

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



DEDICATION TO LINDA SPILKA



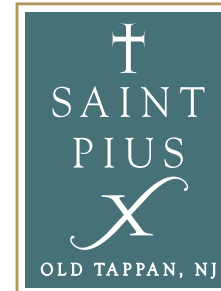
JULY 29, 1967 - AUGUST 3, 2023
CHAIR OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

The Saint Pius X 2023 Annual Report is dedicated to Linda Spilka, a cherished and admired member of the Parish Pastoral Council and the parish community, whose passing in August 2023 challenged the hearts and souls of so many.

Linda was the first Chair of the Communications Ministry of the SPX Parish Pastoral Council.

No amount of time was too much for her to volunteer, and not a single detail was too small to merit her attention.

Linda's devotion to the parish and her colleagues was all-embracing — she was so much more than can be described here. She will forever be present in the memories of all who knew her.



268 OLD TAPPAN RD.
OLD TAPPAN, NJ 07675
201-664-0913

PARISH STAFF

Reverend Kevin Kilgore
PASTOR

Monsignor Robert T. Sheeran
WEEKEND ASSOCIATE

Reverend Mr. John McKenna
PARISH DEACON

Maria Charowsky
PARISH CATECHETICAL
LEADER

Janet Natale
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Canice Cristofolletti
BUSINESS MANAGER

Christine Arthur
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

Sara Armstrong
MUSIC MINISTRY
DIRECTOR

Pat Boscia
SACRISTAN

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

In his Letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul writes, “I give thanks to my God always, remembering you in my prayers” (Philippians 1:3). As we issue our second annual report, prayer and thanksgiving fill my heart. I pray for all of you daily.

I would like to thank a few people and ministries in particular. A special thanks to Rosemarie Loffredo, Chair of our Pastoral Council. She, with Rose Flynn, the Secretary of our Pastoral Council, have worked diligently on its compilation. I thank them, along with all ministry leaders for creating and sustaining our momentum. I have been blessed with a tremendous staff, whose hard work and faithfulness inspire me daily, and a skilled and dedicated Finance Council.

I arrived at Saint Pius X in November 2020 in the middle of the pandemic. Our parish, much like the world, was shut down in many forms. Regardless, we gathered to create new ministries and resurrect old ones. I believe we're writing a story on parish renewal; the Holy Spirit is alive and well here at Saint Pius X.

Our capital projects, including the painting of the church and narthex space, have been financed by contributions to our Heritage Fund. Our Capital Projects and Operations Ministry continues to survey the parish, identifying projects and solutions that ensure Saint Pius X will be in solid shape for many years to come.

Over the last year, we have assembled a skilled and dedicated team to re-imagine our Faith Formation program. We want to ensure that “all generations,” our young people in particular, have an authentic experience of faith, allowing them to build a strong relationship with God. We take seriously the call of Jesus to, “Go, and make disciples of all nations,” and I believe that is happening here day by day.

The soul of our parish is our people. I thank everyone who calls our parish home. Whether new, returning, or life-long member; your prayers, presence, and contributions in all forms make all the difference. Our mission of: “Building Community, Worshipping God, Making Disciples,” is taking deeper and deeper root in the hearts of many. It's amazing to witness!

In addition to the ministries and activities of the parish found in the following pages, enclosed you will find the financial statement of our parish. While I am proud to report that our annual giving has increased and we've met our Archbishop's Annual Appeal goal for three years in a row, our cost of operations is also increasing.

Your continued support enables our growing ministries to thrive and provide the many programs we offer throughout the year for, “*All generations journeying together with Jesus to satisfy our hungry hearts. Come and see!*”

In Christ,

Fr. Kenin

Father Kevin Kilgore

OUR VISION STATEMENT

ALL GENERATIONS
JOURNEYING
TOGETHER
WITH JESUS
TO SATISFY OUR
HUNGRY HEARTS.

COME
AND SEE!

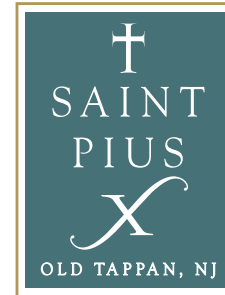
As trustees of this great parish, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for our parishioners who support Saint Pius X.

We should all be proud of our new social and recreation facilities and our growing list of ministries. The list includes The SPX Café, basketball court, children's playground, the ministries of Welcome & Hospitality, Outreach, Youth Faith Formation, Events, Bereavement Support, Weekly Readings Bible Study, and liturgical, just to name a few.

These accomplishments are due in part to the leadership of our Pastor, Father Kevin and our office staff. The hard work of our Finance and Parish Pastoral Councils along with the generosity of our parishioners has led us toward increased financial stability.

