

Saint Pius X

Catholic Church and School

More than 60 years of faith
"To restore all things in Christ"

December 21, 2025

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

At this time of year, we always hear everyone say how important it is to slow down amidst the hustle and bustle of the season. Priests, pastors, and pastoral workers encourage us to take time to reflect upon the mystery of the child born in Bethlehem and the Incarnation of our God who took flesh so that he might redeem us. Certainly contemplation is the ideal mental and spiritual posture to take during the Advent Season, but is it really possible? Can we really slow down with everything going on at this time of year?

Maybe there was a time when Advent could be more meditative for people, but nowadays, the season is chock full of activities. There are friends' Christmas parties that we have to attend, Christmas parties at work, Christmas plays at school, Nutcracker performances to participate in, and Posadas at church. We have Christmas decorations to put up in our homes, traditional meals to plan and cook, more parties to attend, and groceries to purchase.

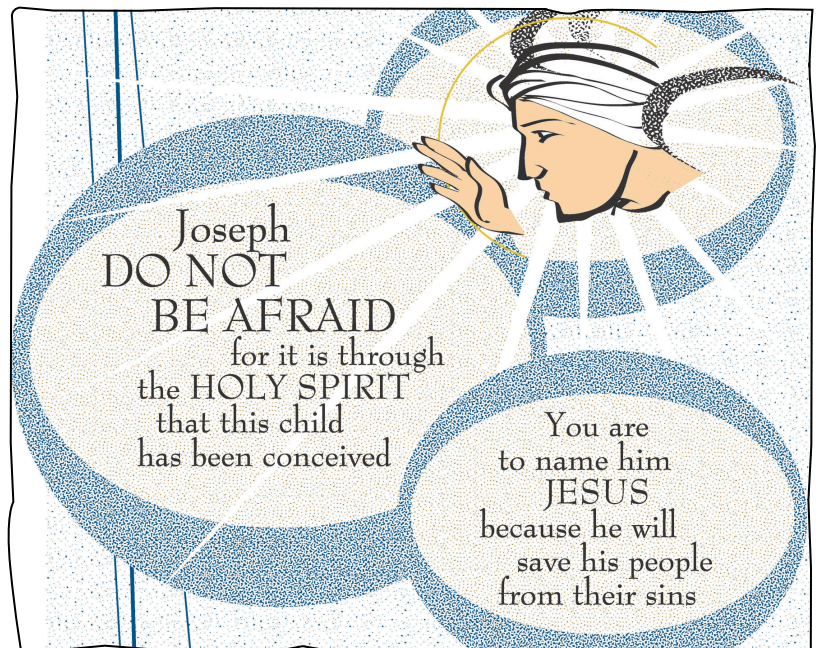
On top of all this, we have to meet deadlines at work and tie up loose ends before the holidays so that tasks don't mount up by the time we get back. There are bills to pay before the end of the year and Christmas cards to sign, address, stamp, and mail.

The church even gets in on the act. They put up a giving tree and invite us to purchase shoes or clothes or toys for a needy family. When we go to the stores, we run into the Salvation Army who've got their buckets out for us to donate money for the needy. In the media there are all kinds of other non-profits who are looking for donations, as well. Community organizations do their toy drives by tugging at our heart-strings so we feel compelled to give. I haven't even mentioned the stress of buying gifts for our children, our parents, our co-workers, school teachers, and friends!

With all of the dynamics that surround the Christmas season, how can it be possible to "slow down"? Maybe slowing down isn't really all that is being asked of us. Perhaps, the hustle and bustle is every bit as important as the meditation!

Advent and Christmas are definitely stressful seasons. I don't think we can avoid that. It seems to me that we have to take a different approach to the chaos. We should just simply accept it for what it is.

In some way, this season calls forth from us greater selflessness and a little extra sacrifice. The gift shopping and the effort at being more generous with our time and our treasure reminds us that there is something worthwhile in breaking out of the normal routine. After all, when Christ was born, "he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave." In coming into our world, Jesus did the most incredible thing by taking upon himself our flesh. This was a great act of humility - for divinity to take on our humanity. What could be more selfless than that? Could there be any greater gift?



