom, St. Pius X Parish Picnic, and Turkey Bowl bring families together for fellowship. We also embrace the entire family by celebrating our grandparents at our annual Grandparent's Day and those who protect our freedom at our annual Veterans Day program. Parents and grandparents play an active role through SPES PTO volunteer opportunities, providing that connection between home and school.

## Alumni Spotlight

### Blaike Dumas

Senior Marketing Manager

St. Pius laid the foundation for so much of who I am today. It's where I first discovered my love for learning. Every teacher I had encouraged us to ask questions, think critically, and stay curious about the world around us. I'm so thankful my parents chose St. Pius. I'll always be grateful for the education I received and I hope to give my own children the same experience one day.



CLASS OF 2008

## COMMUNITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- Family Bingo
- Movies on the Turf
- Veterans Day program
- Grandparent's Day
- Turkey Bowl
- SPES Gala
- Senior luncheon
- Pep Rallies
- Cougar Classic Golf Tournament
- Cougar Classic Tennis Tournament
- St. Pius X Parish Picnic
- PreK Mother's Day Tea
- Muffins with Mom
- Donuts with Dad
- Monthly Birthday Bash
- Assemblies

# FULFILLING | THE LEGACY

## WAYS TO GIVE

Contributions are not just an investment, they are a commitment to the legacy of St. Pius Elementary School. Donations to the campaign can be made as one-time gifts or pledges. Pledges can be paid over a period of up to three years. All gifts will be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Gifts of cash, securities, and other marketable property are gratefully accepted.

To learn more about giving opportunities or to schedule a tour of St. Pius Elementary School, please contact Dawn Benoit at (337) 237-3139 or dawn\_benoit@stpiuselementary.org



### MAIL-IN GIFT

Send your contribution  
(payable to St. Pius Elementary)  
to the Advancement Office  
205 E. Bayou Pkwy. Lafayette, LA 70508



### ONLINE GIFT

Make a gift online by following this link



### Please join us in praying the St. Pius Elementary Capital Campaign Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the many blessings you continue to bestow upon our St. Pius community. As we strive to complete the final phase of St. Pius Elementary School, we commend our Fulfilling the Legacy Capital Campaign to you, who are the source and summit of all good gifts. Through the intercession of St. Pius X, help us to continue to call on each other to live a life of selflessness, humility, and generosity as we work toward reaching our campaign goal. Completion of the Innovative Learning Center will allow us to further our daily SPES mission of radiating hope, pursuing academic excellence, valuing a love of learning, and living the Catholic faith as leaders in ministry and service. We pray in the name of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in union with St. Pius X, our patron. AMEN

## NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Innovative Learning Center	
Full building .....	\$1,000,000
Library .....	\$675,000
STREAM Lab .....	\$400,000
Sensory Room .....	\$200,000
Learning Lab .....	\$200,000
Art Room .....	\$200,000
Spanish Room .....	\$200,000
Playground .....	\$165,000
Faculty Work Room .....	\$120,000
Library Pavilion .....	Donated
Green Room .....	\$55,000
Collaborative Learning Area (Upstairs) .....	\$55,000
Collaborative Learning Area (Downstairs) .....	\$55,000
Learning Garden .....	Donated
Occupational Therapy Room .....	Donated
Physical Therapy Room .....	\$25,000
Speech Room .....	Donated

The naming rights period shall be twenty years.

## LEVELS OF GIVING

Legacy .....	\$1,000,000+	
Visionaries .....	\$500,000	- \$999,999
Trailblazers .....	\$100,000	- \$499,999
Luminaries .....	\$50,000	- \$99,999
Pacesetters .....	\$25,000	- \$49,999
Innovators .....	\$10,000	- \$24,999
Pioneers .....	\$1,000	- \$9,999





The St. Pius Elementary School Choir performed Christmas Carols at the Pius Senior Organization (PSO) luncheon.

# VOCATIONS

Along with the other men and women who have entered the religious or consecrated life, this year we pray for three seminarians from St. Pius X Church:



Coby Hebert

2nd Pre-Theology  
Class: 2028  
Seminary: Notre Dame



Giovanni Ranzino

2nd Pre-Theology  
Class: 2028  
Seminary: St. Ben's



Eli Weil

Propaedeutic Year  
Class: 2031  
Seminary: Holy Trinity

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

2024-2025

Phil Camel (May 2025)  
Taylor Davis (May 2026)  
John Deats (May 2025)

Alysia Gauthreaux (May 2026)  
Rob Gutierrez (May 2027)  
Amanda Mcalister (May 2026)

TRUSTEES  
Reggie Ringuet  
Mary Anne Smith

## MISSION & VALUES

INTEGRITY

CHRIST LIKE

FAITH-FILLED

DEPENDABILITY

HUMILITY

COMMUNITY

St Pius X Roman Catholic Church participates in the evangelical mission of Jesus Christ entrusted to His apostles (Mt 28-19-20), welcoming all while being devoted to the teaching of the apostles, communal life, the breaking of bread and prayer. (Acts 2:42)



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