We look forward to continuing our journey together with Jesus to satisfy our hungry hearts. Please join us as we move forward to **Build Community, Worship God, and Make Disciples.**

Lisa Guzzo & Glenn Plescia
Saint Pius X Trustees



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RESULTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2023

FINANCE COUNCIL

Christine Clarke
CHAIR

Anthony Crasto

Denise Fleming

Jerry Getsos

Jeanine Keenan

Craig Kornett

EX-OFFICIO

Father Kevin Kilgore
PASTOR

Lisa Guzzo
TRUSTEE

Glenn Plescia
TRUSTEE

Janet Natale
COUNCIL/
STAFF LIAISON

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I am honored to serve as your Finance Chair and thrilled to report we are operating in the black for the second year in a row!

Our beautiful parish is thriving and has become our second home. From the basketball court and playground, new HVAC system, roof repairs, sound system and lighting upgrade, and the newly painted parish, we are truly blessed.

There is something for everyone to “Come and See” and we could not do it without your continued support. We appreciate all of you who contribute financially and also by sharing your talents and time. We are fortunate to have a very talented and seasoned team of parishioners who are thought leaders and visionaries for the future of our community.

Our thriving ministries are primarily run by volunteers who dedicate many hours. Each ministry's mission is consistent with our vision of **“Building Community, Worshipping God, and Making Disciples”**. With the growth of our parish ministries, cost of goods, and inflation, the cost to run our parish continues to increase.

We ask everyone who hasn't already, to consider setting up recurring weekly donations via our parish app or website, spxot.org/online-giving. Please also consider volunteering your time in some capacity. Not only does this help save on costs, but it is spiritually very rewarding to the individual.

Many of our large projects are complete, however, we maintain a running “wish list” of future projects that can be found under spxot.org/future-projects. If you wish to contribute to any of these, please consider contributing to our Heritage Fund.

Our goal for the year ending June 30, 2024 is to establish a rainy-day surplus to address unforeseen but necessary improvements as they arise.

I'm grateful to be a part of this community and to serve under the leadership of Father Kevin.

God Bless you,

Christine Clarke

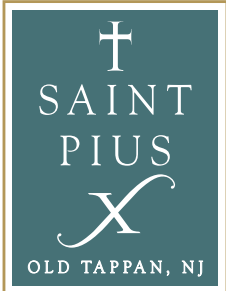
Christine Clarke
Parish Finance Council — Chair

FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT

The chart below represents our Financial Summary of Operations Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2022.*

SOURCE OF INCOME	6/30/2023	6/30/2022	6/30/2021
Sunday, Christmas and Easter Collections	\$ 486,052	\$ 458,067	\$ 393,511
Religious Education Income	\$ 35,662	\$ 57,168	\$ 39,059
Fundraising and Raffle (After Expenses)	\$ 28,187	\$ 74,911	\$ 19,879
Donations, Gifts and Other Restricted Revenue — Non-Heritage Fund	\$ 64,037	\$ 51,756	\$ 45,866
Archdiocesan Assessment Collection	\$ 23,942	\$ 29,030	\$ 18,226
Interest Income	\$ 6,524	\$ 3,653	\$ 1,641
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 20,403	\$ 22,125	\$ 8,556
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	\$664,807	\$696,710	\$526,738
Salaries, Benefits, Pension Costs and Payroll Taxes	\$ 373,031	\$ 361,755	\$ 292,965
Building, Utilities and Equipment Costs	\$ 89,800	\$ 96,846	\$ 60,185
Archdiocesan Assessments	\$ 48,816	\$ 42,840	\$ 44,868
Liturgical, Office and Residence Supplies	\$ 38,682	\$ 45,127	\$ 23,658
Contracted and Professional Services	\$ 72,324	\$ 73,433	\$ 82,723
Religious Education (Excluding Salaries)	\$ 8,798	\$ 9,380	\$ 12,108
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 30,962	\$ 41,833	\$ 16,874
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$662,377	\$671,214	\$533,381
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 2,430	\$ 25,496	(\$ 6,643)
Principal Payment on AD Loan	\$ 00,000	\$ 89,000	\$ 12,000
Capital Debt in 2005: \$2,059,148	NOTE: This Financial Summary of Operations does NOT include We Are Living Stones campaign, Heritage Fund Donations, COVID relief (PPP), other extraordinary revenues and expenses.		
Current Balance: \$0			

*Saint Pius X Financial Report prepared by our external accountant and filed with the Archdiocese of Newark.



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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rosemarie Loffredo
CHAIR

Scott Litchfield
VICE CHAIR

Rose Flynn
SECRETARY

Sister Mary Foley, SSND, LCSW

Cilia Galasso

Kathy Sheridan

Kathy Shields

Alicia Soltys

Linda Spilka

Mariliza Tong

Robert Zaccone

EX-OFFICIO

Father Kevin Kilgore
PASTOR

Lisa Guzzo
TRUSTEE

Glenn Plescia
TRUSTEE

Janet Natale
COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISON

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Pius X,

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of our parish for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. As it is our second formal report, we now can consider it a tradition and anticipate it to continue in the future.

The dedication and discernment of the Parish Pastoral Council continues. I am grateful to the members of the council; each is selfless in the demonstration of leadership on the council itself, and in the leadership of the individual ministries. The momentum continues. The growth of ministries, activities and events in the parish reflects the intentions and interests of long-term, new, and returning parishioners. The number of parish volunteers has expanded, and more are invited to join. Their time and talent continue to support ministries that satisfy the spiritual and temporal needs of parishioners, as well as those outside our parish boundaries.