Who's Who

Pastor

Very Rev. Paul A. Hesse, V.G.

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Kurian Joseph

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Salvador (Sal) Alvarado

Deacon Loni Lugo

Deacon Mark Arnold

Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper

Director of Religious Education & Adult Faith Formation

Mary Maldonado

Director of Youth Ministry

Brandon Lutz

Music Minister

Michael Mullins

5:30pm Mass Band Leader

Mick Boudreau

School Principal

Beth Hinojosa

361.992.1343

Maintenance

Ernie Pena, Jose Vasquez,

Yolanda Villarreal

Contact Us

Office Phone 361.993.4053

Office Fax 361.992.0352

Office email parishoffice@stpiusxcc.org

5620 Gollihar Road

Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Parish Website

www.spxcc.org

School Website

www.stpiusxschoolcc.org

By our engagement in all the activities that surround this season, we are mirroring the selflessness of Christ in some way. There is a kind of satisfaction that comes in devoting ourselves to the many things we have to do during this season. Sure, we do need to step aside at various times to contemplate the mystery of this season. At the same time, the inescapable activity of this season just feels right. We give of ourselves out of love for our families. We show extra appreciation for our co-workers because we might otherwise take them for granted. We put in extra effort in decorating and doing "Christmasy" activities because our doing it creates within us an atmosphere of goodwill.

Therefore, while you are going back and forth from one activity to another, take a moment to reflect on why you do it. It is all worthwhile. It connects us to the supreme love of God who gives us a way to participate in the mystery of Christ's self-emptying.

Merry Christmas!

Christmas & New Year's Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24th

Vigil Mass: 4:30 pm

Christmas, December 25th

Christmas Eve Music Program: 11:15 pm

Christmas Midnight Mass: 12:00 am

Christmas Day Masses: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Note: No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

New Year's Masses for Mary, the Mother of God

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

New Year's Eve Mass: December 31st: 4:30 pm

New Year's Day Masses: Jan. 1st: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Schedule of Services

Masses: First Saturday 8:15am

Saturday Vigil 5:30pm

Sunday 8am, 10am, 12pm, 5:30pm

Vietnamese Mass 7:30pm

Monday - Friday 8:15am

Wednesday & Friday 5:30pm

Holy Days: 6:30am, 8:15am, 12pm, 6pm (Vigil 5:30pm)

Confessions: Saturday 4-5pm & Thursday 7:15-7:50pm

Marriages: By appointment only and 6 months advance notice.

Baptismal Instruction: Pre-register through the office.

Anointing of the Sick: On request

Parish Office Closure for Christmas

Please note that the parish office will be closed from 12:00PM (noon) Tuesday, December 23rd to January 4th for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. Regular office hours will resume on January 5, 2026, at 9:00AM.

Bulletin Deadline for Christmas

All announcements for the December 28, 2025 and January 4, 2026 bulletin must be submitted by 12:00 Noon on Monday, December 22. Please send your information to the parish office or parishoffice@stpiusxccc.org by the deadline to ensure it's included in the bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation!

Advent Penance Services - Prepare the Way of the Lord

In this holy season of waiting and hope, we invite everyone to participate in our parish Advent Penance Services. Whether it has been months or many years since your last confession, please know you are warmly welcomed. Several priests will join us to offer confessions. Come and experience the peace that only Christ can give. Let us welcome Christ with renewed hearts by receiving the gift of God's mercy.

PENANCE SERVICE TIMES

December 22, 2025: 6:30 pm

The Traveling Crucifix

Thank you to the Hutzler family for your prayers for vocations this past week. Estela Phillips will be praying with the Traveling Crucifix this week. Leo and Nicole Ruiz will be taking the Crucifix December 28 - January 4, 2026.



Calling All Carolers

We are putting together a joyful group of carolers to visit local nursing homes this holiday season, and we need our voices to help spread Christmas cheer!

If you enjoy singing or simply bringing smiles to others, please consider joining us. All ages are welcome, and no special musical experience is needed. Just bring your holiday spirit!

DATES: To be scheduled.