The following pages speak for themselves in terms of ministry activity and capital improvements. Noteworthy here, however, is the year's highlight of Saint Pius X pastoral mission — the Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, and escorting the Pilgrim Statute of Our Lady of Fatima to the United States. Saint Pius X was honored to be Our Lady's initial and final location for veneration during the one-month residence in the Archdiocese of Newark. We are indebted to the Archdiocese for supporting Father Kevin and Ricardo Casimiro, Campus Minister at Montclair State College, in their mission to bring 25 pilgrims, comprised largely of members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the parish staff, to Fatima and to escort Our Lady as an inspiration to prayer, hope and peace.

Members of the Parish Council continued to participate in Synod on Synodality meetings of the Archdiocese. The Council has taken to heart the most important need identified in our parish survey and in the national survey — Welcome, Hospitality and Outreach. Our own identification of this need was manifested with the formation of new ministries and events that strengthen our parish community. A more welcoming place to gather has been created by painting the church interior and our plans to paint the narthex and refresh the education wing. Over the year, we watched the foot traffic increase through the narthex, into the church, our meeting and education spaces and through to the playgrounds.

We are journeying through our missions: Building Community, Worshipping God, Creating Disciples. The momentum continues. The vibrancy grows.

Rosemarie Loffredo

Rosemarie Loffredo
Parish Pastoral Council — Chair

PASTORAL HIGHLIGHTS



In the past two years much has been accomplished in Building Community, the foundation of our pastoral mission. We have built upon that pillar to increase intensity of the two pillars: Worshipping God and Making Disciples. We highlight several examples of how this transpired at our parish. †

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA

The year's highlight centered on the Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, and escorting the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to the United States. The Archdiocesan tour of the statue was intended to thank Our Lady for her protection during the COVID-19 pandemic and request her intercession amid current global conflicts.

Saint Pius X was honored to be Our Lady's first and final location for veneration during the one-month residence in the Archdiocese. We are indebted to **Cardinal Tobin** for supporting **Father Kevin** and **Ricardo Casimiro**, Campus Minister at Montclair State College and Our Lady of Fatima scholar, in their mission to bring 25 pilgrims, comprised largely of members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the parish staff, to Fatima and to escort Our Lady as an inspiration to prayer, hope and peace.

The return of the Fatima Pilgrims to Old Tappan on May 5, 2023 was met with regional news coverage of national news networks and local news outlets. The parish welcomed Catholics from Bergen and Rockland counties who visited our church to pray in the presence of Our Lady. Many participated in the continuous attending of the statue and recitation of the rosary.

Commemorating Our Lady of Fatima's first apparition on Cova da Iria on May 13, 1917, our parishioners participated in the procession of the statue from Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Newark to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

During the period of Our Lady's residence, Father Kevin and Ricardo were required to attend the statue as it traveled from site to site in the Archdiocese and lead the procession in Newark. †

CARDINAL JOSEPH TOBIN CELEBRATED MASS AT SAINT PIUS X

On March 28, 2023 **Cardinal Joseph Tobin** celebrated Mass at Saint Pius X. In addition to our parishioners, approximately 40 young Catholics from various parishes in the Archdiocese who were preparing to travel to Lisbon for World Youth Day, attended the Mass. A post-Mass reception was prepared by the Welcome & Hospitality Ministry during which Cardinal Tobin graciously lingered and engaged in conversation. †

PREPARING FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY

While not specifically an event of Saint Pius X, the preparation for World Youth Day did touch our parish. **Father Kevin** and **Ricardo Casimiro** were chosen to lead approximately 40 young Catholics (ages 18 to 35) from the Archdiocese to Lisbon, the site of the 2023 event. Over one million youth from around the globe were expected to attend from August 1 through August 6.

These three events and others experienced through the course of the year have proven powerful in igniting creativity and planning for additional ministries, events and pilgrimages. The momentum continues. †

OUR THREE MISSION PILLARS

1 BUILDING COMMUNITY



WELCOME & HOSPITALITY

Working together to foster a warm and welcoming atmosphere whereby all who enter feel valued and "at home" in our faith community of Saint Pius X.

Continuing Pope Francis' call for a global conversation, the process of Synod is ongoing. Of all the concerns and comments reported to the Archdiocese by parishioners, the highest priorities were welcome, hospitality and outreach. The need to focus on welcome in particular, was expressed across parishes. Saint Pius X has an established and growing Welcome & Hospitality Ministry, led by **Kathy Sheridan**. During the past year, we have expanded in the number of volunteers and in the breadth of the ministry.

The Welcome & Hospitality Ministry continues to provide the first and on-going expressions of belonging to all who enter our church doors. Whether one is an active parishioner attending weekly or daily Mass or a visitor attending a wedding, funeral or parish event, this ministry continues to set the tone of hospitality.

There are many volunteers who participate in this ministry and those who exercised leadership in the ministries include **Lorraine Aspromonte**, **Pat Boscia**, **Barbara DiTriolio**, **Beth Litchfield**, **Roberta Manganaro**, **Valeri Parker** and **Diane Perigine**.

The SPX Café has grown from a quiet table with a coffee pot to an active café, complete with assorted treats, coffee, tea, juice and even hot cocoa for our younger parishioners. More parishioners got into the habit of enjoying a cup of coffee and a selection from the seasonally dressed café table after Mass. All are welcome here! This past year has seen the expansion of the SPX Bakers; parishioners who volunteer to provide the baked goods, fruits and other offerings we enjoy so much. The SPX Café is an open and welcoming spot for connecting with conversation and coffee.

Welcome & Hospitality continues to provide name tags, hosting Name Tag Sundays held periodically throughout the year, reinforcing the community spirit.

- In October 2022, we celebrated our second annual New Parishioners Welcome Mass and Luncheon. All newly-registered parishioners received notes of welcome on cards handmade for the occasion. New and returning parishioners were welcomed — and we had a full house!
- After the All Souls Day Mass and Commemoration celebration on the evening of November 2, 2022, refreshments were provided as those who attended remembered and celebrated their loved ones who have died.
- In service to our community during times of mourning, our team of volunteers continues to coordinate and host repast luncheons in the narthex following funeral Masses.
- Beyond Soup's Senior Luncheons have become the centerpiece of our senior community social calendar. There was a sock-hop-themed ice-cream social in September and the spectacular Saint Patrick's Day luncheon in March. Conversation flowed freely along with the Irish coffee and Saint Joseph made a cameo appearance.
- The Welcome & Hospitality Ministry took on new events during the year, hosting a table at Old Tappan Town Day in September 2022. A team of volunteers were there to meet and greet the townspeople of Old Tappan. As a result, several families new to Old Tappan registered with our parish.





- Yet another new way for people to share community, with the added bonus of a shared meal, was with the newly formed SPX Cooking. In February 2023, the first gathering was comprised of SPX parishioners who love to cook. Each month, a “chef” shared a favorite recipe. The evenings began with the cooking demonstration followed by all participants sharing a delicious meal.
- Welcome & Hospitality was always ready to prepare and host receptions for special occasions. In June 2023, we were very happy to host a welcome reception for **Monsignor Robert Sheeran** as he began his new ministry here at Saint Pius X. When asked, Welcome & Hospitality has responded with warmth and food for many events, large and small. We continue to promote a renewed spirit of community. †

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Outreach has always been a part of the fabric of Saint Pius X. A formal Outreach Ministry was created early in 2023, with **Kathy Shields** as the ministry lead. The ministry discerns the opportunities for all to reach outside themselves and use their time and talent to support those in need.

The Outreach Ministry serves those within Old Tappan and River Vale, as well as those outside our parish boundaries and has operated under three themes: Helping the Homeless, Feeding the Hungry and Assisting the Homebound.

- **Helping the Homeless** Volunteers participated in supporting the Good Counsel Home in Spring Valley, NY. Good Counsel has helped more than 8000 homeless women and children move from crisis situations to receive concrete help and build a brighter future. Included in the parish support were:
 - Two baby clothing drives
 - A fall “clean-up” of the Spring Valley property
 - A life skills, dental hygiene session led by a dentist-parishioner, and
 - A Mother’s Day Brunch for the home’s residents.

Nannette Morris, Good Counsel Spring Valley Home Manager spoke at Masses on October 8, 2022 on behalf of the Good Counsel Homes to educate and thank Saint Pius X for its help and support.

- **Feeding the Hungry** Every weekend the Soup Kitchen continued its long-standing tradition of preparing meals to feed the hungry at Mother Theresa’s Kitchen in Newark, NJ. The volunteer group of 28 rotated so that a meal preparation was never missed, and all could have the opportunity to donate time and skills. In addition, parishioners continued to provide generous support to the Old Tappan Food Bank.



- **Assisting the Homebound** As a new initiative in 2023, there has been overwhelming support to assist the homebound of the parish.

Each week 18 volunteers schedule their time to help those in need by performing simple tasks around the house or just stop by to visit and say “hello”. In addition to the assistance provided, the ministry has connected more parishioners to each other enhancing community-building within the parish.

The Outreach Ministry struck a chord for many parishioners. Many raised their hands to participate in new and existing ministries and to plan for proposed outreach activities. †



ANNUAL EVENTS

Saint Pius X parishioners and friends participated in a growing number of events that extended community-building and supported the parish.