LOCATIONS: Local nursing homes in our community.

WHAT TO EXPECT: A warm, meaningful time with lots of smiles and plenty of fun!

HOW TO SIGN UP: If you are interested, please text your name and information to Martin Gonzalez at 361.215.1136.



Parish Happenings

Saturday, December 20th

7:30AM – Christmas Decorating – CH

1:00PM – Funeral – CH

2:00PM – Reception – PH

Sunday, December 21st – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1:30 – Baptisms – CH

Monday, December 22nd

6:30PM – Penance Service – CH

7:00PM – Boy Scouts – Café

Tuesday, December 23rd

Parish Office Closed at Noon

Wednesday, December 24th – CHRISTMAS EVE

Parish Office Closed

Thursday, December 25th – MERRY

CHRISTMAS

Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 26th

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 27th

Parish Office Closed

Sunday, December 28th

Parish Office Closed

Join Us in Praying the Rosary

Join us on Sundays in the church as 7:30am prior to the 8am Mass or at 9:25am prior to the 10am Mass.



Follow us on Facebook

Keep up on all the latest on our Facebook page. Go to our link at facebook.com/stpiusxccc

This week's deadline for submitting bulletin announcements is **Wednesday by 2PM.**

Adult Confirmation Class

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received First Holy Communion but has not yet been Confirmed? Are you seeking to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Deepen your relationship with Christ and the Church through our Adult Confirmation Preparation Program.

This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith, receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and fully participate in the life of the Church. Classes will begin in January, with Confirmation in March. Registration is now open at O.C.I.A. Registration. For more information, contact Mary Maldonado at 361.993.4053 or mmaldonado@stpiusxccc.com

Advertise in the Parish Bulletin

Local businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to advertise in our weekly parish bulletin. Advertising here ensures your message reaches a wide and diverse audience. Take advantage of our platform to maximize your visibility and connect with potential customers while contributing to the ongoing mission of our parish. Advertising proceeds directly fund church programs and outreach incentives. If you wish to place an advertisement in the parish's weekly bulletin, please contact the office Monday through Friday between 9AM and 5PM. The cost is \$25.00 per Sunday bulletin.

Acts of Charity Thank You!

The Christmas Giving Trees were a huge success, thanks to the outpouring of generosity by St. Pius X parishioners! The Acts of Charity team thank everyone who donated athletic shoes or toys. The receiving charities expressed many thanks for sharing the true Christmas spirit with their clients. 102 toys were provided to West Side Helping Hand; 85 pairs of athletic shoes were provided to Mother Teresa Shelter; 150 pairs of athletic shoes were provided to Timons Ministries. A Blessed Christmas to all!

Flower Donation

The December candle room flowers are provided by the generosity of Carlos Gomez. We appreciate his thoughtful contribution.

Get in on the Christmas Spirit - Help Us Decorate for Christmas!

Nothing gets us into the Christmas spirit better than decorating! Help the parish prepare for Christmas by coming to our TWO decorating days:

Wednesday, December 24th at 9:00AM (Christmas Eve)

1. Remove Advent decor
2. Hanging wreaths
3. Setting out poinsettias
4. Changing altar linens
5. Decorating outside portico & doors
6. Cleaning & vacuuming

Come join us in preparing for a beautiful Christmas liturgy. Bring your whole family! There is nothing like knowing you have contributed to the parish celebration!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Advent by Candlelight. Your wonderful participation made the evening truly prayerful and special. A heartfelt thank you for the generous donations for Catholic Charities, which will support vital programs serving individuals and families in need within our community. We are grateful to Hester and Jason Rodriguez for providing the delicious desserts, to HEB for the beautiful poinsettias, and to our Fr. Paul and Fr. Joseph for their continued support for this cherished event. We are grateful to all who helped make the night such a beautiful celebration of the Advent season. Thank you for being part of such a meaningful and faith-filled evening.

Epiphany Banquet

We would like to honor all of the parish volunteers and people involved in the various ministries of the parish. You and your spouse (or a guest) are invited to an Epiphany Banquet in your honor on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at 6:30PM in the parish hall. Please RSVP at the parish office by phone or email, or online at our website: spxcc.org. We look forward to seeing you!