- In September 2022, the SPX Annual Golf Outing and Luncheon was held at the Old Tappan Golf Club. A great round was followed by a congenial dinner open to all parishioners. Many participants went home with fabulous prizes and auction items. **Scott Litchfield** and **Tom Quinn** organized this popular annual event.
- Also in September, the youth of the parish participated in a Color Run held on the church grounds. Held on Catechetical Sunday after the noon Mass, it provided a joyous opening to the Faith Formation year. It was also the culmination of the parish participation to add miles to Run the World with Sabrina, an effort to bring awareness to mental health and suicide prevention. The Knights of Columbus provided a BBQ for all. The Fall 50/50 drawing provided a suspense-filled ending to a beautiful fall day as Color Run participants pulled the winning tickets.
- On November 30, 2022, Saint Pius X kicked off the holiday calendar with an elegant dinner at the Florentine Gardens with all enjoying sumptuous food, quiet music and vibrant conversation. In addition to being a special evening out, the dinner was a fundraiser to augment funds to paint the interior church and narthex. The silent auction arranged by **Ralph and Maria Aiello** brought lots of sparkle and excitement to this affair with jewelry, vacation trips and sports memorabilia going home with the highest bidders. It was a wonderful opportunity for early Christmas shopping.
- February 12, 2023 brought the parish community back to the Florentine Gardens for a super Super Bowl Sunday party. All generations engaged in boisterous team cheers as they enjoyed overflowing banquet tables full of fan favorites.
- March 3, 2023 saw the return of the fabulous Pocketbook Bingo, held at Dominican College. A mix of over one hundred parishioners, family and friends gathered for a night of good fun and a chance to win a designer handbag and one of many themed gift baskets. Thanks to **Lisa Guzzo** and **Liz Manning** for once again organizing this “fun-raiser.” †

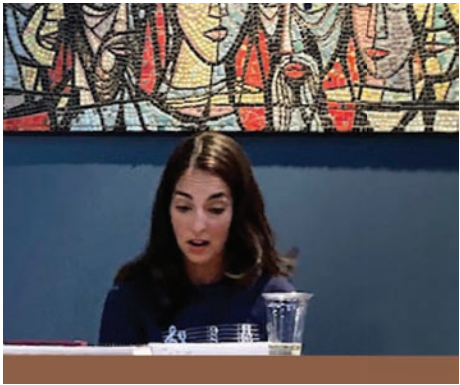
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Saint Pius X continued to provide support to those who mourn. Each session of Bereavement Support Ministry meets over an eight-week period and offers continued support through phone calls. This healing space has helped many. **Lorraine Delling** continued as the facilitator for this support group. †

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Columbus Council/Immaculate Conception #9021, serves four local parishes and continued to be an active in many areas of Saint Pius X parish life. Throughout the year our members participated weekly in driving soup kitchen meals prepared at Saint Pius X to Mother Theresa’s Kitchen in Newark.

Members of the council served the parish as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers and one parish trustee. The Knights directly supported Saint Pius X with donations from their “Food for Families” program, preparing the Color Run BBQ, providing and hanging Christmas decorations, making donations to Good Counsel Homes and other organizations promoting a “culture of life” and supporting the SPX Golf Outing. †



RETURNING AND EXPANDED CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

ARTALKS AT SAINT PIUS X

As presented by **Roger Davidoff**, the parish hosted a series of “Artalks” exploring a different faith-centered theme. The first presentation centered on Christmas. The second was themed ‘Courage, Forgiveness and Faith’ illustrated by two paintings by Peter Paul Rubens, *Saint George and the Dragon* and *Daniel in the Lion’s Den* as well as the *David* by Michelangelo. Forgiveness was the focus of the *Return of the Prodigal Son* by Rembrandt. Faith was brought to life by *Praying Hands* by Albrecht Dürer, *Christ on the Sea of Galilee* by Delacroix and a return to *Daniel in the Lion’s Den*. The third was held in March, ‘Good Friday, an Easter Presentation.’ We look forward to future presentations. †

SPX BOOK CLUB

The Saint Pius X Book Club continued to meet on Monday evenings every 4-5 weeks. The book selections that were recommended and facilitated by the participants influenced each evening’s considered conversation. Discussions range from the humorous through the everyday to the most serious human experiences. Discussion leader **Marylou Coviello** kept the topics varied and insured everyone’s participation. All are welcome. †

SPX ACOUSTIC GUITAR CLUB

Inspired by **John Kullberg** of the Music Ministry, this newly formed club was founded in 2022. Adult guitarists of every ability are welcome. Once a month, members took turns selecting musical pieces and songs to play and sing. The heavenly acoustics in the family chapel provided a great environment. Parishioners enjoyed the Guitar Club’s performances at the Christmas Eve and Holy Thursday Masses. †

SPX PLAYTIME

Beginning in October 2022, SPX Playtime has grown to include over twenty families. Guided by **Melanie Fielder**, preschool age children and their adult family members shared mornings of fun and conversation connecting with each other and with the Saint Pius X community. The once-a-week gatherings included crafts, music, stories, playground time and, of course, snacks. †

SPX YOGA

The SPX Yoga and Meditation program, led by **Eileen Carey**, supported the parish mission offering the opportunity to connect and heal in body, mind and spirit in a supportive, compassionate, and safe environment. During Lent, a six-week mixed-levels yoga class was offered, combining chair yoga and a traditional all-levels class.

The sessions were accessible to people with limited mobility, as well as students able to transition up and down from an exercise mat. All were able to relax, relieve stress, and be open to receive peace and healing. All were introduced to yoga breathing exercises and mindfulness meditation in the beauty of our church’s narthex. †

2 WORSHIPPING GOD



MUSIC MINISTRY AT SAINT PIUS X

The Saint Pius X Music Ministry, directed by **Sara Armstrong**, seeks to engage every person at every Mass so that we may worship God more completely, more intimately and more meaningfully.

To that end we bring all three parish mission pillars to our planning and preparation. Our choirs, cantors and accompanists continue to offer music at the four weekend Masses, Feast Days and Holy Days of Obligation. We are growing.

- The Fellowship (Adult) Choir has shown continued dedication and has grown over the last year, singing at each Sunday noon Mass, Feast and Holy Days. As part of our efforts to expand the mission, some members have formed a Bereavement Choir. This group is available to any family who celebrates a funeral Mass at Saint Pius X.
- In its third year, the Day-By-Day Singers, our youth choir, continued to be a cornerstone of the 10:00 AM Family Liturgy. The age range of the group is wide, 5 through 18 years, with a natural emergence from the group to become junior cantors.
- For the second year in a row, the Easter Vigil Mass featured a contemporary ensemble comprised of Day-By-Day Singers. As part of Saint Pius X’s commitment to “all generations journeying together,” school-aged music ministers led the psalms on this most holy night.

The Day-By-Day Singers have been included as an avenue of requirement fulfillment for Youth Faith Formation.

- Periodically, the Fellowship Choir and Day-By-Day singers combine their talents. The celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation was a perfect time for families and guests of the parish to appreciate their very special presence.

The Music Ministry continues to grow, engaging more individuals in new and creative ways, incorporating music into many of the Saint Pius X ministries, providing the opportunity for all to be engaged. †

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

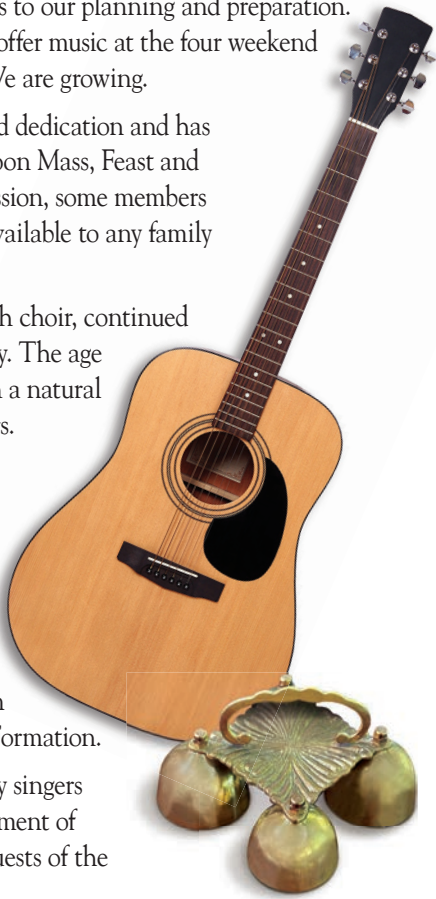
This past year saw the expansion of hours of Eucharistic Adoration open to parishioners. We are privileged to be in the presence of God every weekday after the 9 AM Mass until 10 AM. The first Tuesday of each month continues to offer extended hours. **Christine Arthur** oversees this special time. †

LITURGY MINISTRY

The number of volunteers who serve the liturgy has grown. New ministry leads during the year include **Mary Anne Olivo** for lectors and **Angel Sheridan** as the coordinator of Altar Servers.

The Ushers Ministry returned. The team is led by **Vinnie Galasso**.

The parish was also honored to have **Monsignor Robert T. Sheeran** join as a Weekend Associate, celebrating Mass at Saint Pius X weekly. †



3 MAKING DISCIPLES



SYNOD

Saint Pius X continued to participate in Pope Francis' call to discern a vision for the future of our Church. The Archdiocese of Newark reviewed the Synod responses from over seventy participating parishes and prepared a report detailing the six major concerns identified by respondents. In order, they are:

- 1 Parish community (Welcome, Hospitality and Outreach)
- 2 Youth and young adults
- 3 Faith Formation
- 4 Participation of the laity in church leadership
- 5 Governance (Parish Councils, finance, sex abuse scandal), and
- 6 Communication (from clergy/church hierarchy to laity and vice versa).

A series of workshops were planned by the Archdiocese to include clergy, parish councils, ministry leaders and parishioners. The first in this series of meetings focused on the number one priority of welcome, hospitality and outreach. The Archdiocese prepared a detailed planning guide for individual parish use to discern and plan more fruitful outreach and welcoming. Future meetings will focus on each of the five remaining topics of concern.

The global Synod results will be discussed by bishops and cardinals attending the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023 and October 2024, bringing together bishops from across the globe to discuss and prepare a document to counsel the Pope. Saint Pius X participation in the Synod exercises and responses continued to be coordinated by a team within the Parish Pastoral Council led by **Mariliza Tong**. †

FAITH FORMATION FOR YOUTH

As a parish of faith, Saint Pius X seeks to embrace every family and support them to travel in accord with our vision "All generations journeying together with Jesus to satisfy our hungry hearts." To that end, the year's focus was program transformation, changing structure and enhancing content while retaining all archdiocesan requirements.