Medical Information can be hard to understand!

Need help interpreting your medical information?

Complimentary Consult available
to navigate your medical questions & options.

Coleen Madigan M.D., F.A.C.P. Board Certified Internist
Call 361-877-7270
Leave your name and phone number for a return call.

School News



Dear Blue Jay Parishioners,

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news and updates from our school community this season.

First, we are expanding our team! This spring, we will be hiring for two new roles to further support our mission:

- ELA & Math Small Group Tutor - working closely with our 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade students.
- Enrollment, Retention & Marketing Specialist - dedicated to strengthening our school community and outreach.

These positions are key to continuing the academic success of our students and ensuring the vibrant future of our school.

In case you missed some of our updates mentioned in previous bulletins, I wanted to share them again. We continually invest in enhancements to enrich our students' daily experiences. Recent projects for 2025 include:

- Three new filtered water stations for students.
- New café tables for the cafeteria.
- A new playground behind the café.
- A new scoreboard for the court, with new netting currently being installed.
- Freshly repainted classrooms and new furniture in all early childhood and first-grade classrooms.
- A fully updated library with new carpet, paint, and accessories.

These projects reflect our ongoing commitment to providing a safe, sound, and inspiring environment for learning, carried out in careful collaboration with the Diocese.

Please mark your calendars: We invite you to our Open House on Sunday, January 25, 2026, following the 8AM, 10AM, and noon Masses. As part of National Catholic Schools Week (NCSW), it's the perfect opportunity to experience the vibrancy of our school and celebrate the achievements of our students. More details about NCSW events throughout the week will be shared soon.

Finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to our Winter Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide our dedicated teachers and staff with a special Christmas bonus. Thank you for your unwavering support.

Wishing you and your families a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To view more school news and happenings, visit our Blue Jay Bulletin at <https://app.smores.com/n/ufv9b>

See you in January, *Mrs. Beth Hinojosa*
Servant & Principal

**THE HEAVENS ANNOUNCE
THE LORD'S COMING**



Have a blessed week!

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Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 20th

5:30PM For the People of St. Pius X

Sunday, December 21st

8:00AM † Paul Jordan by Reumuth Family

10:00AM † Susanne O'Connell by Judy & Bob Buchanen

12:00PM † John Buckner by Helen & RC Allen

5:30PM † Roman & Luisa Arevalo by Family

Monday, December 22nd

8:15AM Dionel Johnny Garza Spiritual Well-Being by Parents

Tuesday, December 23rd

8:15AM † Mary, John & James P. Kelly by KKH

Wednesday, December 24th – CHRISTMAS EVE

8:15AM † Julian Galloway by Family

† Jeanne Kunkel by Paul, Linda & Family

† Tillie E. Rincon by Jeanie Balli

† Maury Jarrell by Waynette Jarrell

Liliane Van Hoof by James Kelly

John Kelly by James Kelly

James W. Kelly III by James Kelly

† Sharon & Tally Smart by James Kelly

† Mary Pat & Albert T. Slavik by James & John Kelly

† Anna Van Dijck by James Kelly

† James W. Sr. & Helen B. Kelly by James & John Kelly

† Felix Van Hoof by James Kelly

† Karel Soudan by James Kelly

† Gilbert Schanen Jr. by Nance Schanen

† John Boyd, Max & Dora Almendarez, John Sr., & Helen Boyd by Lucy Boyd

† Ronald "Ron" Mikulik by Mikulik Family

† Larry E. Lippincott Sr. by Gladys Lippincott

4:30PM † Randy Havel, Doak & Josephine Russell & Olivia Cardona by De Havel

Thursday, December 25th – CHRISTMAS DAY

12:00AM For the People of St. Pius X

9:00AM † Christopher Janosek by John, Debra & Brian

11:00AM † Alfredo Garcia, Jr. by Rosie Garcia

Friday, December 26th

8:15AM † John Boyd by Lucy Boyd

Saturday, December 27th

5:30PM † Joseph W. (Buck) Shaw by Joyce Fergus

Sunday, December 28th

8:00AM Joseph & Petronilla Volk by Sue Hess

10:00AM David Case by Mary Fordor

12:00PM For the People of St. Pius X

5:30PM Mary G. Kelly by KKH

Financial Report for 12/14/2025

Sunday Collection	\$	16,185.57
Sunday Online	\$	4,868.00
GOF (Other)	\$	40.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	708.00
Other Donations	\$	100.00
Total Operating Revenue	\$	21,901.57