With change in the making, the parish provided our traditional school-year-long program and welcomed children of all registered families in grades 1 through 9. The eight years of study are punctuated by three sacraments: First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation.

- The sacraments of First Eucharist and First Reconciliation were offered for children in the second grade. Family-based programs for each of the two sacraments were added to the curriculum. Twenty-four candidates received the two sacraments this year. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was offered to all students in grades 3 through 9 during the seasons of Advent and Lent. In offering reconciliation twice, our children can relate to this sacrament in a more comfortable manner that can be carried into adulthood.
- Beginning in October 2022, the Confirmation Preparation Program was completed by thirty six students. Candidates attended a minimum of two Youth Ministry events, an on-premises retreat directed by **Tony Belizzi**, and completed 20 hours of community service. All thirty six candidates received the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, June 4, 2023, with **Bishop Michael Sapporito** as our celebrant and **Father Kevin** as concelebrant.



- The Faith Formation year ended with the intensive Summer Program offered in June, incorporating changes in structure/concept developed during the school year. Students began each day with a Mass highlighting how our faith-life is reflected in their own daily lives.
- Each day of the summer program included classroom instruction centered around one of the seven pillars of the catechism: Revelation, Trinity, Jesus Christ, The Church, Morality, Sacraments and Kingdom of God. New program elements supplemented the traditional classroom instruction including art, music, foods and the exploration of the elements in the church and their meanings.

Saint Pius X served a total of 165 students in our traditional and summer programs. **Maria Charowsky**, Parish Catechetical Leader, coordinates all Archdiocesan policies, orchestrating and incorporating program parameters. Maria has dedicated her time and talent to the Faith Formation Programs at Saint Pius X for over 20 years.

Faith Formation Program enhancement efforts were developed and organized by **Carol Conklin-Spillane** and **Beth Litchfield** and were quickly digested by the numerous summer catechists. The transformative program will be offered in the 2023-2024 Youth Faith Formation. †

SPX YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group includes two cohorts: middle school grades 6 through 8 and high school grades 9 through 12. During the past year, both groups were active with members participating in various social and service opportunities.

- Catechetical Sunday, September 17, 2022 launched the new year with the second annual Color Run. A beautiful sunny day was enjoyed by all generations cheering the participants, as they raced around the church property through clouds of color. To wrap up the day, the Knights of Columbus fed everyone with summer Bar-B-Que favorites.
- A fall clean-up at Good Council Homes, in Spring Valley, NY was a good day outside in service to others. Another fall event kept hands busy carving pumpkins, while the conversation turned to a discussion of conscience and the Holy Spirit.
- As the holiday son rolled around, our Youth Group again baked cookies for a bake sale. The funds generated were used to purchase gifts for the children of Saint Joseph's Parish in Jersey City and the Good Council Home.
- The new year can be a stressful time. The Youth Group met to discuss stress management and how to avoid depression. The readings and guided meditation provided a soothing experience for all and the skills to help everyone better negotiate the winter months ahead.
- The mid-winter blahs were tossed aside with a simply-social movie night.

Christine Massaro and **Mariliza Tong** continue planning events/activities for our youth to gather, enjoy themselves, serve others and move forward in faith. †





EXPLORING OUR FAITH FOR ADULTS

The theme for the Adult Faith Formation Speaker Series, organized by **Sister Mary Foley, SSND, LCSW** was “Exploring our Faith.” The series included “An Overview of the Church’s Liturgical Year,” presented by Sister Mary. It covered how the Church calendar began by setting the date for Easter, the greatest feast in the Catholic Church, and how certain feasts and celebrations subsequently became part of the Liturgical Calendar.

- **Sister Mary Maher, SSND** the former General Superior of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and a native of Bergen County, presented “Advent Reflections,” an evening of insights into ways we can engage in the season of Advent and the richness it holds for us. **Sister Paula Dukehart, SSND** from Baltimore, MD and a longtime pastoral minister spoke on the theme of “Presence at the heart of spirituality and good mental health.” Sister Mary Foley, SSND, LCSW completed the evening with some practical suggestions to support good mental health.
- During Holy Week, **Monsignor Robert Sheeran** presented “Holy Week Reflections” and shared his own reflections on the final week of the life of Jesus. Using a selection of artwork, he encouraged all to look more deeply into the events of Holy Week. Each presentation was followed by engaging conversation. The series was well-attended and well-received, establishing precedent for ongoing ministry. †

ALPHA

This past year, ALPHA brought people together and expanded their experience of being Catholic. Two groups have completed this series of discussions, with plans for a third. Participants found a place to connect with people open to exploring life, faith, and meaning; a space where the deeper questions of life are explored in a safe and relaxed environment. The eleven-week program included a shared meal, a short video on the elements of the Christian faith, and a group discussion. **Alicia Soltys** leads this effort. †