Other Contributions:

AOC	\$	183.00
Christopher Janosek Schol. Fund	\$	50.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$	845.00
Retired Priests Fund	\$	10.00
Other Contributions	\$	1,088.00
Total Contributions	\$	22,989.57

Please Pray for our Sick & Shut-Ins:

John Albertini, Ernie Albornoz, Connie Alvarado, Luis Alvarado, Danilyn Arevalo, Sugar Arras, Abby Arredondo, Missy O'Rourke Atkinson, Arthur & Sandy Aubin, Tamra Bacon, Manuel C. Balbin, Ann Marie Bazan, Georgie Benton, Bernice Berry, Frances Branning, Kanon Brown, Bob Buchanan, Jimmy & Carolyn Buehrig, Michael Campos, Lisa Caperton, Belle Carson, Benita Marie Casey, Katie Cooper, Rose Marie Cortinas, Carole Cotter, Lee Dunk, Natalie & Elaine Elwood, Frances Leal Emry, Dale Flannagan, Guadalupe Flores, Bobby Floyd, Debbie Fuqua, Julian Galloway, Berta Garcia, Dakota Garcia, Valerie Garcia, Victoria Garcia & Family, Juanita Gaytan, Deborah Giese, Joe Gomez, Hilario Gonzales, Sr., Beatriz Gonzalez, Nilza Gonzalez, Linda Goulet, Chuck Gross, Ana Guzman, Linda Habeeb, Monte Hall, Janice Hass, Roger Heitzmann, Jr., Shain Hennig, Joan Hennings, Shelley Hinojosa, Kim Hofstede, Graham Hughes, Mark Hyde, Carl Jacobi, Joseph Jude, Dennis Kramer, Desiree Kund, Jeanne Kunkel, James Lawrence, Annette Ledesma, Arlene Leep, Sharon Lewis, Dorothy Lickteig, Gladys Lippincott, Kenny Lopez, Pearl Lopez, Larry Ludka, Bill Lyman, Tom Malone, Mary Louise Mandujano, Christopher & Linda Manka, Norma Marshall, Samuel Marsillo, Bertha Martinez, Wanda Mays, David & Rick McCabe, Jack McCord, Delfina McHugh, Andra Megivern, John Miller, Fred Mitchell, John Morgan, Sam Morris, Sterling Murphy, Sandra Nicolas, John & Jerilynn Okoniewski, Anna Fay Olenick, Jason Olog, Scott Olson, Ozzie Osborne, Linda Park, Carolyn Pedrotti, Valerie Pompa, Joyce Pouncy, Paola Prado, Joe Prejean, Derrel & Dolores Puckett, Frances Quinn, Irma Ramirez, Tino Ramos, John Rank, Michelle Richter, Alexis M. Rodriguez, JoAnn Rosales, Jean & Hedy Rosenast, David Russell, Button Ruzicka, Dolores Saenz, Dora Salazar, Kimberly Salch, Sandra Salinas, Janie San Miguel, Rick Sanders, Adam Saylor, Nancy Schanen, David G. Scherzer, Melissa Scherzer, Jack Schuett, Steve Schuster, Liz Sefcik, Anita Shirley, Alma Silva, Peter Siracusa, Rodney Sirus, Sandy Sosa, Denise Sosa-Villagran, Mary Ann Starkey, Randy Sykora, Brandee Torres, Ernie Trevino, Jessica Underbrink, Mary Vasquez, Joan Vedder, Joan Whitmire, Helen Witzsche, Wilson Woolley, Mary Bell Yankee, Carole Zanetti, Joe Zepeda, Belinda Garza Zuniga and all those who asked for and need our prayers.



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