WEEKLY READINGS BIBLE STUDY

In January 2023, a weekly bible study was begun by **Mary Anne Olivo** as an adjunct to the Lector Ministry. Initially directed towards lectors to prepare for the upcoming weekend Masses, the study group later became open to all parishioners. The exchange of ideas and impressions allowed each person to understand the bible more fully. These discussions provided context so that the homily at Mass would become more meaningful. †

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process for men and women to become baptized members of the Catholic Church. Candidates work with **Deacon John McKenna** and are introduced to Catholic beliefs and practices of the faith. At Saint Pius X, our doors remain open to all in keeping with the true meaning of catholic, “universal and all embracing”. †

WOMEN’S CORNERSTONE

Cornerstone has a long, rich history at Saint Pius X. This overnight retreat is given for women by women from the parish. Women’s Cornerstone Alumni started meeting in October 2022 to renew acquaintances, listen to shared life experiences, pray and prepare for our next retreat tentatively scheduled for April 2024. †

ENHANCING OUR FACILITIES

THE SPX CAPITAL PROJECTS & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE



The SPX Capital Projects and Operations Ministry, chaired by **Bob Zaccone**, continued to invest time and talent evaluating, planning and overseeing the many proposed projects for the church building and grounds.

The priorities and cadence of projects were made in collaboration with the Parish Pastoral Council (of which it is a part) and the Finance Council. Saint Pius X parishioners can see and feel the results of the Capital Projects and Operations Ministry’s efforts over this past year.

The ministry addressed two building exterior critical needs. The first was the replacement of all HVAC units located on the roof. The second identified and repaired roof leaks/weaknesses and completed phase one of re-shingling the roof.

As all parishioners could appreciate, Saint Pius X’s interior has recently seen major improvements. The church interior was painted with similar plans for the narthex completed. **Diane Alzapiedi** led the planning and oversight of the execution of the project, with the color palette drawn from an early official shield of Saint Pius X. Existing ceiling track lighting bulbs in the church were replaced with new energy efficient LED light bulbs and an upgraded sound system was installed.

The SPX Capital Projects and Operations Ministry (including **Father Kevin**) completed plans for renovations and cosmetic improvements to the wing where classrooms are located. The objective was to have this area meet the changing and multi-functional space requirements for greater flexibility and improved finishes.

As new needs arise at Saint Pius X, the task of the Capital Projects and Operations Ministry is to vet proposals and consider the path for those chosen in collaboration with Father Kevin and make recommendations to the Parish Pastoral Council. †



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

PARISHIONERS

563

HOUSEHOLDS
ARE CURRENTLY
REGISTERED



226

SUPPORTED THE
CHURCH WITH
COLLECTION ENVELOPES/
MAIL-IN DONATIONS



180

MADE ONLINE
CONTRIBUTIONS WITH
PARISHSOFT GIVING,
WESHARE AND VENMO



BAPTISMS

29

INFANTS WERE
WELCOMED
INTO OUR FAITH
COMMUNITY



FAMILY FAITH

165

STUDENTS AND
THEIR FAMILIES
PARTICIPATED
IN THE FAMILY
FAITH PROGRAM



24

STUDENTS
RECEIVED FIRST
COMMUNION



24

STUDENTS
RECEIVED FIRST
RECONCILIATION



36

STUDENTS
RECEIVED
CONFIRMATION

REGISTRATION & SUPPORT

REGISTER

If you'd like to register or update your registration, you can visit the **Parish Office**, fill out the registration form found on **SPXOT.org** under Forms, email **office@spxot.org** or call (201) 664-0913.



GIFTS OF TIME & TALENT

The true treasure of Saint Pius X lies in our parishioners. Many individuals contributing their time and talents is what makes this a vibrant parish. There are many ways to support the many ministries and programs of the parish. Please see the website **SPXOT.org** and our bulletin to discover a ministry of interest and contact the Parish Office at **office@spxot.org** or (201) 664-0913 to learn more.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Your financial support provides for the operations of the parish, the many ministries and programs to which all are welcome, the maintenance and investment in the capital projects of the church property and the philanthropies of the parish. The information below will help you decide how best to support the parish financially.

ENVELOPE

If you prefer to make your weekly and holiday donations through the traditional envelope method, please contact **office@spxot.org** or call (201) 664-0913.

ONLINE GIVING

You can schedule recurring or one-time donations on-line. Visit the parish website **SPXOT.org** and click on Giving. Need more assistance? Call the Parish Office at (201) 664-0913.



SECURITIES

Donating securities that have appreciated (risen in value) can provide* additional tax benefits to the donor versus selling your securities and donating the proceeds. Please contact **bookkeeper@spxot.org** or call (201) 664-0913.

YOUR LEGACY

Please consider Saint Pius X as a beneficiary in your will, estate or trusts.* Your generosity provides for future generations of Saint Pius X and for our Catholic heritage.

FIND OUT MORE! VISIT SPXOT.org

For more information, please
visit our website: **SPXOT.org**
or snap the QR code to
download our Parish App.



WEBSITE



APP

*Please seek advice from your tax professional regarding tax consequences of donations to your religious organization.



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